

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



777

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Peysen Building; Security Savings and Commercial Bank

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

### 2. Location

street & number 1518 K Street, NW  not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C.  vicinity

state District of Columbia code 001 county \_\_\_\_\_ code DC zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

DAVID MALONEY, DC SHPD 20 JULY 2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Peyser Building  
Name of Property

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1            |                 | buildings    |
|              |                 | district     |
|              |                 | site         |
|              |                 | structure    |
|              |                 | object       |
| 1            |                 | <b>Total</b> |

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Banks and Financial Institutions of Washington, D.C.

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business

COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: Concrete

walls: Limestone

\_\_\_\_\_

roof: Slag

other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The building at 1518 K Street, known as the Peyser building, is located on the south side of K Street, between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of McPherson Square in downtown Washington, DC. The building abuts the much larger Southern Railway building on the east and is separated by an alley from an older and smaller-scaled nineteenth-century brick building to its west. The building is a five-story, smooth-faced limestone-clad structure constructed in 1927-28 with a banking hall on its first floor and offices above. Designed by architect George N. Ray, the modest-scaled office building is executed in a reduced Classical Revival style that respects the three-part massing (base, middle, top) typical of early 20<sup>th</sup> century office buildings. The building is characterized primarily by its rusticated base featuring a large, central arched opening framed by a bold voussoir. The upper floors are relatively spare with symmetrically aligned windows and a projecting cornice. The building is set upon a concrete foundation, has brick load-bearing walls clad with limestone and is covered with a flat roof. The Peyser building was built to house the K Street branch of the Security Savings and Commercial Bank in its first floor and offices above, including those of Julius Peyser who was also president of the bank at one time.

The building extends from K Street along the alley allowing windows on all floors and from front to rear along this side elevation. The first floor banking hall has been renovated over the years and no longer retains its historic features or finishes.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### Exterior:

The principal elevation of the Peyser building faces K Street and is divided into three vertical bays and into three horizontal sections: The base of the building consists of the double-height first story which historically corresponded on the interior with the Security Savings and Commercial Bank banking hall and today corresponds with a commodious commercial space. The middle of the building includes three floors (Floors 2-4) of office spaces, while the top of the building, separated architecturally from the lower stories by a bold belt course, similarly corresponds to office spaces on the interior.

The base, presented as a double-height first story, is clad with smooth-cut ashlar limestone blocks delineated with a large round-arched opening located on-center. Historically, this arch provided entry into the banking hall via a single entry door with a Classical architrave surround set within and below the arched opening. The central door has been removed and the lower part has been glazed with a plate glass window and the upper arch filled with an arched transom light. A spandrel between the two holds the building's number. The projecting cornice of the original door surround has been replaced with a broad, unornamented spandrel separating the plate glass show window from the round-arched transom above. A bold voussoir with three tall central keystones frames the extrados of the arch, while two single entry doors with similarly bold keystone lintels flank either side of it. The east entry with a plate glass replacement door provides access to the building's elevator/stair hall. The west entry which provides access to the ground floor commercial area was historically a window, rather than a door. Wall-mounted light fixtures are located above the east and west openings; although different fixtures, the location remains the same. Flag poles are found above the light fixtures, but do not appear in historic images of the building.

A slightly projecting cornice separates the first story from the second story of the building and visually distinguishes the base from the shaft of the building. This cornice extends across the façade and features a plain frieze board with large dentils. The middle section, corresponding with Floors 2-4, has smooth-faced limestone walls with flush mortar joints differentiating itself from the rusticated walls of the base. The three vertical bays of each of the floors in the shaft are divided with single 6/6-light windows in the end bays and pairs of narrower 4/4

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windows in the center bay. All of the windows are slightly recessed into the walls with delicate molded surrounds framing them.

The fifth story of the building serves visually as the "top" of the three-part commercial block. This fifth story is separated from the floor below by a broad projecting cornice with a molded profile supported by stone modillions in the soffit. The fifth story similarly features single 6/6 windows in the end bays and a pair of 4/4 windows on-center. The building culminates with an unornamented frieze which is capped by a narrow cornice.

The east side of the building abuts the Southern Building, while the west side elevation extends the full depth of the lot along the alleyway. This elevation is five stories tall, and nine unequal bays deep. Its walls are laid in an all-stretcher bond of buff brick. Limestone quoining distinguishes the front bay of the building from the remaining eight bays and also makes the transition from the more elegantly detailed front elevation to the more mundane alley elevation. The four front bays on this elevation share large, arched openings with three-row brick soldier courses forming the arch frames and metal grates protecting the glazing. The window openings above the arched openings and the rear bays of the elevation are all filled with pairs of 2/2 light windows, recessed into the brick walls and having stone sills. The top of the building along this side elevation lacks a formal cornice, but is capped by metal flashing

### Interior

The interior of the Peyser building was originally built with a banking hall on the first floor and offices in floors 2-5. The bank was entered through the central arched opening and, based upon historic photos, was essentially an open room with the cashier's counter located against the inside east wall past the vault room leaving the large arched window openings unimpeded and able to fill the room with natural light. Today, the first floor commercial space is entered through a door in the west end bay, cut from a window. The large arched opening is currently a window opening.

The office floors of the building were and are still entered through the single door opening at the east end of the building with a metal and glass replacement door. This door opens into a relatively narrow corridor that leads to the elevator and just beyond it, the stair. This corridor has been renovated with marble tiled floors. The bronze mailbox remains, as do the original enclosed stairs.

### INTEGRITY

The Peyser Building maintains its integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. The combination office/bank building has been altered on the first floor by the removal of the central entry leading into the former banking hall and by the removal of the banking hall itself. Despite the change to the entry, the large arched opening survives intact and the glazed window still reads as an original central entry. The former window to the west, and now a door, matches the original window width and does not compromise the building balance or symmetry. No other major alterations are apparent. Notably, the windows appear original, or are in-kind replacements. The building retains its original massing and materials and is in excellent condition on the exterior. The interior has been compromised by the loss of its original first floor banking hall, but from the exterior and through its architecture, still retains the imagery of a solid banking institution.

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**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 or 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.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1927-1928

**Significant Dates**

1927-28

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

George N. Ray

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance extends from 1927-1928 marking the beginning and end dates of construction.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Peyser building/Security Savings and Commercial Bank building is a five-story office/bank building constructed in 1927-1928 on the south side of K Street in the block immediately west of McPherson Square. Designed by notable local architect George N. Ray, the Peyser building reflects a reduced Classical Revival style of architecture that was common for small commercial and bank buildings of the period, particularly as executed by architect George N. Ray. The building is one of a collection of 1920s office buildings and financial institutions surrounding McPherson Square that illustrates the northern limit of the city's financial district, known as "Washington's Wall Street" as it spread north from lower Fifteenth Street near the Treasury building.

Constructed in 1928 on the site of a former dwelling, the Peyser Building was built as a combination branch bank by and for the Security Savings and Commercial Bank of Washington, D.C., and as a speculative office building intended to cater to the growing financial business interests in and around McPherson Square. Established in 1913, the Security Savings and Commercial Bank built its headquarters and main bank at 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, NW, where over the next decade it grew to become the largest savings bank in the city. At its establishment, the bank's Board of Directors consisted of a number of prominent businessmen, including Julius I. Peyser after whom the K Street building was named.

The Peyser building qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Designation, "Banks and Financial Institutions in Washington, D.C., 1790-1960." The building meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places, with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as the Areas of Significance.

The Registration Criteria developed as part of the Multiple Property Document note that, "for properties to be eligible under Criterion A, the building must convey important elements of banking in Washington (i.e. information about banking location patterns, information about the development of types of financial institutions, etc.) In consideration of these Registration Criteria, the Peyser building meets Criterion A as an excellent illustration of the rise of branch banking in the decade following passage of the 1914 Federal Reserve Act, the act which allowed for branch banking in the city. As a branch of the Security Savings and Commercial Bank (headquartered downtown at 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets), the 14th and K Street branch was built in the heart of the city's real estate and financial district to capitalize on the city's expanding mortgage market. In addition, the construction of the Peyser building provides an excellent illustration of the city's expanding financial district during the 1920s as it moved north from around the Treasury Building to McPherson Square.

The Registration Criteria state that for properties to be eligible under Criterion C, the building must convey information about banking architecture (including style, form, materials, technology, or aesthetic development) in Washington, or must be the work of a recognized architect, builder, craftsman, sculptor, or artist. The Peyser building meets Criterion C as an excellent example of a combination bank and office building and illustrates the growing trend of banks from the 1920s to combine banking quarters with rentable space. While historically banks tended to be one or two-stories in height with a singular function, the 1920s saw a shift towards tall bank buildings with multiple levels of rentable space. Though modest in scale, the five-story Peyser building—with its banking hall on the first story and its office spaces on the upper floors—provides an example of the banking sub-type as further described in the Multiple Property Document: *Banks and Financial Institutions in Washington, D.C., 1790-1960*. In addition, the Peyser Building is a good example of the Classical Revival style preferred for bank design in the 1920s in this city, and is a fine example of the work of noted architect George N. Ray. As such, the Peyser Building provides an excellent example of a bank building as a building type, and meets the Registration Requirements for Banks and Financial Institutions as established in the Multiple Property Document.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Community Planning and Development: The Peyser building, constructed on the site of an older dwelling, illustrates the transformation of the historically residential McPherson Square area of downtown to the northern edge of the city's expanding financial district. During the 1920s, a number of the former mansions surrounding McPherson Square were demolished and replaced with banks and office buildings, many of which were associated with the city's real estate and trust companies. The five-story Peyser Building provides an excellent example of the modest-scale commercial building that preceded the next wave of substantially larger office buildings in downtown.

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**Architecture:** The Peyser building, with a bank on the first story and offices above, is a fine example of the combined bank/office building—a new building type from the period. The rusticated base of the building with its large arched opening retains distinguishing characteristics of bank building architecture, while the reiterative upper floors advertizes the office component of the building from the exterior. The building is executed in a Classical Revival style typical of bank buildings of the period and illustrates the trend of bank design as it moved away from the temple and vault form to a more open-façade form influenced by commercial architecture as described in the Multiple Property Document.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

The Security Savings and Commercial Bank:

The Peyser building was constructed as a branch bank by and for the Security Savings and Commercial Bank of Washington, DC and as a speculative office building intended to cater to the growing financial business interests around McPherson Square. Established in 1913<sup>i</sup>, the Security Savings and Commercial Bank built its headquarters and main bank at 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, NW, where over the next decade it grew to become the largest savings bank in the city.<sup>ii</sup> At the time it opened for business in 1913, the bank had \$30,000 in deposits; by its first anniversary celebration in April 1914, deposits had grown to \$912,000.<sup>iii</sup> At the close of business on December 31, 1928, deposits totaled \$6,108,671.88. At its establishment, the bank's officers included Julius I. Peyser, after whom the branch bank was named, Abraham D. Prince, William H. Linkins, John H. Carter, Fred McKee, Charles W. Darr, George R. Linkins, Charles J. Langmead, George H. Judd, D.A. Edwards, and Louis A. Dent.<sup>iv</sup>

During the early 1920s, to accommodate its expanding banking business, the Security Savings and Commercial Bank enlarged its main bank building at 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, NW through a series of additions. In 1927, the bank acquired the Central Savings Bank at 710 14<sup>th</sup> Street in 1927, operating it briefly as a branch bank. Shortly thereafter, in July 1927, Julius M. Peyser, President of Security Savings and Commercial Bank applied for a permit (on which he is listed as "owner") to build a five-story bank/office building at 1518 K Street, N.W.

The proposed building included a banking hall on the first story and four floors of offices above. At that time, the city's financial and real estate industry was expanding, necessitating a need for new office space. McPherson Square naturally became an attractive location along "Washington's Wall Street." Here, during the 1920s, McPherson Square was transformed from a formerly residential neighborhood into the expanded business district as speculative builders developed office buildings that catered to the city's growing financial and real estate ventures looking for office space. Julius M. Peyser, President of Security Savings and Commercial Bank clearly saw the advantage of not only opening a branch bank in this newly emerging financial district, but in gaining a return on the building investment by constructing offices atop it. This combination bank/office had already proved to be a successful building model in the city, and the need for office space was great in the neighborhood.

Shortly after July 1927, the Security Savings and Commercial bank demolished a dwelling on the K Street site and began construction of its new building. The "K Street Branch" opened in May 1928, after transferring its branch banking business at 710 14<sup>th</sup> Street to its new building. The Security Savings and Commercial Bank took out an almost full-page ad in the Washington Post on the opening of its new building, publishing an invitation to the opening of the branch and including photographs of its new building on both the exterior and interior. According to the press the next day, there were 6,000 visitors who came to inspect the bank and its facilities, including representatives from other banks such as W. W. Spaid of W. B. Hibbs & Co. and president of the District Bankers Association. The branch bank took up the first floor of the building, with "cageless counters" located to the left upon entering the building. The branch manager's office was situated at the front to the right of the entrance. Almost immediately, the offices on the upper four floors were filled with real estate offices, mortgage company offices, insurance agents, and lawyers, including Julius Peyser's firm listed as Edelin & Peyser.

<sup>i</sup> The Security Savings and Commercial Bank was established when it purchased the already established branch bank of the United States Trust Company from the Munsey Trust Company. At that time, the Munsey Trust had just absorbed into its company, all of the branches of the United States Trust Company. The financiers and incorporators of the just-established Security Savings and Commercial Bank purchased from Munsey the branch bank at 7<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, N.W.

<sup>ii</sup> John Lamer, "History of Banking in the District of Columbia," in John Proctor, ed., *Washington Past and Present*, p. 316.

<sup>iii</sup> "Anniversary of Bank.," *The Washington Post* (1877-1954), April 7, 1914,

<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=243170502&Fmt=7&clientId=57002&RQT=309&VName=HNP>

<sup>iv</sup> Special to The Washington Post., "Charter for Savings Bank.," *The Washington Post* (1877-1954), February 26, 1913,

<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=250256172&Fmt=7&clientId=57002&RQT=309&VName=HNP>

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Within three months, the Peyser building was sold to a local investor at which point the Security Savings & Commercial Bank negotiated a fifteen year lease for the ground floor space. This early sale and continued lease of the ground floor indicates that the speculative building development on the part of the bank proved successful. Julius Peyser continued to maintain offices in the building through the mid-1930s, thus cementing the building's common name. By 1960, R. Baruch and Company, underwriters and investment bankers, occupied the first floor as their headquarters. Today, the first floor serves a purely commercial function and is no longer fitted out as a bank. The upper floors, however, are still used for offices.

Architect George N. Ray:

George N. Ray, architect of the Security Savings and Commercial Bank, was born on September 3, 1887 in Washington, DC. Ray studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania from 1907 to 1909 for a Certificate of Proficiency, later furthering his studies at George Washington University at an unknown date. His professional practice began in 1911 with offices at 1509 U Street, NW. He joined the partnership of Waggaman & Ray in 1918. The partnership dissolved in 1920 at which point Ray opened his own office. In October 1921, a smaller successful firm, Atkinson & White, composed of R. Bruce Atkinson and Jarrett C. White, became associated with Ray. Together, the firm designed several of the buildings around McPherson Square including the now-demolished H.L. Rust Building, the B.F. Saul Building and the Colonial Mortgage Building. Ray is most well-known, perhaps, as architect for the Riggs National Bank, for which he designed four branch bank buildings, including that at Dupont Circle. He also designed numerous smaller commercial buildings along Connecticut Avenue and many private homes.

Richard Longstreth observed Ray's effective use of both a commercial building repertoire and historical allusions "drawing from grand urban dwellings in Italy, France, and England, which spanned from the late fifteenth to the early nineteenth centuries." In discussing Ray's work around McPherson Square and along Connecticut Avenue, Longstreth noted, "Much of the distinction of this work lies with the fact that its effect suggests neither overly decorated neighborhood stores nor scaled-down versions of the large commercial blocks in the city center. Even when the dimensions involved were considerable, as with the headquarters of the B.F. Saul Company real estate firm, the character is much the same as with the small shops."<sup>v</sup>

Late in his career, in 1931, Ray joined Randall H. Hagner & Co. as a sales manager, eventually working his way up to President of the firm in 1937 and continuing to serve as Chairman of the Board before his retirement in 1956. At the time of his death on August 5, 1959, Ray (who had lived at 1219 Connecticut Avenue NW earlier in life) lived at the Westchester apartment building at 4000 Cathedral Avenue NW.

Julius Peyser:

Julius Peyser, one of the founding members and president of the Security Savings and Commercial Bank of Washington, D.C. was a successful lawyer, an author, and a civic leader in the city. Peyser was born in Washington, D.C. in 1875 where he attended the city's public schools and later Georgetown and George Washington Universities. In 1898, after studying law and receiving his law degrees, Peyser began practicing law in the city, a career that stayed with him for over 30 years. In 1923-24 Peyser was named president of the District of Columbia Public Schools Association and in 1924 became a member of the Board of Education in the city. Upon completion of the "K Street" branch of the Security Savings and Commercial Bank, Peyser moved his law offices into the building where he remained for almost a decade.

Peyser was extensively involved in local professional and social organizations, serving as the President of the Grand Lodge No. 5 B'nai B'rith, the Vice-Commander of the American Legion, the Vice-President.<sup>vi</sup> He also assisted in writing legislation for the regulation of rent in the District of Columbia and worked as an instructor and professor of History of Law and Equity Jurisprudence at the National University Law School, Washington, DC.<sup>vii</sup>

<sup>v</sup> Scott et al., *Capital drawings*, 125.

<sup>vi</sup> "LAUDS B'NAI B'RITH," *The Washington Post* (1877-1954), April 1, 1913.

<sup>vii</sup> *Who's who in Finance, Banking, and Insurance*, 1922



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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.)

"Anniversary of Bank," *The Washington Post*, April 7, 1914.

*Banks and Financial Institutions in Washington, D.C., 1790-1960*, National Register Multiple Property Document, 1994.

"Charter for Savings Bank," *The Washington Post*, February 26, 1913.

"Julius Peysers, Civic Leader and Lawyer,"(obituary), *The Washington Post*, June 9, 1953.

Larner, John B., "The History of Banking in the District of Columbia,"in John Claggett Proctor, ed., *Washington Past and Present: A History*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Volume 1, 1930, p.276-319.

Proctor, John Claggett, ed., *Washington Past and Present: A History*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1930, Volume 3, p. 316 and p. 498.

"Security Bank to Add to its Present Rooms," *The Washington Post*, May 13, 1927.

"Security Bank Moves into Remodelled Home," *The Washington Post*, July 3, 1928.

"Security Savings and Commercial Bank"(advertisement), *The Washington Post*, May 7, 1928.

"Security and Savings Bank Opens K Street Branch," *The Washington Post*, May 8, 1928.

"Security Savings Plans Reception Tomorrow," *The Washington Post*, May 6, 1928.

"Six Banks Operating in 1877 Still Doing Business Here," *The Washington Post*, Dec. 6, 1927.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**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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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3,493 square feet  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |                             |                             |                             |   |                             |                             |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | <u>18</u>                   | <u>323542</u>               | <u>4307920</u>              | 3 | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> |
|   | Zone                        | Easting                     | Northing                    |   | Zone                        | Easting                     | Northing                    |
| 2 | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | 4 | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> |
|   | Zone                        | Easting                     | Northing                    |   | Zone                        | Easting                     | Northing                    |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Peysers Building at 1518 K Street occupies Lots 29 and 30 on Square 199 in Washington, D.C.+

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Peysers Building has occupied this site since its construction in 1927-1928.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kim Williams  
organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date September 2009  
street & number 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW telephone                       
city or town Washington, D.C. state                      zip code                       
e-mail                     

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:**      Peyser building

**City or Vicinity:**      **Washington, D.C.**

**County:**              District of Columbia

**State:**

**Photographer:**          **Kim Williams and Nick Efron**

**Date Photographed:**    **June 2012**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

**General View of building looking southeast showing north and west elevations**

**1 of 8\_\_.**

North and west elevations looking southeast

2 of 8.

North elevation looking south

3 of 8.

Detail, north elevation

4 of 8

South (rear) elevation looking northeast

5 of 8

Interior showing elevator corridor looking south

6 of 8

Interior showing elevator corridor looking north toward entry

7 of 8

Detail of letter box

8 of 8

Peyser Building  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Tomkat LP  
street & number 15 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55402

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

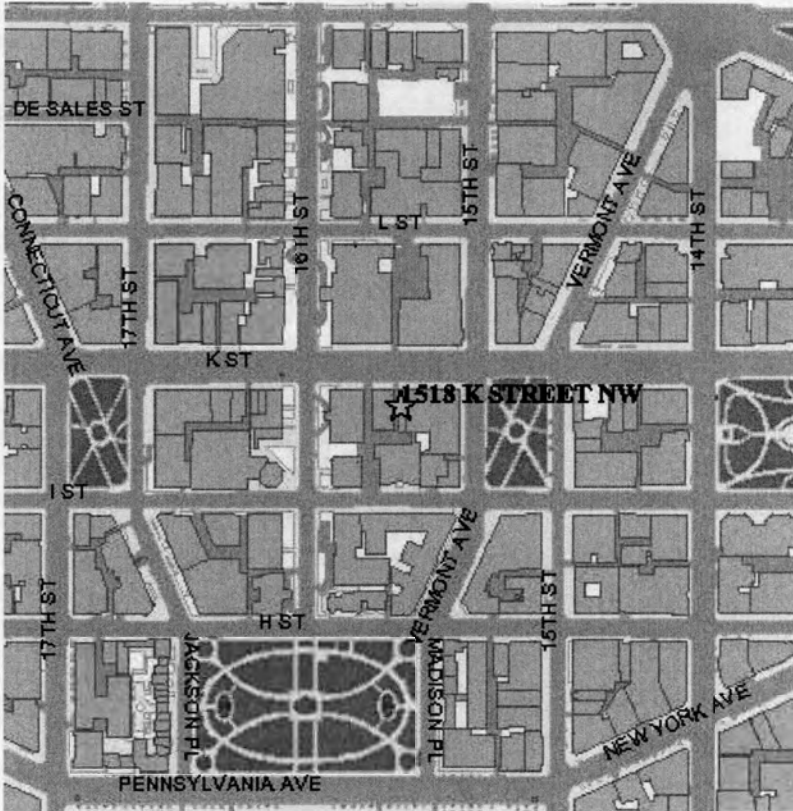
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Peyser Building  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**MAPS**



Peyser Building  
1518 K Street, NW  
(From D.C. Master Address Repository)

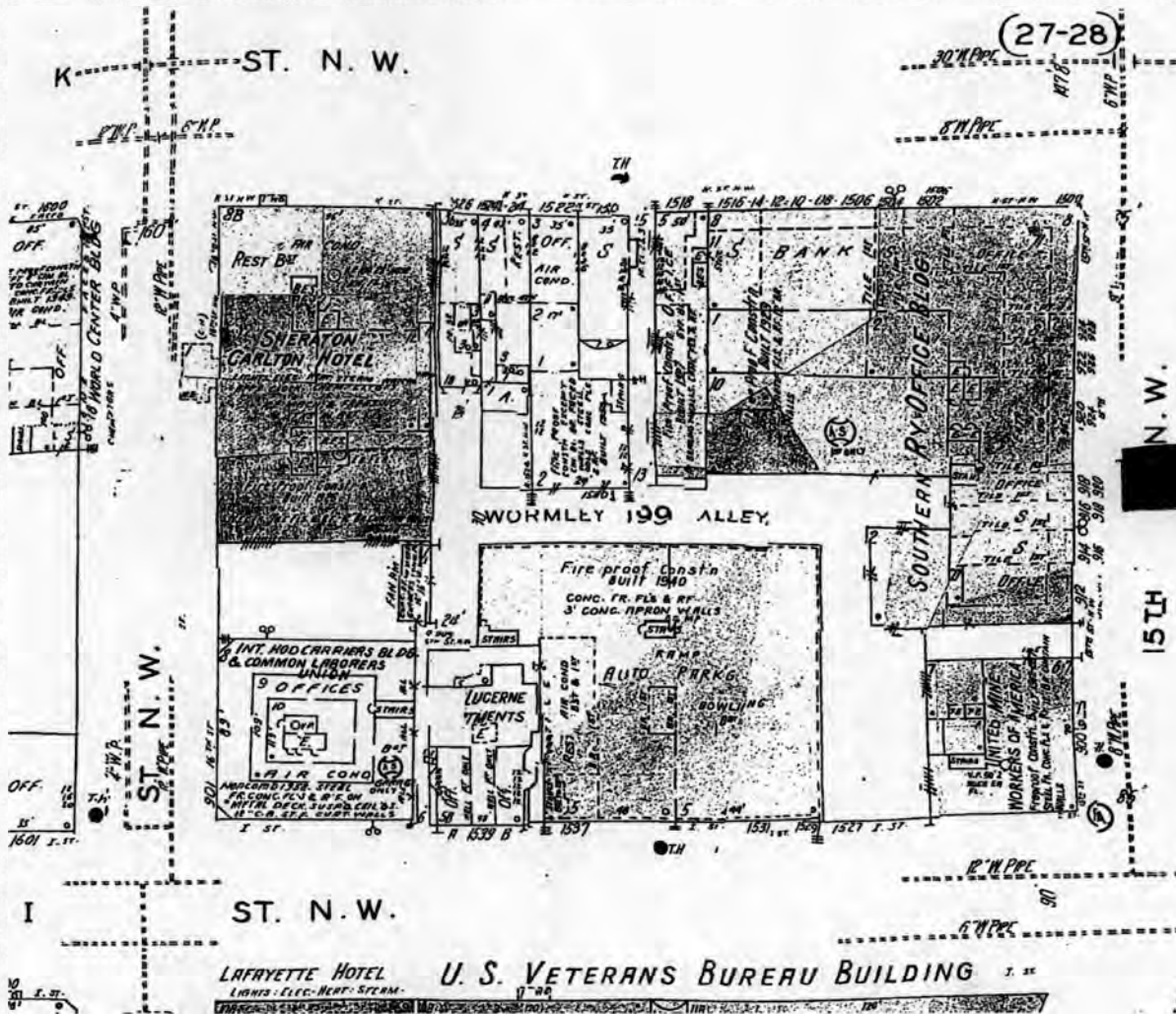
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Peyser Building  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**MAPS**



The Peyser Building  
1518 K Street, NW  
(From Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1960)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Peyser Building

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**MAPS**



New office building and K street branch of the Security Savings & Commercial Bank at 1518 K street northwest, which will be formally opened tomorrow. The structure was designed by George N. Ray, architect.

From "New Bank Building to be Opened," The Washington Post, May 6, 1928

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Peyser Building  
**Name of Property**

Washington, D.C.

**County and State**

**MAPS**

*Announcement*

The Officers and Directors  
of the  
**SECURITY SAVINGS AND COMMERCIAL BANK**  
cordially invite you to be present  
at the opening of their  
**K STREET BRANCH**  
at  
**1913 K STREET**  
on  
**MONDAY, MAY THE SEVENTH**  
8:30 A. M. TO 7 P. M.

**HOURS TODAY—OPENING DAY**  
8:30 A. M. TO 7 P. M.

IT IS WITH PLEASURE that we announce the opening of the  
"K STREET BRANCH" in our new building just completed at  
1913 K Street N. W., and we will be pleased to have you call and inspect  
our modern banking rooms and Safe Deposit Department.

Thoroughly helpful services will be presented to visitors  
today—opening day.

The facilities of our branch formerly at 119 Fourteenth Street N. W., are  
being transferred to the new K Street Branch, where every possible con-  
venience has been provided for our patrons.

**OFFICERS**  
JULIUS J. PEYSER ..... President  
FRED HAZEL ..... Vice Pres.  
FRANCIS G. ADDISON, JR. .... Cashier  
SAMUEL R. BAILEY ..... Assistant Cashier  
T. HUNTON LEITH ..... Assistant Cashier  
LATHROP OWEN ..... Assistant Cashier  
J. LOUIS SHIPLEY ..... Assistant Cashier  
CHARLES K. WEST ..... Assistant Cashier

**J. WM. ROBERTS**  
Manager of K Street Branch

**DIRECTORS**  
FRANCIS G. ADDISON, JR.  
EDWARD C. BALLE  
JOHN R. BERRY  
FRANCIS A. BLOOMER  
WILLIAM F. CROFT  
BENJAMIN H. DENVER  
STANLEY W. HADLEY  
JOHN R. HARBELL  
J. THOMAS HODGKINS  
DR. BRUCE  
WILLIAM A. HILL  
GERRIT H. JESS  
HAROLD R. LEVY  
VEDO WEALE  
RALPH WEALE  
LAWRENCE WEALE  
CHARLES W. WOODS  
WALTER JESSE S. FRYER  
MORRIS BROWN  
WALTER W. BRADLON  
JAMES HUNTON STRANDBERGER  
WALTER W. STALLON  
WILLIAM C. HULLIVAN

| Deposits and         |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| NOW WASHINGTON'S     |                |
| Largest Savings Bank |                |
| DEPOSITS             |                |
| April 1, 1928        | \$5,995,184.22 |
| April 2, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 3, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 4, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 5, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 6, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 7, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 8, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 9, 1928        | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 10, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 11, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 12, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 13, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 14, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 15, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 16, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 17, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 18, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 19, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 20, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 21, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 22, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 23, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 24, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 25, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 26, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 27, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 28, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 29, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |
| April 30, 1928       | 5,995,184.22   |

**SECURITY SAVINGS AND COMMERCIAL BANK**

Advertisement from The Washington Post, May 7, 1928



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Peyser Building--Security Savings and Commercial Bank

MULTIPLE PROPERTY NAME: Banks and Financial Institutions MPS

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 7/27/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/24/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/12/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000777

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9.10.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1926000 IMG\_1026\_005

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

General View looking SE showing N and W elevations  
1 of 8



0309351 2142309351\_002\_0002

EMBASSY CAMERA DC Plan 07/18/12

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC

North + West elevations looking SE

2 of 8



1926000 IMG\_1030\_006

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

Peyser Building  
Washington DC  
North elevation looking South  
3 of 8





0309351 2142309351\_001\_0001

Peyser Building EMBASSY CAMERA DC Plan 07/18/12  
Washington, DC  
North elevation, detail  
4 of 8

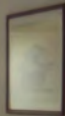
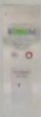


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Copies, Printing  
343-7878

1926000 IMG\_1020\_004

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC  
South elevation looking NE  
5 of 8



1926000 IMG\_1018\_003

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC  
Interior of elevator corridor  
6 of 8



1926000 IMG\_1016\_001

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC  
Interior of elevator corridor  
7 of 8



LETTERS

RECEIVED - GENERAL DELIVERY  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

LETTER-BOX



U.S. MAIL  
CUTLER MAIL CHUTE CO.  
ROCHESTER, N.Y.



1926000 IMG\_1017\_002

EMBASSY CAMERA 07/20/12

Peyser Building  
Washington, DC  
Mailbox  
8 of 8

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500084