

PH0011738

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: MAY 8 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Washington Branch, National Bank of Washington

AND/OR HISTORIC: National Bank of Washington

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 301 Seventh Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: D.C. Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: National Bank of Washington

STREET AND NUMBER: 619 14th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 001

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: 1968: Revised 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Planning Commission

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

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: 814

DATE: MAY 8 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The National Bank of Washington, known now as the Washington Branch of the National Bank of Washington, occupies the entire western end of trapezoidal Square 459 near the intersection of Indiana Avenue and C Street with Seventh Street, N.W. The 1909 Memorial of the Grand Army of the Republic, located on Reservation 36A, stands between the bank building and Seventh Street in the narrow apex of this Square. The Apex Building, an 1860 brown-stone building remodelled in the mid 1880's by A.B. Mullett for the Central National Bank, occupies the western end of Square 460, directly south of Square 459. The 1882 Temperance Fountain stands before the Apex Building. An access roadway runs from Pennsylvania Avenue to Indiana Avenue between the monuments and the two buildings. A small triangular park, landscaped and containing the 1896 statue of General Winfield Scott Hancock, occupies Reservation 36 on the western side of Seventh Street at its intersection with Pennsylvania Avenue.

Architect James G. Hill, using the bold asymmetrical massing of the Richardsonian Romanesque manner, makes ingenious use of a difficult site. Though relatively small in scale, this well-proportioned, finely detailed building carries the intersection well. It is inevitably experienced in a sculptural, mobile manner, each facade dependent upon the total composition for its effect. The building presents a handsome appearance from each of the several directions from which it may be approached.

The original bank building is trapezoidal in shape, occupying its site fully with bay and porch projections onto the public space. It fronts 86 feet on Indiana Avenue, 39 feet on Seventh Street and 80 feet on C Street. Two and one-half stories high with 6 bays on Indiana Avenue, 3 bays on Seventh Street and 5 bays on C Street, the building is of solid masonry construction, brick faced with stone. Foundations are concrete. There is a full basement. The steeply-pitched, timber-framed roof is covered with slate. It is hipped at the Seventh Street end, sweeping around without interruption to enclose a two-story semicircular bay at the northwest corner of the building. The roof is gabled at its east end, facing the interior of the Square. Wall dormers, occurring in the central bay of the Seventh Street elevation and over a shallow two-story rectangular bay at the southeast corner of the building, are gabled. Five tall chimneys of varying size and with boldly modeled chimney caps, project through the roof. Two of these are on the Indiana Avenue side; three are on the C Street side.

The building rests on a low base of rusticated pink granite. The fabric of the walls themselves is rusticated white Maryland marble. Decorative effects are achieved primarily through textural variation. Beveled water table, quoined window surrounds, continuous sills, transoms and lintels are flush and integral with the wall, of the same white Maryland marble finished with a contrasting smooth face. The boldly scaled cornice also is executed in this smooth-faced marble. Intricate carving of the stone on elements of the dormers and entrance porch provides further contrast.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) 1888-89

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Local History</u> |
| <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 Washington Branch of the National Bank of Washington at 301 7th Street, N.W., a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Designed by architect James G. Hill and built by Daniel J. Macarty in 1888-89, this building is one of the finest examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture remaining in Washington today. It is well located on a diagonal axis with the old City Hall near the convergence of Indiana and Pennsylvania Avenues, fronting on the large open space--known as Market Square or Market Space--which was originally a focal point of the L'Enfant plan. It is an appropriate foil to the three small park reservations here with their late nineteenth century sculptures. It enhances the Pennsylvania Avenue facade on the north, establishing a human scale and asserting the dignity and character of the City of Washington as distinct from the Federal Government.

The National Bank of Washington was organized under the name "Bank of Washington" in the fall of 1809. It was the first Washington bank of purely local origin and interest, being preceded only by a branch bank of the First Bank of the United States. Throughout its long history it has proved itself an institution of exceptional strength and stability, playing a leading role in the growth of the city. Noteworthy early depositors include James Monroe, Bushrod Washington, Chief Justice John Marshall, Francis Scott Key, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, Eli Whitney, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and Davy Crockett.

The initial public response to the bank was overwhelming. In spite of the small population of the city at that time and the scarcity of specie, the authorized capital of \$1,000,000 in \$40 shares was over-subscribed by \$12,000 on the first day stock was offered. Supporters of the bank included such prominent early citizens of Washington as Thomas Law, William Brent, Mayor Robert Brent and Chief Justice William Cranch. Daniel Carroll of Duddington, one of the original landowners, was elected president. The Bank of Washington opened for business in temporary quarters provided by Carroll in Carroll's Row on the east side of 1st Street between East Capitol and A Streets, S.E. A permanent banking house was erected in the summer and fall of 1810 on land purchased from Carroll on the east side of New Jersey Avenue between B and C Streets, S.E. By October 31, 1810, the bank had announced a 6% dividend. The Bank of Washington petitioned Congress for a charter in December 1810--the first private bank to do so. This was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bowers, Kathryn E. "Historical Highlights of Washington's Oldest Bank." Unpublished manuscript. National Bank of Washington.

Bryan, W.B. A History of the National Capital. New York: Macmillan Co., 1914.

Howe, Charles E. "The Financial Institutions of Washington City in its Early Days." Records of the Columbia Historical Society. Washington: published by the Society, 1905.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

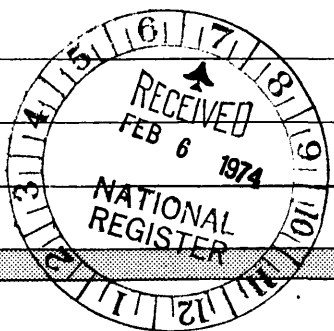
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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 ' 38 "	77 ° 01 ' 17 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6,472 Square feet: .148+ acre

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



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Tanya Beauchamp, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: 1/2/74

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 H. Smith  
Assistant to the Mayor for Housing Programs.

Date FEB 4 1974

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

A. B. Mortensen  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/74

ATTEST:  
Wm. M. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.7.74

13/2000-0000000000  
1-2-74  
VTM/TCS

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description (Continued)

The entrance porch projects 4' 10" from the face of the building. It is 19' 6" wide and reaches to the sills of the second story windows. Flat-roofed and parapeted, its rusticated marble mass is penetrated by a broad arched opening and enriched by carving and contrast of texture in decorative detail. The corners of the porch are brought forward slightly simulating piers. Clustered colonettes, their bases resting on these piers, rise from the impost level of the entrance arch to the cornice of the porch. The cornice is moulded and carved in the delicate foliate manner of these Romanesque capitals. The parapet above, smooth-faced and panelled, its mouldings enriched by small scale carving, bears the inscription 'National Bank of Washington'. The entrance arch is emphasized by smooth-faced voussoirs and outlined at its extrados by a chequered moulding. It recedes to the linteled entrance through a progression of three semi-circular mouldings. Double entrance doors are of brass and are enriched by allegorical bas-relief panels. There is a curvilinear wrought iron fan in the semi-circular opening above these doors. Bays are regularly spaced with predominantly paired fenestration. Deep, geometrically incisive rectangular window apertures are linteled on the entrance level. One/one double-hung window sash are protected on the entrance level by wrought iron screens. A two-bay pentagonal addition of 1922 extends 21 feet on Indiana Avenue and 28 feet on C Street and conforms in design, material and workmanship with the original structure. The Washington Branch of the National Bank of Washington is in excellent condition--meticulously constructed and carefully maintained.

The interior of the bank is comprised of a two story trapezoidal banking room with offices on a third story above and in three levels to the rear. The lofty banking space is spanned by a system of joists and girders supported by six massive Romanesque columns. Low arches are sprung between panelled joists indicating brick fireproof construction. Wood panelling with delicate, small-scale detail is used as wainscot in this room. The applied flower and leaf moulded plaster sections decorate the walls above the wainscot. This trim is used as well on columns, cornice and ceiling.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

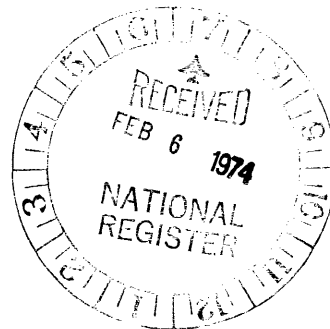
STATE	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

granted March 3, 1811, the bank being incorporated with a capital stock of \$500,000. After the War of 1812, countering demands for the removal of the Nation's capital to a more protected site, the Bank of Washington offered to loan \$500,000 to the Federal Government to meet the expense of rebuilding the city. In January, 1829, the bank, following the northwesterly development of the city, moved to offices in the National Hotel at 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. In 1831 the Bank of Washington purchased from John Stettinus the present site near the intersection of Indiana Avenue, 7th and C Streets, N.W. A 3½-story gable-roofed brick building located here served as offices for the bank until 1888-89 when it was demolished and the present marble and granite banking house erected. The Bank of Washington was reorganized under the National Banking Act in January 1886, becoming the National Bank of Washington. Mergers were effected with the nearby Central National Bank in 1907, the Hamilton National Bank in 1954 and the Liberty National Bank in 1957. In 1954 the main office was moved to what had been the main office of the Hamilton National Bank at 14th and G Streets, N.W. Since that time the building at 301 7th Street, N.W., has been known as the Washington Branch of the National Bank of Washington. Today the National Bank of Washington remains one of the leading banking houses in Washington, with twenty branches located throughout the city.

James G. Hill (1814-1913), architect of the National Bank of Washington, served as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1879-84. While in that capacity he designed many U.S. courthouses, post offices, and other public buildings across the country. From 1884, until 1909, he practiced privately in Washington, first alone and then, after 1901, in partnership with Frederick A. Kendall. His work includes the Atlantic Building, 930 F Street, N.W.; The Washington Loan and Trust Company, 9th and F Streets, N.W.; and the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, 14th and C Streets, S.W.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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**Bibliographical References (Continued)**

Larner, John B. "History of Banking in the District of Columbia." Washington Past and Present. Vol. 1. Edited by John Clagett Proctor. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1930.

Martin Luther King Memorial Library. Washingtoniana Collection. City directories, newspaper clipping files.

McKee, Harley J. Washington D.C. Architecture--Market Square. Washington: HABS, 1969.

National Archives. Records of the District of Columbia. R.G. 351. Building Permit No. 1831. April 21, 1888.

"National Bank of Washington, Washington, D.C." The American Architect and Building News. V. 25 (March 2) 1889; p. 102 pl. 688. Illus., plan.

"National Bank of Washington, Washington, D.C." Inland Architect and New Records. V. 15, No. 2 (March) 1890. Plate.

Norment, Clarence F. One Hundredth Anniversary of the National Bank of Washington in the District of Columbia. Washington: published by the National Bank of Washington, 1909.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles, California: New Age Publishing Co., 1956.

