

PH 000 1619

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: JUL 16 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: American Security and Trust Company

AND/OR HISTORIC: (within boundaries of Lafayette Square Historic District)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

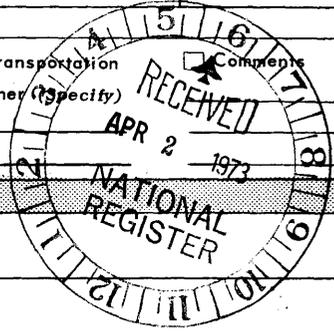
COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: American Security Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER: 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: 6th & D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

American Security and Trust Company at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, N.W., is a dignified Neo-Classical Revival building erected in 1904-1905. With Riggs National Bank, a Category II Landmark, which is attached at the west, the building forms a monumental corner grouping enhancing the important Pennsylvania Avenue approach to the White House. Across Pennsylvania Avenue is the Treasury Building, a Category I Landmark, and across 15th Street is the National Savings and Trust Company, a Category II Landmark. Attached at the north is a 10-story office building erected by the bank in 1930-31.

The design of American Security and Trust Company is closely related to that of Riggs National Bank. Both buildings were designed by York and Sawyer of New York City. They have similar proportions, scale and materials and are in the same style. These features and their continuous roofline often cause them to be mistaken for one building.

American Security and Trust Company is a rectangular brick building, 53-1/2 feet by 130 feet. Although it has the height of a four story building it contains only one room and a full basement. There is a low foundation.

The two visible facades are faced with smooth, ashlar granite. There is a full entablature with modillion cornice with dentil band. Hidden behind the stone parapet are two small gable-roofed skylights and a large hipped-roofed skylight. Both facades have symmetrical compositions. The narrower Pennsylvania Avenue (south) facade has one bay. The 15th Street (east) facade has seven bays, two end bays and a projecting five bay hexastyle portico. There are two levels of openings misleadingly suggesting that the building has two floors. On the first level are heavily grilled windows with elaborate entablatures and sills supported by consoles. The second level has large windows with metal frames. Above them are carved garlands. It is possible that these windows date from the 1931-32 remodeling.

Notable exterior features include the 40 foot tall, fluted Ionic columns of the portico and the stonework of the corner bays of the east facade and of the corner pilasters of the south facade. Here the smooth ashlar granite has deep horizontal joints but smooth vertical joints. This creates a striped effect.

The south facade has a slightly recessed area between the corner pilasters and below the entablature. This area contains two levels of windows flanked by smooth, Doric pilasters. Above the recessed area the parapet, which is basically composed of solid panels, has balusters.

The parapet of the east facade also has balusters above the windows of the corner bays. The corner bays have openings only at the first level. There are panels at the second level. Each of the five bays behind the portico have first and second level openings. The central bay contains the main entrance which now has a metal and glass revolving door. In front of the bays flanking the entrance are ornate bronze stanchions with a cluster of five circular lights. The parapet of the portico bears the words, "INCORPORATED MDCCCXC - ERECTED, MCMV." The frieze on the portico and on the south facade has the bank's name.

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SIGNIFICANCE

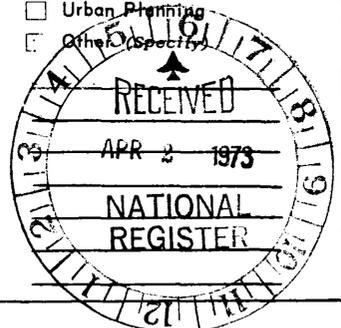
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **built 1904-05; interior remodeled, 1931-32**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the American Security and Trust Company a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The building is the home of a prominent Washington banking institution. Its exterior is representative of the best and most typical bank design of the early twentieth century, and its main banking room is an impressive space with Neo-classical revival details dating from the 1931-32 remodeling. The Neo-classical revival building with hexastyle Ionic portico was constructed in 1904-1905 on one of the most important corners in Washington's financial district. It complements the Treasury Building, a Category I Landmark located across Pennsylvania Avenue, and helps set the monumental character of the area.

The building by York and Sawyer of New York City was reported by a contemporary banking magazine to be "the handsomest banking building in the United States." Plans and elevations were published in The American Architect and Building News of June 10, 1905.

The American Security and Trust Company, the second trust company in the District of Columbia, was first incorporated under the laws of Virginia by a charter granted October 12, 1889. That charter authorized the company to conduct a trust, banking, safe deposit, and storage business. Corporate offices were in Alexandria but the Washington office was in a Romanesque Revival building at 1419 G Street, N.W. The following year the company was reincorporated in the District of Columbia under the Trust Company Act of 1890. In 1891 it moved into its new Romanesque Revival building at 1405 G Street, N.W. The young company had grown rapidly. After one year its deposits exceeded \$260,000, and by November 1891 its authorized capital stock of \$1,250,000 was fully paid. By 1895 business had grown so much that its building was enlarged. One innovation at that time, reportedly the first in local banking circles, was the establishment of a woman's department.

On May 18, 1903, the Board of Directors recommended that capital be increased to three million and the site at 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue vacated by Riggs National Bank in 1902 be purchased. This site was being rented by John R. McLean. McLean assigned his lease with the option to purchase the property to American Security and Trust Company. In May 1904 the old United States Bank building, a federal building probably designed by George Hadfield in 1823, was demolished in order that the new bank building designed by York and Sawyer could be erected. York and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Security and Trust Company. Growing with the Nation's Capital; 75th Anniversary, 1889-1964. Washington: American Security and Trust Company, 1964

Assessments, Atlas, Directories, Newspaper Clippings, and Photographs. Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Public Library.

Columbia Real Estate Title Company. Deed Search Files. Cases 2271; 32920; 36022; and 41117.

Larner, John B., ed. "History of Banking in the District of Columbia." Washington Past and Present. J.C. Proctor, editor-in-chief. Vol. I. New York:

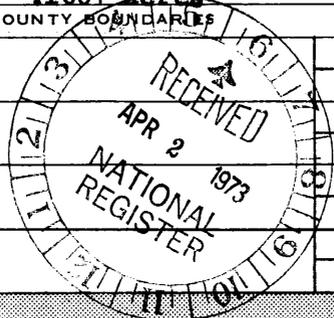
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 53' 57"	77° 02' 03"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6,989 sq. feet .160+ acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Planning Commission

DATE

March, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

CODE

11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

James G. ...

Title

Date

MAR 30 1973

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

Robert W. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

7/16/73

ATTEST:

W. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date

5 10 73

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7. Description - con't.

The interior of the building was remodeled in 1931-32 when it was linked to the first story of the neighboring office building. The Neo-classical character of the 1905 interior was maintained. The banking room retains to a large extent its 1932 appearance. It is finished in a variety of marbles and has an elaborate, decorative ceiling. This impressive interior space occupies the entire volume of the building.

In 1931-32 balconies at the south and north were removed and the coved ceiling flattened. Now the east and west walls are each divided into seven bays by fluted Ionic marble pilasters located above gray marble paneling. Double pilasters separate the end bays, reflecting the earlier location of the balconies. Single pilasters separate other bays. The pilasters support an elaborate entablature with enriched mouldings. At the south end two panels flank the central window. A large arched opening surrounded by marble trim connects the main banking room with the first floor of the office building. Marble stairs located south of the entrance lead to the basement. The vaults were located in the basement but are now located in the basement of the office building and in the sub-basement of the original building. The basement now contains lounges, service areas, and storage space.

An outstanding feature of the main banking room is its ceiling with blue background and white and gold trim. It has three large octagonal panels surrounded by square panels. The panels have rosettes and enriched mouldings. About 1955 some of the rosettes were electrified. Other interesting features are the circular bronze plaque of the seal of the bank in the middle of the floor and the ten hanging circular lighting fixtures. These chandeliers are present in a 1917 photograph of the interior.

The first floor of the office wing is also finished with rich materials. Its ceiling is only one story high, but has vaults supported by marble faced piers with pressed plaster capitals. The metal elevator doors and postoffice box are notable decorative features.



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8. Significance - con't.

Sawyer's design was closely related to that of Riggs National Bank to which it was attached at the west. In 1905 American Security & Trust Company moved into their new building. In 1906 the bank received the deed for the property on which the building is located.

The bank continued to expand. In 1906 the storage business moved after it was separately incorporated under the title of Security Storage Company. In 1919 the bank consolidated with Home Savings Bank, the second oldest and largest savings bank in the District of Columbia. Between April 1930 and September 1931, a 10-story office block was constructed north of the bank and connected to it. This building was also designed by York and Sawyer. When it was completed the main banking room was remodeled.

On April 21, 1933, American Security and Trust became a member of the Federal Reserve System. The following January it was admitted to membership in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In 1946 Columbia National Bank which was chartered in 1887 was purchased.

The merger with National Metropolitan Bank in 1958 was one of the largest mergers in Washington's history. National Metropolitan Bank founded in 1814 as the Bank of the Metropolis was the depository of U.S. funds when federal money was withdrawn from the Bank of the United States in 1836. In 1958 the American Security and Trust Company was the third largest bank in Washington. It continued growing and in 1959 purchased the City Bank of Washington.

In 1969 the bank, the 2nd largest bank in Washington, became a shareholding member of Allied Bank International, an international bank with authorized capital of \$40 million. This organization was formed to help finance foreign trade transactions.



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9. Bibliographical - con't.

Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1930, pp. 297-298, 302, and 308-309.

National Capital Planning Commission - Landmark Files.

Withey, H.F. and E.R. Withey Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessy & Ingalls, 1970, pp. 536-37, 675-76.



77° 02' 19" W. LONG.

77° 02' 03" W. LONG.

77° 01' 57" W. LONG.

77° 01' 51" W. LONG.

77° 01' 45" W. LONG.

77° 01' 39" W. LONG.

77° 01' 33" W. LONG.

77° 01' 27" W. LONG.

77° 01' 21" W. LONG.

77° 01' 15" W. LONG.

83° 57' N. LAT.

83° 56' N. LAT.

83° 55' N. LAT.

83° 54' N. LAT.

83° 53' N. LAT.

83° 52' N. LAT.

83° 51' N. LAT.

83° 50' N. LAT.

83° 49' N. LAT.

83° 48' N. LAT.

