

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Central National Bank

AND/OR COMMON
CN

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Third and Broad Streets

CITY, TOWN
Richmond

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third (David E. Satterfield, III)

STATE
Virginia

CODE 51

COUNTY (in city) CODE 760

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
Carroll L. Saine, President

STREET & NUMBER
Central National Bank, Post Office Box 27602

CITY, TOWN
Richmond

STATE
Virginia 23261

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Richmond City Hall

STREET & NUMBER
900 East Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Richmond

STATE
Virginia 23219

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE
February 1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN
Richmond

STATE
Virginia 23219

17 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

Situated on the corner of Broad and Third Streets, the Central National Bank is a twenty-four-story, brick and limestone-faced, steel-frame skyscraper erected in 1929-30 in the Art-Deco style. The main elevation on Broad Street consists of a large, two-story arched entry containing a large multi-paned transom over a bronze and marble-framed revolving door flanked on either side by bronze and plate-glass doors. Carved low-relief voussoirs frame the main entrance, complemented on either side by low-relief carved zig-zag-framed arched lights. The lights, covered by a bronze grille now painted gold, are divided in the center by a bronze and marble foliated panel. A marble-veneer plinth defines the perimeter of the north elevation of the banking tower. Octagonal panels carved in low-relief decorate the upper spandrel of an otherwise unpierced wall. A denticulated belt course separates the building's frontispiece from a succeeding granite-faced story of eight bays, which is separated from the succeeding stories by a decorated frieze of foliated rinceau. The upper stories are marked by vertical strips of windows delineated by brick pilasters and separated from succeeding stories by panels of molded brick. The pilasters terminate on the upper stories into pinnacles, the upper story containing a band of ornamented brick in a diamond-shaped design. A modern sign on each face with the letters "CNB" somewhat obscures the top story.

Adjacent to the main building, and designed by the same architect, is a smaller, three-story, limestone-faced structure which originally housed a series of shops known as the Broad-Grace Arcade. The building is joined visually on the north elevation to the bank tower by a denticulated cornice on line with that found on the bank tower. The main entrance consists of a large, casement-type transom doorway flanked on either side by brass lanterns. On the northwest bay of the first story is a large plate-glass, metal-casement-type window surrounded by a delicate cast-bronze frame. The second story consists of two large bronze casement-type windows, each containing a delicately sculptured cast-bronze cap with its original finish. Third-story fenestration consists of simple casement windows in plain metal frames. The east elevation originally abutted an older building which was removed to create a walled courtyard. The facade of this elevation has been reworked on the lower story. The new brick matches the color and texture of the older brick used on the bank tower.

The Grace Street (south) elevation originally contained the arcade's shop fronts which have been replaced by large casement-type, plate-glass windows. The treatment of the second and third stories is similar to that found on the front (north) elevation. A fourth story was added at a later date.

The CNB contains a most distinguished interior, in an excellent state of preservation. The first floor consists of a side-hall plan, the hall or lobby extending from Broad to Grace Streets. The main banking facilities are located to the east of the lobby and consist of a commercial or "Great" banking hall, a public banking hall, executive offices, and conference rooms. It should be noted that in the original plan, the current lobby and public banking hall were originally the shops of the Broad Street arcade, since removed for needed banking space.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928-30

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Eberson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central National Bank, designed in 1929-30 by the New York architect John Eberson, is an outstanding example of the Art-Deco skyscraper as it was interpreted in the South. The building is, moreover, a tribute to the successful efforts of Richmond merchants to establish a financial institution sensitive to their special needs. It is to the credit of the bank's current consulting architect and trustees that a recent major renovation preserved the bank's original architectural character.

The history of CNB begins in 1911 when the merchants on Broad Street decided that they needed a strong bank in the retailing district of Richmond that would serve them directly. The founders included a prominent furrier, a leather goods dealer, and a rising department store owner. The merchants sold stock to fellow businessmen on Broad Street, purchased an existing branch bank, and applied to the Department of the Treasury for a national bank charter. When the bank's doors opened in September of that year, CNB became Richmond's twentieth banking establishment and the first national bank in that area of the city. The new bank proved to be a success, and within six months deposits totaled over a half-million dollars. On November 2, 1914, the bank became a charter member of the Reserve system, two weeks before the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank opened. By 1921 the bank had grown to become the sixth largest bank in Richmond and a pioneer in many Virginia banking innovations.

In 1928 the bank's directors voted to erect a new bank building, purchased a site at 219 East Broad, and made plans for a ten-story structure. The plans were revised, and ultimately ground was broken in March 1929 for a twenty-four-story structure. John Eberson, of New York, was the architect working with the Richmond firm of Carneal, Johnston, and Wright. Eberson had designed Richmond's Loew's Theatre in 1927-28, soon to be followed by the Broad-Grace Arcade in 1928-29. It was the intention of the bank's trustees that the arcade would service and be served by the new CNB, which would occupy over one-third of the arcade's original interior frontage. Doyle and Russell, who later worked on the Pentagon in Washington, were the contractors. They employed steel workers from some of the country's largest bridge projects to rivet the 1,720 tons of steel. Despite the Depression, the construction of the bank continued and was finally completed in June 1930.

Before the building was finished, it became obvious that the CNB tower was to have a special function in the Richmond business world. An adman in the December 7, 1929, Richmond News Leader overwhelmed his notice with praise to the CNB. The ad read:

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Quenroe, Elroy E., "John Ebersson in Richmond, Virginia - Architect for the Twenties." Master's Thesis, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1975.
 Richmond News Leader, December 1929 and April, May, June 1930.
 Schwarzschild, W. Harry Jr. Central National Bank of Richmond - 50 Years of Person to Person Banking, 1911-1961. New York: The Newcomer Society in North America, 1961.
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	2 8 4 4 2 0	4, 1 5, 7 7, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Central National Bank comprises the easternmost portion of city block W49 bounded by East Broad Street on the north, East Grace Street on the south, Third Street on the east, and Second Street on the west. The property is composed of three city lots together measuring 129.92'x301.65' and extends from 215-225 East Broad Street on the north and from 216-226 East Grace Street on the south. (See Block W49, Cards 8,9,12, Richmond City Assessor's Office)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

March 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 18 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Central National Bank, Richmond, Virginia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

An exceptionally handsome room, the commercial banking hall was originally the public banking room of CNB. Its Art-Deco appointments include such notable features as a richly ornamented coffered ceiling, a geometric Art-Deco terrazzo floor, and the generous use of cast bronze for lamps and other decorative features. Frosted-glass arched transoms provide a source of natural light for the large room, two stories in height. From the "Great" hall projects the president's office and an Art-Deco, wood-paneled bank manager's office, which retains its original stained finish.

The personal banking hall is the result of the remodeling of the arcade shops and contains modern banking equipment and furnishings. The former arcade lobby retains its Art-Deco plaster ornaments and bronze lamps. The Broad Street lobby contains exceptional Art-Deco appointments, especially evident in the elevator lobby. The elevator doors contain Art-Deco motifs, handsomely worked in bronze and etched glass. The effect is doubled through the use of an etched-glass, Art-Deco mirror on the opposite wall. The remaining floors of the building are used as bank offices and have been cosmetically altered through the bank's years of growth.

RCC

8. SIGNIFICANCE

- A site that overlooks everything in sight.
- A building that overlooks nothing in efficiency.
- A monumental structure at an active business center.
- A background of business and a foreground of Beauty.
- A location of horizons for tenants of vision.

While the ad was obviously attempting to lease rental space in the new building, it may also be understood as a statement of architectural intention.

When the bank was built during the twenties, a climate of economic and social prosperity prevailed throughout America bringing with it a "the sky's the limit" optimism, a sense that was literally understood in the architecture of the time. It was during this period that the skyscraper had come into fruition, the product of American technology and economic growth. Complementing the new building form was a new architectural vocabulary, Art Deco. The new style employed motifs of a highly geometric and sometimes exotic nature that shared a common quality--easy adaptation by the machine. It is significant that, when considered in terms of its rapid growth, CNB would adapt both the skyscraper form and Art-Deco

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Central National Bank, Richmond, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

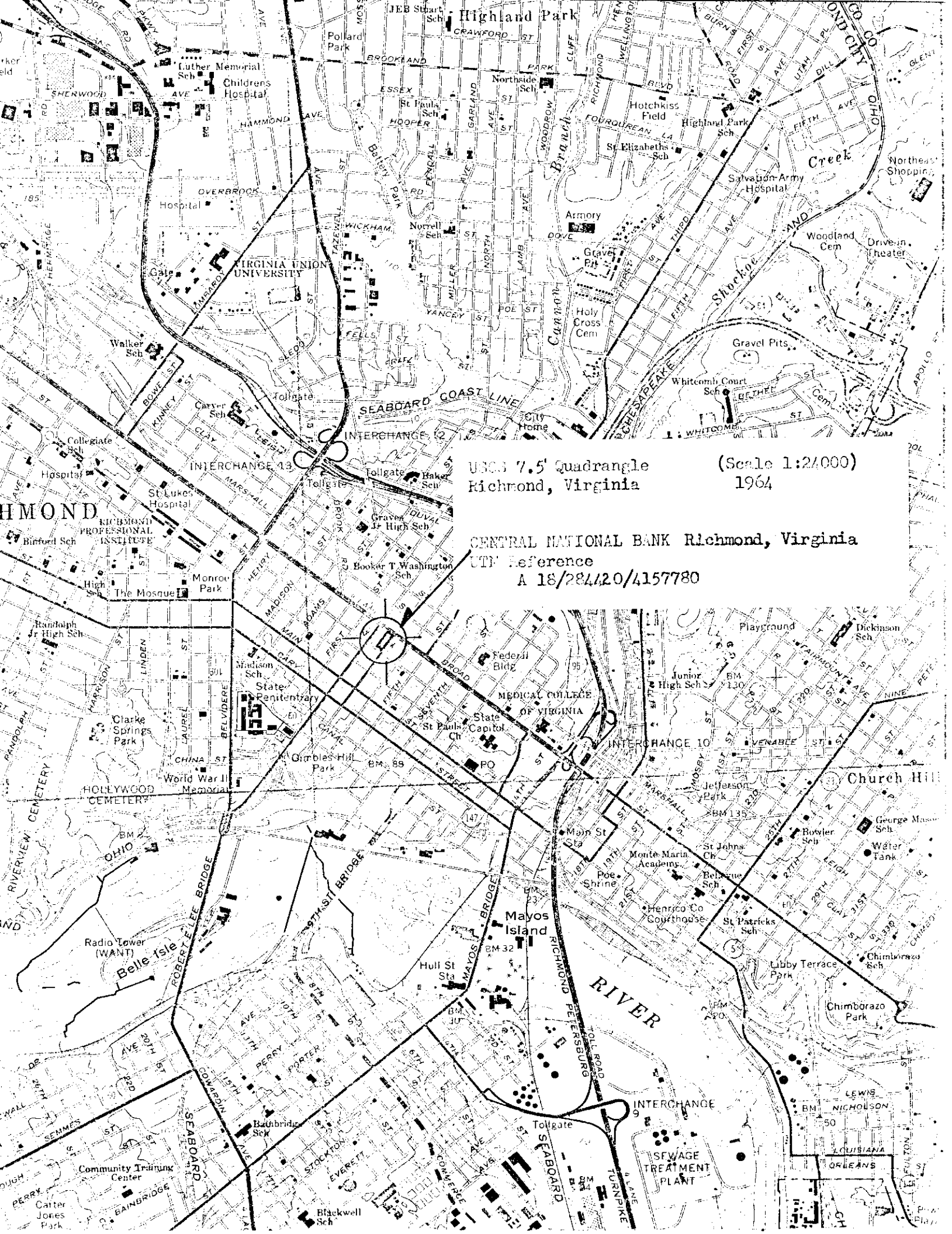
ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE

embellishment as symbols of pre-Depression prosperity. It is commendable that the bank, continuing to expand, has restored its building tower and adapted the neighboring Art-Deco Broad-Grace Arcade for additional banking space, thus preserving a Richmond landmark of business prosperity.

V.D.S./R.C.C.



USGS 7.5' Quadrangle (Scale 1:24,000)
Richmond, Virginia 1964

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK Richmond, Virginia
UTM Reference
A 18/284420/4157780

RICHMOND

RANDOLPH JR HIGH SCH

CLARKE SPRINGS PARK

HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

RADIO TOWER (WANT)

BELE ISLE

COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

BLACKWELL SCH

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

STATE PENITENTIARY

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

STATE PENITENTIARY

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

BOOKER T WASHINGTON SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

GRAVES JR HIGH SCH

STATE CAPITOL

STATE CAPITOL

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE

ROBERT LEE BRIDGE