

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

REGISTERED
JUL 16 1990

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 National State Bank
other names/site number First National State Bank / ON.IH Inv. # 0408343

2. Location

street & number 123 Market Street N/A not for publication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>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 0

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.
Allen C. Search 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:)
Date 8/24/90

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL/TRADE/Financial Institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Granite

walls STONE/Granite

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance

SUMMARY

The National State Bank of Camden is a one story Neo-Classical Revival bank 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. Built in 1913 to the design of the Philadelphia architectural firm of Davis and Davis, this one-story, three-bay-wide building has been in continuous use as a bank and remains so today. The exterior fabric and design of the fully detached, rectangular-shaped building are unchanged from the original except for some replacement windows and doors. There is now a modern banking arrangement on the interior, but the original vault, marble wainscot, and other interior features also remain.

The building of the National State Bank of Camden stands at the north-west corner of Market and Second streets in downtown Camden, New Jersey. Its south and west walls are flush with the sidewalk while the other two walls abut small open spaces. Two street trees are the only landscaping in front of the bank. The main entrance to the bank is in the central bay of the three bay wide facade on Market Street. Rusticated light grey stone covers the exterior sides and facade. A low parapet surrounds a flat roof. Modillion brackets trim its projecting cornice, and a closed pediment, also trimmed with modillion brackets, rises above the cornice on the facade. A coursed ashlar water table surrounds the main elevations of the building.

The original door surround consisting of bracketed entablature and plain pilasters is still in place around a glass replacement door. A Doric column and plain pilaster stand above the water table on either side of the entrance. A simple entablature bearing the banks present name, Midlantic National Bank, tops the columns and pilasters to create a shallow portico. A rusticated flat arch with scrolled keystone tops a large window on either side of the entrance. This relatively small building with its bold trim and

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 Significant Dates
1913-1927 N/A

Cultural affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect Builder
Davis, Paul Armon III. and Davis, Seymour

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

The National State Bank of Camden is significant for the important role it has played in the banking business in Camden because it is a descendant of the oldest bank in the city and in South Jersey. As a high-style, Neo-Classical design of the Philadelphia architectural firm of Davis and Davis it is also architecturally significant. This 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.

The forerunner of the National State Bank of Camden was the State Bank at Camden. It was one of six banks founded just after passage of New Jersey's banking law of 1812. Joseph and Richard Cooper were among the prominent local men who were involved with the bank when it opened on June 16, 1812 in the former Peter Farrow house at the northwest corner of Market and Second (then called Queen) streets. In less than a year the bank had opened a branch on Church Alley in Philadelphia, so it engaged in inter-state banking at a very early date even though the term did not have exactly the same meaning and impact it has today.

In 1865 the bank took advantage of a series of new federal laws to become a national bank with the name National State Bank of Camden. Since 1912, the bank and its descendants have been on same site except for a short

9. Major Biographical References

Previous Surveys Cite the Following:

1987:

PRERBG, Vol. XXVII, No. 17. 25 April 1913.

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 Philadelphia

UTM References

A 18 48192315 44211620
 Zone Easting Northing

d _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The National State Bank of Camden Building (now a Mid-Lantic Bank Branch) is located at the Northwest corner of Second and Market Streets in the City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, legally described as block 72, lot 26.

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Boundary includes lot #26 in block #72 which has been historically associated with the property.

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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rusticated exterior shows the influence of the Beaux Arts training of Paul Davis, one of the partners of Davis and Davis, the firm responsible for its design.

The sides of the front section of the building are four bays wide and have exterior finish, water table, and windows matching the facade. A wing at the rear is also four bays wide and has rusticated granite exterior, water table, and cornice to match the main block of the building. This wing, however, contained bank offices and is divided into two stories. Therefore, the windows are smaller than those in the main block and lack a decorative lintel. The rear elevation of the building is painted brick.

The interior of The National State Bank of Camden retains much of its original architectural detailing. However, the first floor banking area has been significantly altered for modern use. The original teller stands were along the west side of the building and were embellished with marble and brass, according to the present branch manager. Early photographs show the same thing. The marble wainscot/paneling surrounding the entire first floor exterior wall still remains. The rear half of the first floor behind the teller stations in the vault area has been less significantly altered. Original architrave and plain wooden trim surrounds windows and doors.

The rear office in the northeast corner of the building has a Federal style mantel with marble fireplace surround and hearth. There is fan light ornamentation over the door in this office as well. Original trim, plaster walls, and ceiling still exist in this part of the building.

Behind the vault area of the first floor a closed-string staircase with a handrail and plain balusters rises in an open well. Wainscot on the wall of the stairwell has deteriorated somewhat, but most appears to be salvageable. The floors in the second floor rear portion of the building are tongue and groove. Windows on the second floor are four over four double hung sash, and the original wrought iron security bars remain in place.

There is a bathroom on the second floor with ceramic tile floors and original plumbing fixtures. The door to the bathroom has full length opaque glass, as do the double doors leading to what once was a large office in the northeast corner, now used for storage of business

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machines and typewriters. The original ceiling is visible through the dropped ceiling now hanging over the banking floor.

The basement is the full size of the building. It is quite unremarkable, in general. The exception is lockers for the men's changing room and original bathroom fixtures, including massive ceramic urinals. Original accounting ledgers from previous banks are accessible in the basement files.

Although this is not one of Camden's largest bank buildings, it successfully conveys the feeling of permanence for which its owner and designers were striving. It is readily identifiable to even the casual observer as an early twentieth century bank. The building's continued use and excellent condition are a tribute to the fine workmanship that went into its original construction by the firm of Stacey Reeves and Son. A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, land title and legal buildings identified this building as being eligible for listing in the National Register. It meets the all registration requirements for this property type #1 in the nomination. The National State Bank building exceeds all but a few of the other banks in the nomination in integrity, retention of original fabric, condition, and design.

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periods during alterations. However, there have been several different buildings on the site. The cornerstone for the building standing today was laid in 1913. It replaced a building which was built in about 1875.

F.M. Archer became President of the bank in 1918. He was a great-grandson of James Sloan, the bank's second president. The National State Bank still operated a branch in Philadelphia in the early twentieth century. An officer of the bank went there every day to serve the needs of Philadelphia patrons as well as those of Camden business men located there.

In 1922 National State Bank of Camden merged with First National Bank of Camden to form First National State Bank of Camden. The new bank operated in this building. Five years later, in 1927, the First National State Bank of Camden merged with Camden National Bank and became First Camden National Bank & Trust Company. It also stayed at this location, and F.M. Archer remained the president of the bank through two mergers.

The National State Bank of Camden building is significant for its architecture as well as for its historical association with banking. The building is a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival architecture so often favored by banks in the early twentieth century. There is little doubt that the bank principals thought the building's design enhanced their image as a strong institution. In 1918 a Chamber of Commerce publication described the bank as "housed in a beautiful white marble building thoroughly equipped in every particular."

The design of The National State Bank of Camden is a product of the partnership of Paul Armon Davis III and his older brother Seymour Davis. Paul Davis entered the Ecole des Beaux Arts in the 1890s and became one of its most influential architects in Philadelphia. Seymour Davis attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. He practiced architecture in Kansas, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey where he designed schools, churches, and other types of buildings. The brothers formed a partnership in 1910 and Seymour withdrew in 1914. It was during their short period of partnership that they designed the National State Bank of Camden. After dissolving the partnership Paul Davis continued to practice individually and in partnership with Mathew E. Dunlap and W. Pope Barney. Schools and commercial buildings made up the majority of Paul Davis' work. Although some of his best-known works are in Philadelphia, Paul Davis designed a number of buildings in Camden. The

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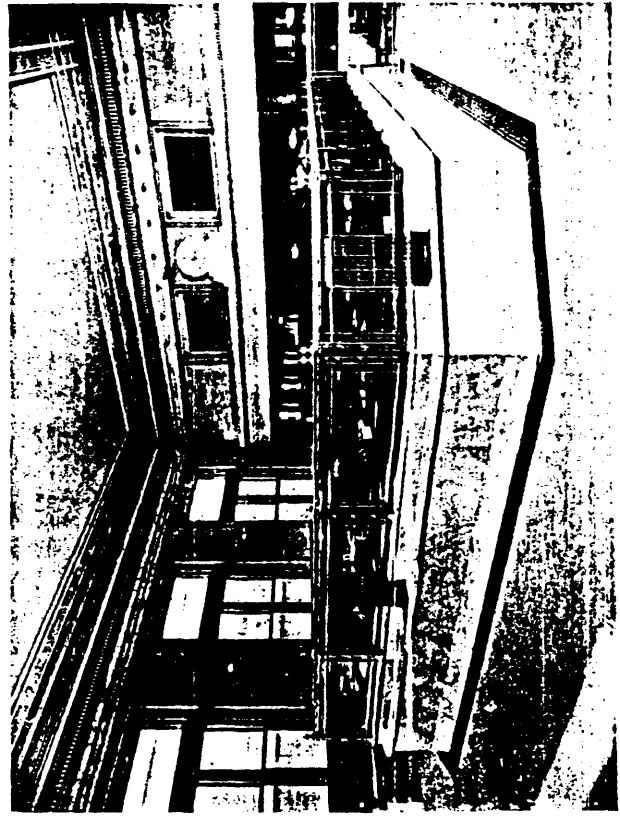
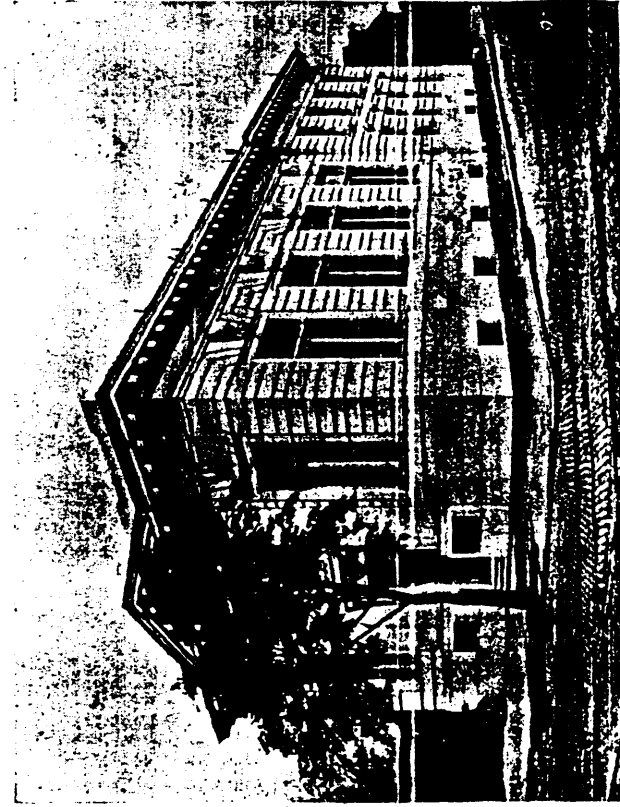
now-demolished Merchants Trust Building at Broadway and Carman streets, the John Greenleaf Whittier School, and Land Title and Guaranty Company building at Fifth and Market streets were among his projects. Davis was also involved in alterations to the Camden Fire Insurance Building and the Security Trust building.

Although there have been alterations to the interior of the bank building, the exterior retains a high degree of integrity. A comparison of the building today with old photographs show that the windows are new, but the fenestration pattern is unchanged. The National State Bank meets the registration requirements of its property type in one important way because it is still used as a bank. Although there have been some changes in the adjacent surroundings, the location and setting of this building remain virtually unchanged. The building was built for a bank and has never been put to any other use.

A large teller's area originally stood in the center of the main banking room. Although that is gone, the basic interior structure remains intact. A dropped ceiling is in place and the degree of original ceiling that remains underneath it is unknown. However, the bank still has its original vault, marble wainscot, and many other interior features. Through its architecture and historical associations the building of the National State Bank of Camden helps to tell the story of banking and its associated businesses in Camden during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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 National State Bank of Camden Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.

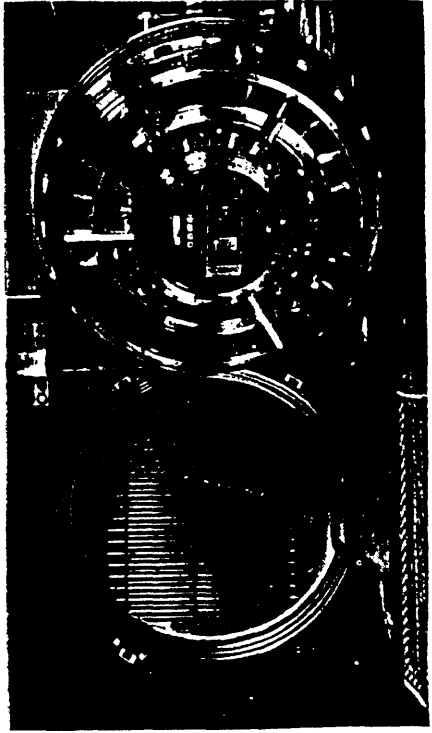
XEROX OF PAGE FROM CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, ITS PAST AND PRESENT 1915



The NATIONAL STATE BANK OF CAMDEN

HEULINGS LIPPINCOTT, President
F. MORSE ARCHER, Vice-Pres. & Solicitor
A. D. AMBRUSTER, Cashier
STANLEY C. KIMBLE, Asst. Cashier

FOUNDED 1812	
Capital	\$500,000
Surplus	500,000
Deposits	5,000,000



DIRECTORS

- HEULINGS LIPPINCOTT
- EDWARD DUDLEY
- RICHARD H. REEVE
- EDWARD ROBERTS
- ISRAEL ROBERTS
- JOHN H. PERKINS
- HENRY H. LIPPINCOTT
- JOHN T. DORRANCE
- F. WALLIS ARMSTRONG
- WILLIAM D. SHERRERD
- A. D. AMBRUSTER
- CYRUS H. K. CURTIS
- ROBERT H. COMEY
- RALPH L. FREEMAN
- F. MORSE ARCHER

