

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and sub categories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Camden Safe Deposit & Trust Co.  
other names/site number Horizon Bank Market & Broadway OINH Inv. # 040873

### 2. Location

street & number N.E. Corner of Market & Broadway  not for publication  
city/town Camden  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ 034 county Camden code 007 ZIP CODE 08101

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0  
Bank, Insurance, and Legal Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination  request  for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

John E. Seush 7/11/90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Acting Commissioner, DEP/DSHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews  
 See Continuation Sheet  
 Determined eligible for the National Register  See Continuation Sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  other, (explain:)

8/22/90  
Date

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Second Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Granite

walls STONE/limestone (coursed ashlar)

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other Stone cornices

Describe present and historic physical appearance

**SUMMARY**

The Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is a large four-story Second Renaissance Revival building that fits within the property type #1, Bank Buildings, in the multiple property nomination of bank, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden, New Jersey 1873 to 1938. Designed in 1929 by the Philadelphia architectural firm of Rankin & Kellogg, it is the largest and most prominent building of its type in Camden. A very large rectangular-shaped building, its most prominent features are its rusticated coursed granite exterior, and large arched openings on the street level. Except for an addition on the roof, the exterior is unchanged from its original. The interior is in remarkably original condition for a bank building which has been in continuous operation for sixty years.

The Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is a massive four-story rectangular-shaped building which stands at the northeast corner of Market Street and Broadway in Camden. The walls rise directly from the sidewalk on the two streets with the main facade on Market Street. Designed by the Philadelphia firm of Rankin and Kellogg, the building is Second Renaissance Revival; it has rusticated finish on the first and second floor, strong horizontal division between floors, and different types of windows on each level. Patterned on one of the Medici palaces, the bank dominates the streetscape at this busy intersection in downtown Camden.

The bank building has a flat roof above which a low addition rises. The addition dates from the 1950s and is the only major alteration to the original building. Because it is at the top of a relatively high building, it does not seriously compromise its integrity. The building has a brick foun-

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally       statewide       locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria considerations ( Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Economics

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1929-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect Builder

Rankin & Kellogg, Architects

Ketcham and McQuade, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**SUMMARY**

The Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is architecturally significant because it is the design of the Philadelphia Beaux Arts architectural firm of Rankin & Kellogg and because it is the largest Second Renaissance Revival bank building in Camden, New Jersey. Historically the building is significant because it represents Camden's oldest trust company, a bank that was South Jersey's largest for nearly half a century. It absorbed other Camden banks during the 1920s and 1930s to emerge as one of the city's three banks at the end of the period of significance. This building fits within property type #1, Bank Buildings, and it is within the one context of the multiple property nomination: Banking, the Insurance Business, and the legal profession in the city of Camden, New Jersey from 1873 to 1938.

The Camden Insurance Safe Deposit & Trust Company was founded in 1873 by a group of locally prominent men. The included Samuel H. Grey, who became Attorney General of New Jersey; William J. Sewell railroad magnate and later U.S. Senator; Charles P. Stratton, New Jersey Supreme Court Justice; and Congressman John F. Starr, who became the bank's first president. Less than a year after opening in the former Mulford House at 224 Federal Street the bank dropped the word "insurance" from its name since that was not to be a part of its business.

In 1893 the bank moved into a new Neo-Classical Revival building on the site of its first office. Until 1922 Camden Safe Deposit & Trust Company

See continuation sheet

9. Major Biographical References

Previous Survey cite: 1987 (survey by Benensen, C., and Weener, C.):

Bank of New Jersey, "Description and History of Lobby."

PRERGB. Vol. XLII, No. 45. 9 november 1927. P. 722

OTHER: See Main Bibliography

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file NPS: N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
- Survey# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
- Record# \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Specific repository \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

USGS quad Camden

UTM References

A 18 489830 4421480  
 Zone Easting Northing

d \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is located at the Northeast corner of Broadway and Market Streets, City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey. Legally described as block 125 lot 24.

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Lot 24 in block 125 is historically associated with the property.

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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does not seriously compromise its integrity. The building has a brick foundation, and grey rusticated coursed granite covers the Broadway and Market Street Facades at the two lower levels. Light grey coursed ashlar covers the top level of the original building. The addition at the top and the elevations that do not border the street are of tan brick.

The market Street facade is five bays wide at the street level. The main entrance is within a large round-arched opening in the central bay. A cartouche with a flagpole is in the keystone position at the top of the arch, and a name plate with "Camden Trust Company" in it is above the arch. Iron columns which have griffons on top flank iron grill doors; engraved stone panels above the iron work separate the doors from a multi-pane round-arched transom. Panels containing stone lion heads cap two multi-pane metal sash windows on either side of the entrance. Above each of these windows is a much smaller square window. At the second level the granite is slightly lighter in shade and the rustication is less prominent than on the lower level. Seven arched openings contain multi-pane metal sash windows, and ram heads decorated with banners project from the corners of the cornice at this level.

Light grey coursed ashlar finishes the top level of the original building. This level contains seven rectangular windows with open carved panels above. A bracketed cornice projects from the roof of the original building, and smaller cornices separate the lower levels from each other. The brick 1950s addition at the top recedes slightly from the original roof line and contains glass window walls. The Broadway side of the building is seven bays deep, and the outside bays contain rectangular windows with small square windows above, matching those on the street level facade. The five central bays have large arched windows with multiple panes and metal sash. The second level of this elevation has ten arched windows matching those on the front with a small rectangular window near each corner. The top level has ten rectangular windows matching those on the facade plus a carved panel near each corner.

The main banking room on the first and second floors is a large, open cathedral-like space which is seventy one feet wide, eighty four feet long, and thirty two feet high. The ceiling, patterned after that of another Florentine palace, the Davanzati, is vaulted plaster at the side with heavy cypress beams and colored stencil ornament in the center. The banking floor is marble, in some areas laid in a parquet

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pattern. The teller area in the center of the floor is also marble, battlement-like with openings for 16 tellers. The teller area on the south end of the original stations was expanded in the 1950s, but the use of identical marble makes it difficult to discern from the original.

Two large chandeliers above the central teller stations have two rows of candle-like fixtures surrounding a lantern enclosed by beveled glass and brass. Ten smaller chandeliers hang over the officers' desks which are arranged around the periphery of the main banking floor behind a waist high barrier. The offices of the bank's principal officers are trimmed with highly decorative and paneled wainscot.

A wide enclosed dog-leg stairwell with original treads, risers, and wooden handrail connects the first floor and the basement. The stairs leading to the second floor from the southeast corner of the main banking floor is a curved quarter turn with a landing, quite narrow in its passage way, resembling that of a cathedral. Two small arched windows protected with wrought iron embellished with floral-leaf motif provide the only natural light into this passage way. On the second floor a narrow walkway leads from the stairs to what appears to have been the chairman's office. It looks out over the main banking floor through a large, multi-light arched window. The office is again decorated with paneled wainscot.

The large arched windows on the main banking floor have between thirty and forty lights each. The second floor arched windows are much smaller with approximately eight lights each. The third floor windows are simple one over one double hung sash. The original board room has now been changed to accommodate the working spaces of between ten and fifteen employees and their computer stations. The original table, which could only have been removed with a crane through a window opening, has been destroyed. Pieces of it are stored in the basement.

The basement contains the vault and safe deposit boxes as well as private working booths for customers. A wall has been constructed across this large room on the south side of the vaults in the basement to make room for an additional office. Otherwise, the basement floor plan is original. According to the branch manager the vault doors weigh 23 tons each but are so precisely hung on their hinges that a normal size woman can easily open and close them with one hand. At the time of construction a road was built specifically for the purpose of delivering these doors to the basement area. The building was then constructed

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around the vaults. Inside the vault there are various types of safe deposit boxes which were brought in as various banks merged into what was the Camden Trust Company. The trust department had their own safe on the first floor of the bank as well.

The Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is a "Money Palace." The design successfully conveys a combined feeling of riches and stability. Certainly the builders wanted to inspire confidence and continuity. They succeeded because both interior and exterior integrity are still high and maintenance is excellent. The construction firm of Ketcham & McQuade built the bank and their workmanship is excellent in every way. The bank meets all the registration requirements for property type #1 within the multiple property nomination.

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maintained its position as the largest bank in New Jersey South of Trenton and expanded its headquarters accordingly. The merger of two other Camden banks (First National and National State) moved Camden Safe into second place, but it had nevertheless grown to a size which required larger quarters. In 1927 Camden Safe absorbed the Central Trust Company, and two years later it also absorbed Security Trust Company. Both of these banks had been in operation since the nineteenth century.

Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company weathered the financial panic of 1873 and subsequent recessions. Ephraim Tomlinson, who was president from 1919 to 1934 guided the bank through the economically tumultuous times of the prosperous twenties followed by the Great Depression of the 1930s. The bank's directors optimistically conceived the idea of the present building when they purchased the site in 1927. They contracted with Rankin & Kellogg, one of Philadelphia's foremost Beaux Arts architectural firms to produce the design.

Thomas Moore Kellogg worked in Boston and Baltimore before starting to work for McKim, Mead and White in New York. In 1891 Kellogg moved to Philadelphia where he formed a partnership with John Hall Rankin. He worked with several Philadelphia architects including Frank Miles Day, before entering the partnership with Kellogg. A third partner, Edward A. Crane, joined the firm in 1903, and departed in 1925, but the trio successfully designed government buildings and other large structures. The firm designed banks, residences, and public buildings including the Camden County Court House.

After the new bank building opened in 1930 promotion material described it as "wrought in marble, granite and bronze, it typifies the strength and the endurance of the organization which it shelters." The design, based on the Riccardi Palace in Florence seems appropriate. What better place for a bank than the palace of the rich and powerful Medici family? By this time Camden Safe had expanded to have branches in Cape May and Gloucester City, but the approaching Depression was to bring about another wave of bank mergers in Camden.

Less than a decade after occupying its new building, Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company merged with the West Jersey Trust Company and formed the Camden Trust Company. Soon after, American National Bank also became a part of Camden Trust. Therefore, Camden Trust had absorbed what had originally been fifteen different banks (Seven of their

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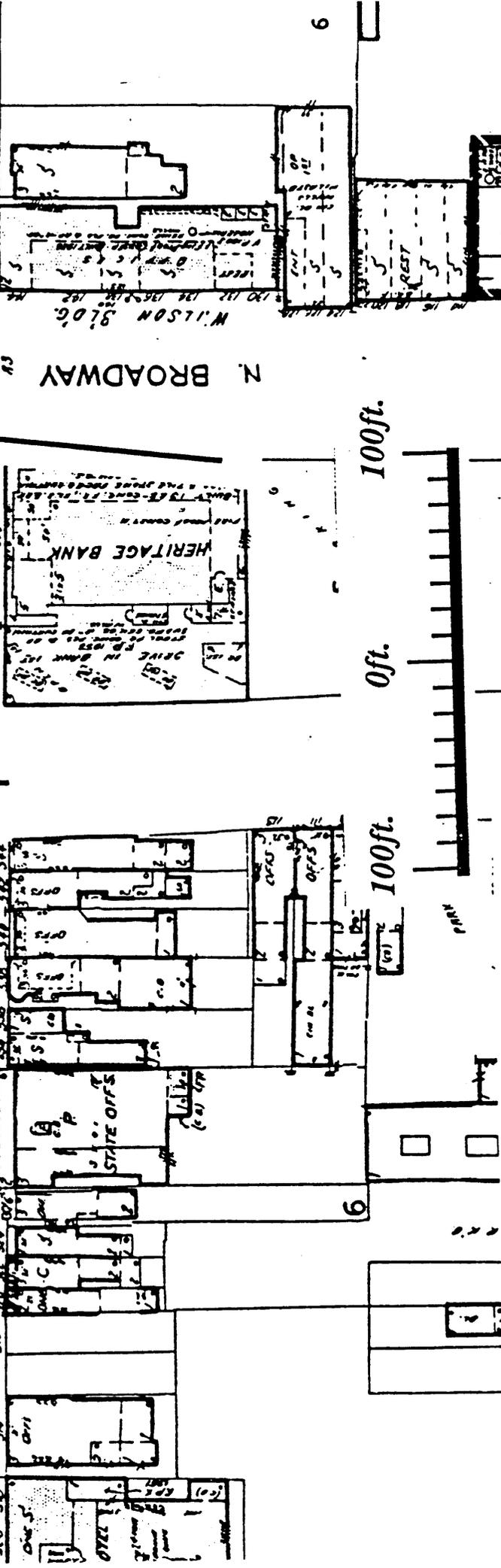
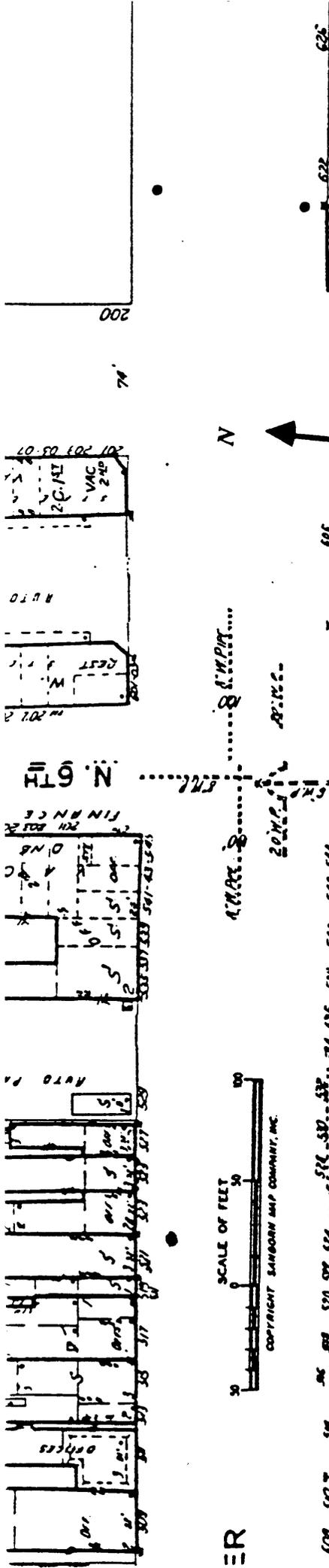
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buildings are a part of this multiple property nomination) and was one of three Camden banks to emerge from the Great Depression. The building is still in use as a bank and is important tangible evidence of the history of banking in Camden.

A 1980 architectural survey of Camden recorded some details of the bank. A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden also identified the building. The survey followed federal guidelines and the results are on file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage. The Preservation Planner for the City of Camden and the Office of New Jersey Heritage have evaluated the building and determined that the Broadway Trust Company Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.



Boundary Map

Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building  
 Bank, Legal, and Insurance Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938  
 City of Camden  
 Camden County, New Jersey  
 Camden Quad

Map Prepared by The History Store

