

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0412185712

Address: 14 Light Street

Current Name: Legg Mason/First National Bank

Block: 660 Lot: 1/3

Lot size: 78 x 113

Height: 20 stories

Materials: Limestone

Condition: Excellent

Owner: 7 E. Redwood Lim. Part.

Use: Bank/offices

Accessible: Yes

Designation: None

Liber/Folio: RHB 3674-609



Historic Name: Citizens National Bank

Date: 1924

Architect/Builder: Graham, Anderson, Probst &amp; White/George A. Fuller Co.

Style (if appropriate):

## Description:

The Legg Mason Building is a high-rise, limestone office building, twenty stories high at the corner of Redwood and Light Streets. It is five bays wide along Light Street where the main entrance to the bank is located and six bays wide on Redwood Street where the entrance to the upper floors is located. The Light Street base features three large archways with large console keystones. The entrance which includes a bronze revolving door, grill and clock is set into a decorative surround in the central arch. Other elements of the base include wave molding, decorated bars at the windows and ornamental eagles at the arched windows. The cornice of the base features egg and dart molding, dentils and fascia with "LEGG MASON" sign. The second floor is defined by blank panels between windows and a band course at the ceiling level. The window arrangement on the third through sixteenth floor consists of grouped windows at the central three bays and single windows at the corners. A band course is located below the seventeenth floor. The next three floors feature, grouped windows between long pilasters, and a large decorative cornice. The twentieth floor caps the building with an ornamental cresting. The Redwood Street elevation is similar to the front Light Street facade. All of the upper floor windows are grouped in two's and an entrance is set into the westernmost arch. The interior of the building features a highly ornamental main banking space consisting of marble fluted columns with Corinthian capitals, bronze chandeliers, coffered ceiling, a decorative wall frieze, bronze grills and railings, and a marble stairway to the basement vault. A mezzanine surrounds the banking space and an elevator lobby with brass elevator doors is a short flight of stairs from the banking room.

## Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The Legg Mason Building is a sleek, dignified high-rise office building in the Financial District, but it is overwhelmed by the even taller and more ornate Maryland National Bank Building across the street. The main banking room of the building is one of the finest in the Financial District. It was designed by Graham, Probst, White and Anderson of Chicago, the firm which succeeded D. H. Burnham. This firm designed the Wrigley Building and Marshall Fields Department Store in Chicago. Originally it was built for the Citizens National Bank in 1924. It was the tallest building in the City at the time. In 1928 this bank merged with some other banks to form the First National Bank. In 1978 the building was sold to Legg Mason. The building is well maintained and in excellent condition, however the bronze entrance grills and surround on Light Street have been painted over.

## Sources:

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, March 1985.

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Enoch Pratt Free Libr  
Maryland Vertu

File

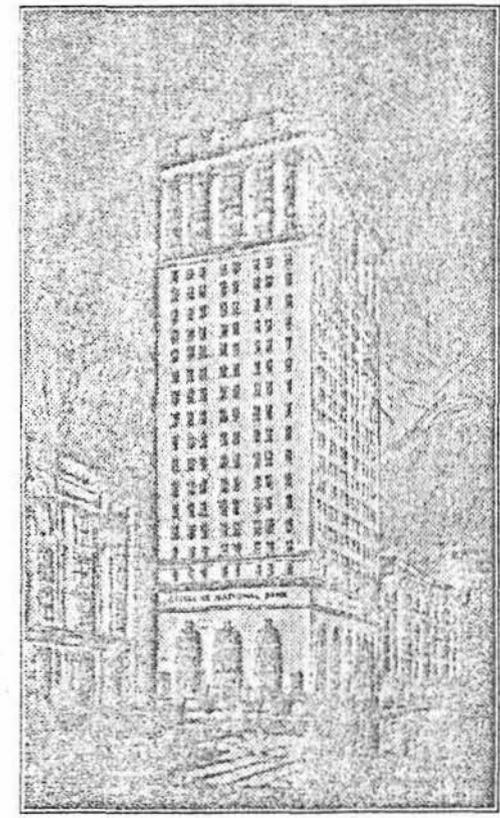
Capital . . . . . \$2,000,000.00  
Surplus and Profits . . . . . 6,350,000.00

OFFICERS

ALBERT D. GRAHAM . . . . . President  
EDWARD L. ROBINSON . . . . . Vice-President  
JAMES D. HARRISON . . . . . Vice-President  
CLINTON G. MORGAN . . . . . Vice-President  
JOSEPH OBERLE . . . . . Cashier  
FRANK M. DUSHANE . . . . . Assistant Cashier  
CHARLES K. HANN . . . . . Assistant Cashier  
HARRY E. FORD . . . . . Assistant Cashier

DIRECTORS

WILLIAM H. O'CONNELL  
ALBERT D. GRAHAM . . . . . President  
WALTER HOPKINS . . . . . President, Brigham-Hopkins Co.  
KEY COMPTON . . . . . President, Chesapeake Steamship Co.  
JOHN S. GIBBS, JR. . . . . President, Gibbs Preserving Co.  
A. LESLIE LEWIS . . . . . President, A. Lewis & Son, Inc.  
EDWARD L. ROBINSON . . . . . Vice-President  
MORTON SAMUELS . . . . . M. Samuels & Co.  
JAMES A. GARY, JR. . . . . James S. Gary & Son.  
JAMES M. EASTER . . . . . President, Daniel Miller Co.  
GUSTAVUS OBER, JR. . . . . President, G. Ober & Sons Co.



*The New Home of  
an Old Institution*

8-1218

**T**HE CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK of BALTIMORE is built upon the site of Cokesbury College, the first Methodist College in the world, founded in 1785, at Abingdon, Maryland, and reopened here in 1795, after its destruction at that place by fire.

Diagonally across the street, on the site now occupied by the Southern Hotel, stood the famous Fountain Inn, where General George Washington lodged on his way to Philadelphia as a delegate from Virginia to the Second Continental Congress; again, on his way to the Reduction of Yorktown and later when proceeding as President Elect to his Inauguration at New York.

The Bank Building is twenty stories high. It is the highest and most modernly equipped skyscraper in Baltimore, towering 287 feet above the street level. The total floor area is 180,000 square feet.

Bedford, Indiana Limestone has been used in the construction of the Light Street facade and the Redwood Street Side, while Bedford, Indiana Limestone and Kittanning Brick is used on Wine Alley.

Standing at the main entrance of the Bank, one sees eight massive Rose Tavernelle Marble Fluted Columns with Corinthian Caps, forty feet in height and four feet in diameter, supporting an exquisitely decorated ceiling, divided into innumerable domes and merging into a wall frieze of rare beauty.

Eighteen hundred ivory tinted lamps, set like jewels in nine beautifully designed bronze chandeliers, shed a lustre of soft light effecting a harmonious blending of shades and colors.

The bank screen extending along either side of the Banking Room is built of marble imported from Tavernelle, Italy. All the metal work is solid bronze.

The President's Office depicts a treatment of American Walnut and Belgian Blue Marble—the Officers' Quarters adjoining are separated from the public space by a balustrade of Rose Tavernelle Marble.

The draperies at the fifteen arched windows and those forming a background for the bronze grill work on the Mezzanine Floor lend a note of true artistry.

The Directors' suite consisting of a reception room, chairman's room, committee room and directors' room is on the sixteenth floor, overlooking the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay. It is finished in Belgian Blue Marble and American Walnut.

Immediately upon entering the Bank, one approaches an exceptionally impressive stairway of Tavernelle Marble and Bronze leading to the Safe Deposit Lobby below.

Between the Safe Deposit Lobby and the vault extends a magnificent bronze grill screen.

This Department covers four thousand square feet. It contains twenty-six coupon booths of varying sizes, two large committee rooms, and a special vault for silverware and trunks.

The Safe Deposit vault, with capacity for 12,000 boxes, is equipped with a massive circular door of chrome steel, eight feet in diameter and three feet thick. It weighs sixty-two and one half tons.

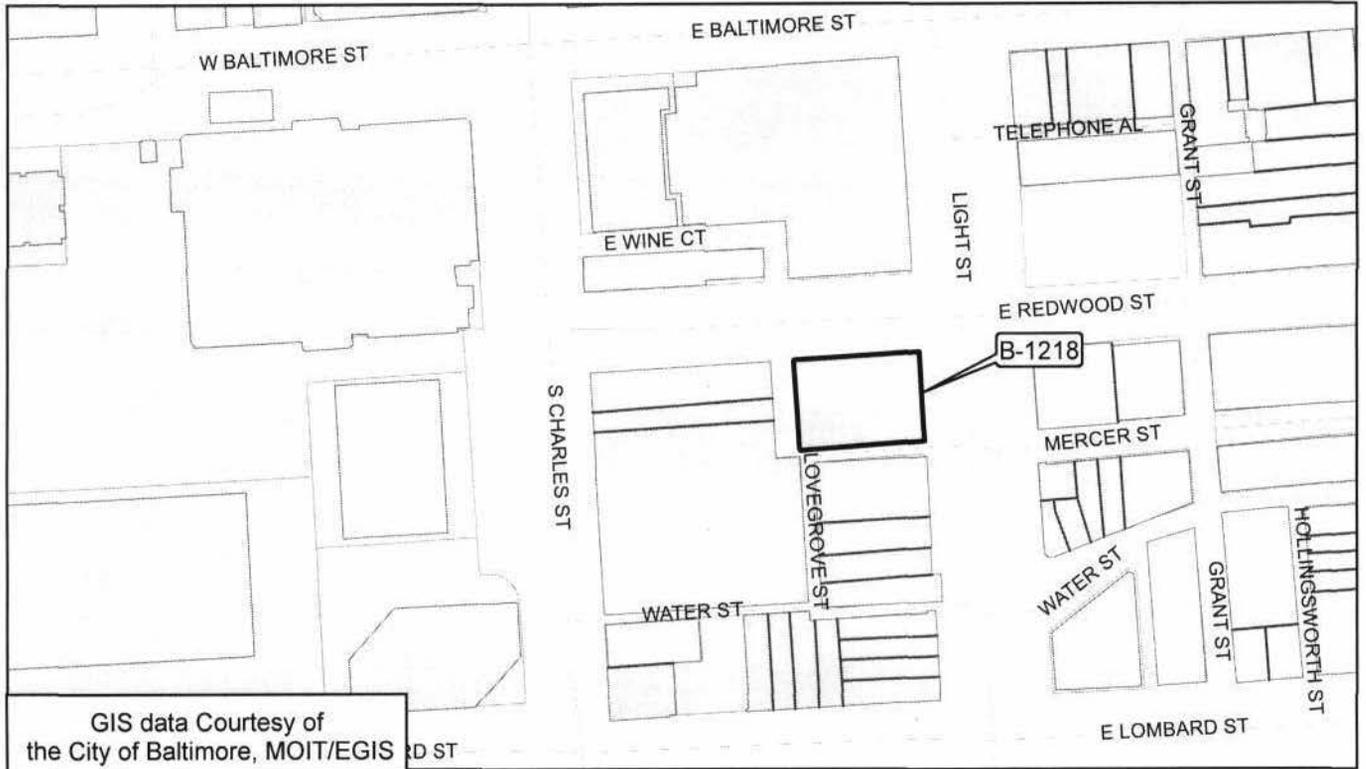
The vault walls have a uniform thickness of three feet and are composed of four rows of open hearth steel beams embedded in especially hardened concrete, interlaced with wires leading to Police Headquarters.

The entire Safe Deposit Department is equipped with the best of every approved modern safety device and convenience known to the art and is considered to be as fine as exists in America to-day.

Graham, Anderson, Probst and White of Chicago, were the Architects and the George A. Fuller Company were the builders.



B-1218  
Citizens National Bank (Legg Mason Building, First National Bank)  
14 Light Street  
Block 0660, Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





14 Light Street

B-1218

Citizens National Bank  
14 Light Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Northeast corner view



B-1218

Citizens National Bank  
14 Light Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southeast corner view