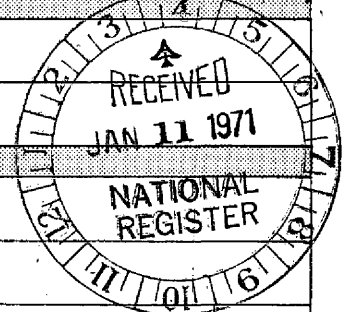


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| STATE: Rhode Island | |
| COUNTY: Providence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.44.0009 | DATE 5/6/71 |



1. NAME

COMMON:
The Arcade

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
130, Westminster Street and 65, Weybosset Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|--|--|
| District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Process <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/> | Both <input type="checkbox"/> | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Rhode Island Association for the Blind

STREET AND NUMBER:
1058, Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (See Continuation Sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1st Street and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.5.44.0009
DATE: 5/6/71

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> | Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fair <input type="checkbox"/> | Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> | Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> | Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTEGRITY | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> | Moved <input type="checkbox"/> | Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arcade, a Greek Revival structure built to house shops and offices, traverses the centre of a downtown block, from 130, Westminster Street to 65, Weybosset Street, in Providence. It was built in 1828 by Cyrus C. Butler jointly with The Arcade Realty Company, Russell Warren and Major James C. Bucklin, Jr., being collaborating architects.

Built throughout of local granite, with the visible walls of smooth-faced regular coursed ashlar, it is a long (216 feet) gable-roofed building with short lateral wings near its centre and a massive hexastyle portico at each end. The granite Ionic columns of the porticoes are monolithic; the scale is monumental. (These columns, brought from Bare Ledge Quarry in Johnston, Rhode Island, remained the largest monolithic shafts in this country, until those of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York, well on in this century.)

The Westminster Street (north) front, an Ionic pedimented portico, was designed by James Bucklin for Cyrus Butler, the original entrepreneur. Russell Warren, who designed the Weybosset Street (south) façade, was engaged by The Arcade Realty Company. For this front, Warren employed an unpedimented portico with a panelled attic parapet--a scheme he used in variant forms for several of his later buildings.

The interior space, three storeys high, has lengthwise banks of shops facing each other; the upper levels are reached by twin flights of stairs at each end. The stairs connect with galleries running across the end of the building and along its sides, in front of the ranges of shops. These galleries, enclosed by handsome, original cast iron railings, are in turn connected (at second-floor level only) by a central cross-gallery or bridge. Originally the shop-fronts of the first and second floors were composed of windows and doors separated by projecting pilasters which concealed shutters folded back when the shops were open. This scheme was altered in 1901, and again when repairs were made in 1944 and the present first- and second-floor shop-fronts were installed. The shop windows of the third storey, however, are still finished with their original simple Greek Revival detail. The low gable roof, set above a wide, coved cornice area, has a long range of glazed skylights, which are set in iron sashes supported and separated by wooden rafters.

(See Continuation Sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1826**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | Architecture | | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | _____ | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Arcade is not only an extremely important example, in Rhode Island and the nation, of Greek Revival architecture but is also one of our best examples of early monolithic granite construction. It is also the chief surviving early XIX Century example (probably the only one in its particular architectural style) of the good number of business arcades, copying those of European cities, which were being erected in America in the 1820's. Robert Alexander has stated that, "As an expression of the Greek Revival, the Arcade had, when built, few peers in this country." And Henry-Russell Hitchcock has remarked upon how "Bucklin's superb Westminster Street portico rises absolute and international between its earlier post-colonial neighbors. These appear domestic and provincial by contrast, almost as its present neighbors appear cheap and inconsequential."

This last remains true: While still serving its convenient urban commercial purposes, The Arcade has become both a much appreciated Providence landmark and a notable one in our national architectural history. Flanked, faced and squeezed by a variety of later buildings of all sizes, styles and heights, it still presides over a long part of Westminster Street (in spite of a facing skyscraper) and handsomely dominates a curve of Weybosset Street.

The architects who designed this building are regarded as important figures in the development of the Greek Revival style in New England. Russell Warren (1784-1860), a resident of Bristol, was a self-trained architect, the earliest exponent of the Greek Revival in his state. His work was mainly here--but in other states also--and he is remarkable for his inventiveness. The body of his work reflects the continuing stylistic development of his times, ranging from Federal to Greek Revival to adventures in Romantic Gothic near his death. James Bucklin (1801-1880) served an apprenticeship with John Holden

(See Continuation Sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, R. I., 1957), pp. 99, 107.
 Downing, Antoinette Forrester: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 408, 442, 444, 447, 463.
 Alexander, Robert: The Arcade in Providence (In Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 13-16. October, 1953).
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, R. I., 1939), p. 46.

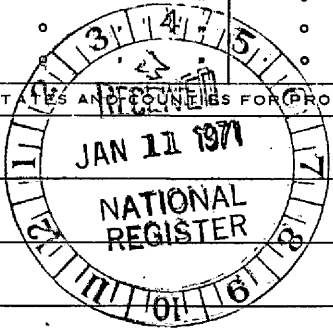
(See Continuation Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|--|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 41° | 49' | 25" |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 71° | 24' | 38" |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



19/2 99770/4632800
 UTM REF
 121176 W N
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Antoinette Forrester Downing, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: Oct. 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90, Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: RI

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Frederic R. Williams</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>January 6, 1971</u></p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelly</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>MAY 6 1971</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William B. Mudgett</u> Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>APR 8 1971</u></p> |
|--|---|

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)--1

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| STATE Rhode Island | |
| COUNTY Providence | |
| ✓ FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 715,44,0009 | DATE 5/6/77 |

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys.

Title of Survey: A Report on the Historic Existing Points of Interest ... of the State of Rhode Island. Technical Paper No.2, by Louis C. David, Jr., for Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program.

Date of Survey: 1967. State X.

Depository for Survey Records:
Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program,
State House,
90, Smith Street,
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903 44



7. Description.

The building remained in partial ownership of the Butler heirs until 1944. Threatened with demolition, it was purchased from them in that year to insure its preservation as an historic monument; it was then deeded to the Rhode Island Association for the Blind as caretaker of The Arcade and recipient of its rental income. At that time the building underwent a fairly comprehensive structural renewal, including some alterations such as the mentioned changes in the shop-fronts. Glazed walls and gates were then also installed across the inner faces of the porticoes to allow for nighttime protection of the internal business premises. None of these changes (such as the more recent installation of an elevator in one wing) has really had any important effect on the over-all exterior or interior appearance of the building.

Adapted from a description
by Antoinette F. Downing.

8. Significance.

Greene, Providence architect, and later entered partnership with William Tallman. Together with either Warren or Tallman, he had a hand in all of the important Providence commissions from the 1820's through the 1850's. Even when he worked with later styles, "the qualities that are common to all Bucklin's buildings are due to the fact that he came to maturity with the Greek Revival."

(See Continuation Sheet 2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) --2

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| STATE Rhode Island | |
| COUNTY Providence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.44.0009 | DATE 5/6/71 |

(Number all entries)

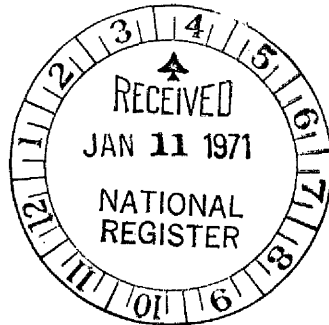
Quoting Hitchcock again, The Arcade "is the chief extant American example of the arcades and passages of nineteenth century European cities. Light and straightforward in construction and design, the building is a model of efficient and graceful construction." It remains a thing of architectural beauty and one of constant use and usefulness, outstandingly deserving of protection and perpetuation.

Adapted from comments
by Antoinette F. Downing
and others.

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1958), p. 86.

Kaufmann, Edgar, Jr., ed.: The Rise of an American Architecture (New York etc., 1970), pp. 226-227.



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

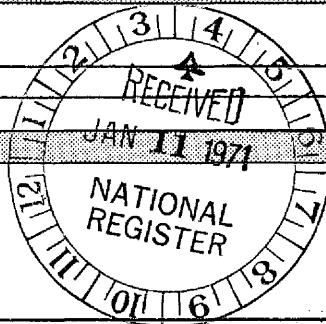
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE | |
| Rhode Island | |
| COUNTY | |
| Providence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71,544,0009 | 5/6/71 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|--|------|------------|------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: The Arcade | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| 130, Westminster Street and 65, Weybosset Street | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | |
| Providence | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Rhode Island | 44 | Providence | 007 |
| 3. MAP REFERENCE | | | |
| SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey | | | |
| SCALE: 1: 12,000 | | | |
| DATE: 1957 | | | |
| 4. REQUIREMENTS | | | |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS | | | |
| 1. Property boundaries where required. | | | |
| 2. North arrow. | | | |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference. | | | |





GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude 41° 49' 25"
 Longitude 71° 24' 38"