

2990

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received NOV 21 1988
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Security Building

and or common Capital Building

2. Location

street & number 117 N. E. 1st Avenue

not for publication

city, town Miami

vicinity of

state Florida 33132 code FL

county Dade

code FL 025

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Louis Weisfeld Inv., et al c/o A. Kline

street & number 407 Lincoln Road

city, town Miami Beach

vicinity of

state Florida 33139

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource
Historic Preservation Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250

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

See Continuation Sheet

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1938 | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | | |

Specific dates 1926

Builder/Architect Robert Greenfield

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 17 581020 2850880
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, The northerly 50 feet of Lots 11, 12, and 13 of Block 104 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41). Boundary follows historic and legal boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Eaton /Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October, 1988

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 32399-0250

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 *George W. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 17, 1988

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

entered in the
National Register date 1/4/89

Shelene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Good

The Security Building is a rectangular 16 story structure executed in the Commercial style of architecture and embellished with features derived from the Second Empire architectural mode. Construction of the building began in 1926 according to the plans supplied by Robert Greenfield, architect from New York and Miami.¹ The building's structure is a "fireproof" steel frame sitting atop a reinforced concrete foundation.² The exterior walls of the building are clad in a combination of granite and terra cotta. The roofline is characterized by a copper-faced mansard roof surmounted by a domed octagonal cupola.

Fronting to the west, the building's facade is embellished with tall pilasters, three stories in height, supporting a wide entablature. The entablature spans the entire width of the elevation, and its ends are highlighted with granite lion heads. The main entrance to the building is at the center of the facade and is presently comprised of four modern glass doors. A projecting canopy over the entrance is a later addition. The rhythmic pattern of casement windows rises the vertical length of the building. Quoins of simulated stone decorate the corners of the principal elevation.

The top two stories of the Security Building are terminated by a convex mansard roof. The roof is punctured by arched dormers and porthole windows whose placement coincides with a two-story height. The flat roof of the building is hidden behind the curved facing of the mansard roof. A domed octagonal cupola, inset with arched windows at each bay, tops the building.

The windows of the building's facade are covered with vertical metal screens that extend the building's height. The screens are perforated, thus allowing a view of the original fenestration pattern underneath. When examined against old photographs of the building, it becomes apparent that the screens were installed in a manner that did not damage the building's exterior, thereby making the original facade design quite recognizable.³

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The interior of the Security Building is not too dissimilar to other tall commercial building of the 1920s. A small elevator lobby is found at each floor from which corridors lead to office spaces. The lobby has been changed throughout the years, and no significant interior spaces are evident. In all, the Security Building contains a total of 65,000 square feet of rentable office space.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Date: 1926

Architect: Robert Greenfield

The Security Building is architecturally significant as the only building in Miami that sports a mansard roof.⁴ The building's exterior is unique in that it is the only one in the city that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Second Empire style of architecture. The Security Building also possesses historical associations with the commercial development of Miami during the 1920s Boom years.

At the time of its construction, the Security Building was one of the tallest and most imposing structures in downtown Miami, rising to a height of 225 feet.⁵ Its principal elevation, sheathed in granite, terra cotta, and copper, distinguishes the building as a unique architectural component of the city's downtown area. The building provides an architectural record of commercial architecture during the city's early prosperous years through the design quality of its details. This design quality is displayed in the scale, proportions, and composition of the classical detailing of the building elevations and roofline.

The Security Building also represents an effort by the Dade County Security Company, the original owner, to provide a distinctive commercial "high-rise" building. Organized in 1901, the Dade County Security Company was one of the most important financial institutions of the county during the 1920s and the largest building and loan society in Florida. The company moved to its present site in 1923 and enlarged and refitted an existing building. Expansion during the Boom prompted the construction of a new and larger structure.⁶ The imagery of the Security Building serves as a visual reminder of Miami's Boom years, when architects building in the young city were seeking an identity of commercial expression through the utilization of established and nationally recognized architectural styles.

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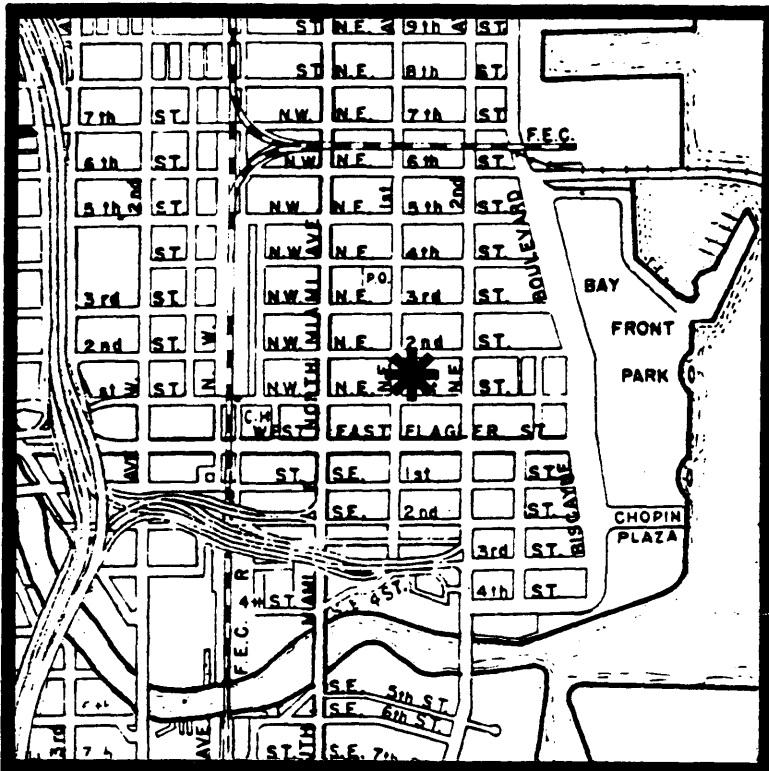
The Security Building was known by that name from the time it was completed in 1926 until 1945, when the name was changed to Pan American Bank Building. On 1 September 1952, the name reverted to Security Building until April 1957, at which time it became known as the Metropolitan Bank Building. It was named the Capital Bank Building in 1964, and today it is commonly known as the Capital Building.⁷

NOTES

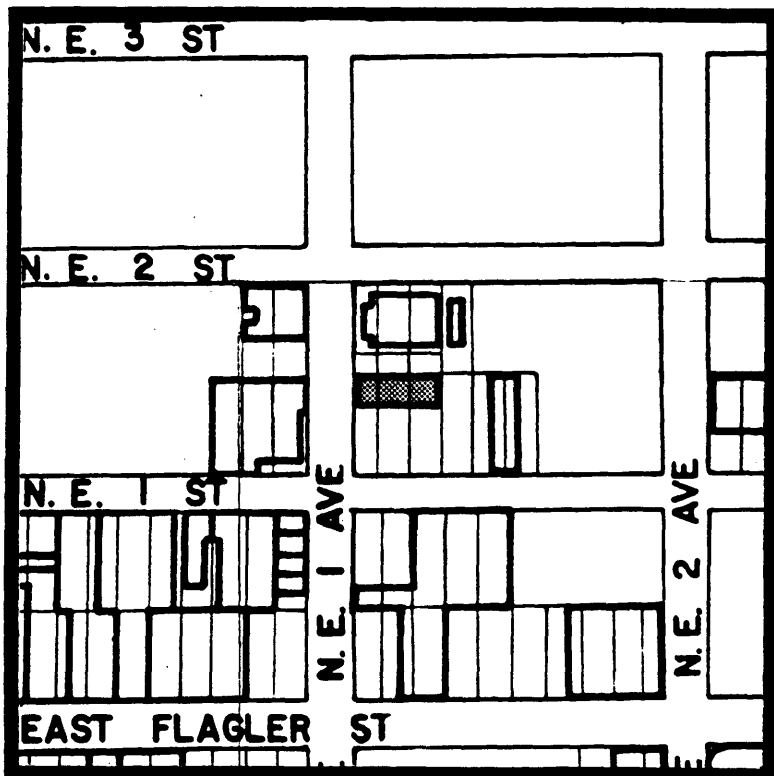
1. City of Miami Building and Zoning Department, Building Plans on Microfilm, Roll 27, Plan M-108.
2. City of Miami Building and Zoning Department, Building Permit applied for 1 February 1926.
3. Greater Miami (Miami, Florida: Miami Publicity Bureau, 1926).
4. Metropolitan Dade County, Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, From Wilderness to Metropolis: The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1940) (Miami, Florida: Metropolitan Dade County, 1982), "List of Significant Sites."
5. The Miamian, July 1927, p. 3.
6. "Dade County Security Co.," The Miamian, July 1923, p. 13.
7. City of Miami Public Library, Florida Room Clipping File, Miami Herald, no date.

SECURITY BUILDING

117 N.E. 1 AVENUE



location



site plan