

JUL 16 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for 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 Finance Building
other names/site number ONJH Inv. # 040856

2. Location

street & number 549-559 Cooper Street not for publication
city/town Camden vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ 034 county Camden code 007 ZIP CODE 08101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Bank, Insurance, and Legal Buildings in Camden, New Jersey, 1873-1938
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

1/11/90
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

Patrick Andrews

8/22/90
Date

other, (explain:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/ ProfessionalCOMMERCE/TRADE/office building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALSLate Gothic Revival

Revival elements appear

to be later alterations)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestonewalls limestone & Terra-Cotta

roof Asphaltother PIERS:limestoneSPANDRELS: terra-cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance

SUMMARY

The Finance Building at the northwest corner of Sixth and Cooper streets is a two-story commercial building with storefronts on the first floor and offices on the second floor. Gothic motifs trim the primary facades which are a light tan terra cotta. The building is seven bays wide on Cooper Street and ten bays wide on Sixth Street. It was built in 1929 to the design of architect, A.B. Gill, and is in the heart of downtown Camden. The building fits within Property Type #4, Multi-Office buildings that are strongly associated with the insurance business and/or legal profession in the multiple property nomination of bank, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden, New Jersey 1873 to 1938.

Located at the busy intersection of Cooper and Sixth Streets in Camden, the Finance Building is a large two-story commercial building. Storefronts on the first floor accommodated offices and shops, while the second floor was devoted exclusively to offices. The building is an irregular J shape with a parking area on the interior. The roof of the building is flat with a battlemented pediment rising slightly above it. The building stands on a two and a half foot white limestone foundation which abuts the sidewalk. There is no street landscaping in this block, and most of the nearby buildings are banks and large commercial buildings.

Boards now cover large storefront windows on the first floor as well as the upper floor windows which are approximately the same size. There is an entrance to each first floor space beside its show window. Above the first and second floors, the terra cotta exterior is decorated with a series of vertical panels in each bay. A Moorish arch decorates the top of each panel, probably in an attempt to associate the building with a bazaar or market-place, often the implication of Moorish designs.

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
Commerce

Period of Significance

1929-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect Builder

Gill, A.B. Architect
Hunter-Shropshire, builder

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

SUMMARY

Built in 1929, The Finance Building, is historically significant for its association with the early twentieth century boom period in Camden when there was a need for additional office space and stores in the central city. It stands near Camden's only skyscraper, the Wilson Building, which is also included in this nomination. Like the Wilson Building, the Finance Building provided offices for many attorneys during the 1930s. The building is architecturally significant as the design of architect A.B. Gill, and for its unusual use of Gothic motifs in a two story commercial building. The building fits within property type #4, Multi-Office Buildings that are strongly associated with the insurance business and/or the legal profession.

As the need for more offices developed in Central Camden, and as a part of the "Greater Camden" movement, two large multi-office buildings appeared on Cooper Street which by this time was becoming increasingly commercial. The first, the Wilson Building diagonally across the street from the Finance Building, was the city's tallest building. The Finance Building, however, was only two stories high and stretched around the corner of Sixth and Cooper streets. When it opened there was a restaurant in the building as well as first and second floor offices and shops.

Arthur Benjamin Gill, the architect, started his career in Philadelphia at the office of Davis & Davis, who also designed other buildings in this multiple property nomination. Gill practiced with several other architects,

See continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Finance Building

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The main entrance to the upper floors is through a door on the Sixth Street side which until a few years ago had a metal hood with Gothic designs and the name of the building stamped on it. There is a covered vehicle entrance in the northernmost bay of the Sixth Street side which leads to the parking lot behind the building.

Boards protect the windows and doors of this now-vacant building, but it retains most of its original architectural features and appears to be in sufficiently good condition to make rehabilitation feasible. The Finance Building meets all the registration requirements for Property Type #4 in the multiple property nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

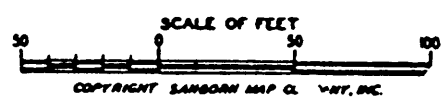
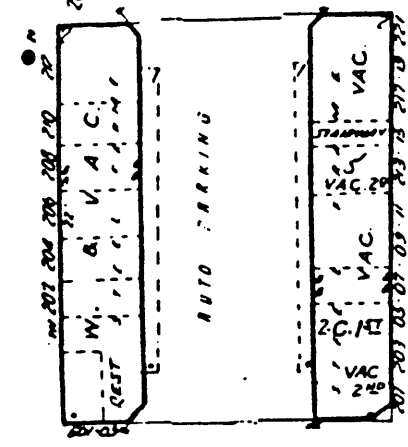
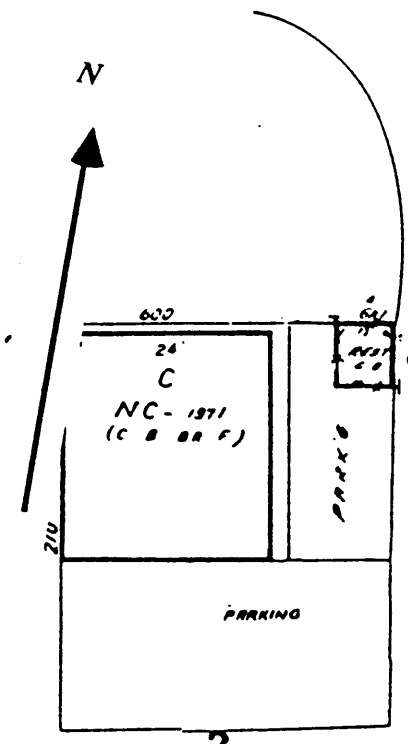
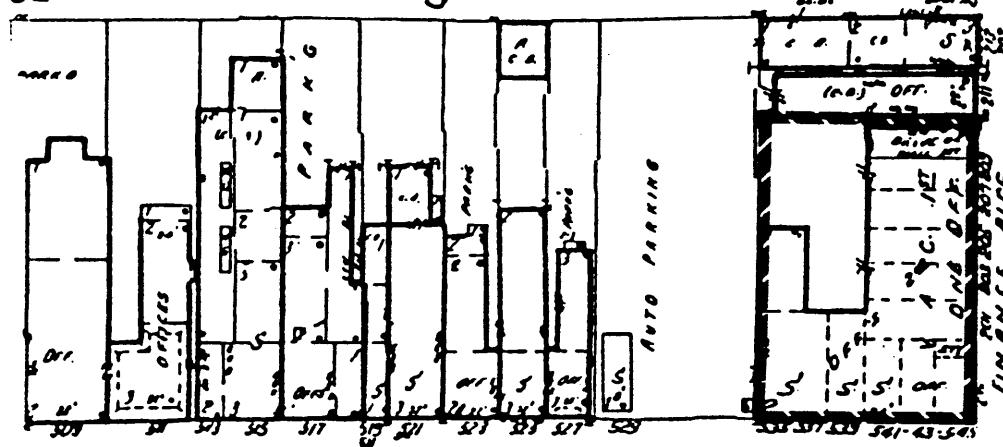
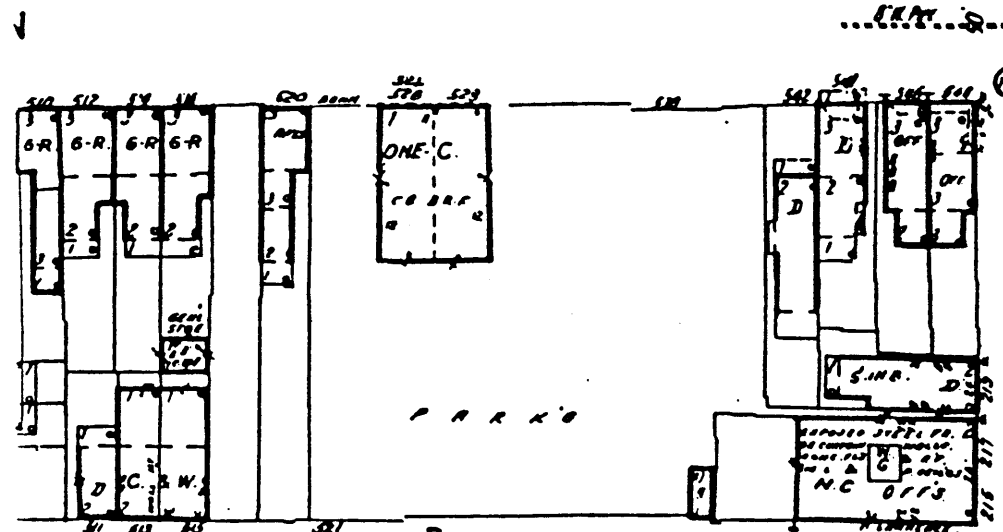
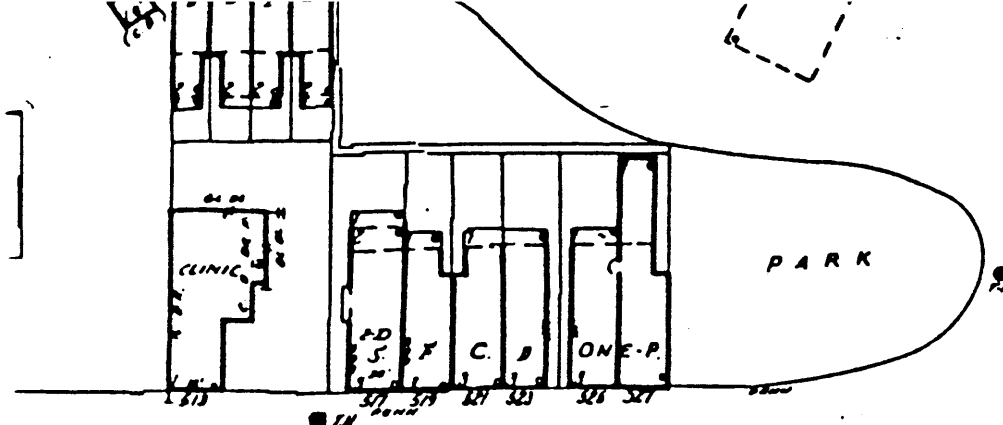
Finance Building

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but he ultimately established his owned offices in both Philadelphia and Camden. Gill was a member and president of the Camden Society of Architects and designed a number of private residences and commercial buildings in the city.

There were eleven stores on the first floor of the Finance Building. The door on North Sixth Street provided access to the second floor offices. Among the attorneys who had offices here were Benjamin Asbell, Cornell Finney, Barney Brown, Lewis Bossie, Carl Kisselman, and Benjamin Natal. Other tenants included Guaranty Mortgage and Title Insurance Company, a mortgage loan company, and a public stenographer. As acknowledgement of the arrival of the automobile age, the northernmost bay on the Sixth Street side of the building is a covered drive that was originally the entrance to a rear parking area.

The Finance Building has been vacant for several years and its windows are now boarded up. Although its physical condition is not as good as that of most buildings in the nomination, it appears to be sufficient for rehabilitation. A 1982 survey of Camden identified The Finance Building which is now included as a contributing building in the National Register Nomination for the Cooper Street Historic District which was prepared in 1987. A 1987 survey of banks, insurance, and legal buildings in Camden again identified the building. The Preservation Planner for the City of Camden and the Office of New Jersey Heritage have evaluated the building and determined that the Finance Building is eligible for inclusion in this multiple property nomination on the basis of its history, architecture, and integrity.



N. 6TH ST.

Boundary Map

Finance Buildings

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

