

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	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Union Trust Company Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
62 Dorrance 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	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)
Comments: _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dorrance Associates, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
235 Promenade Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street at Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Union Trust Company Building in downtown Providence is a twelve-story structure of steel framing and concrete, externally faced in brick and stone. It was built in 1901-1902 from designs by the local firm of Stone, Carpenter and Willson, who employed for its ornate exterior the then-prevalent renaissance-revival style, somewhat French-accented. Nine bays wide across its principal (west) façade, it was originally only four bays deep but was expanded to its present depth of seven bays about 1920. The first and second stories were reserved for bank use, the upper floors given over to office suites for rental.

Externally, the first and second stories display a facing of rusticated granite and are treated as one unit (a "base" for the tall elevations above). The first story is of considerable height, and its large window bays are separated from one another by engaged columns of the composite order, "continued" in the second story by rustication and supporting there keystone round arches. Heavy quoined piers define the corners of the building at these two levels. The tall plate glass windows of the ground floor are each divided in two by metal mullions, up to a segmentally-arched transom area; each transom space contains an oval stained glass panel showing the crest of a great banking city of the world. The elaborate central entrance portico of stone on the west front is distyle in antis, and has composite columns supporting a massive entablature with dentils and modillions. Upon the entablature is a balustrade with urns. The broad central doorway within the portico is arched and has reclining figures in relief surmounting it; narrower bays on either side have blind oculi above rectangular windows. (Originally a domed, circular vestibule of bronze and glass was set in front of the entrance. Now there is a plainer, rectangular, interior one instead.) A much less adorned entrance is in the easternmost bay (newer portion) of the north elevation and gives access to an elevator lobby which serves the offices on the upper floors.

The third story has its own treatment of rustication, and the windows of the fourth through twelfth floors are treated with either full, rusticated "Gibbs surrounds" or, alternately, only capping in this style. These stories are covered by brick and trimmed with white Georgia marble. At the building's top, long brackets support a deep, modillioned cornice, above which runs a balustrade with urns--an enlarged version of that over the entrance portico. On the west, two widely-spaced decorative balconies are attached to the fourth story, and one accents the center of the eighth story.

The interior of the ground floor is described in the Savings and Trust Review of September, 1904:

The ground space is 44x96 feet [74x96 after 1920]. It has a paneled ceiling with a carving in the center of each panel. The walls are finished in laquered gold. The counter, which is serpentine in form, is constructed of the finest selected "Old Convent" Siena marble of wonderful uniformity and texture,

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) -1

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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

and is supported by a series of consoles, each of which bears the sculptured head of some divinity. Surmounting the counter is a grillework of chaste design. The floor of the lobby is a series of mosaics with interlacing of the Numidian, Siena, and other famous marbles ...

A stairway at the rear of the large banking-hall just described led to a balcony and to the directors' room. The latter was panelled in dark woods and lighted by three "rococo sunbursts." Stairway, balcony and directors' room are no longer present, and unfortunately a lack of records, of memory and of photographs at the bank prevents better description of these presumably imposing features or of the changes made upon them, and elsewhere within.

As seen today, following the enlargement of the building c. 1920 and major renovations undertaken in 1928 and 1964, the banking-hall has two pairs of square, free-standing piers spaced down its center; they support the "beams" of the ceiling; an angular marble counter--without grillework and replacing the serpentine one--runs around them. The major dividing members of the ceiling are supported by light, decorated brackets where they meet the walls and interrupt the dentilled cornice or entablature running around the room. Each coffer of the ceiling now has a modern lighting fixture in its center. The large, segmental-headed windows on three sides of the room have enframements of plaster moldings topped by decorated keystones. Between the windows, above a high dado, are tall, narrow panels defined by plaster moldings formed of bound stems or stalks expanding into leafage at mid- and angle-points: rococo, but very controlled. In the southern portion of the east wall is the large and elaborate doorway to the vault, with large-scaled surmounting ornament of foliation, a cartouche etc. To the north of the vault there is a door leading to the elevator hall in the 1920 extension. This is treated in marble as a baroque portal with a scrolled pediment, carved foliation, a crest and urns on the banking-hall side, and a heavy broken segmental pediment on consoles on the corridor side. The stone or "mosaic" floor of the banking area is now covered by carpeting.

The elevator hall has a marble pavement with an inlaid border; its walls are partially panelled in marble; the ceiling is a panelled plaster barrel-vault. The upper, or office, floors have expectedly simple trim: corridors paved in dull white marble, light-colored plaster walls, dark-stained woodwork running around doors with frosted glass.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1901-1902

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Union Trust Company Building is an example of grandiose revivalist and eclectic turn-of-the-century architecture--a symbol of the high status in which the financial community saw itself in this era. Although its architects employed modern steel framing, which enabled them to build a commercial structure twelve stories high, somewhat indiscriminately-chosen "classic" or "period" decoration (described at the time as "French Renaissance of the period of Louis XV") was applied to make the building superficially opulent. Fortunately the results in this case are imposing and pleasing rather than extravagant and muddled.

The Bank of America had been chartered in Providence in 1851. It was renamed the Union Trust Company in 1894, and by 1900 a new building was wanted. The community had prospered greatly and was proud of its financial progress: the use in the new bank building of stained-glass panels representing great banking cities announces indirectly that Providence considered itself a banking center also. The use of sculptural ornament and semi-heraldic details emphasizes solidity and tradition, despite this bank's corporate existence of only fifty years. Savings and Trust Review of September, 1904, furthers this thought:

The most prominent architectural feature of the business centre of Providence, R. I., is the imposing building of the Union Trust Company. Symmetrical in its proportions, strikingly ornate, of unmistakable solidity and durability, overshadowing all other structures, it at once challenges attention and admiration. Rising to a height of 12 stories, it stands a graceful monument of prosperity based upon sound financial methods.

The regulated formality of the design demonstrates a reaction against the freer, more imaginative--and more native--architecture of the two or three decades preceding the date of this building's construction. At the same time, the "rococo" ornamentation within the building displays a vernacular, rather than an academically correct, approach: the plaster decoration is symmetrical and linear, unlike

(See Continuation Sheet 2)

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8. Significance.

the original and very plastic style. The space of the banking-hall is not "complex" and "sculpted," but straightforward, and enlivened originally only by the serpentine counter. Even the marble hallway of the 1920's enlargement is very plain in surface treatment except for the purposely impressive doorway to the banking-hall. Although the original proportions of the building were lost when it was enlarged, and the character of the interior diluted by renovations, the building still reflects the tastes and fortunes of its particular period and--in its prominent location--remains a focal point and a monument to Providence's growth, commerce and affluence.

After absorbing nine other banks and then becoming consolidated with the Providence National Bank, the Union Trust Company was in turn absorbed by the Industrial National Bank in 1957. The Industrial National Bank (having sold the building) now leases the ground floor as a branch office, and other concerns occupy the upper floors. This branch office is still called the "Union Trust Office" and is maintained in a state of elegance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1957), pp. 208, 209, 217.
 Piggott, Fred: A History of the Industrial National Bank of Providence, R. I. (Providence, Rhode Island, 1961).
Savings and Trust Review, Vol. ? , No. ? , pp. 315-319. September, 1904.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 48' 54.16"N	71° 24' 41.92"W	
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
B. Christopher Bene, Surveyor-Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: March 14, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: _____

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 type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

STATE Rhode Island	
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COMMON: Union Trust Company Building

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CITY OR TOWN:

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STATE:

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CODE

hh

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

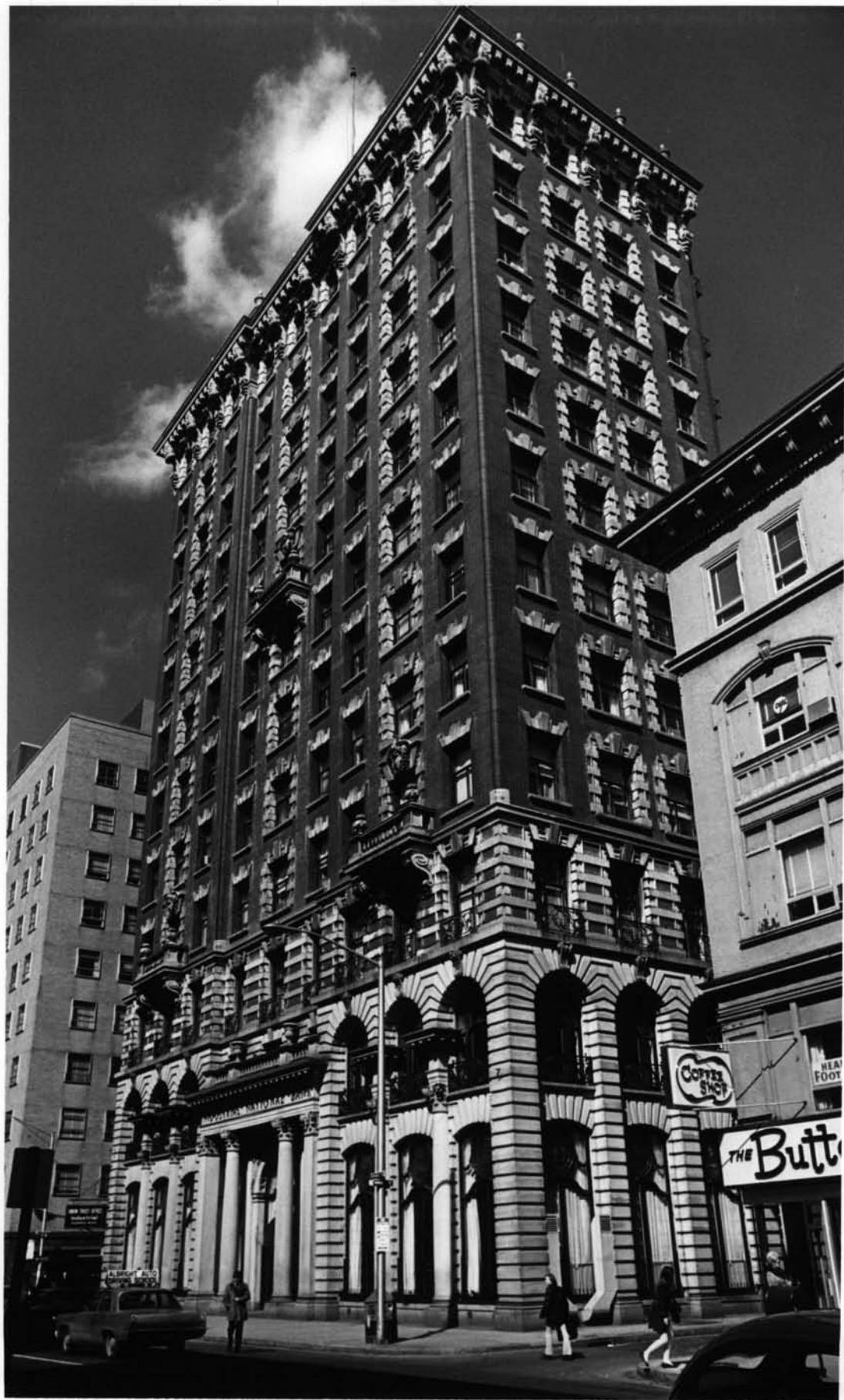
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View north-west in banking-hall.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from the south-west.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
John Brown House, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Door in north-east corner of banking-hall, leading to elevator lobby of office building.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 48' 54.16" N

Longitude: 71° 24' 41.92" W



Project Depth 16 feet
Light
Lts

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
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Rhode Island

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Providence

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007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 21,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.