

ENVIRONMENTAL CASE STUDIES

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in Detroit, MI

THE PROPERTY

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch operated on this site from 1927 until 2005. The initial Federal Reserve branch building was constructed in 1927 at the corner of Shelby and West Fort Street. Just twenty-five years later, the Federal Reserve needed more space, and began planning an addition they called the Annex. The Federal Reserve Building Annex is significant for being the first important building to rise in

downtown Detroit in the post World War II era. It was designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki in 1951 when he was with the firm Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, just prior to establishing his own practice. The Federal Reserve Annex was the first example of modern era architecture in downtown Detroit and with its thin curtain wall of alternating bands of glass and marble veneer, was right at the leading edge of the Modern Movement in America.



THE PROJECT

The specific goal of this project was to preserve the historic nature of the project by inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

AKT PEERLESS' ROLE

AKT Peerless Environmental Services prepared and submitted a "Preliminary Application" for the National Register of Historic Places to the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. After receiving approval of the Preliminary Application, AKT Peerless researched, photographed and wrote the full National Register of Historic Places application and submitted it to the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. The nomination was selected as a presentation at the joint international scientific committee symposium held in Chicago by US/ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) in June, 2007. The nomination was presented to the City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board by AKT Peerless staff as required by the Certified Local Government designation of the City of Detroit. The nomination was presented at the State Historic Preservation Review Board meeting in Lansing by AKT Peerless staff in September, 2007.

THE RESULT

The Federal Reserve Building, which has been vacant since 2005, will now be eligible for Federal Historic Tax Credits. The building will also be considered eligible for local (City of Detroit) historic designation, and then eligible for an additional five-percent state historic tax credit.

