

S-311
Bank of Crisfield
Crisfield
private

1937

The uptown branch of the Bank of Crisfield (later renamed the Eastern Shore National Bank) formerly occupied this simplified Art Deco style building erected in 1937 in the center business district that had been destroyed by fire nine years earlier. The Art Deco design of the bank front is very plain with only basic references to an often elaborate linear style. The vertical emphasis expressed in the tall brick panels and the recessed entrance bay along with the decorative door handles are the clear architectural references that pinpoint the design inspiration.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bank of Crisfield-Uptown Branch

and/or common Eastern Shore National Bank

2. Location

street & number N. side of West Main St. ___ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Eastern Shore National Bank

street & number West Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code Md. 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-311

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Old Bank of Crisfield in its uptown location stands on the north side of West Main Street within the central business district. The two-story cream-brick building faces south.

The dated 1937 two-story stretcher bond brick bank was designed with a simplified Art Deco design. A center double-door entrance, with Art Deco style handle plates along with a large tri-partite window above it, is recessed from the front wall surface. Flanking the entrance are narrow brick wall surfaces which rise above the window level. Small, rectangular single pane windows pierce the side wall at the first floor level. Fixed to the wall below the east window is a bronze plaque embossed with "Eastern Shore National Bank." The center bay and upper portion of the bank front are recessed slightly from the surface of the side panels, and the top of the bank is stepped back two levels. Set into the brick wall is the name, "BANK OF CRISFIELD, 1893-1937, UP-TOWN BRANCH." The upper ledges of the stepped front as well as the window sills are of limestone.

The bank is fully covered on the east side by the Saltz Furniture Store, but an alley way separates neighboring Scher's Clothing Store from the bank. On the west wall a distinct change is visible from the cream-colored brick of the front and the red brick walls of the main body of the building.

This branch has been closed so an interior description was not possible on the initial visit.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-311

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

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The uptown branch of the Bank of Crisfield (later renamed the Eastern Shore National Bank) occupied a simplified Art Deco style building erected in 1937 in the center business district destroyed by fire in 1928. The Art Deco design of the bank front is very plain with only basic stylistic references to often elaborate style. The vertical emphasis in the tall recessed entrance bay and the flanking side panels as well as the linear decoration of the door handles are the clear architectural features that pinpoint the design inspiration. The interior was undoubtedly finished with more elaborate Art Deco style elements.

BANK OF CRISFIELD

1897-1927

UP-TOWN BRANCH



Bank Of Crisfield, Uptown
Crisfield, Somerset County
South Elevation
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

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