

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Second National Bank

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1331 G Street, N.W. not for publication N/A  
city or town Washington vicinity X  
state District of Columbia code DC zip code 20005 county N/A code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert L. Mallett  
Signature of certifying official

11/14/94  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
(See continuation sheet).
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
(See continuation sheet).
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register

*Edson H. Beall*      12-29-94

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

entered in the  
National Register

*Edson H. Beall*      \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper      Date  
of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Banks and Financial Institutions in Washington, D.C. 1790-1960

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE Sub: financial institution  
COMMERCE business

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE Sub: business  
TRADE specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL  
Classical Revival  
Italian Renaissance

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite  
roof ASPHALT  
walls STONE: Limestone  
METAL: Bronze  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1927-28  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1927-28  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Appleton P. Clark, Jr.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>323850</u>	<u>4307250</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Square 252, Lot 837.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The boundary includes the Second National Bank Building.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Maloney / Architect  
organization D.C. Historic Preservation Division date September 20, 1994  
street & number 614 H Street, N.W. telephone (202) 727-7360  
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name IVREA Corporation, N.V.  
street & number 1725 DeSales Street, N.W. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20005

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Second National Bank Building is situated at 1331-33 G Street, N.W., on the north side of the street. It occupies a lot measuring 44 feet wide by 110 feet deep. The building has a rear light court which faces an alley. The building has ten stories and measures 110 feet in height. Its party walls abut buildings of approximately the same height; on the west is the Colorado Building (1903) and on the east is 1325 G Street (c. 1970). It is constructed out of steel and concrete with a granite base and upper stories of ashlar limestone with bronze infill. The building is three bays wide; the outer bays are flanked by smooth wall surfaces which are treated as flattened piers. The Second National Bank/Office Building illustrates Stipped Classicism and uses Italian Renaissance sources for details. The facade is flat in overall appearance, and incorporates a tri-partite arrangement. There is a limited amount of ornament which is mostly confined to the area within the piers; it is crisply rendered classical moldings. The court and alley elevations are of beige brick, laid in common bond.

The two-story base is framed by smooth-faced rustication which acts as a base for the full-height piers. At the bottom of the piers are small windows (one of which includes a night depository) with metal grilles and pediments. These align with windows with stone grilles at the second floor.

The base is divided into three bays by Doric pilasters resting on plinth blocks. The bays have multi-light plate glass windows; the top windows have bronze grilles. The right bay has been altered by the insertion of a second entrance and the left bay now incorporates a projecting storefront. The center bay includes the portal which has a surround with rope and leaf-and-dart mouldings separated by a smooth, wide section. The entrance is surmounted by a pediment with a stylized egg-and-dart moulding. The base of the pilaster to the right of the portal originally had "organized 1872," in bronze letters, bolted to it. The lower portion of the shaft originally had "The Second National Bank," in bronze letters, bolted to it. One of two hexagonal bronze lanterns flanking the door remains. Above the doors is a bronze screen with open round-arch arcade ornament. The original doors have been replaced by glass doors. The two-story base is terminated by a cornice with honeysuckle ornament.

The shaft portion of the facade includes the third through eighth stories. It is also subdivided into a tripartite arrangement. The sides include smooth minimalistic piers with small slightly projecting bases. The three bays are divided by half-width piers without bases. The bays incorporate pairs of windows separated by a smooth, limestone mullion. All upper floor windows are wood with one-over-one sashes. Above each window is a rectangular panel with a leafy vase which transforms into two vines which spiral around a small face. This portion of the shaft is terminated by a dentil molding. The fourth through seventh floors are identical to the the second floor except that the masonry mullion is replaced with a continuous bronze mullion which is rendered as papyrus-like stalks banded together with a lotus capital at the seventh floor. The windows are separated

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with bronze spandrels with crisply detailed blind arcading surmounted by details. This section of the shaft is terminated by dentil and wave moldings. The eighth floor incorporates pairs of windows separated by an unadorned, rectangular, bronze mullion. A leaf molding extends the width of the bays. The shaft is terminated by a leaf-and-dart molding which does not project to recognize the outer piers.

The cornice section of the tripartite facade includes the ninth and tenth stories. The piers incorporate bases and Doric capitals. The two-story, Ionic (fluted) pilasters divide the three bays while the pairs of windows are divided by two-story rectangular mullions with stylized lotus capitals. The bronze spandrels incorporate a rectangular which surrounds three rectangular panels. Between the Ionic capitals is a floral panel which repeats the vase-vine-face ornament above the third floor.

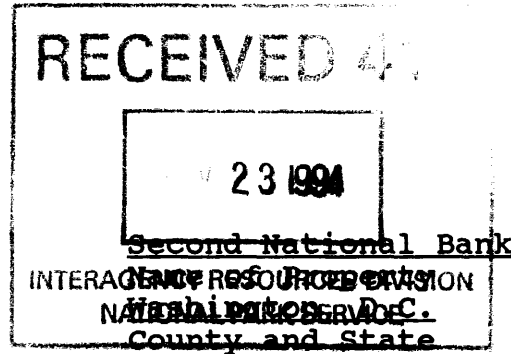
The building is crowned by a frieze and cornice. The frieze has scroll brackets, with those above the piers projecting slightly. The simple cornice is continuous.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Second National Bank stands among a group of banks in the vicinity of the U.S. Treasury Department which create part of Washington, D.C.'s financial district. It is one of the last of the classically inspired structures built during a sustained boom in Washington bank construction which began at the turn-of-the-twentieth-century.

The Second National Bank was a major commission and the last of the banks designed by the distinguished Washington architect Appleton P. Clark, Jr. More than a decade earlier, Clark had classicized the facade of Second National's original headquarters. For the bank's second building, Clark deftly applied classical motifs to the vertical composition of a large bank-office building. Although many of his banks have been demolished, Clark is recognized as the city's most prolific bank architect.

Typical of the 1920s and 1930s, Clark's design exhibits the flattening and stylization of classical elements, but it also presents distinctive characteristics in the decorative use of moldings and early Italian Renaissance motifs in miniature. The skillful presentation of proportion and rhythmic detailing makes this one of Clark's most successful commercial facades.

THE SECOND NATIONAL BANK

The Second National Bank was organized in 1872 by Washington's business leaders including Mayor Matthew G. Emery and James L. Barbour. Emery, the last mayor of Washington under the Territorial Government, served as president of the bank from 1877 to 1901. The bank took the name Second National as the First National Bank had been organized in 1863 by Philadelphia stock market speculator Jay Cooke. The First National Bank collapsed in the Depression of 1873.

In 1875, Second National built one of the city's first cast-iron front buildings, at 509 7th Street, NW, for its headquarters. This was the bank's only office until 1922, when it opened a branch in an existing building at 1331-33 G Street, NW. The bank constructed their new building on G Street in 1927-28 at an estimated cost of \$350,000.<sup>1</sup>

Second National was one of the city's smaller national banks, ranking seventh in size when it began construction of the new "uptown branch." The bank's president at the time was Victor Deyber; local builder Samuel J. Prescott was Chairman of the Board and also the builder of record. Among the other directors were Fred Drew (contractor), William H. Walker (real estate), and W.R. Winslow (paint merchant).

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Permit to Build #88, July 5, 1927.

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Second National avoided the fate of two of its neighbors--Commercial National Bank (1918) and Federal-American National Bank (1924)--which failed in the bank crisis of 1932-33, owing largely to over-investment in new headquarters buildings. Second National moved its headquarters from 7th Street to the new building in 1936.

After a change of ownership in 1959, the bank changed its name to First National; in the 1960s, it moved its headquarters to 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The G Street building continued to house a branch office until 1970, when the branch moved to a new office building next door. Since the 1970s, the banking room has been used as a liquor store and clothing store; the upper floor offices are occupied by the Treasury Department.

In 1978, First National Bank was merged with Union Trust to become Union First National Bank, subsequently First American Bank, and now First Union.

APPLETON P. CLARK, JR.

Appleton Prentiss Clark, Jr. (1865-1955) was one of the most prominent architects practicing in Washington at the beginning of the twentieth century. He was born in Washington, shortly after his family moved from Philadelphia during the Civil War. His father became a prominent local Republican, active in black suffrage rights. Clark graduated from Central High School and apprenticed for three years in the office of Alfred B. Mullett, when the later was Supervising Architect of the Treasury.

In 1886, Clark established his own practice which continued for more than fifty years. He became a prolific designer of rowhouses, churches, banks, orphanages and commercial and institutional buildings. He was president of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served on several of the institute's national committees. In 1920, Clark wrote an important essay on the history of Washington architecture which appeared in John Clagett Proctor's multi-volume history of the city. In 1945, Clark wrote Institutional Homes for Children which advocated the creation of more home-like settings for the young.

Clark's early works showed the influence of his training under Mullett and the last stages of the Romanesque Revival. Clark's Washington Post Building, at 1337 E Street, NW (1893, razed 1954) was representative of the style, with its rusticated stone and idiosyncratic ornament. A few of Clark's Romanesque Revival designs remain, including the Eastern Presbyterian Church on Stanton Square, NE (1891, now known as Mt. Zion Baptist Church) and a house for Christina Somerville at 2007 Columbia Road, NW (1899).

The turn of the century brought a strong stylistic shift in Clark's work, typical of Washington architects in general. Adoption of the McMillan Commission Plan helped make Washington the leading laboratory for the City Beautiful Movement and the Beaux-Arts principles it espoused. Several of Clark's buildings exemplified

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the trend, including two buildings with colonnades for Garfield Hospital at 11th Street and Florida Avenue, NW (1904 and 1911) and the monumental Jewish Community Center on 16th Street (1910). At the Homer Building on 13th Street between F and G Streets (1913), Clark applied white terra cotta cladding with neoclassical decoration on a steel-framed office and retail building.

For his residential designs, Clark typically used the Georgian Revival style. One of Clark's earliest works in this style was the Wayne MacVeagh house, 1719 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 1901, (demolished). This was followed by two massive red-brick mansions in Kalorama, known as the J. Philip Herrmann house at 2215 Wyoming Avenue (1911) and the Thomas Gales house at 2300 S Street (1905)--which was the residence of Herbert Hoover before and after his presidency. During the same period, Clark also designed large but less formal houses in Cleveland Park. He also employed other styles, for example he used the English Gothic style for the Foundry United Methodist Church at 16th and P Streets (1904).

Clark designed twenty-seven, apartment houses in the District of Columbia including 1424 16th Street (1917), the Roosevelt Hotel at 2101 16th Street (1919), and the Presidential at 16th and L Streets, N.W. (1922).

Clark's Bank Architecture

A comprehensive survey of banks and financial institutions in the District of Columbia records Clark as the city's most prolific architect of this building type. His designs include:

- National Capital Bank, 316 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE (1890, razed)
- West End National Bank, 1413-15 G Street, NW (1891, razed)
- Home Savings Bank, 7th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW (1902, razed)
- Home Savings Bank (branch), 687 H Street, NE (1905, razed)
- Home Savings Bank (branch), 436 7th Street, SW (1905, razed)
- Second National Bank (alteration), 509 7th Street, NW (1910)
- Home Savings Bank (branch), 720-22 H Street, NE (1912)
- Washington Permanent Building Association, 629 F Street, NW (1912, razed)
- Park Savings Bank, 3127 14th Street, NW (1913, razed)
- National Savings & Trust (additions), 15th & New York Avenue, NW (1915 and 1924)
- Citizens Savings Bank, 1336 New York Avenue, NW (1919, razed)
- Riggs National Bank (addition), 1503-05 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (1922)
- Columbia Title Insurance Company (addition), 503 E Street, NW (1924)
- American Security & Trust (branch), 445-47 7th Street, SW (1924, razed)
- Columbia National Bank, 911 F Street, NW (1924)

The stylistic progression of Clark's banks followed the development of his practice in general. The early examples reveal his Victorian training acquired under A.B. Mullett. For example, his National Capital Bank (1890) had a rusticated stone facade with Romanesque Revival detail. By the turn of the century, his designs were becoming increasingly classical. The Home Savings Bank (1902) was his first investigation into the style. Clark described it as

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"a 6-story building of brownstone and mottled brick, combining an apartment house with a bank, without looking incongruous."<sup>2</sup> The building was a transitional design in his career, the decorative motifs were classically inspired while the use of brownstone and the heaviness of the massing showed a continued influence of the Romanesque Revival. The banking room was enclosed with a heavily rusticated base with an elaborate archway facing Mount Vernon Square.

In 1910, Clark was commissioned to classicize the Second National Bank's original 1875 building, making it conform to prevailing concepts of good bank design. The building WHICH ONE??!! had a cast-iron facade (one of the first in Washington) with a mansard roof and Second Empire details. Clark designed a granite base and replaced the building's high basement and raised first floor with a double-height marble banking room located at street level. The second and third floors of the original cast-iron facade were left intact, but Clark replaced the mansard roof with a neoclassical attic-story above the cornice. The dramatic transformation of the building was featured in *Bankers Magazine* in June 1911.

The success of Clark's early bank designs may have facilitated his gaining the commission for additions to two of the city's leading financial institutions, the Riggs National Bank and National Savings & Trust. In both instances, Clark's additions blend with the existing context of the original buildings. At NS&T, this involved additions to a red brick Victorian building designed by James Windrim in 1888. For Riggs, Clark designed a wing which harmonized with a granite neoclassical temple, designed by York & Sawyer in 1899, and with the same firm's American Security and Trust Building immediately to the east (1904-05). Clark completed a cohesive, three-part composition that echoed the portico on the north facade of the U.S. Treasury Department across Pennsylvania Avenue.

In 1924, the Columbia National Bank hired Clark to design a replacement for its 1887 building on F Street, NW. Clark's Italian Renaissance design for this small bank presages the inspiration for the Second National Bank.

Clark's design for the Second National Bank was his last bank design. The Second National's tall and narrow facade demonstrates the architect's ability to apply the classical vocabulary to an extremely vertical composition and skill at conveying an image of dignity and strength on a mid-block site. The use of early Italian Renaissance details is somewhat unusual, as is the use of a miniaturized arcade motif as bas-relief on the bronze spandrels. Clark's mastery of contextual design and aesthetic restraint are evident in comparison with the flamboyant Beaux-Arts facade of the adjacent Colorado Building.

<sup>2</sup> Appleton P. Clark, Jr., "History of Architecture in Washington." In John Clagett Proctor, Washington Past and Present, Vol. II, p. 508.

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"Appleton Clark, Jr., Architect in District More Than 50 Years." Evening Star, March 26, 1955.

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Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital. Applications for historic landmark and historic district designation: 15th Street Financial Historic District, 14th and G Streets Financial Center, Downtown Commercial Historic District.

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"Proposed Second National Bank Building at 1331-33 G Street." (Photo) Evening Star, May 28, 1927.

"Second National Bank Return to 1331-33 G." Evening Star, April 30, 1928, p. 14.

"Second National Bank Opens New Home Tomorrow." Washington Post, April 29, 1928.

"Second National Branch Bank Open." Evening Star, November 20, 1922, p. 2F.

"Second National Branch is Opened." Evening Star, April 30, 1928, p. 14.

"Second National Marks 85th Year Today." Washington Post, July 24, 1957.

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"Second National Plans New Home." Evening Star, May 21, 1927, p. 19.

"Second National Bank, Washington, D.C." Bankers Magazine, June 1911.

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