

The Bank of Coney Island



Restored Bank of Coney Island Building
3001 - 3017 West 12th Street

Threatened with demolition by Thor Equities

The Bank of Coney Island building was built ca. 1923 on West 12th Street and was once part of a larger bank complex that extended to the corner of Surf Avenue. Designed by Holmes & Winslow, architects that specialized in bank design, the building was executed in stone with traditional classical motifs. Many original features remain including a double height arched entrance flanked by Doric pilasters and capped by a keystone; a denticulated cornice below the attic level; and a stone string course above the attic floor windows.

The Bank of Coney Island was originally formed to serve and strengthen the businesses and industry of the immediate area, most of which were related to amusements. Among the early founders of the Bank of Coney Island were other well-known Coney Island land and amusement owners. These included Frederick Henderson of Henderson's Hall; Charles Feltman of Feltman's beer garden (where the hotdog was invented); Henry Grashorn of the Grashorn hardware store; and William J. Ward, proprietor of the Ward's baths and other amusements. Built at the dawn of the Nickel Empire, the Bank of Coney Island building represents the solidification of the Coney Island's business community that helped define an era of stabilization and public investment in the neighborhood.



Bank of Coney Island Building, ca. 1940 (from NYC Transit Museum)



Bank of Coney Island Building today