

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Caswell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Milton State Bank

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Branch Bank of the Bank of the State of North Carolina at Milton

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street (Broad Street) north side, midway between Liberty Street and

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lea's Alley  
Milton (Sixth Congressional District, The Hon. L. Richardson Preyer)

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Caswell      CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Ola Walker

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street BOX 12

CITY OR TOWN:  
Milton      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Caswell County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Yanceyville      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Milton State Bank building, now a private residence, is a two-story brick structure of Greek Revival character with Victorian Italianate and Gothic Revival architectural accents. The building, three bays wide and five deep, is located on the north side of Broad (now Main) Street, with the south elevation containing the bank entrance facing Broad Street and the west elevation containing the residential entrance with a porch shielded from the street. Directly behind the bank building is a large brick kitchen and two brick outbuildings which are contemporary with the main structure.

The building presents a severe, dignified appearance befitting its original banking function. A brick header course marks the water table of the foundation, and the brick of all four elevations is laid in Flemish bond. The structure is capped by a low hip roof of standing seam tin, and four interior brick chimneys with molded caps project from the roof. Both door and window openings are surrounded by wide molded wood architraves with slender fillets around both inner and outer edges. The large six-over-six sash windows have plain wood sills and lintels and louvered shutters. The bank entrance in the center bay of the south elevation consists of an ornate Gothic Revival door with six double round-headed flat panels separated by wooden bosses. A large plain wood lintel surmounts this entrance, with flat-paneled soffit and reveals, and granite steps lead up to it. The domestic entrance in the center bay of the west elevation is more elaborate, with a double door, each leaf with two round-headed flat panels, surrounded by three-pane sidelights and a six-pane transom. The transom panes and the top sidelight pane on each side are round-headed, and a pointed-arched flat panel fills the area beneath the sidelights on each side. The soffit and reveals of the opening are flat-paneled. The rear entrance, in the center bay of the north elevation, is identical to the west entrance. Heavy overhanging molded eaves extend on all sides, and ornamentation is concentrated at the cornice. A course of projecting brick headers below the wide plain wood frieze supports paired laminated curvilinear cornice brackets. A wooden dentil course forms the top border of the frieze.

Protecting the residential entrance is a three-bay one-story porch with a hipped tin roof and a cornice similar to the main one. Chamfered bracketed wood posts set on flat-paneled bases support a molded frieze with a large dentil course punctuated with large and small laminated curvilinear brackets. Turned balusters and a molded rail form the porch railing. A pedimented one-story frame room, a twentieth century addition apparently taken from an earlier structure, encloses the rear entrance. Nine-over-nine sash windows within beaded architraves flank the center door, reached by granite steps like those of the bank entrance. The cornice and eaves of the gabled roof of this addition are molded, and the molded cornice also outlines the flush-sheathed tympanum.

The ingenious plan of the first floor of the old State Bank in Milton separates commercial and residential functions. The first floor contains four rooms divided by an L-shaped hall. The largest room, located in the southeast corner, is the banking room. The only connection from this room to the other rooms on this floor is a door in its rear wall opening to the room in the northeast corner. The two rooms on the west side and the north-

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7.A

east room form the residential section of the first floor, and are divided by the wide L-shaped hall. The wall between the banking room and the hall is curved to give each area maximum space.

At the rear (north end) of the hall, a stair rises in two flights to the second floor, which follows a conventional floor plan with two bedrooms opening off each side of a center hall. Between the bedrooms on each side is a dressing room which opens to only one of the bedrooms: the north bedroom on the east side and the south bedroom on the west side. Each dressing room, however, opens to the hall.

The walls throughout the house are plastered, and the window reveals are splayed. The soffits and reveals of the interior door openings throughout the first floor are flat-paneled, and each door has two vertical flat panels. With the exception of the doors, however, no two rooms on the first floor have identical architectural trim. The banking room is finished with a high beaded baseboard and wide, eccentric crossetted door and window frames with molded outer edges. Beneath each window the architrave frames a single raised panel. Vertical iron bars are built into the frame of each window in this room. The simple mantel has plain flanking pilasters which support a plain frieze and a curved shelf with a slightly arched backboard. A large bank vault with plaster walls and a ceiling of arched iron strips is built into the northeast corner of the room. The elaborate cast-iron vault door has four flat panels, each panel surrounded by an egg-and-dart molding with corner foliate bosses, with a wooden architrave identical to those around the other room openings enframing the door. The room is so large that two wooden columns are necessary to support the ceiling where stress is placed by the second floor hall partition wall. Each column is a single piece of wood, but has a high polygonal base and a round tapering shaft.

The domestic rooms have similar but slightly more ornate architectural trim. Each room is finished with a high baseboard, either beaded or molded, and wide architraves: some are symmetrically molded, with a variety of corner block designs; others are variations of crossetted motifs. The mantel in the northwest room features raised-panel pilasters which support a frieze with a single raised panel and a curved shelf with an arched backboard. The southwest room mantel, a late Victorian addition, consists of flanking turned posts which support a frieze and shelf with egg-and-dart molding and a mirrored overmantel with Eastlake-style relief ornament. The mantel in the northwest room consists of plain Doric pilasters supporting a plain frieze, with paired brackets at each end supporting a curved shelf and a curved backboard. The railing of the open-string stair at the rear of the hall consists of a heavy turned newel, plain balusters, and a shaped handrail. A spindlework screen, a late Victorian addition, spans the hall at the turn.

A simpler version of the first-floor architectural trim occurs on the second floor. Three of the bedchambers contain mantels of similar design to the first floor mantels, but the mantel in the southwest chamber is a late

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Victorian addition of similar design to that in the room beneath it.

The separate one-story brick kitchen, which has been renovated as a residence, is four bays wide and two bays deep, with a steep gable roof. Each elevation is laid in common bond brick with Flemish variation, and the water table is delineated as on the main structure. The architraves of the openings are similar to those of the banking house. In the principal (south) facade are two single batten doors. Nine-over-nine sash windows pierce the front and rear and four-over-four sash windows flank the interior end chimney in each upper gable end. The roof is covered with standing-seam tin and terminates at the front and rear in large boxed eaves with an ovolo-molded cornice and overhanging eaves at the sides. The kitchen contains two main rooms and two loft rooms reached by a ladder stair in the west room against the center partition. The rooms have plaster walls, horizontal flush-sheathed partitions, and exposed ceiling joists. In the east room is a large segmentally-arched fireplace opening, and in each of the other rooms is a smaller rectangular fireplace opening.

At the east side of the kitchen are two small gabled outbuildings of brick laid in the same bond as the kitchen. Each has a single batten door, boxed eaves, and plain flush raking cornices. The northernmost one, which is larger, has an ovolo-molded cornice, bare brick walls inside, and three tiers of rafters filling the open attic, and was probably used as a smokehouse. The smaller outbuilding is finished with plaster walls and a flush-sheathed wood ceiling.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The handsome, solidly constructed banking house, known to Milton citizens as the "Old State Bank," represents the height of the antebellum prosperity both of the state bank itself and of Milton, a thriving trade center with tobacco and yarn factories in the midst of the bright leaf tobacco boom. The substantial dignity of the Milton State Bank, Greek Revival in conception with the yet tentative use of popular Italianate and Gothic Revival motifs, reflects the self-confident conservatism of North Carolina on the eve of the Civil War. The building is one of the finest architectural examples in North Carolina of the long-delayed transition in the South from the Greek Revival style to more exotic Victorian styles. Even more significantly, however, the factories and offices having disappeared, the Milton State Bank is one of the few existing monuments to Milton's antebellum commercial glory.

Milton had been served by an agency of the state bank since 1834, for in that year the State Bank of North Carolina, originally chartered in 1810, was newly incorporated as the Bank of the State of North Carolina and established an agency in Milton. In April of 1834 the Milton agent reported to the bank commissioners in Raleigh that he had taken 166 subscriptions for capital stock in the bank, and the Milton agency must have opened soon after May 23, when the commissioners announced that the subscription drive was closed. (One of the seventeen citizens who purchased stock in the state bank agency was Thomas Day, a very talented free Black furniture craftsman whose workshop was in Milton.) In 1835 the state bank bought the lot at the corner of Broad and Bridge streets which contained the "Office of Discount and Deposit" of the Bank of New Bern, one of the two earliest private banks in the state. The state bank agency was housed in this former office of the Bank of New Bern, built between 1820 and 1826.

In 1859 the Milton agency was elevated to branch status, and in January, 1860, the state bank purchased a lot on the north side of Broad Street between Lea's Alley and Liberty Street for \$1,000 and constructed the branch Banking House--which is the subject of this nomination. The Civil War severely weakened the Bank of North Carolina, however, and all branches and agencies were closed by August 9, 1865, although the liquidation process continued until 1874. Charles Dewey, the cashier of the state bank, sold the Banking House and property to a Milton citizen in 1873 for \$3,200. However, the building's banking days were not over. The Sanborn Insurance Maps of Milton indicate that in 1893 the Merchants' and Planters' Bank

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occupied the premises, and by 1908 the structure housed the Bank of Caswell. Soon after this the bank failed and from about 1912 to 1963 the building served as a combination residence and the Milton Post Office.

The Milton State Bank is truly a "banking house", for the structure has housed an intriguing combination of commercial and residential functions. The building is set, its side to the street, with a plain street entrance opening to the banking room. Architectural elaboration is reserved for the entrance to the residential quarters in the long side of the structure, away from the street and protected by a porch. The orientation and the interior division of space is very similar to the central banking house of the state bank in Raleigh built fifty years earlier, in 1813. It too has a simple street entrance in the narrow side and a more elaborate residential entrance away from the street.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.  
 Caswell County Records, Caswell County Courthouse, Yanceyville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Caswell County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Phifer, Edward W., Jr. "Money, Banking and Burke County in the Ante-Bellum Era," North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. XXXVII, No. 1, January, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 32' 19"	79° 12' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 23 January 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title State Historian/Administrator

Date 23 January 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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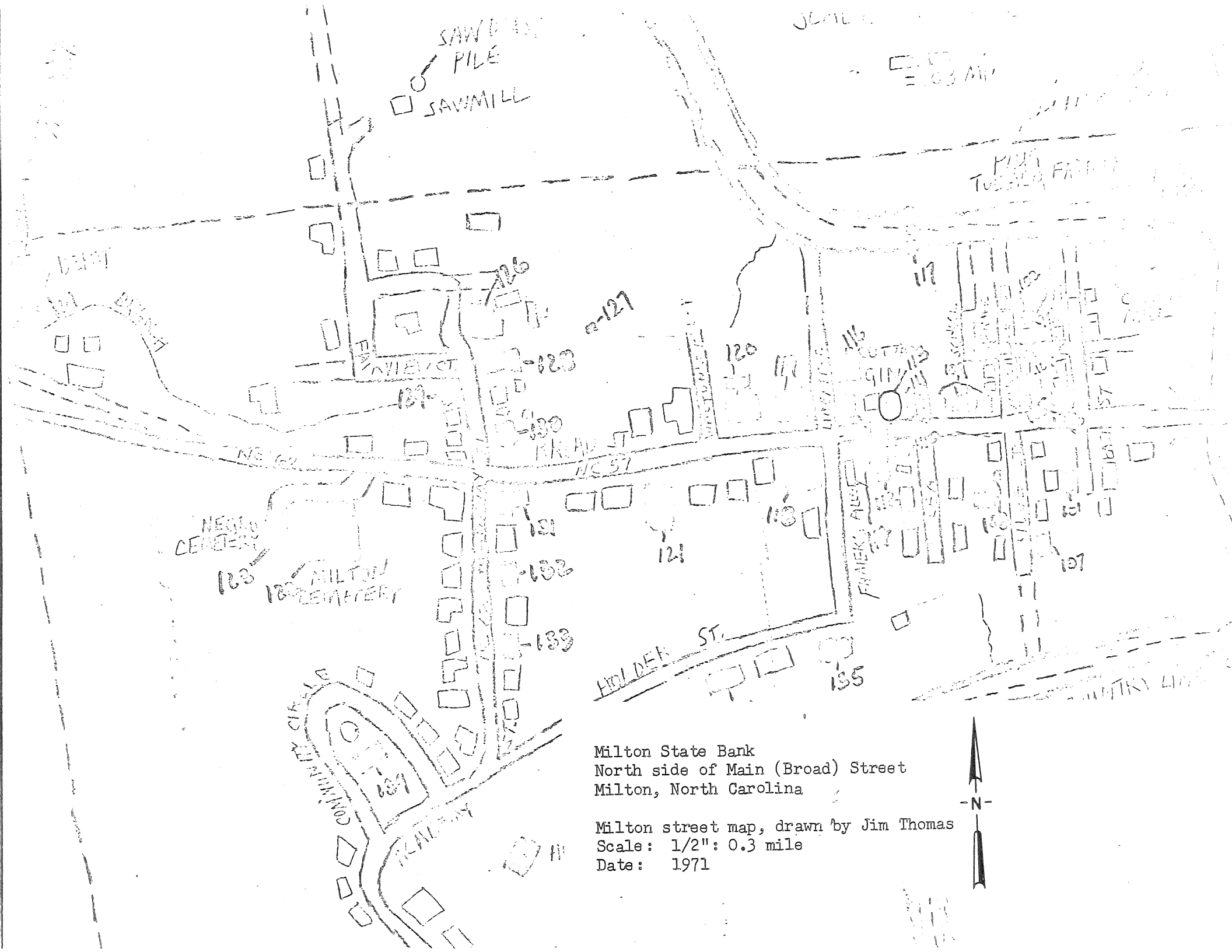
(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Wagstaff, Tom. Article on Banking in North Carolina in first half of nineteenth century (no title), Tar Heel Banker, Vol. XXXII, No. 9, March, 1954. Treasurer's and Comptroller's papers. Book 21, 1814-1864. North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Pamphlet: "Stock taken in the Bank of the State 1827 by the Commissioners" from Box 13. Miscellaneous 1808-1864: The State Bank of North Carolina, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.





Milton State Bank  
 North side of Main (Broad) Street  
 Milton, North Carolina

Milton street map, drawn by Jim Thomas  
 Scale: 1/2" : 0.3 mile  
 Date: 1971

