

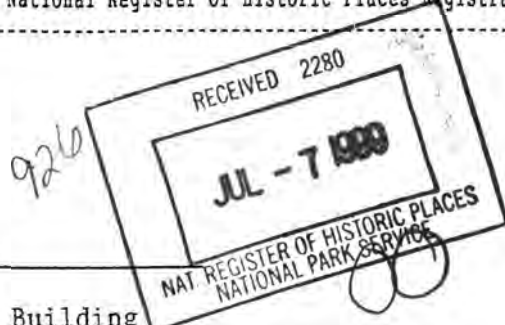
PROPERTY NAME

Commercial Trust Company Building, New Britain, CT

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Commercial Trust Company Building

Other Name/Site Number: New Britain National Bank Building

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 51-55 West Main Street Not for publication: NA

City/Town: New Britain Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: Hartford Code: 003 Zip Code: 06051

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: x

Public-local:    

Public-State:    

Public-Federal:    

Category of Property

Building(s): x

District:    

Site:    

Structure:    

Object:    

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

    buildings

    sites

    structures

    objects

    Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National

Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

PROPERTY NAME

Commercial Trust Company Building, New Britain, CT

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**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria.

*John W. Shannahan* 06/30/99  
Signature of Certifying Official Date  
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the *National Register* *Patrick Andrews 8/17/99*
- Determined not eligible for the
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: COMMERCIAL/TRADE Sub: financial institution  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification: 19C/20C REVIVALS/Italian Renaissance  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Materials:  
 Foundation: CONCRETE  
 Walls: Limestone, BRICK  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roof: Unknown  
 Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

The Commercial Trust Company Building is a seven-story 54' x 140' brick building with limestone facade, constructed in 1925-1927 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style with Venetian Gothic details as a bank and rental offices at 51-55 West Main Street in the center of downtown New Britain. It faces south in a row of buildings of similar size and age (Photographs 1, 2). The Trust Company Building has been little altered on the exterior or interior since construction, except for clearing the main banking floor, and is in a good state of historic preservation. Due to the fact that the premises were acquired and occupied in 1938 by the New Britain National Bank, the building is known locally by that name. (Photograph 3)

**Setting**

The symbolic center of downtown New Britain is Central Park, at the intersection of West Main Street with Main Street, whose chief feature is a Civil War monument, 1900, designed by Ernest Flagg (1857-1947). The row of buildings facing Central Park includes the Commercial Trust Company Building. (Figure 2) Starting at the corner of Main Street, the first structure in the row along West Main Street is the Gates Building, erected in 1907 to the design of Davis & Brooks of New Britain and Hartford as the New Britain National Bank Building. Next is the Romanesque Revival two-story earlier home of the New Britain National Bank, 1861, now part of City Hall, followed by the principal building of City Hall, 1885. City Hall initially was the Russwin Hotel,

named for Russell & Erwin, prominent hardware manufacturers, and built to plans drawn by Joseph M. Wells (1853-1890) of McKim, Mead & White, of New York City. The building was altered to become City Hall in 1909 by the same firm. A three-story Renaissance Revival Post Office building, 1871, also now part of City Hall, is next, divided by a space, the only space in the row, from the Commercial Trust Company Building. Completing the row is the Colonial Revival Burritt Hotel, 1924, by H.L. Stevens Company of New York City. (Photograph 1)

### Exterior

The first three stories of the front elevation of the bank are clad in Indiana limestone above a granite water table. This facade is divided by an arcade into three round-arched openings which articulate the interior banking floor, to the east, and an entranceway to the upper floors, to the west. The limestone and granite facing returns one bay on the east side elevation, which is separated by a walkway from the next building. (Photograph 3)

The central arched opening of the arcade is filled at first floor with an elaborate bronze double doorway, the flanking spaces by bronze bays with swags under the large single-pane display windows (Photograph 4). The piers between the arches are embellished at mid-level by tablets with raised heraldic motifs under a three-part string course, at the spring line, made up of dentils, ogee molding, and spiral molding. The arch soffits, above, display classical coffered paterae. (Photograph 5) The top of the limestone facade features a shallow raised arcade of the stone, decorated with small bosses at the spring line, under crown molding of terra-cotta which is the same color and texture as the brick wall above. The crown molding consists of a course of discontinuous small paterae, a spiral molding, dentils, and scotia molding. Windows and patterned brickwork of the wall rest directly on the crown molding. (Photograph 6) Lettering for the name of the bank, first The Commercial Trust Company, then New Britain National Bank, was fastened to the stone below the arcade. The shadow of the former lettering appears in Photograph 6.

The second floor of the bay in the front elevation to the west of the arcade is the location of a Gothic Revival window of paired lancet openings under a cartouche with the cipher of the Commercial Trust Company. The spandrels of the surmounting arch are carved with a fruit and foliate design in high relief (Photograph 7).

The brick wall of the fourth through seventh floors is laid with projecting courses which suggest rustication. There are six windows at each floor with 1-over-1 steel sash. A string course separates the sixth and seventh levels, with the seventh floor treated as a cap or attic whose windows have surmounting tympana under Gothic arches. The roofline is marked by a heavy cornice which is an expanded version of the string course at the top of the limestone facing below.

While the Commercial Trust Company Building abuts the Burritt Hotel to the west, there is a walkway between the Trust Company Building and the structure to the east which now works as part of City Hall. The facade of the Trust Company Building returns along its east side elevation, made visible by the presence of the space between buildings. The three-story limestone facing returns for one bay; the brick wall of the upper floors returns for the entire elevation. The wall of the first three floors, to

the rear of the stone, features brick cast in the pattern of the Trust Company's blacksmith's anvil symbol (Photographs 8, 9). A second arcade of arched windows, this time rising from the water table, is set into the brick wall. Roundels cast of terra cotta, here coats of arms and eagles, are located in the spandrels of the arches as they are on the front. The recessed surrounds of the arched openings are built up using molding components from the string course over the limestone facade. (Photographs 9, 10)

The rear (north) and west side elevations are plain, except for limestone sills (Photographs 10, 11). A shallow light well is set into the west side elevation, while the elevator tower is castellated (Photograph 11, Figure 2).

### Interior

Principal interior space is the main banking floor, corresponding to the limestone exterior facade. A marble front stair leads down from the banking floor to the vault and safe deposit boxes in the basement. Entrance to the upper floors is to the west of the main banking floor, where the elevator lobby is located. Bank offices are on the first three floors behind the main open space, while upper floors are uniformly laid out as rental offices, double-loaded on a central corridor.

At ground level the bronze double front door leads to the three-story open main banking space, which measures 4,200 square feet. The floor is marble, the east side wall is dominated by the arched windows, the west side wall has a similar appearance due to blind arches, and a balustraded balcony over a trabeated heavily molded classical doorway anchors the north end of the room. (Photographs 12, 13). A long tellers' counter, cageless and marble-topped, runs in front of the west wall (Photograph 12). The tellers' side of the vertical surface of the counter was formerly covered with dull-finish black Carrara glass. A similar tellers' counter was in front of the windows on the east, and the floor itself was filled with furniture and fixtures in dark walnut finish for customers and for bank staff. Officers' areas were enclosed with open railings of rose Italian marble. (Figure 6). The east tellers' counters were removed in 1983 as part of modest changes to update arrangements designed by Kaestle Boos Associates of New Britain. Large bronze chandeliers and related wall sconces, which are still in place, provide light. The chandeliers are nine feet high, have a diameter of six feet, with 69 light bulbs, and weigh 1,000 pounds. Discs featuring the trademark anvil are near the ceiling in the spandrel areas between the arches.

The basement is given over largely to the bank's vault and associated 1,500 safe deposit boxes. The vault door is 16" thick and weighs 13 tons (Photographs 14, 15; Figure 5). Basement finishes are based on extensive use of marble, pink Tennessee marble for the floors, blue-veined Vermont marble for the walls. Some 11 carloads of marble were used in construction of the building, and 12 tons of bronze.

The president's desk was located at the southwest corner of the main first-floor space. A narrow stairway leads up from his desk location to his small private office on the second floor, which is elaborately embellished in the classical mode with foliate-band window surrounds and ceiling of raised motifs such as *fleur-de-lis*, ram's heads, shields, and medallions (Photograph 16). Similar decorations ornament the

barrel-vaulted ceiling of the directors' room on the third floor above (Photograph 17), which is the room lighted by the Gothic Revival window of the front elevation (compare Photograph 7). Offices for the bank, behind the main open space, are plain (Photograph 18).

The marble elevator lobby for entrance to the upper floors is barrel-vaulted with bronze chandelier and paneled bronze elevator door (Photograph 19). The panels incorporate the anvil logo in a shield, within borders that again are derived from the string course above the limestone facade (Photograph 20). On the upper floors finishes such as walls and dado are mostly marble (Photograph 21), including the walls of the bathrooms. Unit doors are metal with tall frosted-glass glazing (Photograph 22). Windows are plain (Photograph 23). A horizontal four-foot space separates the third and fourth floors, serving as a giant chase for mechanical systems.

The 0.26-acre plot is almost entirely covered by the building. The parcel was increased in size in 1997 by addition of an ell to Washington Street (Figures 1, 2).

PROPERTY NAME

Commercial Trust Company Building, New Britain, CT

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:\_\_\_ Statewide:\_\_\_ Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B\_\_\_ C x D\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A\_\_\_ B\_\_\_ C\_\_\_ D\_\_\_ E\_\_\_ F\_\_\_ G\_\_\_

| Areas of Significance: | Period(s) of Significance |             | Significant Dates |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>    | <u>1927</u>               | <u>1949</u> | <u>1927</u>       |
| <u>COMMERCIAL:</u>     | <u>1927</u>               | <u>1930</u> | <u>1930</u>       |
| _____                  | _____                     | _____       | _____             |
| _____                  | _____                     | _____       | _____             |

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Hopkins & Dentz, architects, 1927  
H. Wales Lines Company, builder  
Kaestle Boos Associates, architects,  
1983

**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

**Summary**

The Commercial Trust Company Building is significant architecturally because it is a fine example of a late-1920s bank ambitiously designed with expensive materials and ostentatious details consistent with a period of prosperity. The building has been little altered and well maintained, and therefor is in a good state of historic preservation. The Commercial Trust Company Building is significant historically because it is a symbol of the prosperity of the 1920s and the hardship among financial institutions that followed the Crash of 1929.

## History

The Commercial Trust Company was organized in 1915 as an alternative to the long-established New Britain National Bank. The Trust Company emphasized service to the emerging new market of people needing banking services for the first time that developed during the 1920s. The hardware manufacturing industry, which had long been the backbone of New Britain's economy, participated in the booming economy, and the times seemed right for a new bank building.

A prominent site in the center of downtown was available because St. Marks Church had recently moved several blocks to the south where a new edifice was erected. The Commercial Trust Company constructed a bank and office building at a cost of \$750,000 on the vacated site in the tradition of financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies, *i.e.*, erected a building intended as a symbol of strength and stability of which the ground floors were occupied by the institution and the upper floors offered for rent to commercial and professional tenants.

The Trust Company adopted as its symbol and logo a blacksmith's anvil (Figure 3) out of respect for New Britain's most famous native son, Elihu Burritt, 1810-1879. A smithy by trade, Burritt, as a scholar and pacifist, was known by the sobriquet "The Learned Blacksmith." He became famous for his work in advocating the cause of peace at an international level. In 1846 he founded in Great Britain the League of International Brotherhood whose members pledged "complete abstinence from all wars" (*Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. 3, p. 328). Burritt's prominent position in New Britain history had been similarly recognized in the naming of the hotel built on the site adjoining the Commercial Trust Company property only three years earlier, in 1924.

The grand opening of the Commercial Trust Company Building took place on Saturday, November 19, 1927. The day's program combined a luncheon at noon, the conduct of regular banking business in the afternoon, and a dance in the evening on the main banking floor. The events and the building itself were described in a 10-page special Commercial Trust Company Building section of the local newspapers, which is the source of many of the details for this documentation. A photograph of employees showed a clerical staff of 40 people.

Two years later the Crash of 1929 decimated financial markets, bringing a crisis of confidence which motivated depositors in large numbers to withdraw money from their bank accounts, a process known as a "run on the bank." After several weeks of "run on the bank," the final day for the Commercial Trust Company came on December 13, 1930, when the institution closed its doors for the last time due to lack of cash to meet depositors' withdrawals.

Settlement of the Commercial Trust Company's affairs dragged out through the 1930s as creditors and government agencies struggled with balancing liabilities against insufficient assets. The building became the property of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which in February 1938 sold the premises to New Britain National Bank.

New Britain National Bank was organized at the time of the Civil War. Its first board of directors included names from the historic New Britain hardware manufacturing

families, C.B. Erwin, George M. Landers, T.W. Stanley, and Philip Corbin. Being an older, stronger organization, it weathered the Crash and elected to move a few doors up the street from its 1908 building on the corner to the grander, newer premises.

New Britain National Bank, in turn, became a casualty of the financial turmoil and consolidations of the late 20th century. First, in 1970 it joined with Simsbury Bank & Trust Company to form First Connecticut Bancorp, which merged into United Bank & Trust Company in 1987. In 1990 Fleet Bank took over United Bank & Trust Company. The last day of public banking activities in the 1927 building came in April 1996 when Fleet moved out, since which time the structure has been vacant. It has transmigrated from status as an elegant symbol of a strong local institution to typifying the challenge to survival faced by independent local financial institutions.

### Architecture

The architects of the Commercial Trust Company Building, Hopkins & Dentz of New York City, successfully achieved for their client a building that symbolized strength, stability, and elegant good taste. The success was enhanced by extensive use of expensive materials such as limestone, marble, and bronze, and careful attention to well-coordinated details, such as classical moldings and repetition of the bank's anvil trademark.

The building was the tallest in its streetscape, befitting a new institution which wished to create a sense of strength and reliability in the community. The architectural style of the exterior was acknowledged to be eclectic, drawing for its centuries-old heritage, it was said, on the Romanesque for its limestone arches and on the Gothic for its brickwork. In fact, the influences are more complex, since the Venetian Gothic Revival window to the directors' room is executed in stone and Gothic Revival in the brickwork is principally expressed in the seventh-floor arched windows. As an accompanying crosscurrent, the highly successful Italian Renaissance Revival arched windows of the east side elevation are of brick with sophisticated molded surrounds.

The stylistic influences of the interior, in contrast to the exterior, are more consistent, under the umbrella term of Neo-Classical Revival. The trabeated openings, barrel-vault ceilings, columns and pilasters with Corinthian capitals, balustraded balcony on consoles, and raised embellishment all follow the classical mode. The term given to the banking hall at the time was "early Florentine Classic."

The bronze detailing of the front door and elevator door testify well to the aura of "no expense spared." The anvil trademark in the bronze and again in the brick are expensive details that do convey the thoroughness and seriousness of the planning.

At the same time, an effort to be contemporary is indicated by up-to-date features such as the modern flat-topped tellers counters to permit person-to-person human contact, in lieu of metal cages which theretofore had been considered necessary for security reasons. Electric signalling between officers' desks to facilitate communication and records control was built in, and the technological strength of the vault and its huge door was impressive. A through-the-wall night-deposit device was in place for up-to-the-minute 24-hour banking convenience.

On the banking-floor and basement levels fine materials were combined with elegant detailing. On the upper rental floors the use of marble for floors and dados was continued but elegant details were not employed. Doors and windows and their surrounds, for example, are plain.

The dominant partner in the firm of Hopkins & Dentz was Alfred Hopkins (1870-1941). Having studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he opened his own office in New York City in 1913 according to the New York Times, in 1901 according to Architects in Practice. While bank buildings were a specialty, and he wrote a book on Banks and Bank Buildings, Hopkins was best known for his prison designs, especially that for Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

The H. Wales Lines Company of Meriden, builders, was one of the best-known contractors in Connecticut at the turn of the century. The proprietor was a highly regarded figure in building circles throughout the state, as indicated by his appointment to the building committee for the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building (Donn Barber and Edward T. Hapgood, 1910).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Elihu Burritt. *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. 3. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929, p. 328.
- Clouette, Bruce. Burritt Hotel. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1983.
- Commercial Trust Company Building. Approximately 24 8" x 11" black-and-white photographs of construction in progress, 1925-1927. Local History Room, New Britain Public Library.
- Foster, Sherrill. New Britain National Bank. Building and Structures Inventory Form, Connecticut Historical Commission, August, 1984.
- Alfred Hopkins, obituary. *New York Times*, May 6, 1941, 21:4.
- New Britain Assessor's field card for 51-55 West Main Street.
- New Britain Daily Herald*, Commercial Trust Section, November 18, 1927.
- New Britain National Bank, press release, May 17, 1983.
- New Britain Record*, Commercial Trust Section, November 18, 1927.
- Ransom, David F. "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials." *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 59 (1993):47-51.
- Ward, James, comp. *Architects in Practice, New York City, 1900-1940*. New York: Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1989, pp. 19, 36.
- Yaro, Robert D. City Hall-Monument Historic District. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for 13-35 West Main Street and Central Park. Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1972.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # \_\_\_\_\_
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY NAME

**Commercial Trust Company Building, New Britain, CT**

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: Local History Room, New Britain Public Library

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: 0.26

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

|   |             |                |               |   |             |             |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>18</u>   | <u>4615080</u> | <u>684550</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>    | <u>    </u>   | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| E | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>    | <u>    </u>   | F | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is that shown for lot 35 by New Britain Engineer's map C7C, Figure 1.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to encompass land that now goes with the building, which is the historic parcel plus a recently added ell leading to the side street.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Architectural Historian

Date: February 1999

Street/#: 83 Avery Heights

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 860 953-8626

- 
- Figure 1. Center of Downtown New Britain
- Figure 2. Commercial Trust Company Building ground plan
- Figure 3. Cover page of November 18, 1927, newspaper special section
- Figure 4. Banking floor plan
- Figure 5. Basement floor plan
- Figure 6. Historic view of banking floor

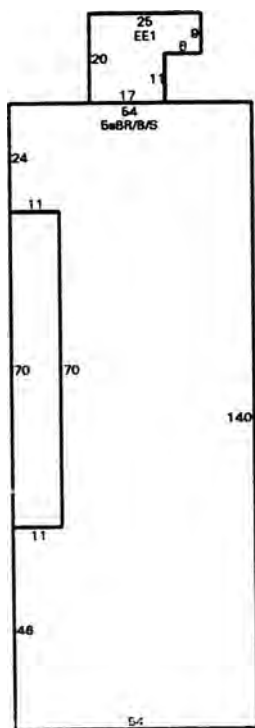


Figure 2  
Commercial Trust Company  
New Britain, Connecticut  
Ground Plan  
Source: Assessor's Field Card

## CLANG! CLANG!

### Tomorrow The Doors Of The Anvil Bank's New Home Swing Open Inviting YOU To Attend Our Housewarming and 12th Birthday Celebration

#### PROGRAM

Housewarming and 12th Birthday Celebration, November 19, 1927

12:30 P. M. Buffet luncheon for Directors and Stockholders

3:00 P. M. New building opens

Public reception by Directors, Officers and Stockholders.

Music by the Commercial Trust Anvileers. Signing of "The Golden Book."

Inspection of bank and office quarters.

7 to 9 P. M. New quarters open for Saturday night business as usual. The bank will be open until 11 P. M.



#### Points of Special Interest

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Front display windows                   | Cageless counters   |
| 24-hour rotary depository               | Juliet balcony      |
| Safe deposit vault                      | 1-2 ton chandeliers |
| Office quarters on floors 4, 5, 6 and 7 |                     |

*"Build and Help Build"*



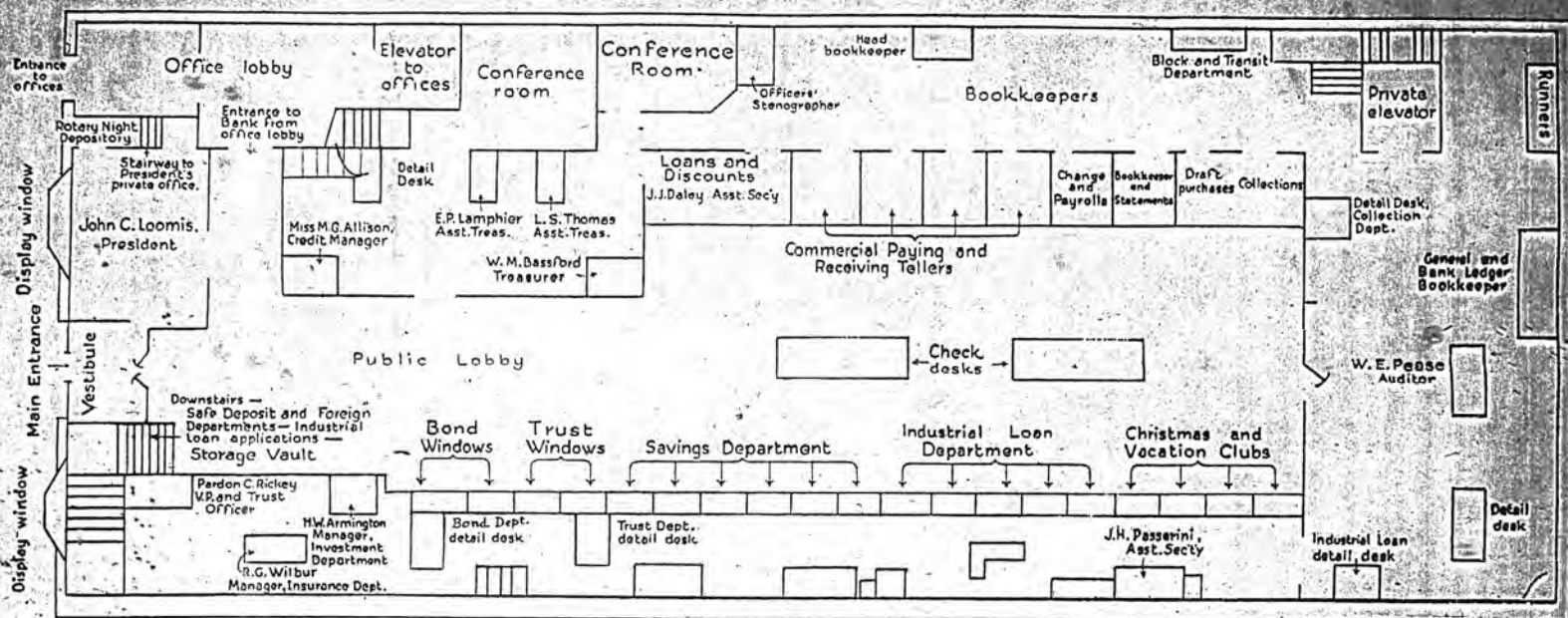


Figure 4

Commercial Trust Company

New Britain, Connecticut

Banking Floor Plan

Source: special section,

*New Britain Herald,*

November 18, 1927

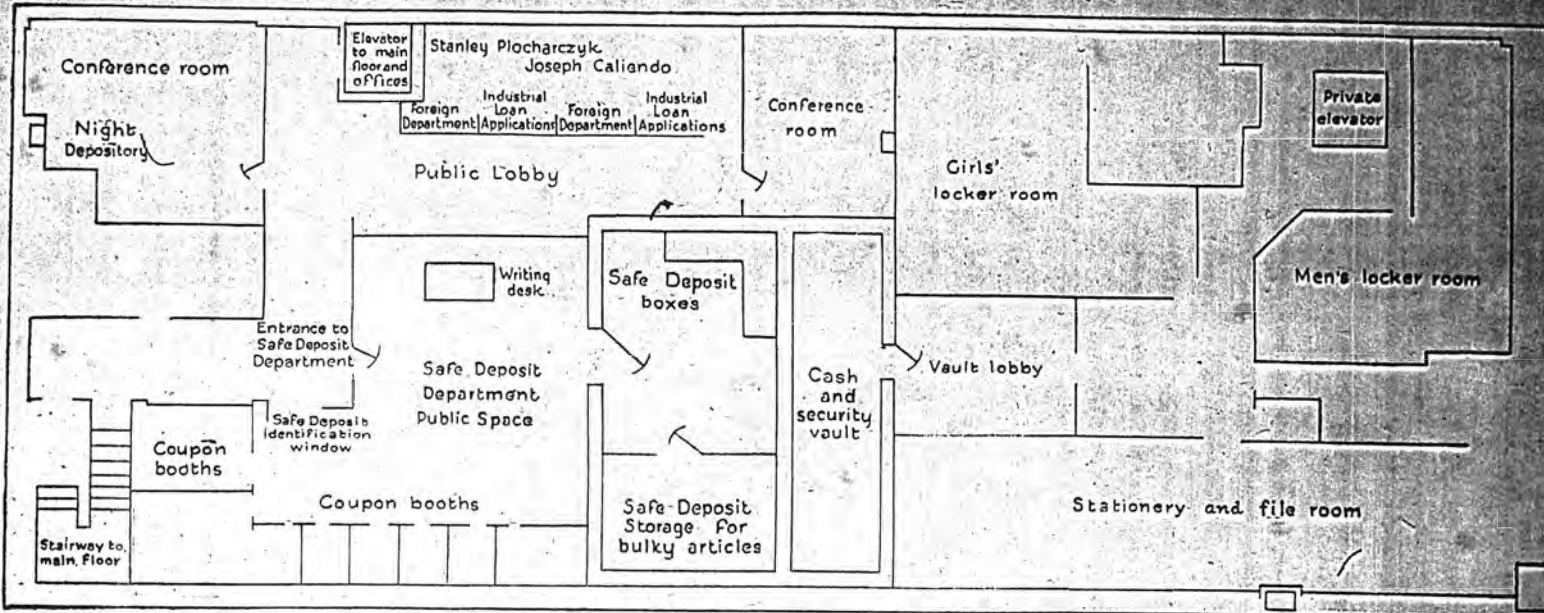


Figure 5

**Commercial Trust Company**

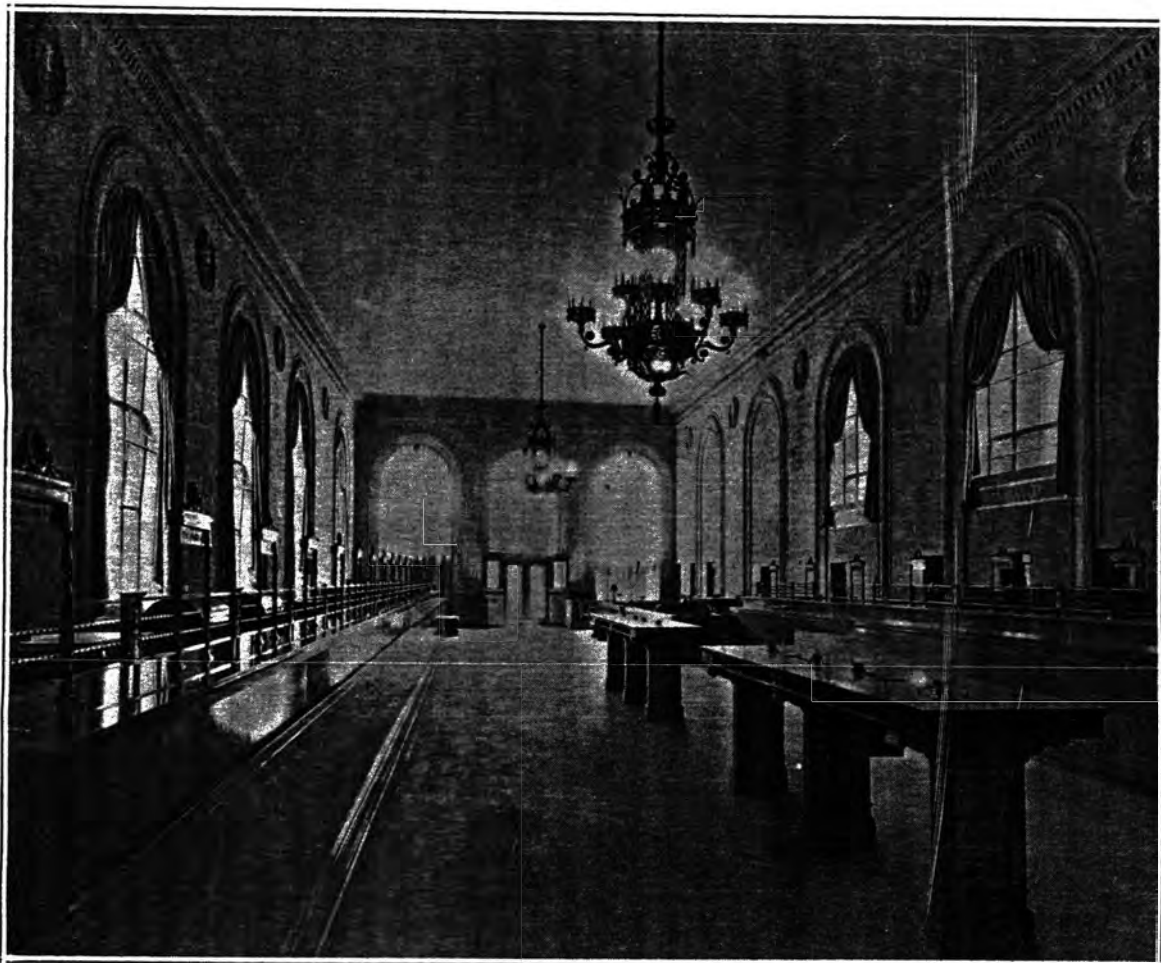
**New Britain, Connecticut**

Basement Floor Plan

Source: special section,

*New Britain Herald,*

November 18, 1927



BANKING ROOM, LOOKING SOUTH

Figure 6

**Commercial Trust Company**

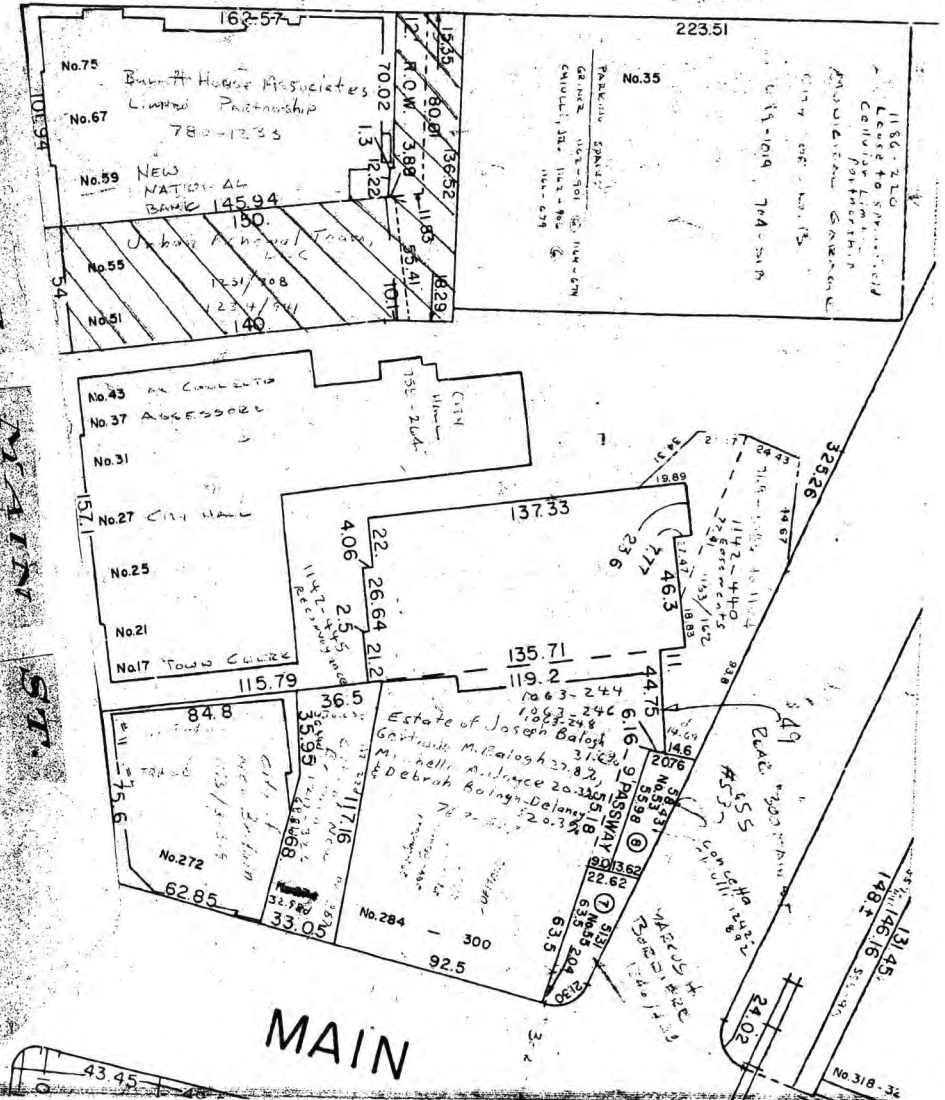
**New Britain, Connecticut**

Historic view of banking floor,  
view south, compare Photograph 12

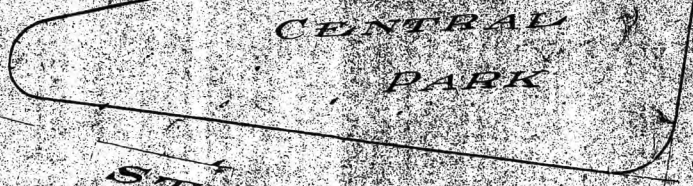
Source: special section,  
*New Britain Record*,  
November 18, 1927

# WASHINGTON

No.10 86.6 No.16 - 18 127.01 No.24 50. 70.55 104.3



WEST MAIN ST.



### List of Photographs and Figures

Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in February 1999. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1

West Main Street block  
View northeast

Photograph 2

West Main Street block  
View northwest

Photograph 3

Front elevation  
View northwest

Photograph 4

East display window  
View northeast

Photograph 5

Central arch soffit  
View northeast

Photograph 6

Limestone facade cornice  
View north

Photograph 7

Gothic Revival window  
View northwest

Photograph 8

Anvil molded brick in  
east elevation, typical  
View west

Photograph 9

Arched window in east  
elevation, typical  
View northwest

Photograph 10

East elevation  
View southwest

Photograph 11

Rear and west elevations  
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- 
- Photograph 12  
Main banking floor  
View southwest
- Photograph 13  
North wall of main  
banking floor  
View north
- Photograph 14  
Basement, entrance to  
safe deposit department  
View northeast
- Photograph 15  
Basement, vault  
View north
- Photograph 16  
Ceiling of president's  
private office  
View southeast
- Photograph 17  
Directors' room  
View northwest
- Photograph 18  
Third-floor bank offices  
View northwest
- Photograph 19  
Elevator lobby  
View north
- Photograph 20  
Detail of Photograph 19  
View north
- Photograph 21  
Upper floor hallway, typical  
View north
- Photograph 22  
Upper floor office door, typical  
View northeast
- Photograph 23  
Upper floor office window, typical  
View southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: OWNER OBJECTION

PROPERTY Commercial Trust Company Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Hartford

DATE RECEIVED: 7/07/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/20/99  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/05/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/21/99  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000926

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8/17/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A,C

REVIEWER Sarah Pope DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE 343-9534 DATE 8/17/99

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Commercial Trust Company Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Hartford

DATE RECEIVED: 2/03/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/19/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: ~~09000141~~ 99000926

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3.17.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE History  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 3.17.09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



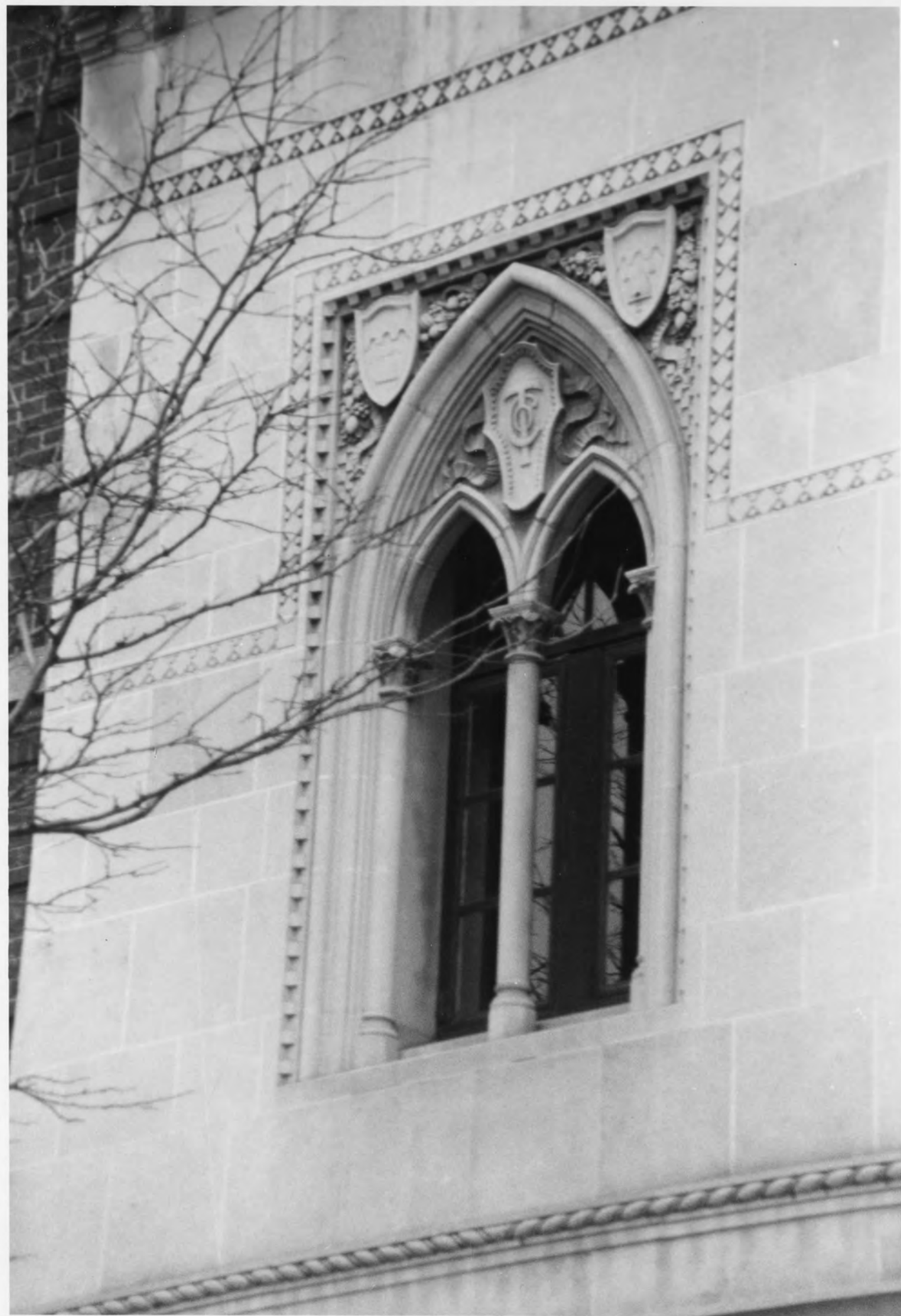
























EXIT



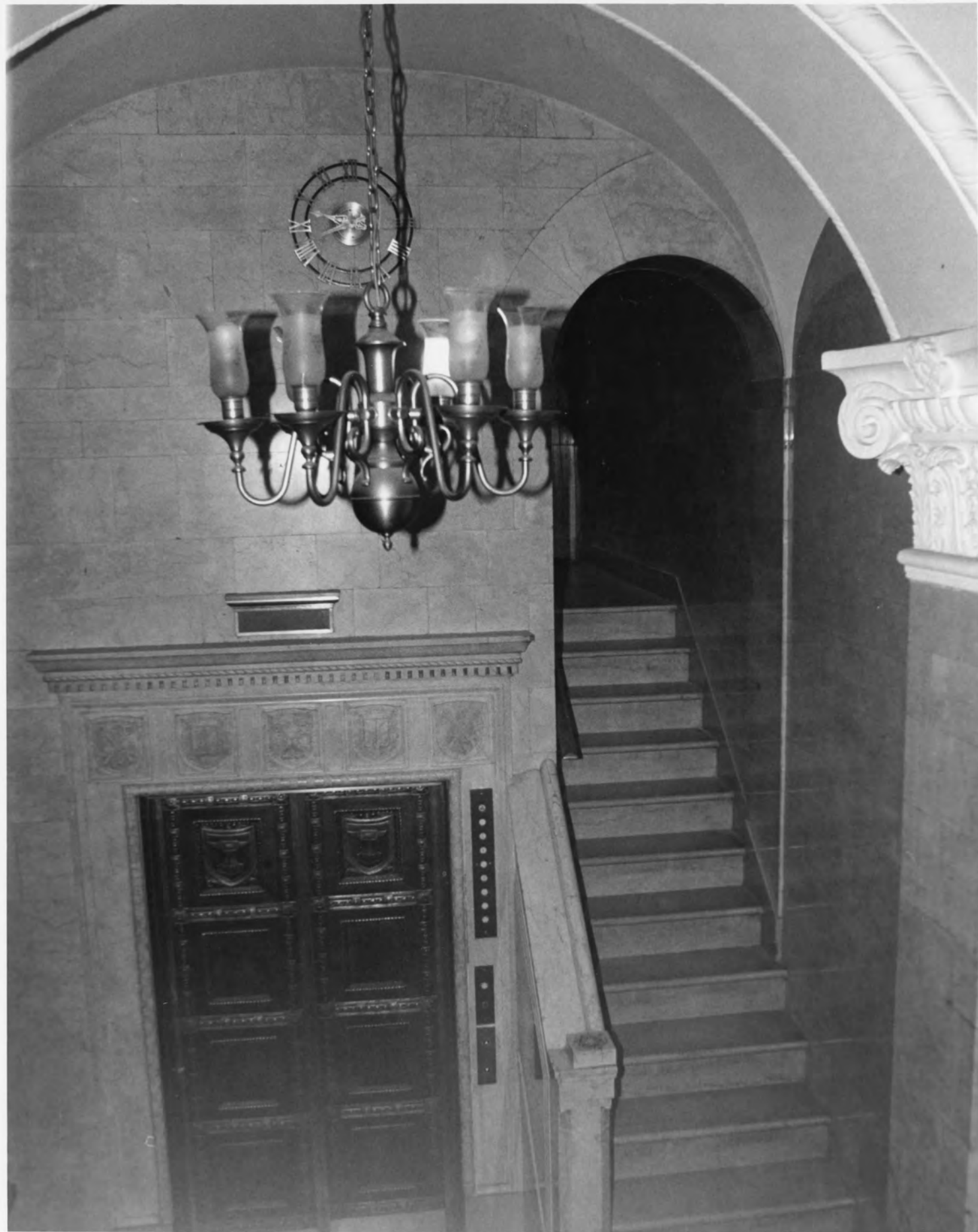
















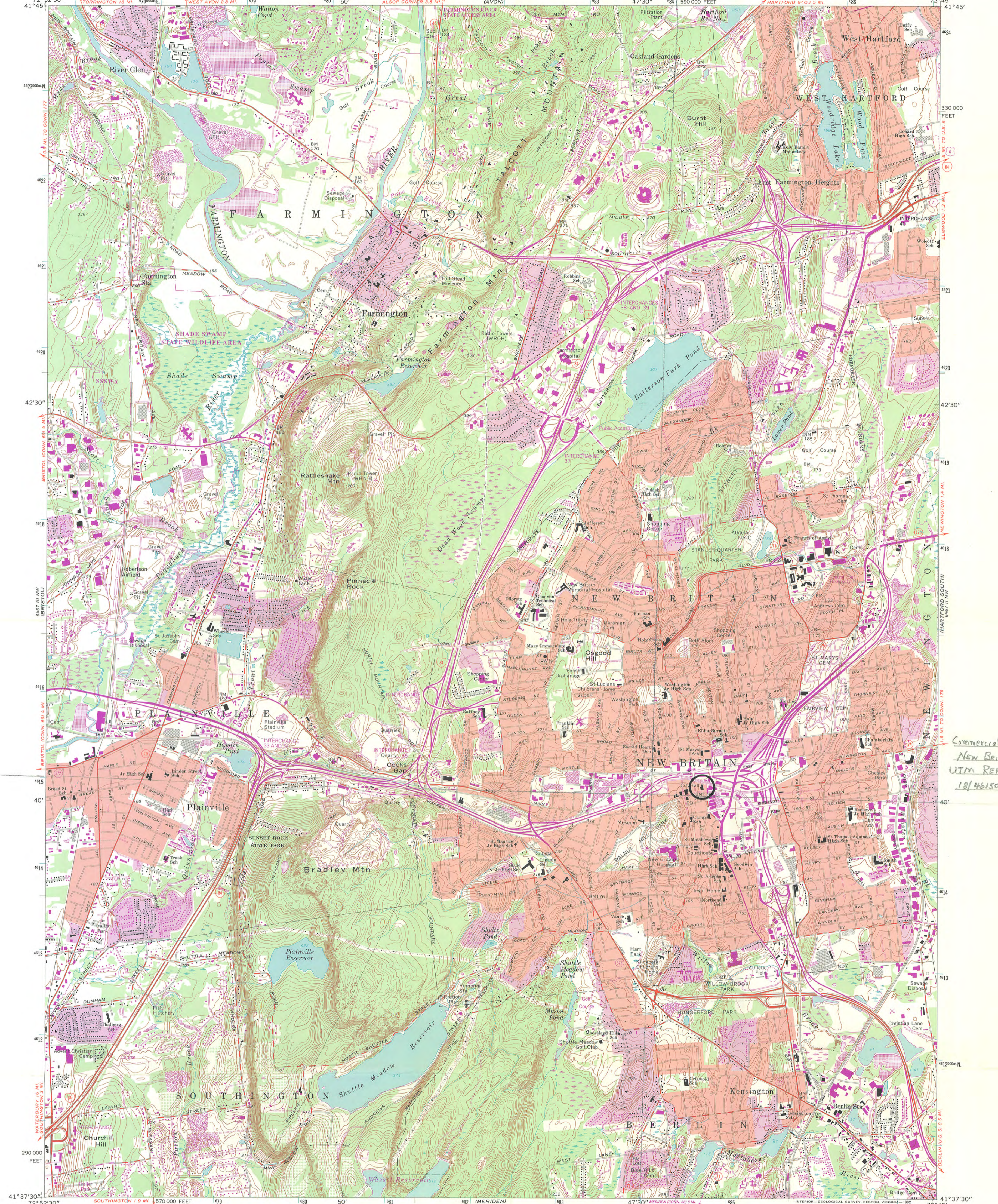
505

H.A. PARLATO M.D.

BY A POINTMENT ONLY

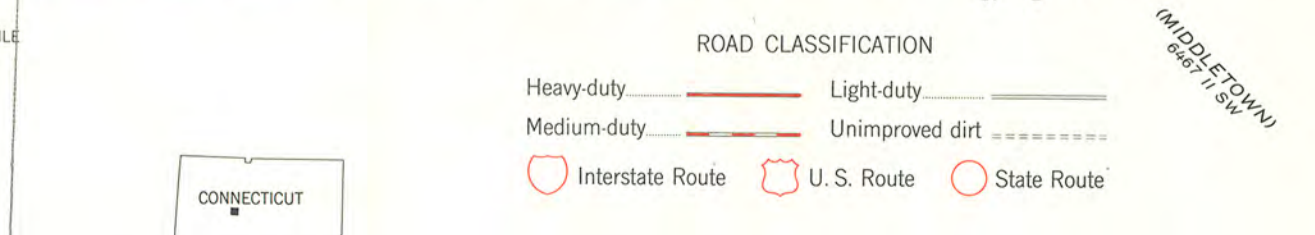
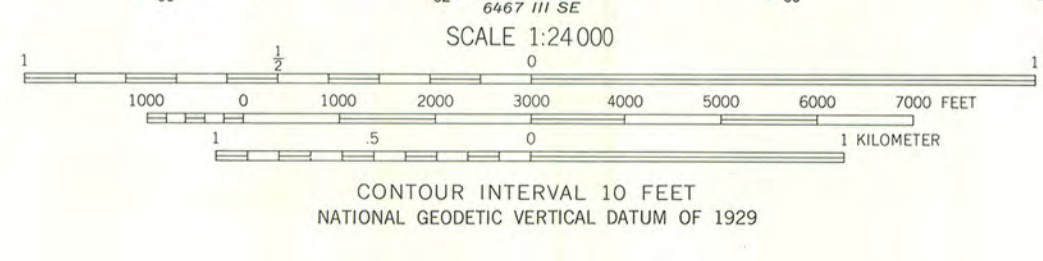
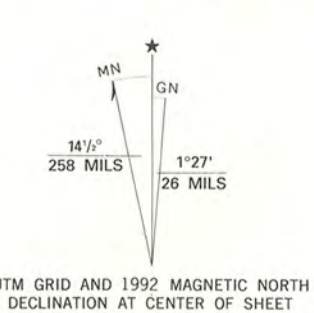






Commercial Trust Company  
NEW BRITAIN, CT  
UTM REFERENCE  
18/4615080/684550

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with Connecticut Highway Department  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
1941. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1966  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on  
Connecticut coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 5 meters south and  
38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled  
from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources  
Contours not revised. This information not field checked  
Map edited 1992  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.  
41072-F7-TF-024  
1966  
REVISED 1992  
DMA 6467 III NE-SERIES V816





**ANVIL COMMONS, LLC**  
22 PINE ST., SUITE 100,  
BRISTOL, CT 06010  
(860-583-3766)

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1999

June 15, 1999

Connecticut Historical  
Commission

Mr. John W. Shannahan  
Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: 55 West Main St., New Britain, CT  
National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Shannahan:

Please be advised that I own 55 West Main Street, New Britain, CT and hereby object to the property being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

  
JAMES F. CALCIANO  
ANVIL COMMONS, LLC

JFC/mar

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 1999.

Cheryl W. DeSantis  
NOTARY PUBLIC Cheryl W. DeSantis

My Commission Expires May 31, 2000

Vairo

Royal Bride Limited Partnership  
1728 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11204

January 15, 2009

Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Programs  
1201 I Street NW  
Org. code 2280  
Washington, DC 20005

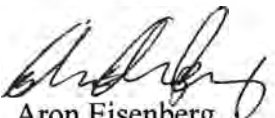
Re: Commercial Trust Company Building  
51-55 West Main Street  
New Britain, Connecticut  
National Register listing objection

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am the current owner of the above noted historic property in downtown New Britain, Connecticut. By this letter I formally request that the objection on record to the National Register of Historic Places be lifted.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Aron Eisenberg  
President/owner

ALLEN METZGER  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
No. 24-5005131  
Qualified in Kings County  
Commission Expires Nov. 30, 2010  
 1/15/09

cc: Karen Senich, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer  
Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism  
One Constitution Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Historic Preservation  
and Museum Division

One Constitution Plaza  
Second Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06103

860.256.2800  
860.256.2763 (f)

141  
January 22, 2009

Mr. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Org. Code 2280  
Washington, D. C. 20005



RE: Commercial Trust Company Building  
51-55 West Main Street  
New Britain, Connecticut

*Hartford County*

Dear Mr. Loether:

The Commercial Trust Company Building, located at 51-55 West Main Street in New Britain, Connecticut was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places on August 17, 1999, but was never listed due to owner objection. Ownership of the property has since changed and the current owner has requested that the property be listed on the National Register. It is the opinion of this office that the property meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, despite the demolition of two, circa 1970s rear additions. Of note, the owner of the building is taking advantage of the Federal Tax Incentives program. On July 25, 2007, the National Park Service reviewed and approved the Part 2 application, which included the demolition of these additions.

A copy of the notarized letter from the current owner dated January 15, 2009 requesting that the property be listed on the National Register is also attached.

Sincerely,

David Bahlman, Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: Letter from Aron Eisenberg to Paul Loether dated January 15, 2009

cc: Karen Senich, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer  
Aron Eisenberg, President, Royal Bride Limited Partnership

**CONNECTICUT**

[www.cultureandtourism.org](http://www.cultureandtourism.org)