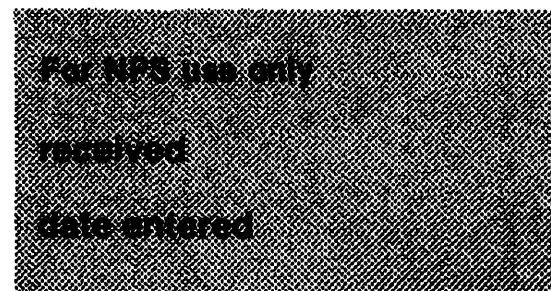


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NAME: Pawtucket Times Building  
LOCATION: 23 Exchange Street  
OWNER: New England Newspapers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 320  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The 1895 Pawtucket Times Building stands on the south side of Exchange Street on the west edge of Pawtucket's downtown; its attached printing department reaches south to North Union Street. Adjoining the Times Building on the east is the 1926 Pawtucket Elks Lodge Building (also nominated herein)--together, these two buildings constitute one of the most impressive sections of urban streetscape remaining in Pawtucket. The lot next west of the Times Building, formerly the site of a small, downtown diner, is now vacant.

The main office block of the Times Building stands five stories high and fronts upon Exchange Street; a slightly later one- and two-story addition housing the printing department extends from the rear of the office block back to North Union and Montgomery Streets. All sections of the building are flat-roofed; all the exterior walls except the Exchange Street facade are of red brick laid in red mortar. The walls of the printing plant addition are articulated by piers and shallow, sunken panels; the side and rear walls of the main block are flat. The ground story of the Exchange Street facade is presently divided into an unbalanced arrangement of four bays separated by granite piers and capped by a severe granite entablature. The four floors above are faced with yellow brick laid in yellow mortar. On the middle three floors, a pale buff limestone is used for trim (quoins, window sills and lintels, and a minor, dentiled cornice at the level of the fifth floor window sills). For the crowning fifth story, a darker, orange-brown terra-cotta is used for the columns and arches of the glazed arcades and for the ornate, modillioned cornice which caps the composition. Each of these four upper stories is symmetrically divided into four bays--two narrow end bays flanking two wider middle bays.

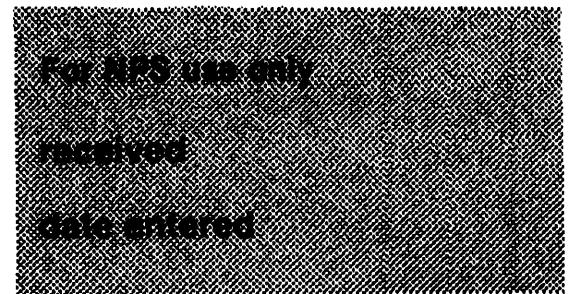
Vertically, the five-story facade follows the traditional three-part formula of base (stone & glass ground floor), body (the three middle floors of yellow brick with limestone trim), and cap (the attic story with its ornate terra-cotta). The specific details of the facade are classically inspired as well, although there is a distinctly Colonial Revival flavor in the middle three stories.

There have been three major changes in the building's facade. The

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original terra-cotta parapet, consisting of two short segments of balustrade flanking a broad central tablet emblazoned with the building's name, has been replaced by a plain, yellow brick substitute; the pair of original metal balconies carried on paired brackets before the two Palladian windows on the fourth floor have likewise been removed; and the ground-floor fenestration has been thoroughly altered, with the present arrangement of three, large, aluminum-framed windows to the left of the single entrance dating from a 1960s modernization. The open spaces and detailing of the interior of the Times Building have been altered on the first two floors with new floors, ceilings, and wall surfaces. The upper floors retain their plain and utilitarian aspect: simple partitions screen offices from print rooms; walls are painted brick or plain plaster; a simple matched-board wainscot lines the stairway.

PERIOD: 1800-1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture; Communications; Commerce

DATE: 1895

ARCHITECT: Unknown

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

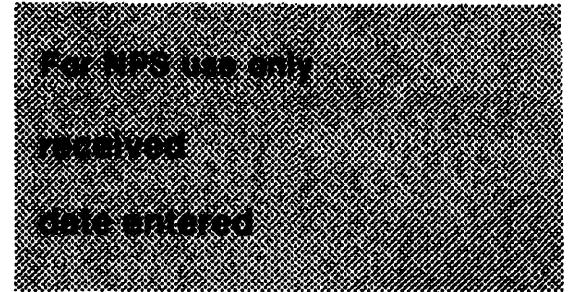
The Pawtucket Times Building, in conjunction with the Pawtucket Elks Lodge Building adjoining it, possesses architectural significance as one of the very few fragments of truly urban streetscape remaining in Pawtucket. In addition, the Times Building is significant in the history of communications in Pawtucket; it was built for, and is still occupied by, the longest running and most successful newspaper in the city's history.

Perhaps as many as a dozen different newspapers were published in Pawtucket in the nineteenth century, most of them appearing and then going out of business fairly rapidly. The earlier ones were all weeklies, and the only really successful paper among them was the Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle. The editors of this paper put out the city's first daily paper, the Evening Chronicle, in 1885, but it folded within two months, perhaps under the pressure of the city's second daily paper, the Evening Times. The Times was started on April 30, 1885, by George O. Willard and was an immediate success. It was purchased in 1890 by David O. Black of Providence (who was then managing the Providence Telegram), and the new owner set out to improve the paper and build up its circulation. In this he was eminently successful, the Times circulation rising from 3500 in 1885 to almost 15,000 in 1896. In view of this success, Black determined to erect a new building in which to house the paper's operations, and the new block on Exchange Street was commissioned. The first paper issued from the new Times Building appeared on March 1, 1896; the daily Times has been published from this building ever since.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 43A, lot 455, and includes the Times Building and its immediate surroundings.

ACREAGE: less than one  
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local  
UTM: A 19 302000 4638940

(See Continuation Sheet #95)