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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual 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 New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Co.

other names/site number ONJH Inv. # 040873

2. Location

street & number N.E. Corner of Market & Third not for publication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

private

public-local

public-state

public-federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously

Bank, Insurance, and Legal Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938

listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

7/11/90
Date

Acting Commissioner, DEP/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

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:)

[Signature: Patrick Andrews]

8/24/90
Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial Institution

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Victorian Eclectic

foundation STONE/Brownstone

walls Brick

roof

other Trim: STONE/ Brownstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance

SUMMARY

The New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building at 301-305 Market Street in Camden's downtown business district is an important monument to late nineteenth century Victorian Eclecticism. The brick, brownstone, and terra cotta bank is an 1886 design of the famed Camden-Philadelphia architect Arthur Truscott. Although the building is now vacant, there have been few changes to the original building. This imposing four story building of red brick and brownstone stands on a high brownstone foundation with a three bay wide facade on Market Street. Fat brick columns and ornamental ironwork highlight the main entrance. A battlemented parapet at the roof line and a variety of window types are only a few of the elements contributing to the building's eclecticism. Although the building is vacant, it is in good physical condition and retains all of its significant original fabric giving it a high level of integrity.

Rising four stories in height above a full basement, the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond with brownstone and terra cotta trim. The brownstone clad basement, resting on a Fox Island granite base, is located partially below street grade. While little of the original basement sash survives, the fenestration on the front and west elevations consisted originally of a deep reveal capped with smooth dressed brownstone lintels framing one over one sash. The reveals form a window well at each opening with an ornamental iron grille set within the face of the reveal. A protective iron fence extends in front of these wells.

The Third Street elevation has splayed, rusticated brownstone piers which define the basement corners and support paired brick pilasters. The Market Street elevation is dominated by a monumental frontispiece delineating the main entrance to the bank. Six granite steps with side pier walls and

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
Economics

Period of Significance
1886-1938

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect Builder
Truscott, Arthur, architect
Williams, Arthur & Son; Bachman, George F., builders

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

SUMMARY

Designed by noted Camden-Philadelphia architect, Arthur Truscott, the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is significant as one of Camden's architectural treasures. Built in 1886-87 the building's design makes bold use of materials, detailing, and ornament reflecting the exuberance of Victorian eclecticism tailored to project the image of a banking establishment. As the first company of its kind in the state of New Jersey to incorporate after the passage of enabling legislation for safe deposit and trust companies in 1885, the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company is significant for its place in the history of banking and commerce in New Jersey. The building fits within property type #1, Bank Buildings, and within the one context of the multiple property nomination: Banking, the Insurance Business, and the legal profession in the city of Camden, New Jersey from 1873 to 1938.

On April 20, 1885, the first state act in New Jersey banking history provided a plan for the establishment of safe deposit and trust companies. While the Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company actually pre-dated the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company, the latter represented the first legally sanctioned and regulated institution of its kind to appear in the state following the enabling legislation of 1885. Its establishment reflected the expansion of corporate and industrial power in the last decades of the nineteenth century. In recognition of this the bank chose as its first director

9. Major Biographical References

The text for this nomination is taken from 1985 National Register Nomination prepared by Elizabeth Mintz. The nomination was complete, but it was not presented to the state review board.
: See Main Bibliography

- Previous documentation on file NPS: N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing(36 CFR 67) has been requested
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey# _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record# _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Specific repository _____

10. Geographical Data

acreage less than one acre
USGS QUAD Camden

118 4819080 44211600

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company is located at the northeast corner of Market and 3rd Street, City of Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, legally described as block 75, lot 37.

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Lot 37 in Block 75, which is occupied by the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is the entire property that has historically been associated with the building.

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Priscilla M. Thompson, Franklyn M. Thompson date June 1, 1988
 organization The History Store telephone (302) 654-1727
 street & number 827 Tatnall Street city or town Wilmington state DE zip code 19801

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company

Section number 7 Page 1

and iron hand rails lead to the entrance containing double leaf wood doors with paneled rondelles and glazed round sash, all with moulded trim. When closed to the public, the entryway is protected by highly ornamental iron grille gates which slide into pocket recesses. Crowning the entry is a moulded red-tone brownstone lintel, surmounted by a large semi-circular fanlight. The letters "S" and "T", denoting Safe Deposit and Trust are incorporated in a decorative iron grille in front of the fanlight. The spandrel above this arched opening is executed in cut brick. An exaggerated single console with fluting springs from the point of the arch keystone to support a semi-circular brownstone door hood.

Overscale brick columns with granite bases resting on rusticated brownstone piers flank the main entry. Tuscan brownstone capitals cap the columns. The upper portion of each capital forms part of a plain entablature and cornice which spans the width of the front and west facades. Single, decorative acanthus leaf consoles on the capitals support a semi-circular moulded brownstone hood.

Although a modern corner addition partially obscures the fenestration, the first floor windows are double hung one over one sash with protective iron grilles and smooth brownstone lintels and sills. Paired brick pilasters with Tuscan brownstone capitals accent the building corners.

The division of the building's facade into three horizontal sections has a Renaissance derivation. These divisions are the banking area, office space, and the attic story. Each level of this hierarchical relationship is divided by large projecting brownstone cornices. The upper floors feature three bays of windows set within recessed elliptical headed openings rising two stories in height. Set within these panels are the window openings with one over one sash. The central bay contains paired sash. On the second floor this bay opens onto a semi-circular balcony incorporated into the hood over the main door. An ornamental scrolled iron rail flanked by small brick and granite piers adorn the balcony. The third floor has paired double hung one over one center windows with segmentally arched brick surrounds and brownstone sills flanked by single windows with the same lintel and sill treatment.

In sharp contrast, the fourth floor displays a panoply of symbol and ornament. The center window is slightly wider than those which

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flank it, recalling the arrangement of the lower floors. The fenestration consists of two part, single light, fixed sash with semi-circular fanlights. The fourth floor windows are framed by brick arches supported with engaged rope compound columns. The columns are Romanesque Revival in inspiration -- the shafts and capitals are richly detailed, most notably the foliated capitals. The arches and clustered columns combine to create the effect of a medieval arcade. Truscott employed the fleur-de-lis symbol, a medieval Florentine motif for coins and arms on floriated scrolls rising towards the spandrels. In similar fashion, five terra cotta stars are applied to the central cartouche above the arches. Appropriately, these stars symbolize Alchemy, the medieval scientific search to convert base metals into gold. The spandrels of the central arch feature cartouches embellished with the busts of two figures from ancient mythology. Fleur-de-lis heraldic shields rest at the spandrel of the out arched openings.

Each arched opening is defined by paired brick pilasters supported by foliated consoles rising to a Tuscan capital. These capitals, of moulded brownstone, mirror the mouldings of the entablature. Terra cotta shells applied below each capital embellish the pilasters. The building continues to rise above the capitals with plain brick piers with brownstone caps. The parapet detailing is castellated, particularly in the central bay.

Spanning ten bays in width, the Third Street (western) elevation, repeats the overall fenestration and detailing patterns of the front elevation. A visual division of the facade into five large bays is created by the placement of paired and single brick pilasters with brownstone bases and Tuscan capitals on the first floor. The rhythm continues on the upper floors with alternating large and small piers. There are two secondary entrances partially below grade in the basement. Stone steps lead down from the sidewalk to these entrances, each single leaf door has panels in the lower section and two lights in the upper. As with the basement windows smooth brownstone lintels crown the basement entrances. Modern guard rails protect the basement window wells.

The first floor windows follow a regular pattern of double hung one over one sash with protective cast iron grilles. The pilasters flanking the window openings support a plain moulded entablature. The two end bays are blank recesses filled with brick masonry. The bank's vault is located on the interior of this recess.

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The fourth floor of the west elevation features Tuscan pilasters supported by foliated consoles embellished with terra cotta shells. The arches are paired with groupings of five roped columns supporting the middle spandrel of each pair. Centered above each of the paired arches is an applied terra cotta Star of David, a motif used to symbolize King Solomon. The surrounding field above the arches is enhanced by herringbone pattern brick work. Crowning the facade is a brownstone cornice. Rising above the cornice is a parapet with a regular pattern of stepped gables incorporated within.

Although the north or rear elevation was intended as a secondary facade for services and deliveries, architect Truscott introduced several noteworthy features. The first floor has small double hung one over one sash with segmentally arched brick lintels. The second and third floor windows repeat the pattern used on the other sides while the fourth floor features an unusually decorative arcade of arched surrounds, each embellished with a terra cotta quatrefoil tracery.

The New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building is the oldest extant bank building in Camden. Although there has been some physical deterioration of the building since it has been vacant, it retains a high degree of integrity. Its design is unique in this multiple property National Register Nomination and it more than meets all the registration requirements for property type #1, Bank Buildings.

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ex-State Senator and banker Andrew G. Cattell and appointed George Dickensheets and developer-businessman Edward C. Knight as directors.

The bank's founders commissioned local architect Arthur Truscott to develop a design which would be both a monument to their institution and a showpiece of popular architectural taste. The period in which this building was constructed was, from an architectural point of view, highly innovative, marked by great design ingenuity, originality and flamboyance. Commercial structures, in particular, took full advantage of this new found aesthetic freedom to manipulate a building's surface treatment, height, and siting to reflect the client's position in society and the status of his business.

Bank architecture was particularly well suited to this form of expression. In his design for the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company building Arthur Truscott deliberately employed bold design elements, drawn from his years of training in T.P. Chandler's Philadelphia firm. His use of castellated roof lines, rustication, and stepped parapets recalled many of Chandler's designs. These together with a rich panoply of materials and ornament, projected subtle images of protection, solidity and security. From a technological standpoint, Truscott's design offered real protection, employing state-of-the-art fireproof construction techniques and protective grille work.

Throughout his career, Truscott maintained an office in Philadelphia while residing in New Jersey: first in Camden, and later in Merchantville. Although based in Philadelphia, Truscott's architectural reputation was established by his commissions in the greater Camden area where he designed a notable series of residential and institutional structures. Today, a century after its construction, the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company survives largely intact, a testament to the vitality of the Victorian period. Moreover, the institution was the first of its kind in the state of New Jersey following enabling legislation of 1885. Arthur Truscott's design reflects both the flamboyance of the period and the important position held by his client in the banking world.

New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company operated independently until 1902 when it merged with the Security Trust Company using the latter's name. That bank in turn merged with Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Company which evolved into Camden Trust Company. A 1981 architectural survey of Camden identified the building and Elizabeth

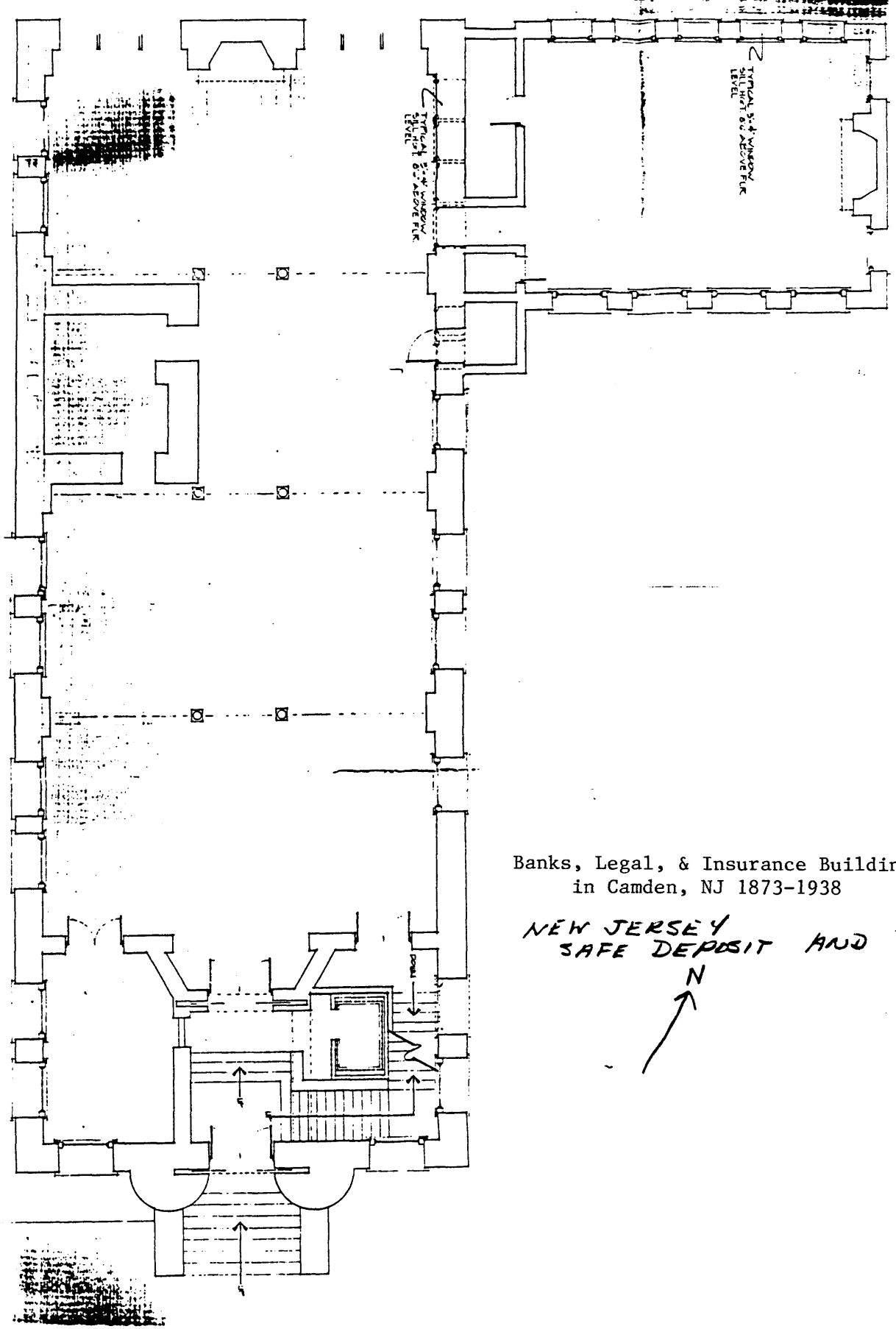
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New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company

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Mintz of Philadelphia prepared a National Register Nomination for it in 1985. A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden again identified the building. The survey followed federal guidelines and the results are on file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage. The Preservation Planner for the City of Camden and the Office of New Jersey Heritage have evaluated the building and determined that the New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building is eligible for inclusion in the multiple property nomination of the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.

THE ABOVE IS TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
PREPARED BY ELIZABETH R. MINTZ OF PHILADELPHIA IN MARCH, 1985



Banks, Legal, & Insurance Building
in Camden, NJ 1873-1938

NEW JERSEY
SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST



Banks, Legal, & Insurance Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938

GREATER CAMDEN - 1909

19

SECURITY TRUST CO.

Northeast Corner Market and Third Streets

CAMDEN, N. J.

Progressive, yet Conservative

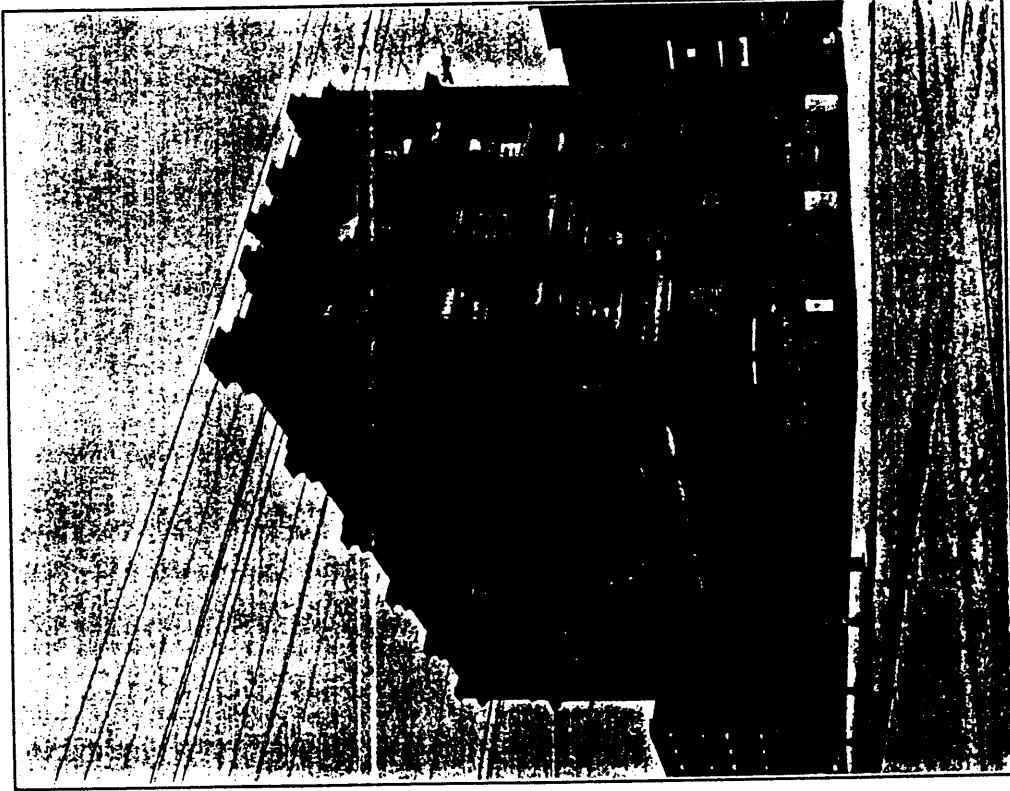
If there is any information you desire regarding the City of Camden, or any of its business men, we shall be glad to obtain it for you

SEND US YOUR COLLECTIONS
WE REMIT IN NEW YORK OR PHILADELPHIA
FUNDS ON DATE OF PAYMENT

Capital, \$100,000.00 Deposits, \$2,413,634.01
Surplus and Profits, \$150,292.58

JOSHUA E. BORTON
President

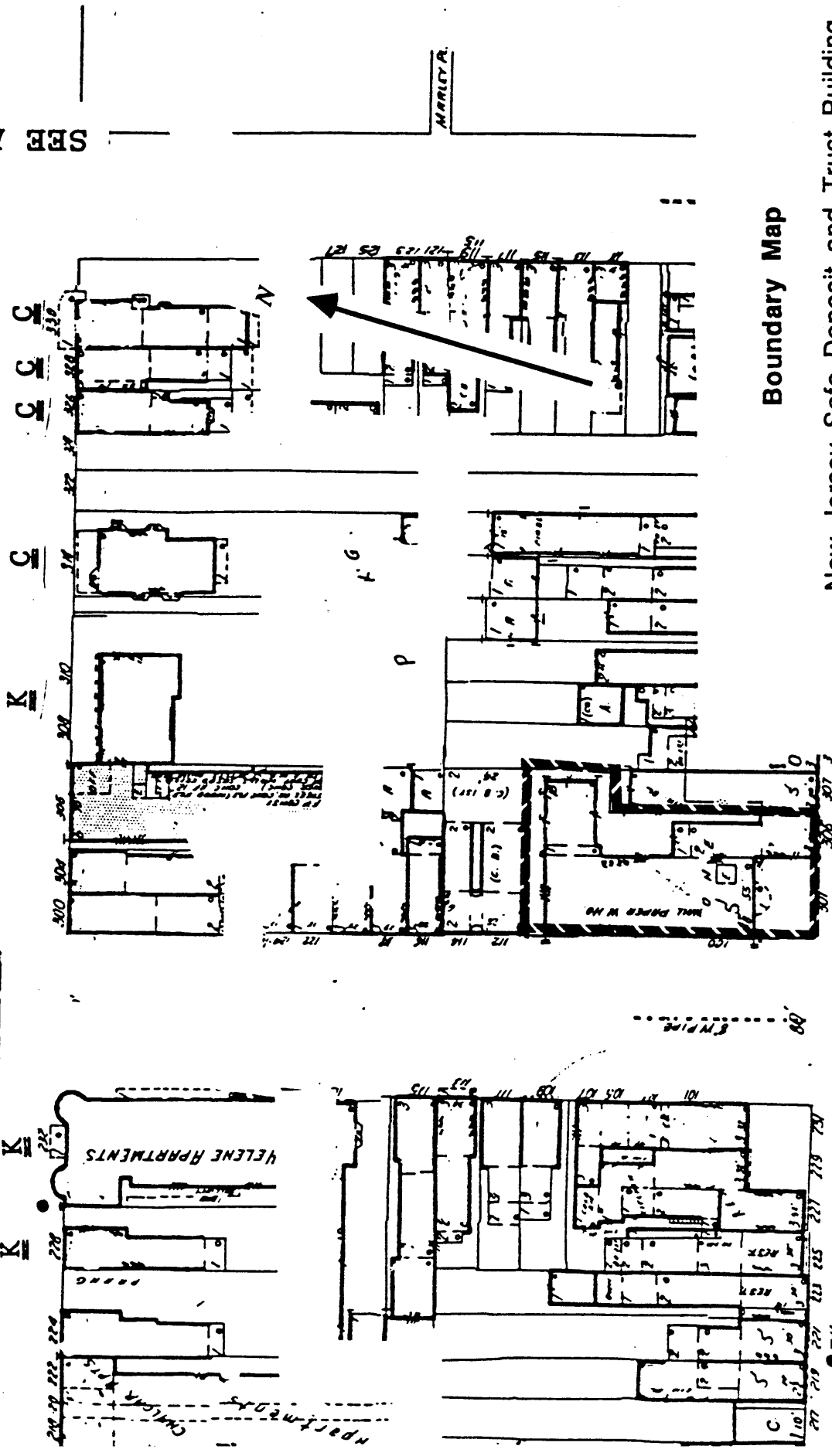
CLARENCE H. POLHEMUS
Treasurer



SEE ADJOIN

K K C NC C K

COOPER



Boundary Map

New Jersey Safe Deposit and Trust Building

100ft. 0ft. 100ft. Bank, Legal, and Insurance Buildings in Camden, NJ 1873-1938

City of Camden
Camden County, New Jersey
Camden Quad

Map Prepared by The History Store