

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.511.0004	5/6/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Riggs National Bank - Washington Loan & Trust Company Branch

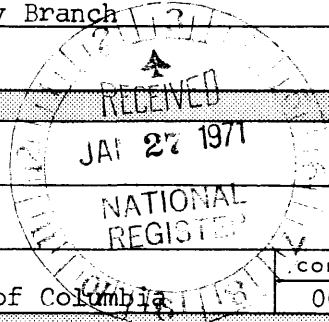
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Washington Loan & Trust Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S.W. Corner of Ninth and F Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	001



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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:
Riggs National Bank of Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
1503 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sixth and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE	CODE
District of Columbia	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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Riggs National Bank, Washington Loan & Trust Company Branch, is located at the SW corner of 9th and F Sts., NW. with the main entrance facing F St. The 9-story (110' high) building which fills the 14,171 square foot lot, measures 116' (9th St.) by 122'2" (F St.). The original L-shaped 1891 building was 9 bays on 9th St. and 4 bays on F. In 1926, a 6-bay wing added to the F St. facade created the U-shaped plan which exists today. The structural system consists of steel girder framing and tile arches, with load-bearing exterior walls of red brick, faced with alternating wide and narrow courses of rough hewn gray granite ashlar on the two principal facades. Only a slight variation in the color of the stone gives evidence of the different construction dates.

The 9-stories of the building are organized in four separate courses of varied widths. Above a low granite foundation with a smooth upper course, the lower two floors, treated as a basement, are combined in a single unit which is crowned by a plain frieze and a cornice with dentil course, echinus and fascia. The frieze originally carried the words Washington Loan & Trust Company in raised letters on both facades. An arcaded effect is created by the combination of the next four stories into one unit which is topped by another cornice consisting of a checkered billet molding and a fascia. The 7th and 8th stories form another distinct unit in design, with cornice of brackets supporting a cyma recta. The fourth course, the 9th story, is crowned by a full entablature composed of a plain architrave on a billet, a bracketed frieze and a cavetto and cyma recta cornice. The heavy corner piers frame the whole design and emphasize the structure's solidity. The roof is flat.

Much of the architectural distinction of the structure is derived from its fenestration. The first story has large, triply-divided, partially-grilled windows enclosed in round-headed arches with rock-faced voussoirs, archivolt molding and pier imposts carved with acanthus leaf motifs of Byzantine derivation. The south bay of the 9th St. facade is a plain wall with two tiers of rectangular mullioned windows. The main entrance on the F st. facade, located in the fifth bay from the east, has a wider, higher arch than the windows of the first story. The arch is composed of two inner orders supported on colonnettes and an outer order with rock-faced voussoirs and archivolt molding. There is a glazed lunette with a radiating bronze grille design above the inner and outer doors. This door, in the 1926 addition, is one bay west of the original entrance on F St. The heavy granite arches of the first floor windows are offset by the simple rectangular bays of the second story, which are divided by a rock-faced transom bar and a smooth mullion.

Stories 3 through 6 are combined in a series of arcaded bays, with colonnettes at the corner of each pier. Third through 6th story windows are rectangular in shape and divided by smooth granite central mullions. The windows of the 6th story, set within granite arches, are round-headed and double-hung. These more complexly designed four stories are balanced by the following two stories of plain rectangular windows, adorned only by colonnetted two-story piers. At the top floor, the arcaded effect is repeated with twice as many arched openings as appear below (18 on 9th St.; 20 on F St.). The voussoirs are rock-faced, and each pier is composed of a pair of colonnettes crowned with Byzantine style capitals.

The main banking room, which dates mainly from 1912, occupies the entire

(Continued on Form 10-300 a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1891; addition, 1926-27

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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 Riggs National Bank, Washington Loan & Trust Company Branch, a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The building was erected in 1891 by the Washington Loan & Trust Company, the first trust company established in the District of Columbia. Designed by architect James Hill in the Richardsonian style, this late 19th-century commercial building is an outstanding architectural landmark which occupies a prominent corner of the downtown retail core. It is one of a few monumental Romanesque Revival buildings still standing in the city.

The Washington Loan & Trust Company, the oldest and for years the largest trust company in the city, was organized in 1899 by Brainard H. Warner and John B. Lerner and their associates John Joy Edson and others. Supported by a board of 25 directors, who were prominent Washingtonians, the company received title from J. Joseph Albright to portions of lots 19, 20 and 21 in Square 377, on the site of the old St. Cloud Hotel. Two years later, the first part of the present building was erected on the 9th and F Streets site.

The architect James Hill also designed the Atlantic and National Union Buildings in the same block in the Romanesque Revival style and the red brick Romantic Revival Bureau of Printing and Engraving at 14th St. and Independence Avenue. Hill planned a 9-story, L-shaped commercial building of distinguished proportions and fenestration. The total design was obviously influenced by H.H. Richardson's 1885 Marshall Field Warehouse and Louis Sullivan's Auditorium Building.

To accommodate the company's growing volume of business, the main banking room on the first floor was enlarged in 1911-12. In 1922, the Washington Loan & Trust Company purchased the remaining sections of the original three lots from William Force Stead and Manning Force Stead. Acquisition of this property enabled the company to enlarge their original structure four years later. The addition of 1926-27 transformed the original L into a U-shaped building by extending the F Street wing westward. Arthur Heaton, the architect of the western addition, followed Hill's original exterior design. Since 1927, the exterior of the building has remained unchanged, while the interior has undergone a number of alterations and modernizations.

On October 1, 1954, the Washington Loan & Trust Company was merged with Riggs National Bank. The building has since functioned as one of the branches of that bank.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington, D.C., Architecture--Market Square, Historic American Buildings Survey Number 8, Issued Jointly by the Urban Design and Development Corporation and the Historic American Buildings Survey, 1969.
 "History of Branches in Brief," The Riggs National Bank, Dec. 17, 1954 (duplicated pamphlet).
 Washington Past and Present, a History, John Clagett Proctor, Editor-in-Chief New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc. 1930.

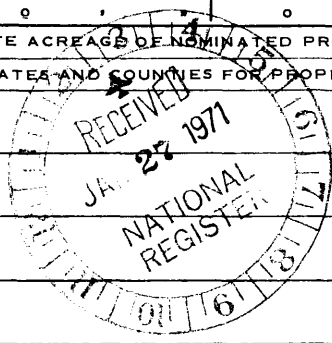
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 53' 49"	77° 01' 28"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14,171 Square Feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



18/52510-1-002700

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission
 DATE: November 6, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 726 Jackson Place, 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 [Signature]

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date January 21, 1971

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

APR 8 1971

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description - Riggs National Bank-Washington Loan & Trust Company Branch

east wing of the building. It is decorated with Roman and Italian Renaissance motifs. Initially the floors were wood, but they have now been covered with marble. The room is rectangular in shape with irregularly placed Corinthian columns rising 20 feet to the ceiling. The plaster ceiling is divided into decorated coffers between girders.

Some of the offices of the upper floors have recently been substantially modernized. However, the majority of the rooms of the upper floors retain their original plaster ceiling and walls, and original wooden trim.

