

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001255

Date Listed: 8/24/90

South Camden Trust Company  
Property Name

Camden  
County

NJ  
State

Banks, Insurance, and Legal Bldgs. in Camden, NJ, 1873-1938 MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Because the current function of this building is religious, National Register Criteria Consideration A applies (but is not marked on the form). Sue Pringle with the NJ SHPO agrees. The form is now officially amended to include Criteria Consideration A.

-----  
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



JUL 1 8 1990

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 South Camden Trust Company  
other names/site number Holy Bethel Inc. - ONJH #0408122

street & number Broadway at Ferry Street  not for publication  
city, town Camden  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ 034 Camden code 007 zip code 08101

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

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.  
[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:)  
Date 8/24/90

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

RELIGION/religious structure

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Neo-Classical Revival

foundation STONE/Granite

walls STONE/Limestone

other

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

**SUMMARY**

The South Camden Trust Company is a large Neo-Classical Revival bank building that fits within property type #1, Bank Buildings, in the multiple property nomination of bank, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden, New Jersey 1873 to 1938. It is a design of the prominent Camden architectural firm of Lackey and Hettel and was built in 1926. Embellished with Corinthian columns, a rooftop balustrade, and decorative terra-cotta, the design is more flamboyant than most early twentieth century banks in Camden. A majority of the original exterior fabric and design remains, but the interior has been converted to a church.

The building of the South Camden Trust Company stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and Ferry Street. When driving South on Broadway, one of the city's busy commercial streets, the bank appears to be triangular in shape, although it is actually a five-sided polygon. The main facade of the building is on Broadway with a secondary facade on Ferry Street. The shortest side of the building is actually a flattened corner at the intersection of these two streets. The other two sides of the building are secondary.

The bank advertised its new building as being in the "Corinthian style", and Corinthian columns and pilasters dominate it. The five bay wide facade on Broadway contains four engaged colossal Corinthian columns and has plain pilasters at the outside corners. The seven bay facade on Ferry Street contains Corinthian Pilasters. The columns and pilasters support a plain architrave. Tan brick on a granite base forms the walls of the building. Light grey limestone faces the main and secondary facades.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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 | Significant Dates |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>1926-1938</u>       | <u>N/A</u>        |
| _____                  | _____             |

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lackey and Hettel, Architects

Draper, James W., builder

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

**SUMMARY**

The South Camden Trust Company Building at the intersection of Broadway and Ferry Street is significant as the headquarters of one of the banks on Broadway that opened and expanded during Camden's 1920s boom. A large Neo-Classical Revival bank, built to the design of the Camden firm of Lackey and Hettel, it is also significant for its architecture. 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 South Camden Trust Company opened in April of 1921 on Broadway. The Greater Camden Movement which envisioned a rosy future for the city, was at its height. Industry had boomed along the south Camden waterfront during World War I, and Camden businessmen saw south Broadway as a promising location. Judge Ralph W.E. Donges, one of the founders of the bank, was its first president. A Democrat in predominantly-Republican Camden, Donges was a supporter of Woodrow Wilson who appointed him to the Public Utilities Commission in 1912. Donges eventually was appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

By 1926 the bank's business had expanded to the point where it required more space, prompting the directors to build the present Neo-Classical Revival South Camden Trust Company building. The directors hired the Camden

See continuation sheet

9. Major Biographical References

see main bibliography

- 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# \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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 489740 4418880  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 d \_\_\_\_\_

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

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The South Camden Trust Company Building is located at the Southeast corner of South Broadway and FerrySt., City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, legally described as block #486, lot #1.

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Boundary includes lot 1 in block 486, which has been historically associated with the property

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Priscilla M. Thompson; Franklyn M. Thompson

organization The History Store

street & number 827 Tatnall Street

city or town Wilmington

date June 1, 1988

telephone (302) 654-1727

state DE zip code 19801

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

South Camden Trust Company

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The building has a flat roof topped by a stone balustrade. A cornice lined with modillion brackets above dentils projects from below the balustrade. Although the building is actually only one story its overall height is equivalent to that of a three story building. It has a frontage of 69 feet on Broadway and 94 feet on Ferry Street. Large multi-light windows with metal sash fill all but the central bay on the Broadway side. Today leaded glass panels with a Gothic arch design cover a small section at the top of these windows. They relate to the current church use of the building and coordinate with a similar panel above the entrance.

The main entrance to the building is in the central bay of the Broadway facade and now contains a pair of replacement doors. Originally an ornamental metal grille covered this door at night, and some of this grillwork remains above the present door. Perhaps the most visible elevation is the short wall created by the squared off corner at the street intersection. At its street level a large bulletin case is set in a bronze and terra cotta panel; above it is a round clock case. At the top of this wall is a decorative terra cotta panel

The South Camden Trust Company Building fills the lot on which it stands, and there is no street landscaping near it. The building is in good physical condition and retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior. Holy Bethel, Inc. the religious group which owns and uses the building today has altered the interior which once contained ten tellers cages and large marble customers' desks. A 1926 description of plans for the bank make it evident that the best of marble, walnut, and other materials were used as interior finish.

Partly because of its unusual shape, the South Camden Trust Company building appears to be one of the largest bank buildings in Camden. The Parkside Trust Company which once stood at Kaighn and Haddon Avenues was also built in a triangular shape, and on first impression was similar to the South Camden Trust Company. At present, this is the only bank of this shape in Camden. J.W. Draper of Camden did the construction work on the bank and most of the original exterior details remain. The South Camden Trust Company Building fill all the registration requirements of Property Type #1 in this nomination.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

South Camden Trust Company

Section number 8 Page 1

---

architectural firm of Lackey and Hettel to produce the design. Benjamin H. Lackey, a graduate of Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, formed a partnership with Joseph Norman Hettel, another Camden architect in about 1921. Together the two architects designed many buildings in south Jersey including the Y.W.C.A. in Camden, public schools in Haddonfield, and buildings in Salem and Gloucester. The East End Trust Company on Federal Street which is a part of this nomination was also a design of Lackey and Hettel.

Although the South Camden Trust Company opened during the prosperous 1920s, it had only a short life as an independent bank. In 1933, during the Great Depression South Camden Trust was absorbed by the West Jersey Trust Company. The latter was itself the result of a 1927 merger of two other banks and eventually became a part of the Camden Trust Company.

The South Camden Trust Company building is architecturally significant not only as an example of the work of Lackey and Hettel, but also as one of the most elaborate examples of a Neo-Classical Revival bank building in Camden. According to the Chamber of Commerce's publication, *Camden First*, the bank directors made an effort to use only Camden services and industries in their building. The design is calculated to dominate the intersection of Broadway and Ferry Street. The streets meet at less than a right angle and the flattening of the corner of the buildings gives it the impression of being triangular in shape.

The interior of the bank has been altered to become a church, but the exterior retains a high degree of integrity. The South Camden Trust Company building meets the registration requirements of its property type. Through its architecture and historical associations, the building of the South Camden Trust Company continues to represent an important phase of Camden banking during the 1920s when the banking business was extending its influence south along Broadway. It also housed one of the banks that became a part of Camden Trust Company, one of the three banks in the city at the end of the period of significance of the nomination.

A 1981 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

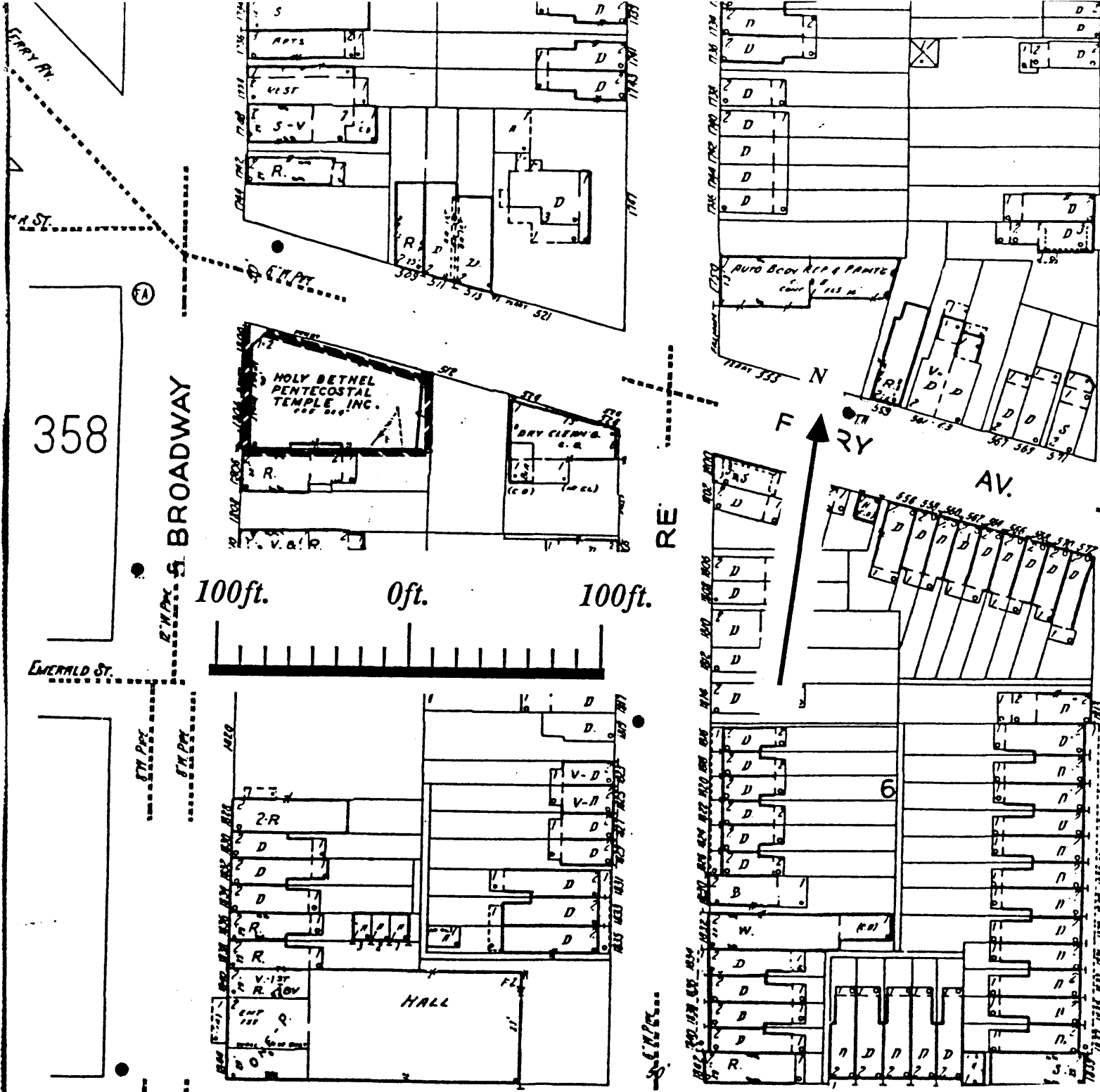
South Camden Trust Company

Section number   8   Page   2  

---

Heritage have evaluated the building and determined that the South Camden Trust Company Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.





**Boundary Map**

South Camden 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

