SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME: Eero Saarinen State Bank Building
COUNTY: Essex
MUNICIPALITY: New York City

TYPE:
- Individual [X]
- Historic District
- Multiple Property
- Documentation Form

NOMINATION FORM

- Nomination form (If there are continuation sheets, please indicate number)
  - First page (#1-6)
  - Description (#7)
  - Significance (#8)
  - Last page (#9-11)
- SHPO Signatures
- USGS Map
- Site plan
- Tax map
- Floor plan
- Photo index map
- Other maps

- Photographs (Indicate number)
  - Exterior
  - Interior
  - Streetscapes
  - Outbuildings
  - Historical
  - Negatives
  - Contact Sheet

ONJH FILES

DATE OF LISTING
State Register: 12/27/76
National Register: 3/10/77

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

N.J.H.S.I. # __________________________ Draft Nomination __________________________
Newspaper/Magazine Articles __________________________ Correspondence __________________________
HABS __________________________ Contextual Data __________________________
Other (Please specify) __________________________

STAFF MEMBER: [Signature] Beth Goldstein
DATE: 5/21/91

UPDATES:
STAFF
DATE
STAFF
DATE

5/91
**NAME**  First National State Bank  

**MUNICIPALITY**  Newark  

**COUNTY**  Essex Co.  

Nomination Form:  
- Final Nomination Form  
- Signed  
- U.S.G.S. Map  
- Photocopy  
- Other Maps  

Plan(s):  
- Site  
- Floor  

Photographs:  
- Identified  
- Unidentified  
- Inadequate Coverage  
  - Exterior  
  - Interior  
  - Streetscapes  
  - Outbuildings  
  - Historical  

Negatives:  
- Same as prints  
- Less than prints  
- Additional Negatives  

Slides:  
- Exterior shots  
- - Fine  
- - Interior - Inadequate  

Boundaries:  
- No precise boundaries  
- Defined by map  
- U.T.M.'s  
- Defined in nomination  
- Latitude & longitude  
- Boundary justification  

National Register notification of listing to SHPO:  
-  

Copies of final approved nomination:  
-  

Other:  
-  

SHPO Notification Letters:  
- Intent to nominate  
- National Register  
- State Register  
- Owner list  

Supplemental Information:  
- N.J.H.S.I.  
- Newspaper/Magazine articles  
- Local ordinance data  
- Other  
- Draft nomination  
- Recent correspondence  
- Maps  
- HABS  

Materials in Storage:  
- Public Meeting notification  
- Newspaper articles  
- Historical information  
- Draft nomination  
- Correspondence  
- Other  

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC
First National State Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
810 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Newark

STATE
New Jersey

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S): X
STRUCTURE

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
NEVER RESTRICTED
YES, UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PARK
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First National State Bank

STREET & NUMBER
550 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Newark

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
High Street

CITY, TOWN
Newark

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic State Inventory

DATE
1975

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN
Trenton

STATE
New Jersey
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
  X FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED
  X ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
  DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National State Bank built in 1912 is a twelve (12) story rectangular block structure. The building is presented in column form with the lowest two (2) stories representing a base; the middle seven (7) stories the shaft and the top two (2) stories as the capital. The building is three (3) bays wide on its front (east) facade and six (6) bays on the side. The rear has had a four (4) bay addition in 1924.

The ground floor is used entirely for banking purposes. The bank is articulated as an elongated atrium with a colonnade on three (3) sides. It begins one (1) bay beyond the entrance and ends one (1) bay before the rear. Laterally it extends from the left (north) wall to one (1) bay before the right (south) wall. On the right a long space is cordoned off. This space contains meeting rooms, a winding stair with landings and three (3) elevators.

The second (2nd) floor contains a gallery which overlooks the first (1st) floor. The other floors have a standard plan with office spaces on the left and a central meeting room and the elevators on the right.

On the exterior each bay has a large arched window. The arches rest upon piers with superimposed corinthian pilasters that support a full entablature which surmounts the ground floor. The spandrels of the arches are decorated with circular motifs.

The frontal three (3) bays are similar except that the pilasters are replaced with free standing corinthian columns and the entablature is surmounted by a balustrade. The third (3rd) floor, which appears as the second (2nd) story from the exterior is surmounted by a cornice, and has decorative panels between the bays. The middle seven (7) stories are not decorated. The top two (2) stories are separated from the lower floors by a heavy frieze. The upper story windows take the form of Romanesque double arches. The spandrels of the arches are decorated with cartouches. The upper story is surmounted by a frieze with recurring "s" motifs and a wide overhang roof.

The bays on all floors except the first two (2) form double windows. The interior colonnade is articulated with piers, lunettes and doric pilasters.
The First National State Bank is significant for several reasons. It houses the eighth (8th) oldest institution in the history of New Jersey banking. It was designed by Cass Gilbert, a renowned architect of the period. Also, it is one of the few buildings in Newark to remain on the original site since the banks organization in 1812.

Archeology - Historic

What used to be not an unordinary practice has today become rare. The cornerstone of the First National Bank contains a time capsule. It contains such items as copies of the Evening News of that day (May 3, 1911), the date of the cornerstone laying; explanatory manuals describing the actions of the City's Common Council and the State's legislature, examples of the Banks "present" currency (unchanged denominations since 1912) and specimens of some of its early issues. Photographs of the directors and officers of the Bank complete the information included in the stone.

Architecture

The First National State Bank was designed by Cass Gilbert. He had just finished his design for the Woolworth Building when he was commissioned to do the design for the First National State Bank.

The First National State Bank's significance lies in the fact that it is one of the earliest skyscrapers in Newark, and in New Jersey.

The design by Gilbert can be viewed as typical of the prevailing classical style of turn of the century skyscrapers. The free standing columns at the front entrance made the building a little more pretentious than the prototypes of this building.
Economics

The First National State Bank holds the eighth (8th) oldest charter in the history of New Jersey Banking. Originally granted under the named State Bank of Newark in 1812. William S. Pennington, governor of New Jersey from 1813-1815 was the first president.

The bank set a precedent on April 7, 1813 with an 8 1/2% dividend and has never missed a payment in its history. The banks early sturdiness allowed a $8,000.00 loan to the State. At one time the United States treasury considered opening an account there.

The bank received its National charter on May 29, 1855 and opened on August 1st, as the National State Bank of Newark.

In 1949 the bank took a radical departure from the norm and offered mortgages and personal loans in its first direct appeal to the people.

In 1950 the bank merged with two other: The Orange First National Bank and the United States Trust Company. Eventually the bank merged with the Lincoln National Bank; Irvington Trust Company; First National of Millburn Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Caldwell; and the "Biggest Merger in New Jersey Bank History" the First National State Bank and Federal Trust. The combined assets from this joining made the bank the second largest of any kind in the State.

Community Planning

When the bank was organized in 1813 its first home was just that, the John Alling Residence at Broad and Market Streets. A little more than one (1) month later the bank directors began looking for a permanent place. The major reason the present site was chosen was that it was next to the Old First Presbyterian Church (which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places). This offered the atmosphere of home that any bank would cherish.

The bank officials were concerned from the beginning that the bank became a part of the community. The first structure stretched the full 45 feet frontage of the lot and its exterior had many residential elements. In fact, it resembled a two-story home of the
day. The founders planned the structure this was contemplating the possibility of changing times so that their building could serve as a private residence in the event the public didn't take to banking. Though somewhat more ornate, the bank's second structure built in 1868 had many of the same residential qualities for possible ownership changes. The present building, however, arrived in a different age and due to the expanding businesses in the downtown Newark area, maximum planning was needed to preserve the image of the bank's strength while conforming to the small size (49' x 117'). In addition in designing the structure Gilbert had to deal with "Old First" with its massive brownstone side and towering white steeple. The bank and the church have always maintained a positive relationship. An agreement was drawn up in which during each quarter of the fiscal year the bank made out a check for $175.00-$700 a year in which the church would agree not to construct anything to interfere with the light and air space on the south side of the bank. The 1872 pact also made the bank agree to keep its window shades drawn on Sundays in reverence to the Church's Sabbath.
"Bicentennial Celebration..." Edward N. Burke- (see page one of form-Existing Surveys) Newark by John T. Cunningham, Published by the New Jersey Historical Society.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

(Revisions: Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section (609) 292-2023.)

John Deluca, Joseph Plock, Thomas MacDonald (Historical & Architectural)

Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

10 Bank Street

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL __ STATE __ LOCAL X

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

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE December 27, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
First National State Bank
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 07104

1978, close up of first floor detail camera view SE

Reg At;
Newark Preservation and Landmarks Comm.
10 Bank St.
Newark NJ
First National State Bank
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 07104

1976
view of front facade
Camera view E

Neg at:
Newark Preservation and Landmarks Comm.
10 Bank Street
Newark, NJ
Dr. William Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am pleased to nominate the First National State Bank, Newark, Essex County to the National Register.

This nomination has received approval of the State Review Committee for Historic Sites.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact the staff of the Historic Sites Section, Box 1420, Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, telephone (609) 292-2023.

Faithfully,

David J. Bardin  
Commissioner