

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 31 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
First National State Bank Building
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
810 Broad Street
CITY, TOWN
Newark
STATE
New Jersey
VICINITY OF
10th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th
COUNTY
Essex
CODE
013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First National State Bank
STREET & NUMBER
550 Broad Street
CITY, TOWN
Newark
VICINITY OF
STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Essex County Hall of Records
STREET & NUMBER
High Street
CITY, TOWN
Newark
STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic State Inventory
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National State Bank built in 1912 is a twelve (12) story rectangular block structure. The building is presented in column form with the lowest two (2) stories representing a base; the middle seven (7) stories the shaft and the top two (2) stories as the capital. The building is three (3) bays wide on its front (east) facade and six (6) bays on the side. The rear has had a four (4) bay addition in 1924.

The ground floor is used entirely for banking purposes. The bank is articulated as an elongated atrium with a colonnade on three (3) sides. It begins one (1) bay beyond the entrance and ends one (1) bay before the rear. Laterally it extends from the left (north) wall to one (1) bay before the right (south) wall. On the right a long space is cordoned off. This space contains meeting rooms, a winding stair with landings and three (3) elevators.

The second (2nd) floor contains a gallery which overlooks the first (1st) floor. The other floors have a standard plan with office spaces on the left and a central meeting room and the elevators on the right.

On the exterior each bay has a large arched window. The arches rest upon piers with superimposed corinthian pilasters that support a full entablature which surmounts the ground floor. The spandrels of the arches are decorated with circular motifs.

The frontal three (3) bays are similar except that the pilasters are replaced with free standing corinthian columns and the entablature is surmounted by a balustrade. The third (3rd) floor, which appears as the second (2nd) story from the exterior is surmounted by a cornice, and has decorative panels between the bays. The middle seven (7) stories are not decorated. The top two (2) stories are separated from the lower floors by a heavy frieze. The upper story windows take the form of Romanesque double arches. The spandrels of the arches are decorated with cartouches. The upper story is surmounted by a frieze with recurring "s" motifs and a wide overhang roof.

The bays on all floors except the first two (2) form double windows. The interior colonnade is articulated with piers, lunettes and doric pilasters.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cass Gilbert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First National State Bank is significant for several reasons. It houses the eighth (8th) oldest institution in the history of New Jersey banking. It was designed by Cass Gilbert, a renowned architect of the period. Also, it is one of the few buildings in Newark to remain on the original site since the banks organization in 1812.

Archeology - Historic

What used to be not an unordinary practice has today become rare. The cornerstone of the First National Bank contains a time capsule. It contains such items as copies of the Evening News of that day (May 3, 1911), the date of the cornerstone laying; explanatory manuals describing the actions of the City's Common Council and the State's legislature, examples of the Banks "present" currency (unchanged denominations since 1912) and specimens of some of its early issues. Photographs of the directors and officers of the Bank complete the information included in the stone.

Architecture

The First National State Bank was designed by Cass Gilbert. He had just finished his design for the Woolworth Building when he was commissioned to do the design for the First National State Bank.

The First National State Bank's significance lies in the fact that it is one of the earliest skyscrapers in Newark, and in New Jersey.

The design by Gilbert can be viewed as typical of the prevailing classical style of turn of the century skyscrapers. The free standing columns at the front entrance made the building a little more pretentious than the prototypes of this building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bicentennial Celebration..." Edward N. Burke- (see page one of form- Existing Surveys) Newark by John T. Cunningham, Published by the New Jersey Historical Society.

Forty-Nine Feet on Broad. Compiled by the First National State Bank with acknowledgement to the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark Public Library and the Newark News, 1962. Cass Gilbert, Reminiscence and Addresses - Cass Gilbert 1935.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 569-860 400
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY (Revisions: Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section (609) 292-2023.)

NAME / TITLE

John Deluca, Joseph Flock, Thomas MacDonald (Historical & Architectural)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

10 Bank Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Newark

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David J. Bond

DATE

December 27, 1976

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE: *8/10/77*
 DATE: *8.10.77*

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Economics

The First National State Bank holds the eighth (8th) oldest charter in the history of New Jersey Banking. Originally granted under the named State Bank of Newark in 1812. William S. Pennington, governor of New Jersey from 1813-1815 was the first president.

The bank set a precedent on April 7, 1813 with an 8 1/2% dividend and has never missed a payment in its history. The banks early sturdiness allowed a \$8,000.00 loan to the State. At one time the United States treasury considered opening an account there.

The bank received its National charter on May 29, 1865 and opened on August 1st, as the National State Bank of Newark.

In 1949 the bank took a radical departure from the norm and offered mortgages and personal loans in its first direct appeal to the people.

In 1950 the bank merged with two other: The Orange First National Bank and the United States Trust Company. Eventually the bank merged with the Lincoln National Bank; Irvington Trust Company; First National of Millburn Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Caldwell; and the "Biggest Merger in New Jersey Bank History" the First National State Bank and Federal Trust. The combined assets from this joining made the bank the second largest of any kind in the State.

Community Planning

When the bank was organized in 1813 its first home was just that, the John Alling Residence at Broad and Market Streets. A little more than one (1) month later the bank directors began looking for a permanent place. The major reason the present site was chosen was that it was next to the Old First Presbyterian Church (which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places). This offered the atmosphere of home that any bank would cherish.

The bank officials were concerned from the beginning that the bank became a part of the community. The first structure stretched the full 49 feet frontage of the lot and its exterior had many residential elements. In fact, it resembled a two-story home of the

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day. The founders planned the structure this was contemplating the possibility of changing times so that their building could serve as private residence in the event the public didn't take to banking. Though somewhat more ornate, the bank's second structure built in 1868 had many of the same residential qualities for possible ownership changes. The present building, however, arrived in a different age and due to the expanding businesses in the downtown Newark area, maximum planning was needed to preserve the image of the bank's strength while conforming to the small size (49' x 117'). In addition in designing the structure Gilbert had to deal with "Old First" with its massive brownstone side and towering white steeple. The bank and the church have always maintained a positive relationship. An agreement was drawn up in which during each quarter of the fiscal year the bank made out a check for \$175.00-\$700 a year in which the church would agree not to construct anything to interfere with the light and air space on the south side of the bank. The 1872 pact also made the bank agree to keep its window shades drawn on Sundays in reverence to the Church's Sabbath.