

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Integrity Title Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company

and/or common 400 Green Street

2. Location

street & number 542 - 4 North Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity of N/A congressional district N/A

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Philadelphia code 101

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Dr. Leonard Popowich

street & number 7032 Woodbine Ave.

city, town Philadelphia 19151 N/A vicinity of state PA

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Philadelphia City Hall Department of Records

street & number Broad and Market streets  
Philadelphia

city, town Philadelphia state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Philadelphia Historical Commission City Certified  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 18 January 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Philadelphia Historical Commission  
Philadelphia

city, town Philadelphia state PA

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Integrity Title Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company office is an imposing German Renaissance bank in the midst of the business district of the historic German community in Philadelphia. Near it in the 19th century were numerous breweries, and other businesses associated with that ethnic group which had made the regions north of Arch Street their home since the end of the 18th century. The building follows the classic model established by Furness, but now largely demolished, of a corner bank, with the principal entrance on the angle where it commands views from all directions and thus serves as effective advertising for the bank.

The composition develops as a symmetrical spacing of windows on either side of the corner door, but with three windows on the Fourth Street facade and four plus a service entrance on Green Street. In good renaissance fashion, the building is laid up in a series of horizontal layers, with a limestone rusticated base surmounted by iron flecked orange-tan pompeian brick rising walls which are punctuated by broad iron grilled windows. They are spanned by flat arches of stone with voussoirs alternately large and projecting or small and flush with the wall, and are accented in the center by a consoled keystone with a fruity garland. They inflect toward the main entrance which is centered on a corner tower, which originally was capped by a small dome. The door is a form from the German baroque, a three dimensional arched opening that curves both in and down, and is framed by stepped voussoirs. On either side is an unusual blank panel of the same masonry with a quoined edge that marks the intersection of the round volume of the tower with the flat walls of the sides. With the great garlanded cartouche above the entrance, the flanking side panels and the dome above, the principal source is evidently the German architecture of the Viennese school of the late 19th century, a source that emphasized the ethnic origins of the founders of the institution. A belt course sets off the second story, continues around the tower where it is interrupted by the seriphed script "Integrity" centered above the entrance. The second floor repeats the articulation of the first with paired double hung windows above those on the lower level. They are capped by terra cotta lites that form a part of the dentiled cornice that crowns the facade.

The 1912 addition that extended the facade two bays to the south, exactly followed the original detail and by increasing the symmetry added to the monumentality of the bank. With the exception of the small dome, all of the original trim, the paneled wood doors, and the iron grills and wood sash all survive, in excellent condition.

The interior was typical of banks of the era, a broad open space with classical detail accenting the steel framing. Columns are a renaissance mode of the Tuscan order which in turn support foliated brackets that make the transition to the directly expressed beams. Though the original banking furniture was removed and a low office subdivision of the banking space was inserted at the front of the building, all of the original trim exists to readily restore this handsome Germanic building. The second floor was plain, with the exception of the director's office which contains a handsome Mercer Tile fireplace, which has been painted, but can be readily cleaned and refurbished.

# 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
				social history		

**Specific dates** 1902;1912; 1920      **Builder/Architect** Paul and Seymour Davis, 1902  
 Koelle-Speth Co. Geo. Kessler Co. 1912

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

The Integrity Title Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company building is a handsome and nearly complete turn of the century period piece, by a major German community architect, in a Germanic style that represents the German ethnic heritage of the founders of the bank and which presumably attracted the patronage of the German community which had settled in and around Fourth and Green streets in the mid 19th century. It is thus a major part of the record of the German community that gave the region its tone and established and supported its principal institutions. They include the German Society at 7th and Spring Garden, the German Catholic Church of St. Peter at 5th and Girard where St. John Newman is interred, and various societies, including the Canstatter Volk Fest Verein, named after a German city, which ultimately provided the site for the expansion of the bank in 1912. It was here that young German immigrants settled when they came to Philadelphia, and thus was the part of the city that most relied on German forms and style, script and language.

The Integrity building itself has particular interest in this region for pursuing the florid and plastically shaped lines of the German renaissance and baroque in a manner which reflects German architecture at the turn of the century by Heinrich Haase and Otto Wagner. Their work paralleled the Belgian Art Nouveau, with similar achievements. Here the overscaled ornament, curvilinear and plastic form, particularly in the tower, with its three dimensionally curved arched opening in the manner of German baroque churches, and the complementary roundness of the crowing dome imitates the contemporary work of Wagner in Vienna. This German design was grafted on to the archtypical Philadelphia corner bank building type pioneered a generation earlier by Furness, and now transformed into a modern building that reflected the ethnic background of its community. That such a scheme would be developed by its architects William F. Koelle and John B. Speth could have been anticipated, for both were members of this community, and designed numerous buildings in the immediate vicinity including the Ortlieb brewery at 835 North 3rd Street. It should be noted that the Germanic richness of detail was characteristic of brewery architecture in the 19th century and the carryover in a bank founded by a prominent brewer, Frederick Augustus Poth (1840 - 1905) was reasonable. Of their numerous projects, this seems to be the best preserved and warrents interest as a survival of the vital German community at the end of the 19th century.

The idea of a German bank in a German styled building no doubt appealed to its founders, Charles Ehrenfort, Frederick Poth, and Herman Wischman. Of these, Ehrenfort and Poth were most directly involved and shaped the institution to their interests. Ehrenfort was a real estate dealer whose office occupied the building at 544 North Fourth Street before the bank took over the building. He would later use the bank to finance sales and insure property titles for the growing numbers of German middleclass homeowners. Poth was a German immigrant brewer whose original brewery stood a block to the east at Third and Green, and whose home was at 704 North 5th Street. He was a major builder of specula-

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tive rows, first here in the old German community, then across the Schuylkill River near his new home in Powelton, where he used German brewery architects such as Otto Wolf. He too used the bank to provide mortgage funding and capital in the manner of the savings and loans of Philadelphia. Thus, the Integrity was one of the principal institutions that encouraged the growth of the Northern Liberties in the last quarter of the 19th century; and it made it possible for many German Americans to share in the American dream in the City of Homes.

The Integrity Trust went on to become one of the principal banks of 20th century Philadelphia, with important offices scattered throughout the city. It marked the full involvement of the German Community with the financial growth of the city by the beginning of the 20th century.

Though the bank's importance is more one of the forming agents of a community with significant officers and as a keystone of the old German business district, its architects are of note in their own right. Paul and Seymour Davis were graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, and established an important architectural practice that numbered among its clients the Southwark, Ninth and Broad Street banks as well as the Presbyterian Ministers Fund. It was Paul Davis who brought Paul Phillipe Cret to the University as its chief critic; presumably the classical references of the facade acknowledge the Davis brothers interest in European design, while their continuing commissions in the North of Market Street zone indicate their German ethnic backgrounds.

Despite the removal of the dome over the corner entrance, the architectural quality and prominence of the building has not been impaired.

## 9. Bibliography

William Matos, Official Historical Souvenir of Philadelphia, its Founding and Development, Philadelphia, 1908 p.252

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Philadelphia Deeds, property number 4 N 7-27

Philadelphia Building Permits 1912-5579; 1912-7404; 1920 -2673; 1902 - 1272

PRER&BG 27:29(17 July 1912); Gopsills City Directory, 1887

Geo. W. Englehardt, The Book of the Bourse, Philadelphia 1899, p. 182.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/8th acre

Quadrangle name Philadelphia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8	4	8	7	3	0	0	4	4	2	3	6	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of 4th and Green streets extending south 54'9", then west on a line 98'4" at right angles to 4th Street, then north 57'7" to a point on Green Street 90'1/2" from starting point, then 90'1/2" east to beginning.

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

state Pennsylvania N/A code N/A county Philadelphia N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George E. Thomas, Ph.D.

organization Clio Group, Inc.

date 11 March 1982

street & number 3961 Baltimore Ave.

telephone 215-386-6276

city or town Philadelphia,

state PA

## 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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

