

**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 71.11.44.0029	DATE 11/5/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elizabeth Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 North Main 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
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Iroquois Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

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, 02903

CODE
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

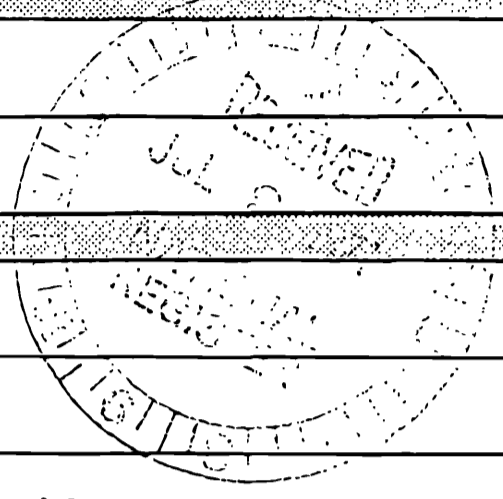
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

71.11.44.0029
11/5/71

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Completed by 1876, the Elizabeth Building was part of a boom in the construction of commercial buildings in Providence during the 1870's and 1880's. (As this building is first mentioned in the Providence business directory of 1876, it is logical to conclude that it was erected in 1875 or 1874-1875 and--although the architect has not been identified--that it was designed by one of the twenty-one local architects or firms listed in the 1875 directory. At this time such cast-iron structures as the Equitable Building, by Walker and Gould, and the Hoppin Homestead Building, by James Bucklin, were also being erected here. These Providence "cast-iron fronts" were of four storeys only, in contrast to the higher structures of the same type seen in New York City.

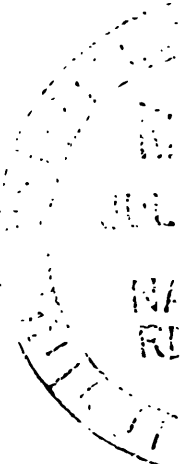
The black-painted cast-iron front of the Elizabeth Building not only forms the main (east) street façade but also wraps around a two-bay section of the south side of the slender but massive rectangular structure (otherwise brick-walled), extending the ornamental detailing around an angle viewed from approaching streets. An 1891 photograph of the building shows the upper storeys of the iron front painted in a light colour, no doubt imitating stone, as such ironwork was intended to imitate. While the cast-iron east façade is divided into four storeys, the building actually contains five storeys, as the brick side and rear elevations reveal. The fifth floor is masked on the east elevation by a windowless mansard roof with ribbed metal covering.

Each floor of the iron front is divided from the next by a deep entablature with brackets in the frieze. These frieze brackets connect the vertical impetus begun at the base by the (now free-standing) fluted Corinthian columns with the Doric pilasters of the upper floors. A central accent is created by the grouping of the façade's five bays: the three middle bays are set between a wider bay at each end. At first-floor level the end bays both originally contained entrances (at present, there is only one, in the north bay). On the upper floors the three central bays each contain one window; the end bays contain paired window openings. On each floor these bays are separated by four fluted Doric pilasters into a configuration of aa-b-b-b-aa. The angles of the building are marked by panelled Doric pilasters at each floor level; the upper portions of their panels contain stylised floral ornament. The plain brick back and side walls of the building are pierced by a variety of window arrangements with strongly projecting and varied cast-iron cappings.

The interior of this building is of extremely simple plan. Directly inside the north, street-level entrance is a hall which contains an iron staircase and an elevator. Offices now fill the rest of this floor, doubtless originally devoted to shop space. Upper floors contain, as always, variously subdivided office space.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description.

Alterations on the exterior are minor. The original glazed shop-fronts of the ground floor were in 1960 replaced by Philemon Sturges with a marble curtain wall recessed behind the stone-based iron Corinthian columns and corner piers. A section of cornice on the north side is missing; a columned store-front at the south-east has been filled in with brick. These changes, however, do not interfere with the over-all form and ornament of the Elizabeth Building or with its architectural integrity.

- * Information has been received that the cast-iron structural and decorative elements of the Elizabeth Building were produced in Providence by the Builders Iron Foundry (still existing under the name of B. I. F. Industries).

