

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 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 N/A  
other names/site number 525 Cooper Street, ONJH Inv. # 0408340

2. Location

street & number 525 Cooper Street  not for publication  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.  
Allen O. Search 1/16/90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Acting Commissioner, DEP/DSHPD  
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/Professional

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Professional

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

MissionRevival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Ceramic Tile

other Wood Brackets

Describe present and historic physical appearance

**SUMMARY**

525 Cooper Street is a three story professional building built in 1927 in a former rowhouse site. Its light tan brick Mission Revival facade is three bays wide with two commercial doors and show window on the street level. Although the building retains a rowhouse size and scale, its early twentieth century style and physical features give it the distinctive appearance of a professional office. The building fits within property type #2, buildings constructed for the legal profession and/or insurance business. Still in use as a legal office, 525 Cooper Street retains a large percentage of its original interior and exterior fabric.

525 Cooper Street, built in 1925, has a granite foundation and tan brick Mission Revival facade. The building is three stories high and three bays wide. In the central bay at the street level is a large show window (recently somewhat altered to accommodate a bank) that rises to become a segmentally arched triple window on the second floor. On either side of this at street level is a glass commercial door with arched transom. On the second floor there is a small square casement window with decorative iron grill covering it. A moulded brick course tops these two windows and curves above the central window at this level.

On the third floor three wooden French doors open onto a shallow iron balcony. The roof of the main building is flat, but a steep pitch pantile shed roof forms a parapet which is supported by four large wooden brackets.

The two front doors lead to the offices on the uppers floors where there has been little interior alteration. Hardwood floors, baseboards, and plaster walls are still in place. There is a small garden at the rear of the building. The building meets all the registration requirements for Property Type #2 in the multiple property nomination.

See continuation sheet

**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  
Law  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance      Significant Dates  
1925-1938      N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect Builder  
Wells Robert Builder

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

525 Cooper Street is significant for its association with the expansion of the legal profession and the insurance industry in early twentieth century Camden. It dates from 1925 and is one of a few buildings constructed for attorneys and insurance brokers. 525 Cooper Street occupies what was originally a rowhouse site. As the need for office space increased in central Camden during the 1920s, many residents of Cooper Street moved to the suburbs, leaving their residences to be made into commercial space. When Charles S. Boyer, who had lived for many years at 525 Cooper Street, left the City of Camden, the present building was constructed. Although it occupies the rowhouse site, the building's new exterior and interior are professional offices. Its first office occupants were the Kraft Brothers, Inc., a legal firm, who remained there for most of the period of significance. The building is still occupied by a legal firm and retains most of its original fabric on both interior and exterior. 525 Cooper Street fits within property type #2, buildings constructed for the legal profession and/ or the insurance business. It is also a contributing building in the National Register Nomination for the Cooper Street Historic District.

The building at 525 Cooper Street completely fills the site on which a rowhouse stood for many years. The present facade and interior were built in 1925 for professional offices. The Kraft Brothers, Bayard, Malcolm, Wayne, and William were attorneys who moved into the building in 1927 and occupied it for most of the period of significance. Although the building still has

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Biographical References**

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 48197110 44211640  
 Zone Easting Northing

d         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

525 Cooper Street is located on the north side of Cooper Street between fifth and sixth streets, City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, legally described as block 98, lot 96.

see continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes lot 96, in block 98, 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

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state DE zip code 19801

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

525 Cooper Street

Section number 8 Page 1

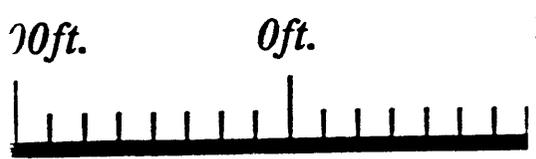
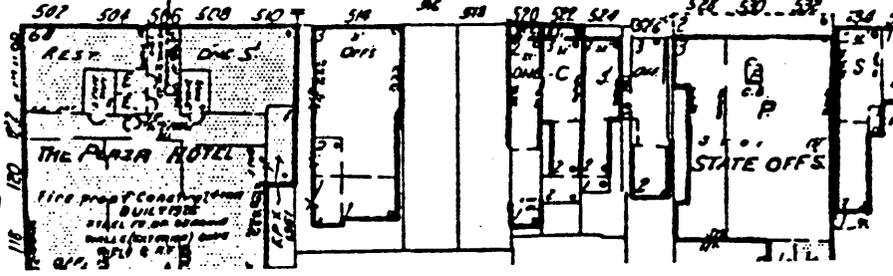
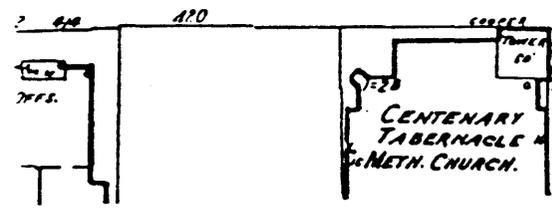
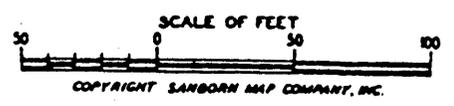
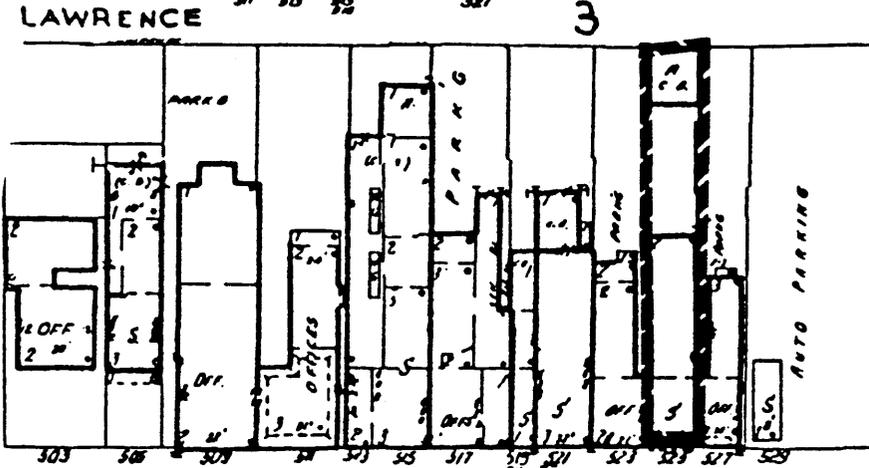
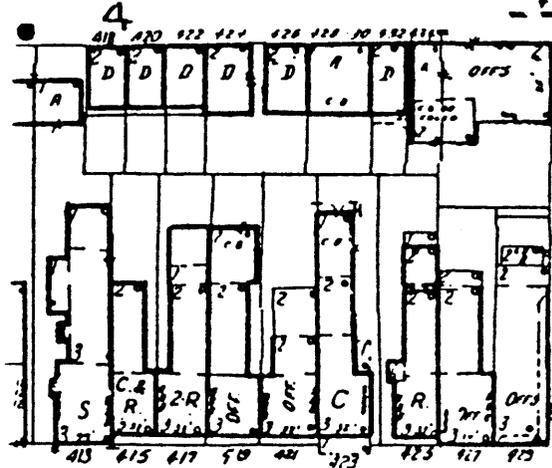
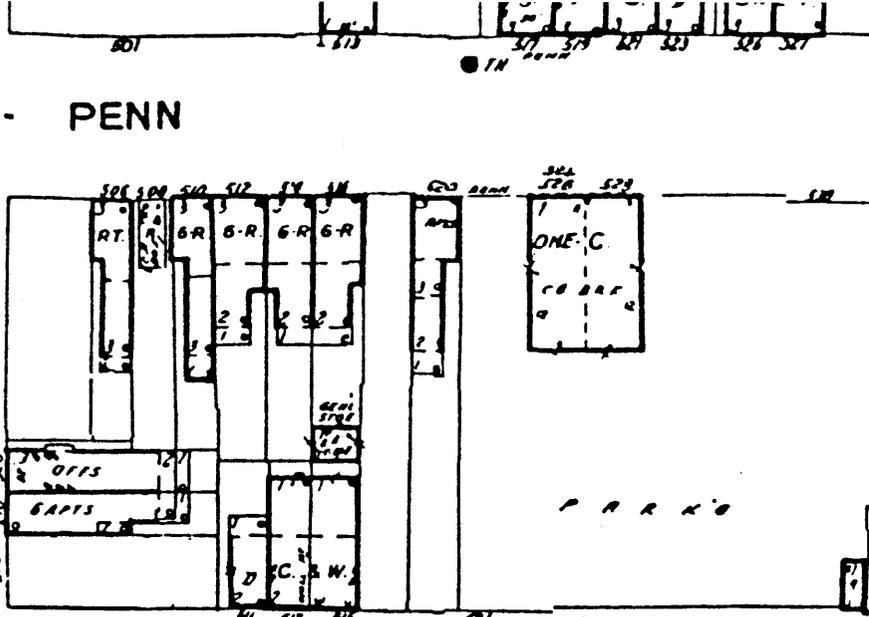
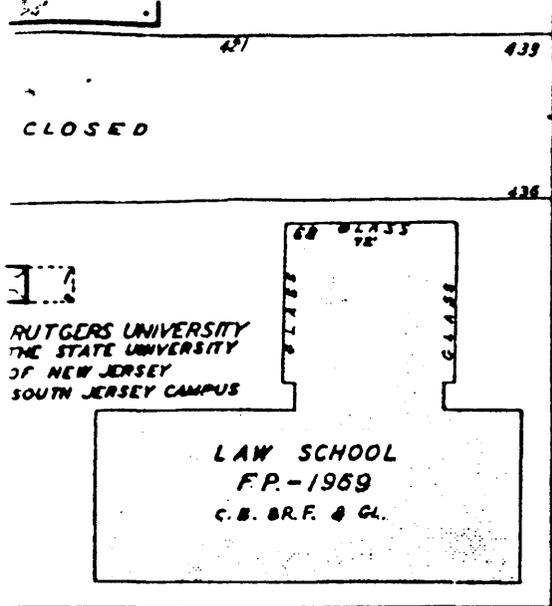
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the size and scale of a rowhouse, its totally new 1926 Mission Revival facade has many commercial features. The building contains professional offices and some unusual interior elements. For example, there is basement construction that keeps moisture away from files.

525 Cooper Street is an excellent example of a professional building of the early twentieth century which was inserted into a rowhouse site. It represents the conversion of Cooper Street from residential to professional and commercial use during the boom of the 1920s. Originally this was the site of the home of Charles S. Boyer, president of a local company and best known as a founder of the Camden Historical Society and the author of numerous books on local history. When Boyer, like many other residents of Cooper Street, left the city for the suburbs in the 1920s, there was a demand for more offices in central Camden. This address is only a short walk from the Camden County offices, and it is not surprising that attorneys wished to locate here.

The Krafts were lawyers (including County Prosecutor William), but they also operated a real estate business from this address. One other attorney, F.H. Haines, also had an office here along with National Life Insurance of Vermont, and insurance agent Joseph Kramer. The Krafts occupied the building for a number of years and today it still houses legal offices. It is in excellent physical condition and retains most of its original fabric on both the exterior and interior.

As the result of a survey of the city of Camden 525 Cooper Street is designated 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 recorded the building again. 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 525 Cooper Street is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination on the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.



Boundary Map

525 Cooper Street

Bank, Legal, and Insurance Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-193  
 City of Camden  
 Camden County, New Jersey  
 Camden Quad

