

PHQ36 3812

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 12 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Healey Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

57 Forsyth Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Atlanta

__ VICINITY OF

5th - Andrew Young

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Fulton

121

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edward Elson, Harry Elson and the Atlanta News Agency, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 715, Healey Building

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

__ VICINITY OF

Georgia 30303

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fulton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

160 Pryor Street, S.E.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites & Districts, City of Atlanta, Civic Design Commission

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

City Hall, City of Atlanta, Atlanta Urban Design Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Healey Building, located at 57 Forsyth Street, in the Central Business District of Atlanta, is a handsome warm-grey structure having a two-story high base differentiated from the floors above by a greater proportion of void to solid elements, restrained gothic detail, and unusual display window design. Above the base floors are fourteen floors of office space having large, simple windows and little ornamental detail except for the prominent sloping window sills and the gothic-type piers which extend without interruption from base to cornice between each window. These piers which terminate near the cornice line in round arches add to the verticality of the building by emphasizing the vertical, as opposed to the horizontal, elements of the structure.

The Healey Building falls into the commercial style category but does not conform in all respects to the criteria for that style. The large facades have slightly re-entrant central sections rather than the central projection usually accepted as an allowable variation from the more typical straight facade. The cornice treatment is strongly expressed and is dominant in the manner of Sullivan rather than the more restrained cornice treatments common to the commercial style. The east wall of the elevator penthouse is in the plane of the main, east facade and provides an interruption to the cornice line of the east side of the building rather than preserving the more usual level skyline. This penthouse is expressed as a decorative rather than a utilitarian element of the overall design, with the necessary stacks employed as decorative elements at the corners.

The strong vertical expression of the facade and the restrained use of pointed arches and tracery result in a definite gothic character for the Healey Building. The fenestration is unusual in that windows of two distinctly different sizes and proportions are used. The ten central bays of each of the two long sides have paired, relatively narrow, double-hung windows while the remainder of the exterior has much wider double-hung windows used singly. Both window types are of the same height. The display windows at the street level are particularly worth attention; the detailing of these projecting show windows is both unusual and elegant throughout the building. The upper of the floors in the Healey Building has a different window sill treatment as well as an arched gothic-type detailing above the windows. The strong projecting cornice forms the cap of the building.

As in many of the structures of this era in Atlanta, the entrance floor lobby of the Healey Building extends from the street on one side completely through the block to the street on the other side. In this case, one passes from Forsyth Street on the west to Broad Street on the east, passing through the rotunda and the buildings on the Broad Street frontage; connection from Walton Street to this block-long lobby is achieved by an entrance from that street into the Healey Building's rotunda.

The generous allocation of public space on the ground floor is also typical of the upper floors of the Healey Building. The corridors are appreciably wider than those of more recent office buildings and, because the two facing banks of elevators are separated by the wide, main floor lobby, unusually large and rather inefficient elevator lobbies are created on each of the upper floors.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Morgan & Dillon, W. T. Downing

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Healey Building is architecturally significant as the final tall office building design of the Atlanta firm of Morgan and Dillon before World War I and is considered by many of the architects in Atlanta today to be the finest of the city's early skyscrapers. "They feel that the verticality created in the Healey Building by the (use of the) Gothic style is most suitable for a tall building. They praise the lightness and clean lines of the elevations and openness of interior planning."

The sweeping verticality of the structure is produced by the use of clustered piers which rise throughout the building's sixteen-story high exterior, while the "lightness and clean lines" of both the interior and exterior is solely attributable to the qualities of the building's neo-Gothic style. Surprisingly, however, the actual amount of Gothic detailing used on the outer face of the Healey Building has been held to a minimum. "This Gothic detail does not, however, produce a Gothic revival tower such as New York's Woolworth Building of 1911-1913." It does, though, produce a feeling of elegance and is quite different from that on the interior where one finds that the Gothic references -- especially in the lobby and rotunda -- produce an eclectic effect.

W. T. Downing, an Atlanta architect of some renown, was an associate architect with the firm of Morgan and Dillon while the Healey Building was undergoing design and construction. According to an interview with a contemporary architect who worked for him conducted by Elizabeth A. Lyon for her doctoral dissertation at Emory University, Downing was most probably the person responsible for the actual design of this structure. It is interesting to note also that the complete design of the building was never fully realized. The building as it presently stands, with its single sixteen-story tower and arcades, represents only little more than half of the original design. It is known, however, that the designer of the Healey Building initially contemplated twin towers -- one fronting Forsyth Street and one on Broad Street between Poplar Street on the North and Walton Street on the south -- all to be joined by a low connecting element containing a top-lighted rotunda. Only the Forsyth Street, or western, tower and central rotunda were completed before World War I intervened and the builder, William T. Healey, died in 1920. Instead of the second tower, a row of low structures for commercial and retail use were erected along the Broad Street frontage.

The Healey Building has an elegance and high shouldered dignity which make it outstanding among its contemporaries. In the opinion of many, of the first order among Atlanta's buildings - regardless of age - the structure built by William Healey still stands as a monument to its builder, its architects, and turn-of-the-century Atlanta.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Finch, J. H., "Classification and Description of Historic Atlanta Business Buildings", Seminar Paper (Georgia State University, 1972).
- Lyon, Elizabeth A., Interview with Francis Smith, Business Buildings in Atlanta, 1865-1930: A Study in Urban Growth and Form, Ph.D. Dissertation (Emory University, 1971).
- Consultation with Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, January, 1976, Chairman, Atlanta Urban Design Commission Advisory Committee on Historic Sites, Structures and Districts

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	741800	3738000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the north by its lot-line, on the south by Walton Street, on the east by Broad Street and on the west by Forsyth Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Consultant to Atlanta Urban Design Commission Advisory
H. Lee Dunagan, Committee on Historic Structures, Sites and Districts

ORGANIZATION

DATE

January 5, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Room 4 City Hall, Atlanta

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David M. Sherman
DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

11-12-76

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/10/77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.10.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Photographs ITEM NUMBER PAGE

Healey Building, Atlanta, Fulton County
Photographer: David J. Kaminsky
Date: October, 1976
Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. East Facade, looking west.
2. Looking east from Forsyth Street Entrance.
3. Photographer facing S.E.
4. Detail of West Facade, Forsyth Street.
5. Interior, photographer facing southeast.
6. Detail of East Facade.