



THE NEW SWEDESBORO BANK

The new budding of the Swedesboro National Bank, which was opened for business on Saturday January 22, 1916, is one of the finest and handsomest bank buildings in the State of New Jersey. Occupying the most important corner in the town, it is an imposing new landmark and a person passing through the town cannot fail to carry with him the impression that the locality is a prosperous one.

The building, which was authorized by the directors with the idea in mind that "nothing is too good for Swedesboro," and which was designed by Mr. Charles R. Peddle, and erected under his direction, is severely Colonial in design and built of quaint, red brick and white marble. The columns on each side of the front entrance are twenty feet in height, and are probably the largest one-piece columns in the southern part of the State. Some pieces of the marble used in the construction of the building weighed more than four tons. Entering the building, one passes through a vestibule built entirely of bronze and plate glass, and enters the lobby, or public space. The floor of the lobby is made of marble blocks. The lower part of the banking screens is of Sienna marble, and the upper part of bronze and plate glass.

On the right of the entrance is the cashiers room adjoining which are three cages which are for the note clerks and the receiving and paying tellers. The bookkeepers' room is in the rear, so that the noises made by the adding and bookkeeping machines and the other mechanical devices, are not heard in the banking room. The first room on the left is used for meetings of the Swedesboro Loan and Building Association and for other similar purposes. The next room is the settlement room adjoining which is a room designed exclusively for the use of women customers of the bank. The president's room occupies the rear of the building on Railroad Avenue. The counters, lockers, furniture and the doors and partitions forming numerous rooms are finished in mahogany, to match the genuine mahogany woodwork which is used throughout the entire building. The vault was made by the York Safe and Lock Company, and represents the

latest thought in vault construction. The door is ten inches thick, and with the vestibule weighs nine tons. The interior of the vault is lined with one and one-half inch steel plates of different degrees of resisting power, capable of protecting the contents from all known attacks, including the supposed modern method of oxy-acetylene burning. The vault is divided into two compartments, separated by a heavy steel grill. The rear compartment is for the whole use of the bank and contains six money lockers of the highest resisting power. The front compartment contains the safe deposit boxes for the use of the customers.

The floor of the entire bank building space is covered with heavy battleship linoleum. The architectural feature of the interior is the double stairway leading to the directors' room, which forms the mezzanine floor in the rear of the building. This stairway is made entirely of marble and the effect is rich and imposing. Heavy mahogany doors at the top of the stairway open into the directors' room which is paneled in mahogany to a height of five feet around the entire room. The massive fireplace is of mahogany and marble and the floor is quartered oak. There is a small room on each side of the directors' room. In one of which is a dumb waiter for convenience in delivering to the directors such books and papers as may be needed at various times. The lighting system is very elaborate. There are two complete circuits, so that if one should give out at any time the lighting of the bank will not be interfered with. There is also a system of wiring, by means of which the entire building may be illuminated in case of attack by turning a single switch. The chandeliers and other lighting fixtures were especially designed by the Lloyd-Garrett Company, of Philadelphia.

In the rear of the building a stairway leads to the basement, and to the right, at the foot of the stairway is a vault for the storage of trunks, silverware and other valuables. The basement also contains a spacious lavatory, locker room, janitor's room, the heating and ventilating system, coal bins and a large fireproof room for safe deposit storage.

The heating and ventilating system is especially noteworthy. The system used is the Spear warm air system. Fresh, cool air is admitted through a large shaft and passes around the firebox, where it becomes warm to the proper temperature. It is forced through various registers in the building by means of an electric fan. The pressure thus exerted by the incoming air forces out the impure air, with the result that the air in the building never becomes foul as is frequently the case where steam or hot water systems are used. In the summer the same fan and ducts will be used to force into the building the comparatively cool air from the outside, eliminating the necessity of opening the windows.

The floor of the bank is made entirely of reinforced concrete, supported by heavy columns, and the construction of the bank is as near fireproof as can be made.

The general contractor for the entire building was Henry L. Brown, of Philadelphia, and to his foreman, Frank Scott, the directors of the bank feel grateful for his faithful supervision.

The bank stands on the site formerly occupied by the residence of Isaac Vanneman, who was one of the incorporators of the bank, and was its President from 1883 up to two years ago.

Mr. Vanneman, by reason of his interest in the bank and his long association with it, sold his dwelling to the bank at a sacrifice, in order that the bank might be located on the best corner in the town. The bank stands on old King's Highway from Burlington to Salem, which runs through the town and forms main street. Mr. Vanneman originally acquired the property in 1886.

The present officers of the bank are as follows: President, J. Clark Helms; Vice President, L.B. Moffet; Cashier, George M. Ashton; Assistant Cashier, Harry Mayhew