

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 Building

AND/OR COMMON The Central Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 103 S.W. Adams

CITY, TOWN Peoria VICINITY OF 18th  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Illinois 61602 CODE 12 COUNTY Peoria CODE 143

**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 RESIDEN
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Alfred E. McClure/David Rosenthal

STREET & NUMBER 1709 Teal Road

CITY, TOWN Lafayette VICINITY OF STATE Indiana 47905

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Peoria County Courthouse, Room 11, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER 324 Main

CITY, TOWN Peoria STATE Illinois 61602

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, commonly known as THE CENTRAL BUILDING, is a ten story steel and concrete structure of pressed yellow brick, with three major facade divisions.

Standing prominently at a major Peoria intersection (Plate A), the Main and Adams Street facades are divided into repetitive expanses of glass by pilasters which are continuous to the terra cotta cornice line above the second floor windows. These pilasters have a granite base half the height of the adjacent glass, a shaft of yellow brick and a simple capital of tablet-flowers (patera), an acanthus decorated cyma-reversa moulding and a delicately enriched fillet. Directly above each pilaster in the frieze is a kylix vase relief of Greek origin (see Photo #2).

Spandrels above the expansive street level glass are emphasized by rectangular panels of light green enameled tile bordered by a simple frame of raised brick to match the surrounding surface brick. A pair of double hung windows completes the vertical distance to the cornice. The combined height of these two floors gives prominence to the original Bank, but the scale is more human than monumental.

The building entrance was included within the central bay of the Adams Street facade (see Photo #3).

The Roman Pantheon and Greek Erechtheion seems to have inspired the design which was simple and elegant (see Photo #4). In 1948, the terra cotta entrance cornice fell to the pavement having worked loose by water and repeated changes in temperature. J. Fletcher Lankton and John N. Ziegele were commissioned to remodel the Bank, building lobby, and replace the classical portal. The monolithic marble and delicately framed glass altered the Adams Street facade considerably in an attempt to project a "modern" image (see Photo #5).

The Renaissance character of The Central Building tamed the towering expression of its ten floors (see Photo #1). The terra cotta cornice line above the second floor windows is appropriately heavy composed of a double plain fillet, ovolo (egg and dart) corona (patera and fluting), fillet ovolo and cavetto, the latter of which forms the sill for the third floor windows (see Photo #2).

At the third floor, the window size for the remainder of the building facade is established as is the soldier course which connects lintel to lintel and sill to sill between all upper floor windows. Early sketches show these details to be quite prominent while they nearly disappear within the actual surface texture.

Fifteen inches above the head of the third floor windows is a simple clear, terra cotta cornice composed of a brick soldier course, Greek ovolo, plain frieze, and a cavetto. The walls above this line have a flat appearance not unlike a punched computer card, as the only projections are the window sills (see Photo #2).

continued

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

A History of Architecture, on the comparative method (Ninth Edition)  
Sir Banister Fletcher, 1931, London

The Architecture of Choice/Ecclecticism in America 1880 - 1930, Walter C. Kidney,  
1974, New York City

American Architecture & Urbanism, Vincent Scully, 1969, Frederick A. Praeger,  
Publisher, New York City

The Architect, Chapters in the History of the Profession, Edited by Spiro Kostof,  
Oxford University Press, New York City



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Chicago School of Architecture, Carl W. Condit, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1964

Documents found in the Building Management Office on 6/2/78 including: financial data; original tracings & blueprints; photographs; rental brochures (1912 and 1931)

continued

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____	B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of Lot Four (4), Block Ten (10), All original town of Peoria, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the most Easterly corner of Lot Five (5), of said Block Ten (10); thence N 39°-36' W along the Northeasterly line of said Lots Five (5) and Four (4), a distance of 88.04 feet to the point of beginning of the tract to be described; thence continuing N 39°-36' W along the Northeasterly line of said Lot Four (4) a distance of 21.65 feet; thence S 49°-25'-47" W along the Northwesterly line of

continued

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard M. Montena, Project Architect

July 5, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Kenyon and Associates, Architects

DATE

309 674-7121

STREET & NUMBER

735 N. Knoxville Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Peoria,

STATE

Illinois

# 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

DATE

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