

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individuals 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 Victory Trust Company
other names ONJH Inv. # 0408335

2. Location
street & number Southeast Corner Broadway and Spruce not for publication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	Number of resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<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 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.

Alan A. Saushe 1/11/98
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 Ardus
 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)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE/limestone
walls STONE/limestone
STONE/Terra-Cotta
roof
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance
SUMMARY

The Victory Trust Company building is a one-story, three-bay-wide, rectangular-shaped bank built in 1927 in Neo-Classical Revival style to the design of the Philadelphia architectural firm of Simon & Simon. It stands at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Broadway and Spruce Street in Camden, New Jersey. and fits within the property type #1, Bank Buildings, in the multiple property nomination of bank, insurance, and legal buildings. Despite alterations to accommodate recent use as a church and fire damage on the interior it is immediately identifiable as an early twentieth century bank. The building retains its major facade and structural elements although its architectural integrity has suffered more than that of some of the other banks in the nomination.

The Victory Trust Company building faces South Broadway where its facade is flush with the sidewalk. The north wall of the building is flush with the sidewalk of Spruce Street. Red brick, steel, and reinforced concrete form the structural system of the building, and light grey limestone and terra cotta cover the exterior of the visible facades. A narrow passageway separates the south side of the bank from the next building on Broadway. The Victory Trust Company building is rectangular in shape with its facade on the short side. The actual height of this one-story building is equivalent to two stories in most buildings, including its immediate neighbor.

A low parapet surrounds a flat roof. A dentilled cornice projects below the parapet. Incised triglyphs and anthemion leaves decorate the frieze below the cornice. The name of the bank, "Victory Trust Company" is carved in the frieze on the facade. Broadway is still a busy street, but is no longer the commercial center it was when the bank was built. There is no

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

1927-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect Builder

Simon & Simon Architects

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

SUMMARY

The Victory Trust Company Building is significant for the part it has played in the history of banking in Camden. It is the only extant bank building in the city which represents the end of private ethnic banking in the early twentieth century. The Victory Trust Company was an outgrowth of Antonio Di Paolo's Italian American Bank started in 1917 to cater to Italian-Americans in Camden. As in many American cities small privately-operated banks catered to specific ethnic groups by providing transfer of funds to Europe, loans, and other services for new immigrants. The Victory Trust Company building, a design of the Philadelphia firm of Simon and Simon, is also architecturally significant as one of a small group of Neo-Classical Revival bank buildings constructed on Broadway in Camden in the 1920s. 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.

The Victory Trust Company's roots were in the private ethnic bank that Antonio Di Paolo opened in 1917 at Third and Pine streets, where he served the Italian-American community. The private ethnic bank was a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century phenomenon in most American cities where there were large numbers of immigrants. Typically, Italian-American banks exchanged currency, sent money back to Italy, made loans, and sometimes provided other services such as steamship passage and immigration papers. These

See continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Victory Trust Company

Section number 7 Page 1

landscaping on the sidewalk, and vehicular traffic is generally heavy. Many of the surrounding buildings are commercial and are generally underused.

In the central bay of the facade a large round stilted arch with scrolled keystone contains a metal sash window. Terra cotta in a floral motif surrounds an irregular panel on which the bank's initials are carved to fill each spandrel. Modern siding and a small square window opening or bulletin case now fill the street-level section of the arched opening. A colossal pilaster containing a replacement door at street level is in each of the side bays.

The north side of the building is five bays deep on Spruce Street and continues the motifs and finish of the Broadway facade. There is a large arched window in each bay. The east side of the building connects to a smaller row house and is the rear of the bank. Like the south side of the building, it lacks ornament. Fire has damaged the interior of the building which had been converted to church use. Originally it contained a large banking room and mezzanine at the second level. A wooden wainscot, and large medallion in the center of the high ceiling are among the remaining interior elements. At the east end of the former banking room is a small balcony.

The Victory Trust is one of Camden's smaller Neo-Classical Revival bank buildings, but it is readily identifiable as a former bank and is the work of a prominent architectural firm. The Victory Trust has important historical associations because it developed from an ethnic bank and is one of a small group of early twentieth century banks on South Broadway. The Victory Trust meets all the registration requirements for property type #1, Bank Buildings, in the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Victory Trust Company

Section number 8 Page 1

banks had a rapport with new immigrants because the owners spoke their language and understood their needs. However, they rarely became full service banks, and with the formalization of banking laws they sometimes went out of business. Occasionally, as with Victory Trust, they attracted new investors and developed into a fully-licensed bank.

Italians flocked to the industrial cities of the United States near the turn of the century and by 1903 there were enough of them in Camden to found their own ethnic parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, at Fourth and Division Streets. Antonio Di Paolo's bank was only a block away. Di Paolo continued as president of the new Victory Trust Company which took over his old private banking interests in 1923. The bank remained at Third and Pine for a few years after becoming the Victory Trust Company, but soon moved to a new site on Broadway which was developing as an important commercial street.

In 1927 Victory Trust contracted with the Philadelphia firm of Davis & Davis for the design of their new building on Broadway at the corner of Spruce Street. The partners in the architectural firm were the brothers Edward Paul Simon and Grant Miles Simon who practiced together for a period of about ten years ending in 1927, although use of the firm name continued for some years after that. Edward Simon, the elder brother received his training at Drexel Institute and had designed many residences, factories, and other buildings before Grant Miles Simon joined him. Grant Simon received his first architectural training in Philadelphia. After winning the Paris Prize in 1913 he went to the Ecole des Beaux Arts before going into partnership with his brother. For ten years before his death in 1967 Grant Simon devoted himself to historic preservation and was the advisory architect for the sometimes-controversial work on Independence National Historical Park as well as Chairman of the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

The Beaux Arts tradition was a strong influence on the firm of Simon & Simon. The partners produced the design for two banks which are no longer standing in Camden: Parkside Trust Company at Haddon and Kaighn Avenues, and First National Bank of Camden at Second and Market streets. In addition to the Victory Trust, Simon & Simon designed the First Camden National Bank & Trust Company Building at Broadway and Cooper Street, which is still standing and is included in this multiple property nomination. The stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression came soon after construction of the new Victory Trust building. The bank was unable to withstand these financial crises and

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

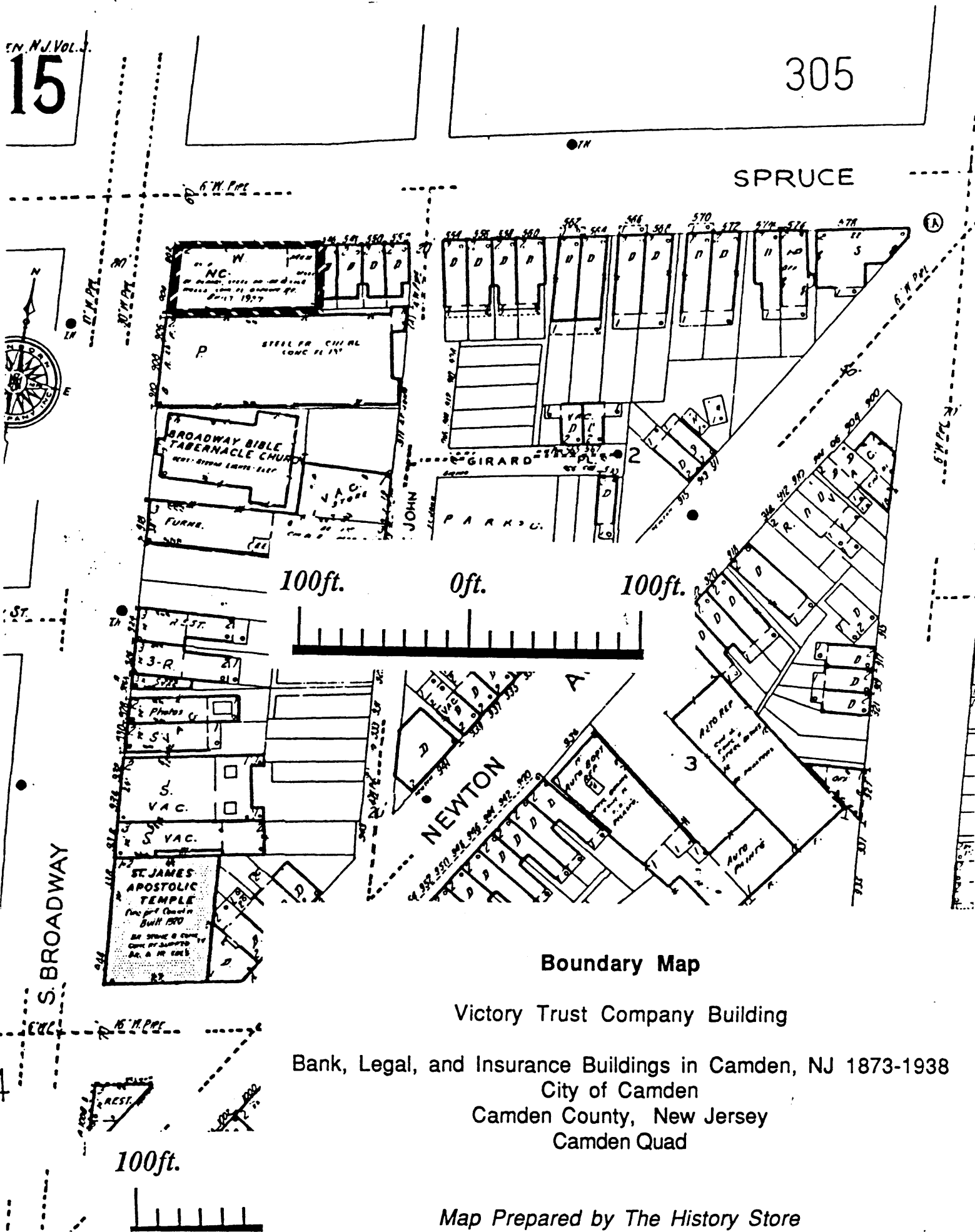
Victory Trust Company

Section number 8 Page 2

in 1933 was absorbed by the West Jersey Trust Company. That company eventually merged into the Camden Trust Company, one of the three banks left in Camden in 1938.

There have been some alterations to the facade of the Victory Trust Building, but it retains a majority of its main exterior features. The building's most recent use has been as a church, but it is now vacant and there is fire damage on the interior. The overall integrity of the building is not as good as that of some of the other bank buildings in the nominations, but its historical association with an ethnic bank and its design by a prominent architectural firm make the building an important tangible reminder of Camden banking history.

A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden identified the Victory Trust 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 Victory Trust Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination on the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.



Boundary Map

Victory Trust Company Building

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