

PHILADELPHIA SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY (PSFS) BUILDING

12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia

This 36-story steel-framed structure, completed in 1932, is among the most important skyscrapers built in America in the period between the Chicago School, which flourished in the 1880s and 1890s, and the International Style of the 1950s. Designed by Philadelphian George Howe and Swiss-born William Lescaze, it represents an American synthesis of European Modernist architectural theories. Among its remarkable architectural qualities is its timelessness; even now most observers would be hard-pressed to guess from its sleek, streamlined appearance that the PSFS, as it is universally known, is almost three-quarters of a century old.