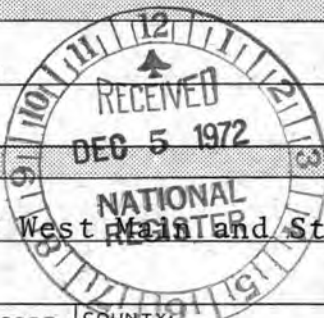


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
The Powers Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest corner of West Main and State Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Rochester

STATE: New York CODE: 36 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 055

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) <u>Offices</u>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes/No)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Powers Building Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Rochester

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
County Clerk's Office, Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
39 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Rochester

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Photo-Data Project

DATE OF SURVEY: August 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
New York

CODE:
11

Rep. Barber Conable Jr.
37th Congressional District

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New York
COUNTY: Monroe
ENTRY NUMBER: 11
DATE: APR 9 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

The massive nine-story Powers Building occupies the major portion of a city block in downtown Rochester. The building measures approximately 165' on West Main Street and 171' on State Street and is laid out around a large open stairwell in the center.

On the exterior the ground floor has undergone Twentieth Century remodeling probably replacing cast iron store fronts. The next four stories have two different treatments of stone facing. The seventeen-bay corner is a series of arched windows and vermiculated stone quoins. The remaining sixteen bays on the State Street (east) facade and ten bays on the West Main Street (south) facade are framed with flattened arches and slender corinthian columns. The large expanses of glass relative to stone are a visual indication of the building's metal structure. A bracketed cornice divides the first five stories from the three upper ones which are a series of "roofs." The first mansard roof is original to the building and the second and third were added in 1872 and 1874 respectively and were constructed of riveted steel plate. All three stories are faced with light rose colored shingles in contrast to the gray stone of the lower stories. The windows of the first two mansard roofs have heavy window hoods unlike those on the final story which have simple stone moldings. The three-tiered tower is off center on the West Main Street (south) facade.

The interior of the Powers Building reflects the same inventive quality characteristic of the exterior. Most notable is the interior court where the ornate cast iron stairway is located. Marble wainscoting is found throughout the public spaces, and the corridor floors are marble or tile. The doorframes on the first four floors are marble while those on the upper floors are wood. A marble plaque commemorates the architect and craftsmen who worked in the building. It reads:

Powers'
Commercial
Fire-Proof Buildings
1869-1870

A.J. Warner & Co., Architects
W.H. Gorsline, Mason
J.C. Wagner, Carpenter
Architectural Iron Works, New York
Henry S. Hebard, Marble
Peter Pitkin, Stone Front
Whitmore, Carson & Co., Medina Stone
John Siddons & Son, Plumbing
Sherlock & Sloan, Gas & Stream
A. Ernisse, Painting
M. Briggs & Son, Iron Vaults
W.G. Frutchey, Slating
M & E Huntington, Plate Glass



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1970

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

New York State Historic Trust Statewide Survey
1967 State
Division of Historic Preservation, South Swan Street Building
Albany New York 36



8. SIGNIFICANCE

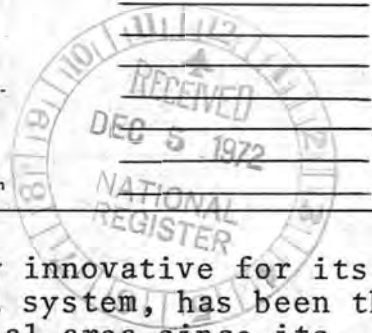
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1869-70, 1872, 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Powers Building, architecturally innovative for its day due to its scale and metal structural system, has been the keystone of Rochester's downtown commercial area since its construction in 1869-70.

Designed by Andrew Jackson Warner, a prominent upstate New York architect, the Powers Building ranks with Buffalo's old City Hall (now the Erie County Hall, built 1872-5) as the most important buildings of Wagner's career. The Powers Building was acclaimed as the first fire-proof structure in Rochester and, at the time, the only building west of New York City equipped with elevators.¹ Cast iron for the building was purchased from Daniel D. Badger's renowned Architectural Iron Works in New York City.

The building's sophisticated engineering characteristics and architectural embellishments are inextricably linked to its history as they were dictated by the whims and aspirations of its remarkable owner, Daniel Powers (1826-1897). The multiple mansard roofs and tower raised twice in four years reflect Powers' determination to own the tallest building in the city.

Daniel Powers' life history resembles that described in an Horatio Alger novel. Born in Genesee, New York, he moved to Rochester in 1838 at the age of twelve. He worked for and lived with Ebenezer Watts, a hardware dealer. In 1850, he opened the Powers Banking Office in the Eagle Block, the same site where his building was to go twenty years later.

Powers was a director of the Industrial School of Rochester, the Rochester City Hospital and building commissioner for the present City Hall. His bank and office building was the dream of his life.

Not only did Powers make a fortune, but in his role as patron of the arts he accumulated a significant art collection which was on display in his building for twenty-two years.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Landmark Society of Western New York files.

Sturges, W. Knight. The Origins of Cast Iron Architecture in America. DaCapo Press, New York: 1970.

Withey, Henry I. et. al. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Hennessey and Ingallis Inc. Los Angeles: ;970.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 09' 21"	77° 38' 11"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Louise H. Klinke, revised by Cornelia E. Brooke, November 1972

ORGANIZATION

The Landmark Society of Western New York

DATE

November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

130 Spring Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Rochester

STATE

New York

CODE

36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Alexander Aldrich

Title State Liaison Officer

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert K. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/3/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/22/76

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New York	
COUNTY	Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	APR 3	1972

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Today the building has continued to be used for offices with some interior modernization. Despite the unsympathetic renovation of the ground floor exterior the Powers Building remains one of Rochester's most architecturally and historically significant commercial blocks and of major importance to the downtown streetscape.

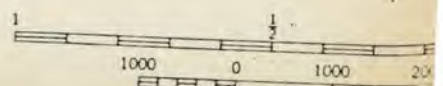
¹Henry F. Withey et. al., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Hennessey and Ingalls Inc., Los Angeles: 1970, p.634.





The Powers Building
Rochester, New York
 Prepared and published by the New York State Department of Transportation
 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal
 Highway Administration, Bureau of Public Roads.

Map base reproduced from U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle





① Powers Building
Main & State Streets
Rochester, N.Y.
Monroe County

The Landmark Society of Western, N. Y. Inc.
130 SPRING STREET
ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14608

NPS Number 4/3/73
Title: Powers bldg.
Loc. MONROE, New York
North west view of exterior

① PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R30-6
3

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PHOTO BY HANS PADEL
CAMERA : GRAFLEX - XL
LENS
DATE



The Landmark Society of Western, N. Y. Inc.
130 SPRING STREET
ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14608

Powers Building

Photographer: Hans Padgett

NPS Number 4/2/73

Title: Powers Bldg.

Loc. MORRIS, New York

INTERIOR CASE IRON STAIRCASE

②

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
The Powers Building		APR 9 1978
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
New York	Monroe	Rochester
STREET AND NUMBER		
Northwest corner of West Main and State Streets		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Hans Padelt	1972	Hans Padelt, Rochester, N.Y.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View of interior cast iron staircase



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

1. NAME

COMMON

The Powers Building

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

APR 3 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

New York

COUNTY

Monroe

TOWN

Rochester

STREET AND NUMBER

Northwest corner of West Main and State Streets

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

DOT Rochester Quadrangle
7.5 series Planimetric

DATE

1952 revised 1968

SCALE

1:2400

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:



PH0009989

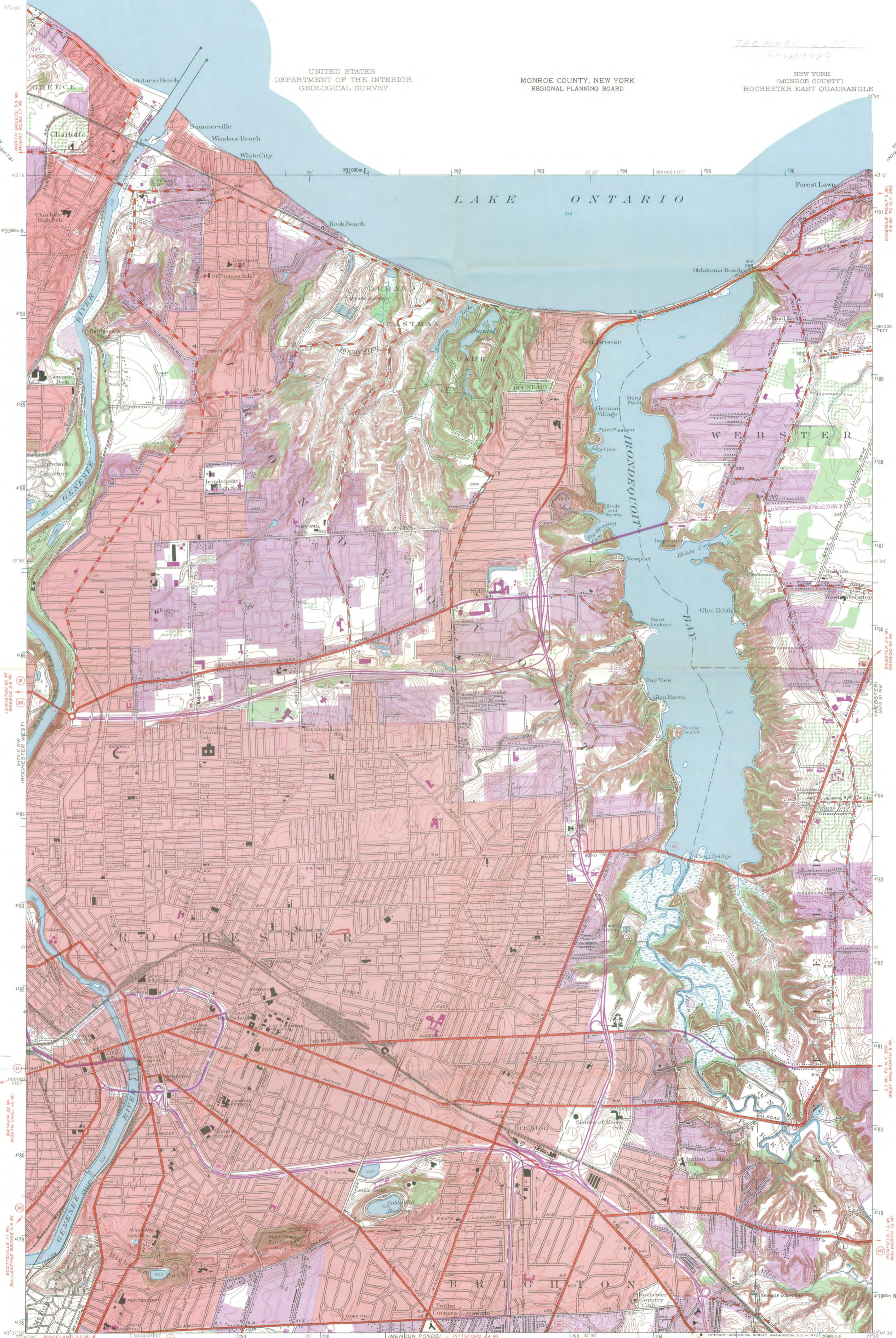
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

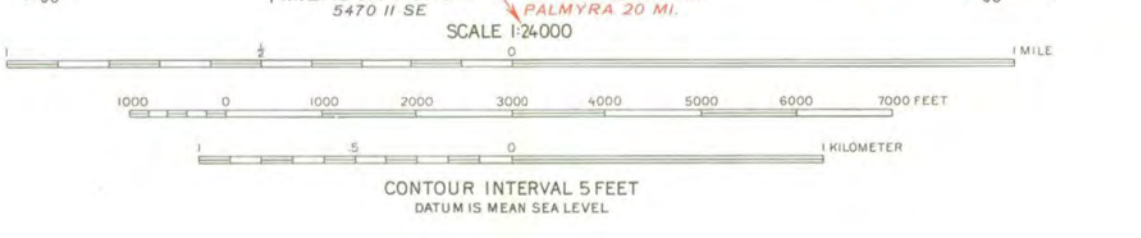
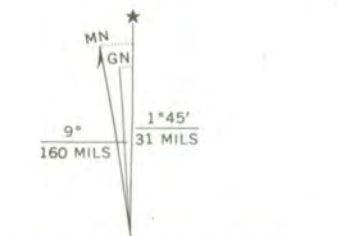
NEW YORK
(MONROE COUNTY)
ROCHESTER EAST QUADRANGLE

*The Office of
24009987*

*7/21/50
287500
4781250*



Topography by K.W. Trimble, Crawford Dickey, J.L. Watkins, and H.F. Ewing. Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs. Surveyed in 1931. Revised in 1952. Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, west zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1969. This information not field checked. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	Slate Route



ROCHESTER EAST, N.Y.
N4307.5-W7730.7.5
1952
PHOTO REVISSED 1969
AMS 5470 II NE-SERIES V821

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/9/2019 Date of Pending List: 8/28/2019 Date of 16th Day: 9/12/2019 Date of 45th Day: 9/23/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:


Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 9/13/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer 
Alexis Abernathy

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236

Date 9/13/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

PROPERTY The Powers Building STATE N.Y.

Ref 73001204

Working number 12.5.72.1853

TECH REVIEW
Photos 2
Maps 1

5/31/73
Monroe

REVIEW

4/1/73
2-22-73
OK

HISTORIAN Sho sign, not dated

Accept - AMK
3/14/73

Accept 9-73
3-19 should

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

Accept
KH
3/14/73

BRANCH CHIEF

Just Photo

OK R/L
2/21/73

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER
National Register write-up _____
Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Acknowledge 12/5/72

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Nice photograph

Register no. APR 3 1973



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION

• South Swan Street Building, South Mall, Albany, N.Y. 12223

Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner

November 20, 1972

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:



The Powers Building, Rochester, New York

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the State Board for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

Alexander Aldrich

ALEXANDER ALDRICH

3

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered APR 3 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ellicottville Town Hall	Ellicottville Cattaraugus County
Eatons Neck Light	Huntington Suffolk County
Jamel Terrace Historic District	New York
75 Murray Street Building	New York
The Powers Building	Rochester Monroe County
Stockade Historic District	Schenectady Schenectady County
Central New York Telephone & Telegraph Building	Syracuse Onondaga County
MacDonald Farm	Town of Meredith Delaware County
Spencertown Academy	Spencertown vicinity Columbia County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. Jack Kemp
Hon. James R. Crover, Jr.
Hon. Bella S. Abzug
Hon. Barber Conable, Jr.
Hon. Carleton J. King
Hon. James M. Hanley

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Room 303, South Swan Street Building
Albany, New York 12223

Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.
Ms. Ann Webster Smith, DOT

Director, Northeast Region

4/11/73

NRowland:mm

PHR

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

listed 4/3/73
Monroe County
NY

June 17, 1981

Ms. Suressa H. Forbes
Assistant City Manager
City of Rochester
City Hall
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614

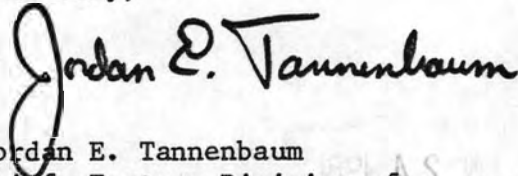
Dear Ms. Forbes:

On June 8, 1981, the Council received your determination that the rehabilitation of the Powers Building, Rochester, New York, would adversely affect that National Register property. In accordance with Section 800.6(a) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director does not object to your determination.

As provided in Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Chief, Eastern Division of
Project Review

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JUN 24 1981

 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

 INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

 TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

*Monroe County, NY
listed 4/3/73*

June 26, 1981

Ms. Suressa H. Forbes
Assistant City Manager
City of Rochester
City Hall
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Ms. Forbes:

On June 8, 1981, the Council received your determination that the rehabilitation of the Powers Building, Rochester, New York, would not adversely affect that National Register property. In accordance with Section 800.6(a) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director does not object to your determination.

As provided in Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Chief, Eastern Division of
Project Review

1881 e S

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JUN 29 1981

 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

 INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL SENT

 TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS