

July 29, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Ross
City of Detroit—Historic District Commission
2 Woodward Ave., Suite 800
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: First National Bank Building – Historic District Commission Application

Dear Ms. Ross,

Kraemer Design Group, LLC (KDG) is writing to the Historic District Commission on behalf of 660 Woodward Associates (Owner) regarding the building located at 660 Woodward Avenue (First National Bank Building). The First National Bank Building was built in 1920-1922 and was designed by Albert Kahn. It is a contributing resource in the Detroit Financial District Historic District. The building is a steel-framed twenty-five story building faced in granite, limestone, and brick. The building's plan is shaped to fit in a contorted site that zigzags through the middle of its block. The primary facades front on Woodward Avenue and Cadillac Square and feature ground-level storefronts that are finished in grey granite. Massive, fluted limestone Corinthian columns in antis rise from the second story on the primary facades, reinforcing the rhythm established by the ground-level granite pilasters.

Scope of Work

This application will present the following exterior work planned for the building: revolving door replacement on the north facade and replacing a door on the southern façade. The following is a detailed description of each work item:

Revolving Doors on North Facade

Currently there are two aluminum and glass revolving doors in fair condition at the main entrance on the on the eastern end of north façade. These doors are not historic. To provide added security and a compliant, ADA Accessible entrance, these two revolving doors will be removed and replaced with one security revolving door and one inward swinging pedestrian door. The pedestrian door will be a fully glazed, stile and rail door finished with clear anodized aluminum frames. Both the revolving door and the pedestrian door will be glazed and no damage to the surrounding historic granite cladding will occur. This area will also receive a new recessed walk off mat and new granite on the floor which will be tapered to meet the sidewalk and to provide drainage. There is currently a large transom above the two revolving doors. The transom glass will be removed, and a new tempered glass will be installed within the existing frame above the new revolving door and the pedestrian door.

South Façade Doors

At the western end of the south façade in the alley there is a single, hollow metal steel utility door. This single door will be removed but the frame will remain. A new hollow metal door with a small fire rated safety glass window will be installed and it will be painted to match the existing doors in this area.

The items listed above provide a synopsis of the proposed scope of work for the rehabilitation of the building. Further detail is provided in the attached drawings and photos. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Kraemer Design Group, LLC



Cassandra Talley
Architectural Historian

