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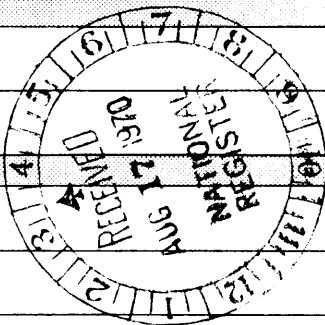
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.06.0007	DATE 10/6/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Cheney Building (G. FOX)  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
~~Brown-Thompson Building and G. Fox Building~~



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
942 Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Hartford  
STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06101 COUNTY: Hartford CODE: 003

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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:  
The May Department Stores Company  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and Olive St.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
St. Louis, Missouri  
STATE: Missouri CODE: 27

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Municipal Building  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Hartford  
STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Hartford  
STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

This is a massive commercial building which is distinguished by its carefully articulated design and by its rugged appearance. Its exterior walls are built of roughfaced Berea limestone and Portland brownstone.

Architectural elements divide the seven story facade in three major areas. The suggestion of two towers of different heights and different ornamentation on either side of the facade introduce interesting imbalance in the design. The south tower continues around the south side of the building so that there is a suggestion of a third dimension as one looks down the side street next to the building.

At the sidewalk level five broad arches frame two story subdivisions one for each corner and three in the center. Above a pair of three story arches surmount each ground floor arch. Then at the cornice the top floor breaks free of the regular system and emphasizes the asymmetry which which Richardson superimposed on the rectangular facade. At each end three arches replace the pair below; but the taller ones under the roof of the corner pavillion roof become an additional floor higher. Then between these an arcade is formed by placing four fine arched openings above each pair below.

Colonnettes support the arches at this level creating a ribbon-like effect. Their capitols are covered heavily with leaves. The divisions of the building into three major sections is further emphasized by bands of ornamentation and fluting, which resemble a hybrid of the classical frieze and a string course, which serve to demarcate the three different levels of arches.

Alternating patterns of brownstone and white limestone emphasize the arches and other structural elements in the building. However, weathering and city dirt now subdue the contrast of the light and dark stone.

The interior has been completely reworked. Originally there were two low entrance portals below the corner pavillions, one of which remains. Absent also is the southern member of a pair of pointed arches which were in between the arches of the entrance level and which carried the street number in their tympana. The two original entrances functioned as entrances into an interior court, now filled in. Before the building was altered the building had multiple uses. From the five arches in front and from the court behind was access to shops, law offices, and spacious apartments. Now it serves as quarters for part of the large G. Fox and Co., a department store.

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**3. 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)

1875 - 1876

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | Work of a   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | master architect.                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

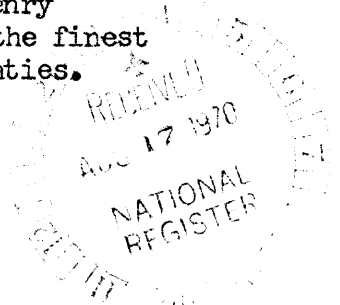
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Hobson Richardson was commissioned in September 1875 to design the commercial block originally called 'The Cheney Building'.

Richardson's original intention in the design of the building was to integrate it with the adjacent and neighboring structures. However, he deviated from this purpose after seeing the English architect Burges' recent and successful use of brownstone with limestone at Trinity College. By constructing with rough-faced stone instead of the brick which he had originally chosen, Richardson produced a commercial building with a unique and rugged appearance. Before it had mellowed, the bright contrast of Berea limestone with the Portland brownstone must have set the Cheney Building apart from its neighbors by its color and its massing.

The massing of the building demands appreciation. Fortunately for the corner site, the traditional pavilions at the corners work to pull the building together in three dimension. The corner obviously drew Richardson's attention, because he piled a high roof on that pavilion and not on the other. He created an illusion of four square solidity and symmetry that was not in fact so.

The Cheney Building is important because it is the work of a master architect and because it is part of the evolution of the skyscraper. Ten years later Richardson designed the landmark in architectural history the Marshall-Field Warehouse in Chicago. Of the Cheney Building Henry Russell Hitchcock has noted that it is one of the finest buildings in the world dating from the mid-seventies.



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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and his Times. M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1961.

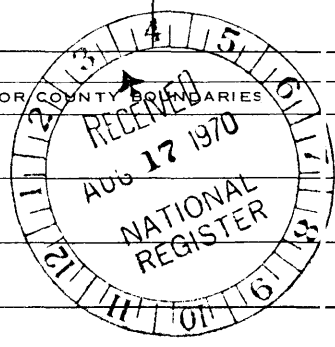
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	46'	04"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	40'	23"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: July 7, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

**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 type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer and Chairman</u> <u>Connecticut Historical Commission</u></p> <p>Date: <u>July 7, 1970</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>OCT 6 1970</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>AUG 2 1970</u></p>
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CHENEY BUILDING  
 LATITUDE 41° 46' 04"  
 LONGITUDE 72° 40' 23"

