

# 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 First Camden National Bank & Trust  
other names/site number Mid-Atlantic Bank OINH Inv # 040817

### 2. Location

street & number Broadway at Cooper St.  not for publication  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>        </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Bank, Insurance, and Legal Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 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.

[Signature] 1/11/90  
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:)

8/24/90  
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

Neo-Classical Bank Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Granite

walls STONE/Limestone

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other Marble and brass entrance

glass and bronze revolving doors

Describe present and historic physical appearance  
**SUMMARY**

The First Camden National Bank and Trust Company building at the southwest corner of Broadway and Cooper Street is a large Neo-Classical Revival building designed by the Philadelphia firm of Simon & Simon. Built in 1928, its main facade on Cooper Street is three bays wide with a monumental entry framed by colossal Corinthian pilasters. Its height is equivalent to five stories in a regular commercial building and includes a penthouse that recedes slightly from the main block. Still in use as a bank, the building is in excellent physical condition and retains nearly all its major original exterior and interior features.

The First Camden National Bank and Trust Company building is of masonry construction with a granite base. Coursed ashlar limestone covers the exterior. Two colossal Corinthian pilasters flank the recessed entrance in the slightly projecting central bay of the three-bay-wide Neo-Classical Revival facade. Marble panels set in bronze surrounds embellish the entrance which contains a pair of glass and bronze revolving doors. A large bronze lantern projects at each side of the entrance. A two-over-two window with bronze sash and metal grill is at street level in each of the side bays. Above are larger metal sash windows with shallow balconies at the bottom and carved panels above.

"Founded Anno Domini 1812" is carved on the frieze at the top of the central bay, and a dentilled cornice projects above the frieze. "First Camden National Bank and Trust Company" is carved on the central portion of the parapet which rises above the cornice. A penthouse at the top of the building is set back from the main roof line and has a slightly projecting central pavilion to match that of the main block. The central pavilion contains five windows at penthouse level and its flat roof has a carved

**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)

Economics

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect Builder

Simon & Simon, Architects

Irwin & Leighton, builders

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

The Neo-classical Revival building of the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company was built in 1928 to the design of the Philadelphia architectural firm of Simon & Simon. Constructed after the merger of the Camden National Bank and the First National State Bank of Camden in 1927, it is of monumental size in the center of downtown Camden. The size and dignity of the design seem appropriate to one of the three Camden banks that survived the Great Depression. The building continues to house a bank today; its maintenance is excellent and both interior and exterior integrity are high. The bank is historically significant for the part it played in Camden bank mergers. The building fits within property type #1, Bank Buildings, and 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.

"Founded Anno Domini 1812" is carved above the main entrance of the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company. This is a reference to the State Bank at Camden, the city's oldest bank, which was one of several of the bank's ancestors. The present building has another name, but the building continues to serve its original purpose. Two other buildings in this multiple property nomination, National State Bank of Camden (1913) and Camden National Bank (1906) represent earlier banks that merged into First Camden National Bank and Trust Company.

**9. Major Biographical References**

Previous Survey, 1987, cites the following  
PRERBG. VOL. XLII, NO. 51. 21 DECEMBER 1927. PP. 815-16.

: See Main Bibliography

National Register Nomination for Cooper Street Historic District

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file NPS):

- 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 118 14897910 1441211460  
 Zone Easting Northing

d \_\_\_\_\_

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

D \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

First Camden National Bank and Trust Company Building is located at the Northwest corner of N. Broadway and Cooper Streets, City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, legally described as block 124, lot 1.

see continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes lot 1 in block 124, which has been historically associated with the property.

see continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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cornice.

The seven-bay side elevation continues the materials and decorative motifs of the facade. Metal lanterns are at the sides of a secondary entrance. The rear of the building is five bays wide and four stories high plus the penthouse. There are two metal service doors at the street level and double-hung metal-sash windows with limestone sills on the upper floors.

The three-story banking room is an outstanding example of a Neo-Classical Revival commercial interior. It contains a teller's counter of red marble trimmed with bronze. A carved wood balustrade separates the platform area from the main banking floor. Three bronze and wood note tables are between the platform and the tellers' counters. Rusticated marble walls include vertical pilasters with trompe l'oeil Neo-Classical Motifs. These painting continue on the cornice and ceiling. Egg and dart mouldings and gilding enrich a dentilled cornice. A bronze and wood balcony overlooks the banking room. Bronze chandeliers and wall fixtures provide artificial light in the room.

The First Camden National Bank and Trust Company is a fine example of a large Neo-Classical bank building. The building is within the Cooper Street National Register Historic District and also meets all the registration requirements for property type #1, Banks, in this multiple property nomination.

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The 1927 merger represented a consolidation of banking interests during the prosperity of the 1920s. Unlike the Camden Trust Company, this bank did not absorb any foundering banks during the Great Depression. Its first President, F.M. Archer, had been the President of two of its predecessors. This bank did not merge with or absorb any other banks during the Depression years making it slightly different from the other two banks that survived the Depression. One of them, Camden Trust Company did not exist until 1938 and was the final merger of what had originally been fifteen different banks. The other, Third National Bank and Trust Company, was a totally new entity in 1928 and survived the Depression with no mergers at all.

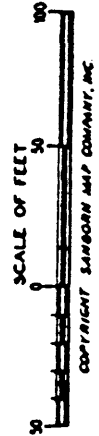
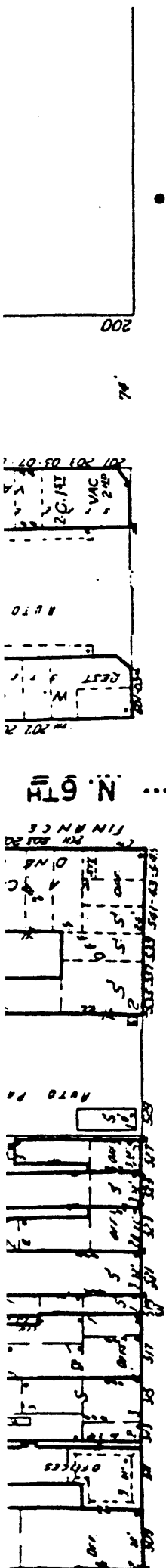
The First Camden National Bank and Trust Company is a monumental design by Simon & Simon, the same Philadelphia architectural firm that designed the much smaller Victory Trust, another building in this multiple property nomination. When the bank awarded the contract for the building it proclaimed that it would be "a building that would serve as a monument to more than a century of financial integrity." The building was to cost \$ 825,000 and be a showplace with architecture which was an adaptation of the Italian Renaissance.<sup>1</sup>

Both interior and exterior of the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company building possess high integrity. Its significance for its association with banking history in Camden is matched by its architectural significance. A 1980 survey of Camden identified this building as significant, and it is included as a contributing building in the 1986 National Register Nomination for the Cooper Street Historic District. 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 First Camden National Bank and Trust Company Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.

It is included in the Cooper Street Historic District National Register Nomination as well as in this multiple property nomination.

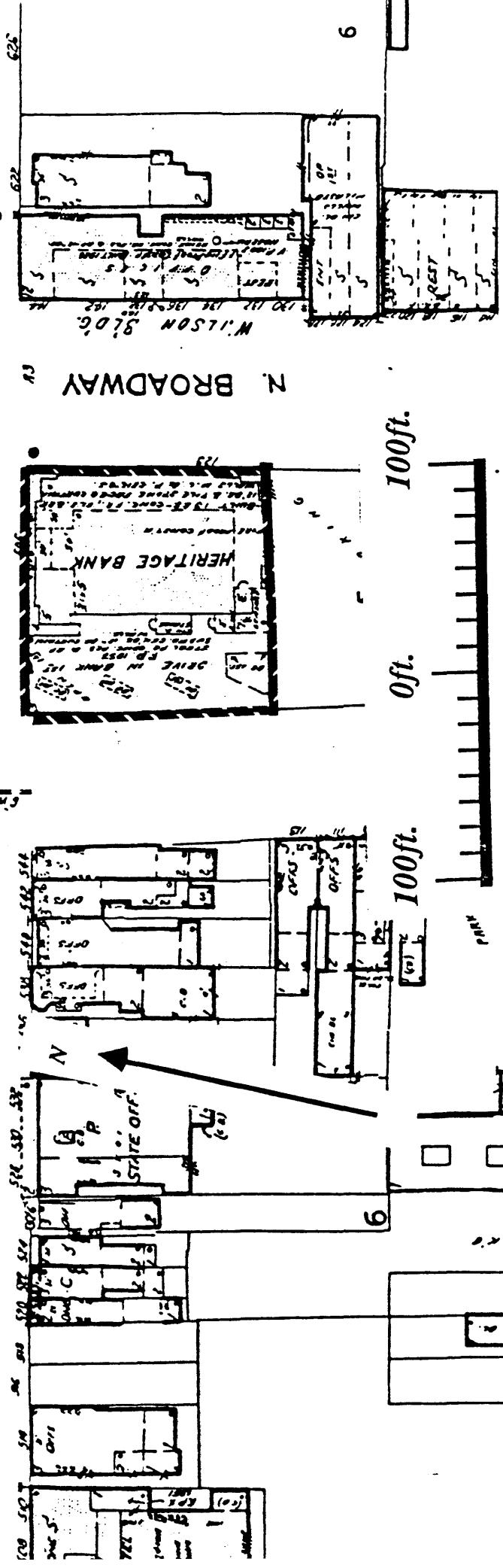
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<sup>1</sup> *The Story of a Bank and a Community*. Booklet published by First Camden National Bank and Trust Company in 1962.



R

A.M.P. PIPE



**Boundary Map**

First Camden National Bank and Trust Company Building

Bank, Legal, and Insurance Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938  
 City of Camden  
 Camden County, New Jersey  
 Camden Quad

CAMPBELL SOAP CO.  
 SEE REPORT SHEET #

Map Prepared by The History Store