

NR Listed 1-4-89

DA 1253

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MULTILIST = 8DAS123  
For NPS use only

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

#### 1. Name

historic City National Bank Building

and or common Langford Building

#### 2. Location

street & number 121 S. E. 1st Street not for publication

city, town Miami vicinity of

state Florida 33131 code FL county Dade code FL 025

#### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

#### 4. Owner of Property

name Norman S. Braslow

street & number 121 S. E. 1st Street, Suite 802

city, town Miami state Florida 33131

#### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami state Florida 33130

#### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource  
title Historic Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee state Florida 32399-0250

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 City National Bank Building

### DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Good

The City National Bank Building is a rectangular 11-story structure executed in the Commercial style of architecture and embellished with features derived from the Neo-Classical architectural mode. Construction of the building began in 1925 according to plans supplied by the architectural firm of Hampton and Ehmann.1 The building's structural system is comprised of a reinforced concrete frame sitting atop a concrete foundation. The exterior walls of the building are clad in stucco, while applied decorative ornament appears to be made of cast stone. The roofline of the building is characterized by a raised parapet wall, embellished with massive brackets and a tall cornice, spanning the principal elevation of the building. The parapet wall serves to conceal a flat roof.

Fronting to the south, the building's facade follows the standard pattern for high-rise construction: a massive base, an unadorned shaft, and an articulated roofline. The base of the building is comprised of flat pilasters, which rise three stories in height and are capped with stylized capitals. These pilasters sit atop flat pedestals which rise to about half the height of the first story. The building's principal elevation spans five bays across the front, and the pilasters serve to flank the middle three bays. The pilasters delineate arched openings, accented with keystones, that lead into an open loggia before providing access to the building. An entablature rising the entire height of the third story encompasses the windows of the third story as well as a shallow projecting cornice found between the third and fourth stories.

The shaft of the building is characterized by a simple fenestration pattern. Slightly paired windows are found within the middle three bays and single window openings are found within the end bays. A variety of windows are found on the building's

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exterior walls, although it appears that the original windows were of the casement type with metal frames. A number of these windows are still found within certain openings on the building's elevations. Fixed glass and awning-type windows comprise the most prevalent window types found on the building today.

The roofline of the building is characterized by an entablature that rises the full height of the top story and is capped by a massive projecting cornice running parallel to the street. The fenestration pattern remains the same through the top story, but between the window openings are found stylized ornamental cartouches.

The main entrance to the building is found at the center of the loggia directly behind the central arched opening. The entrance opening is characterized by decorative bands of masonry containing stylized classical ornamentation. The original entrance doors have been replaced with the present aluminum frame and glass doors.

The interior of the City National Bank Building is not too dissimilar to other tall commercial buildings of the 1920s. A small elevator lobby is found at each floor, and from it lead the simple corridors to office spaces. The lobby of the building has been somewhat modified throughout the years. Within its walls, the building contains a total of 64,000 square feet of rentable office space.

## 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1938	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1925 **Builder/Architect** Hampton & Ehmann; George Langford Const. Co.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Date: 1925

Architects: Hampton and Ehmann

Builder: George Langford Construction Company

The City National Bank Building is significant because its exterior represents an excellent example of the Commercial style of architecture in downtown Miami. The appearance of the building's exterior also contains elements of the Neo-Classical mode and characterizes a popular architectural trend of the 1920s in South Florida. The City National Bank Building is architecturally noteworthy as a unique record of early twentieth century commercial design in Miami as evidenced through the building's facade composition, the open loggia, and the classically-inspired decorative ornamentation. The building is historically significant for its associations with the commercial development of Miami at the height of the Boom.

The appearance of the City National Bank Building represents an effort by its designers to provide a distinctive commercial image. The facade of the building serves as a visual reminder of Miami's Boom years, when architects in the recently established metropolis were seeking a design identity through the utilization of easily recognizable architectural styles.

The visual composition of the City National Bank Building is also significant because it exemplifies the work of Hampton and Ehmann in Miami. The building's scale and articulation of the facade make it one of the most imposing examples of the firm's designs in Miami. Martin Luther Hampton and E. A. Ehmann executed a number of designs in downtown Miami throughout the 1920s and early 1930s. Most of the firm's work was executed in a "Spanish style" such as the Mediterranean Revival or the Masonry Vernacular.<sup>2</sup> The architecture of the City National Bank Building represents the diversity of styles and building types that the architectural firm was capable of handling.

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The original owner of the building was the Miami Bank and Trust Company which seems to have collapsed with the Bust of 1926. As the building was nearing completion, it was taken over by the J. C. Penney City National Bank and Trust Company and named the "City National Bank Building."<sup>3</sup> In 1930, after the failure of the J. C. Penney City National Bank and Trust Company, the building was acquired by the Florida National Bank and was known by that name until that institution moved into the Alfred I. duPont Building. The building's name was then changed to the Langford Building after the man who built it.<sup>4</sup>

The construction of the building marks one of the earliest instances when the financing of a major building was undertaken by out-of-state capital.<sup>5</sup> In this case, the Mississippi Valley Trust Company of St. Louis made a loan of \$600,000 on the property in 1925.<sup>6</sup>

### NOTES

1. City of Miami, Building and Zoning Department, Building Permit applied for 22 May 1925.
2. Metropolitan Dade County, Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, From Wilderness to Metropolis: The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1940) (Miami, Florida: Metropolitan Dade County, 1982), "Selected List of Architects and Their Work."
3. City of Miami Public Library, Florida Room Clippings File, Miami Herald, no date.
4. See note 3 above.
5. See note 3 above.
6. See note 3 above.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Please see Bibliogrphay for Cover Nomination

**10. Geographical Data**

54S / 41E / 37

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 17 | 581060 | 2850840  
 Zone Easting Northing

C    |    |     
 E    |    |     
 G    |    |   

B    |    |     
 Zone Easting Northing

D    |    |     
 F    |    |     
 H    |    |   

Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, The easterly 40 feet of Lot 13 and the westerly 20 feet of Lot 14 of Block 121 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41)-follows legal and historic boundary

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sarah Eaton , Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October, 1988

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida 32399-0250

**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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 17, 1988

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register date

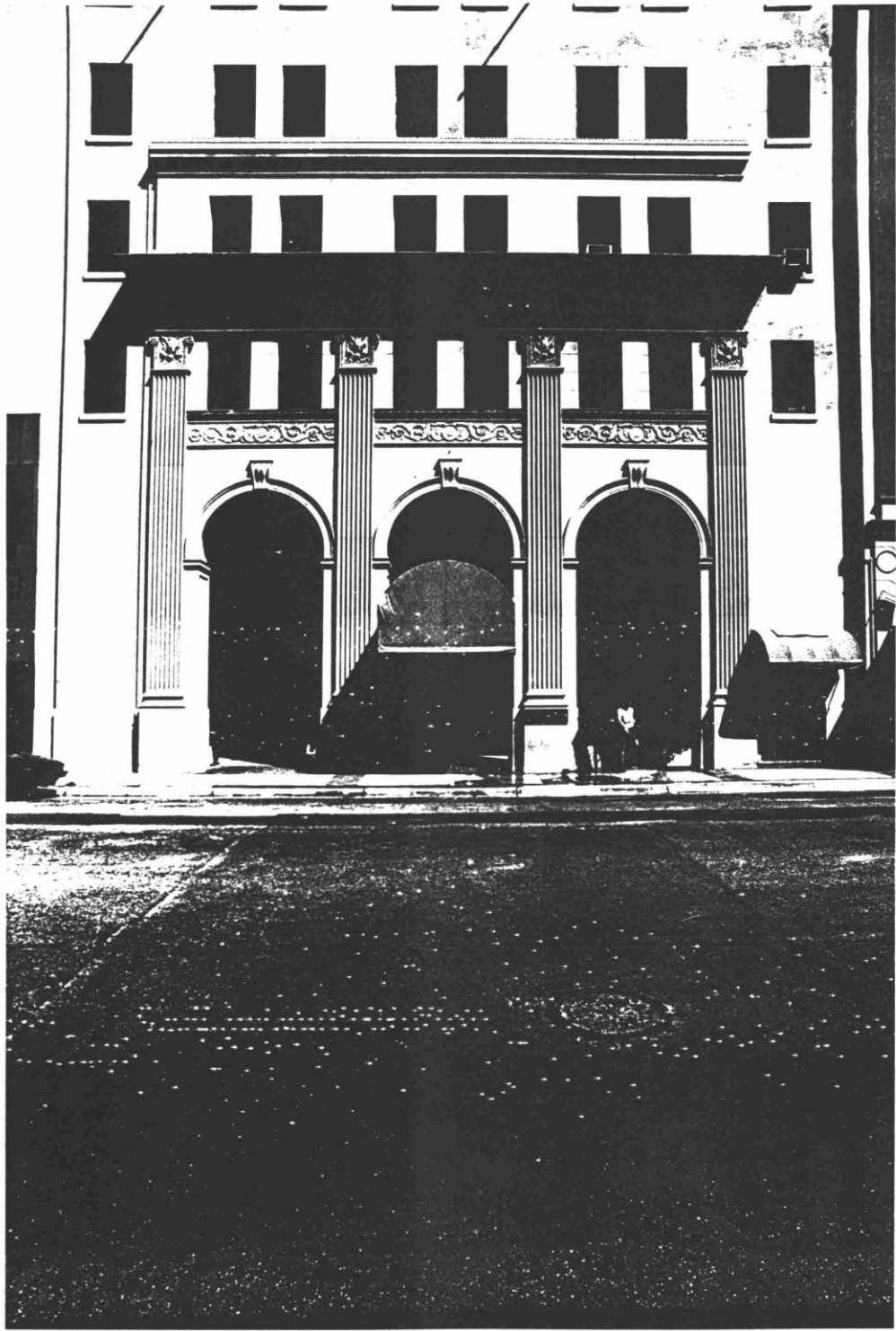
Attest: Chief of Registration date

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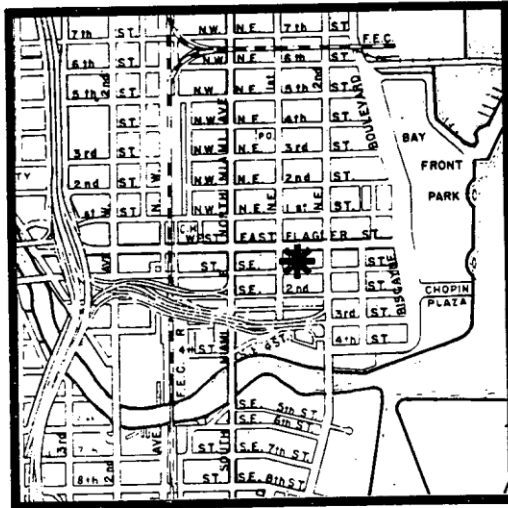


10

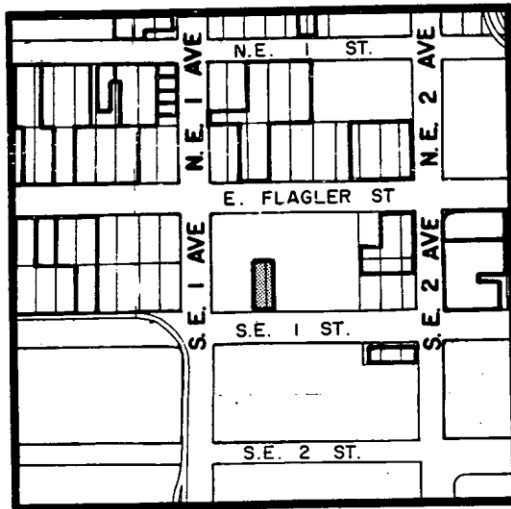


# CITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

121 S.E. 1 STREET



location



site plan

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