

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENHL
Approved May 11, 1976NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC
THE ARCADE
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER
130 Westminster Street and 65 Weybosset Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Providence CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second
STATE CODE VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE
Rhode Island 44 Providence 007**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME
Rhode Island Association for the Blind Mrs. Helen Worden, Executive Director
STREET & NUMBER
1058 Broad Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Providence VICINITY OF Rhode Island 02905**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall
STREET & NUMBER
Dorrance and Washington Streets
CITY, TOWN STATE
Providence Rhode Island**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet)
DATE
1959 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN STATE
Washington, D.C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET The Arcade ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Title of survey:

A report on the Historic Existing Points of Interest . . . of the State of Rhode Island. Technical paper no. 2 by Louis C. David, Jr., for Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program.

Date of Survey: 1967 State

Depository for Survey Records:

Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program.
State House
90 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903 Code: 44

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

For various reasons the most interesting early description of the Arcade is the one Warren wrote for William Staples in 1843. The latter printed it with orthographical changes, added a paragraph on the beauty of the structure, and gave the name of the architect without, however, mentioning the contracting firm, Tallman and Bucklin.

"Built of Granite Stone in 1827 and 1828 it fronts on two streets 74 feet on Westminster at the North and 74 feet on Weybosset at the South and is 216 feet in length it forms a transept or cross of a 194 feet by 42

the two fronts are ornamented with recess Porticos 15 feet deep each composed of six Grecian Ionic columns of 3 feet diameter and two square antaes and crowned with an Entablature and cornice forming a Pediment, the whole height of the front Colonnade is 45 feet from the base to the Pediment

The Roof over the entrance hall or avenue is covered with glass 32 feet in width by 188 feet in length the roof over the stors is covered with tin

you enter the Portico by a flight of 4 steps running with the corner Buttments the entire length of the colonade

the hall of avenue running through from street to Street is 13 feet in width the building is three storys high there is 26 stors on each story making in all 78 stors

the stors in the second and third storys you ascend by two flights of stone steps under each Portico in each front

the Corridors forming the floors of the 2d and 3d storys are protected by a strong cast Iron ornamental ballustrade railing cap with mahogany and running entire around the interior of the Building

the whole Cost Estimated at \$145000"

This description is by no means complete, stressing only the details Warren considered noteworthy--the inner dimensions, the plan and organization, the roof. Much more is known. The sidewalls were unfinished, as A. J. Davis has pointed out, since other buildings were to go alongside. The granite came from the Johnston, Rhode Island farm of James Olney who cut his initials and the date, 1827, into one of the columns. The shafts are twenty-one feet high and the capitals imitate those of the Ionic temple on the Elissus. Except for the Attic base the proportions follow this prototype though hardly justifying, in our eyes, the Journal's description of the portico, "a copy of one of the most celebrated Grecian models."

(continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET The Arcade ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The great skylight and the set-back upper levels admit a flood of light down to the first floor. Except for one passerelle the interior has been kept free of obstructions. The roof beams are cantilevered out to the ridge which is supported at its ends by the large arches. The relation to Boston is apparent in the various uses of the Benjamin-favored meander and paneling. The curved motive in the cast-iron railing has a similar background, being simply a console redesigned for this material and purpose.

The contrast between exterior and interior is great. The severe facades are relieved simply by a few moldings and the capitals and bases. It is only the wide intercolumniation that lightens the rather ponderous rhythm of the supports. Inside, the columns are fluted, moldings enriched, and small decorative units are repeated countless times. Here, it is the skillful handling of planes and directing of movement that subordinates the repetition to the over-all effect.

Structurally, a most important factor is the attempt at fireproof construction. Contemporary accounts made much of the granite, stone, and brick, the extensive use of concrete, the tin roofing, and even the iron shutters. It was felt, apparently, that the shop-fronts did not constitute a danger. Warren was not, however, an innovator in this respect nor did he develop any noteworthy methods. Possibly this concern for fireproofing arose out of an acquaintance with the work of Robert Mills in Charleston.

from Robert Alexander, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians,
Vol. 12, No. 3, October 1953.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1827-1829 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Russell Warren (1783-1860)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Some of the finest examples of the Greek Revival style in America are in the state of Rhode Island. These houses, churches and commercial structures are largely the work of two men--Russell Warren and James C. Bucklin (1801-1880). The Arcade, one of the most beautiful of those early commercial structures imitating European business arcades, is still the most elegant building in the area and still functions as a series of shops. It is also an important example of early monolithic granite construction.

Praised in all the basic texts (Hamlin, Downing and Hitchcock), the Arcade was studied in particular by Robert Alexander (Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, October 1953, vol. 12, no. 3). He gives the design to Warren with James C. Bucklin as assistant in the execution of the work (newspaper accounts 1827). It was probably Bucklin who is responsible for the fine masonry and granite work.

Warren was influenced by John Haviland's designs (Haviland was designing Arcades for New York and Philadelphia in 1826) particularly the vast skylights and the general plan and section of the Providence building. Talbot Hamlin describes it as a building of "Great exterior dignity in its granite Ionic order, it has a light and open interior, skylighted, with balconies of rich and elegant cast iron. With the customary freedom of the best Greek Revival designers, its architects have not hesitated to use arched openings where they wished. Providence was enormously proud of it and rightly so, and engravings of it were widely published."¹ In 1833 a Scotch critic found the Doric columns barbarized by the Ionic capitals (an "absence of taste") but this freedom of adaptation of ancient forms was typical of American architects--Parris' and Willard's St. Paul's in Boston was probably the inspiration for the Westminster Street Facade.

Robert Alexander comments on the interior:

"It shows a fine integration of practical structural and decorative requirements. The porticoes give access to the building and house the stairways supported by the granite walls. Passage to any part of the building is quick, the early Greek Revival character appears

¹ Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover Press, 1944, pp.182.

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CONTINUATION SHEET The Arcade ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

not simply in the decoration but in the compact organization into a clearly defined entity. At either end the arch and columns create a focal point. The iron railings and Ionic entablature with the supporting planes of shopfronts sweep through to connect the ends and visually delimit the interior space. The whole is an immediately comprehensible structure."²

He also documents the genesis of the building:

"A speculative venture, the Arcade was Cyrus Butler's initial challenge to Cheapside and the Brown family interests. Despite the utility and convenience of many shops grouped under one roof, it was less successful commercially than aesthetically.

The first newspaper mention of the Arcade, April 8, 1827, referred to the intended location and the presumptive increase in land values of the region. On April 22, the Gazette published a longer account based on drawings in which the major elements were present--the long avenue with entrance to the stores and the glazed roof for lighting. There were, however, twenty-eight shops on each floor, only two floors, and stairs at one entrance called the front.

At a later date, then, it was decided to add a third floor. This increase may have resulted from optimism on the part of the backers in the flush days of 1828. At any rate the depth of one store had to be surrendered, leaving only twenty-six on each floor. This space, thirteen and a half feet, permitted a vestibule at the Weybosset Street end for the additional stairways necessitated by the third floor and the expectation of great traffic. The inner columns and arch that support the ridgepole at either end were intended originally to stand on the floor. The crown of the arch would then have been exactly on a level with the cornice of the facade. Raised one story, these columns stand precariously over the edge of the spur wall below. A. J. Davis noted this structural peculiarity and carefully showed it in his drawings. The roof was built as originally planned, but, because the third story was so much narrower, coving along the side was introduced to cover an unfortunate gap below the skylight.

The north front shows little effect from this change of plan. The upper balcony seems crowded in at an awkward level while the first balcony railing is equidistant from the floor and from the architrave. The acroteria were planned from the beginning, and it was intended to have a marble statue on the center one. Those at the side, however,

²Robert Alexander, "The Arcade in Providence," *JSAH*, October, 1953, pp. 13-16

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CONTINUATION SHEET The Arcade ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

were now extended inward to the raking cornices. It was at the south or Weybosset front that the greatest change occurred. Planned without a vestibule and stairways, this facade had not even been given a pediment. An early lithograph shows how deserted this region was; not a building stood near the Arcade. The third story had to be concealed by some means, but as quickly and cheaply as possible. These requirements were not to be met by a triangular pediment with its cutting along angles. The simple block and panel railing was designed, hastily quarried, and erected. Apparently it is not of the same material as the rest of the building; the difference in color appears in the photograph. It was not as well constructed; the expansion of the wooden ridge beam forced it out of line necessitating repairs in 1947." ³

³ Alexander, p. 14.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	299780	4632800	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Plat 20., Lot 130

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

2/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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:
The Arcade

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
130, Westminster Street and 65, Weybosset 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
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Rhode Island Association for the Blind

STREET AND NUMBER:
1058, Broad 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 and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (See Continuation Sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1st Street and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arcade, a Greek Revival structure built to house shops and offices, traverses the centre of a downtown block, from 130, Westminster Street to 65, Weybosset Street, in Providence. It was built in 1828 by Cyrus C. Butler jointly with The Arcade Realty Company, Russell Warren and Major James C. Bucklin, Jr., being collaborating architects.

Built throughout of local granite, with the visible walls of smooth-faced regular coursed ashlar, it is a long (216 feet) gable-roofed building with short lateral wings near its centre and a massive hexastyle portico at each end. The granite Ionic columns of the porticoes are monolithic; the scale is monumental. (These columns, brought from Bare Ledge Quarry in Johnston, Rhode Island, remained the largest monolithic shafts in this country, until those of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York, well on in this century.)

The Westminster Street (north) front, an Ionic pedimented portico, was designed by James Bucklin for Cyrus Butler, the original entrepreneur. Russell Warren, who designed the Weybosset Street (south) façade, was engaged by The Arcade Realty Company. For this front, Warren employed an unpedimented portico with a panelled attic parapet--a scheme he used in variant forms for several of his later buildings.

The interior space, three storeys high, has lengthwise banks of shops facing each other; the upper levels are reached by twin flights of stairs at each end. The stairs connect with galleries running across the end of the building and along its sides, in front of the ranges of shops. These galleries, enclosed by handsome, original cast iron railings, are in turn connected (at second-floor level only) by a central cross-gallery or bridge. Originally the shop-fronts of the first and second floors were composed of windows and doors separated by projecting pilasters which concealed shutters folded back when the shops were open. This scheme was altered in 1901, and again when repairs were made in 1911 and the present first- and second-floor shop-fronts were installed. The shop windows of the third storey, however, are still finished with their original simple Greek Revival detail. The low gable roof, set above a wide, coved cornice area, has a long range of glazed skylights, which are set in iron sashes supported and separated by wooden rafters.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1828

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 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/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 type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | | Social/Humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | _____ | |
| | | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Arcade is not only an extremely important example, in Rhode Island and the nation, of Greek Revival architecture but is also one of our best examples of early monolithic granite construction. It is also the chief surviving early XIX Century example (probably the only one in its particular architectural style) of the good number of business arcades, copying those of European cities, which were being erected in America in the 1820's. Robert Alexander has stated that, "As an expression of the Greek Revival, the Arcade had, when built, few peers in this country." And Henry-Russell Hitchcock has remarked upon how "Bucklin's superb Westminster Street portico rises absolute and international between its earlier post-colonial neighbors. These appear domestic and provincial by contrast, almost as its present neighbors appear cheap and inconsequential."

This last remains true: While still serving its convenient urban commercial purposes, The Arcade has become both a much appreciated Providence landmark and a notable one in our national architectural history. Flanked, faced and squeezed by a variety of later buildings of all sizes, styles and heights, it still presides over a long part of Westminster Street (in spite of a facing skyscraper) and handsomely dominates a curve of Weybosset Street.

The architects who designed this building are regarded as important figures in the development of the Greek Revival style in New England. Russell Warren (1784-1860), a resident of Bristol, was a self-trained architect, the earliest exponent of the Greek Revival in his state. His work was mainly here--but in other states also--and he is remarkable for his inventiveness. The body of his work reflects the continuing stylistic development of his times, ranging from Federal to Greek Revival to adventures in Romantic Gothic near his death. James Bucklin (1801-1880) served an apprenticeship with John Holden

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)--1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys.

Title of Survey: A Report on the Historic Existing Points of Interest ... of the State of Rhode Island. Technical Paper No. 2, by Louis C. David, Jr., for Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program.

Date of Survey: 1967. State X

Depository for Survey Records:
Rhode Island Statewide Land Use and Planning Program,
State House,
90, Smith Street,
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903 44

7. Description.

The building remained in partial ownership of the Butler heirs until 1944. Threatened with demolition, it was purchased from them in that year to insure its preservation as an historic monument; it was then decided to the Rhode Island Association for the Blind as caretaker of The Arcade and recipient of its rental income. At that time the building underwent a fairly comprehensive structural renewal, including some alterations such as the mentioned changes in the shop-fronts. Glazed walls and gates were then also installed across the inner faces of the porticoes to allow for nighttime protection of the internal business premises. None of these changes (such as the more recent installation of an elevator in one wing) has really had any important effect on the over-all exterior or interior appearance of the building.

Adapted from a description
by Antoinette F. Downing.

8. Significance.

Greene, Providence architect, and later entered partnership with William Tallman. Together with either Warren or Tallman, he had a hand in all of the important Providence commissions from the 1820's through the 1850's. Even when he worked with later styles, "the qualities that are common to all Bucklin's buildings are due to the fact that he came to maturity with the Greek Revival."

(See Continuation Sheet 2)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, R. I., 1957), pp. 99, 107.
 Downing, Antoinette Forrester: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), pp. 408, 442, 444, 447, 463.
 Alexander, Robert: The Arcade in Providence (In Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 13-16. October, 1953).
 Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, R. I., 1939), p. 46.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41°	49'	25"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	24'	38"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Antoinette Forrester Downing, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: Oct. 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90, Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) --2

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

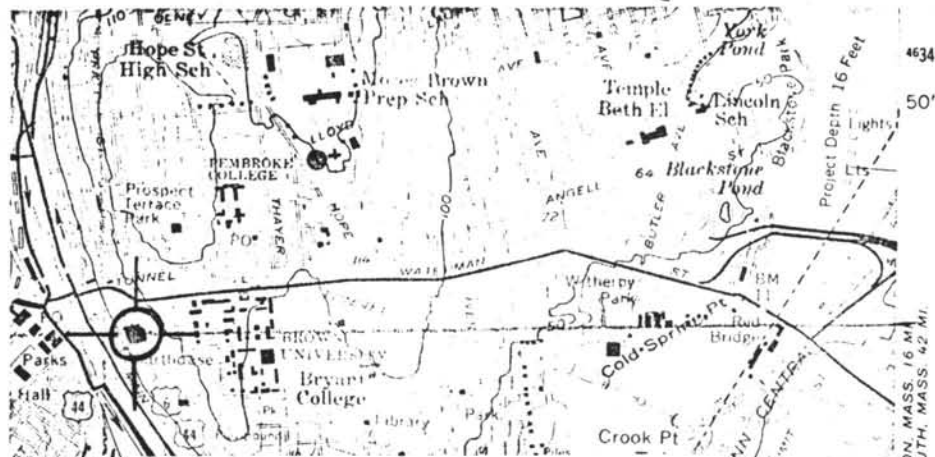
Quoting Hitchcock again, The Arcade "is the chief extant American example of the arcades and passages of nineteenth century European cities. Light and straightforward in construction and design, the building is a model of efficient and graceful construction." It remains a thing of architectural beauty and one of constant use and usefulness, outstandingly deserving of protection and perpetuation.

Adapted from comments
by Antoinette F. Downing
and others.

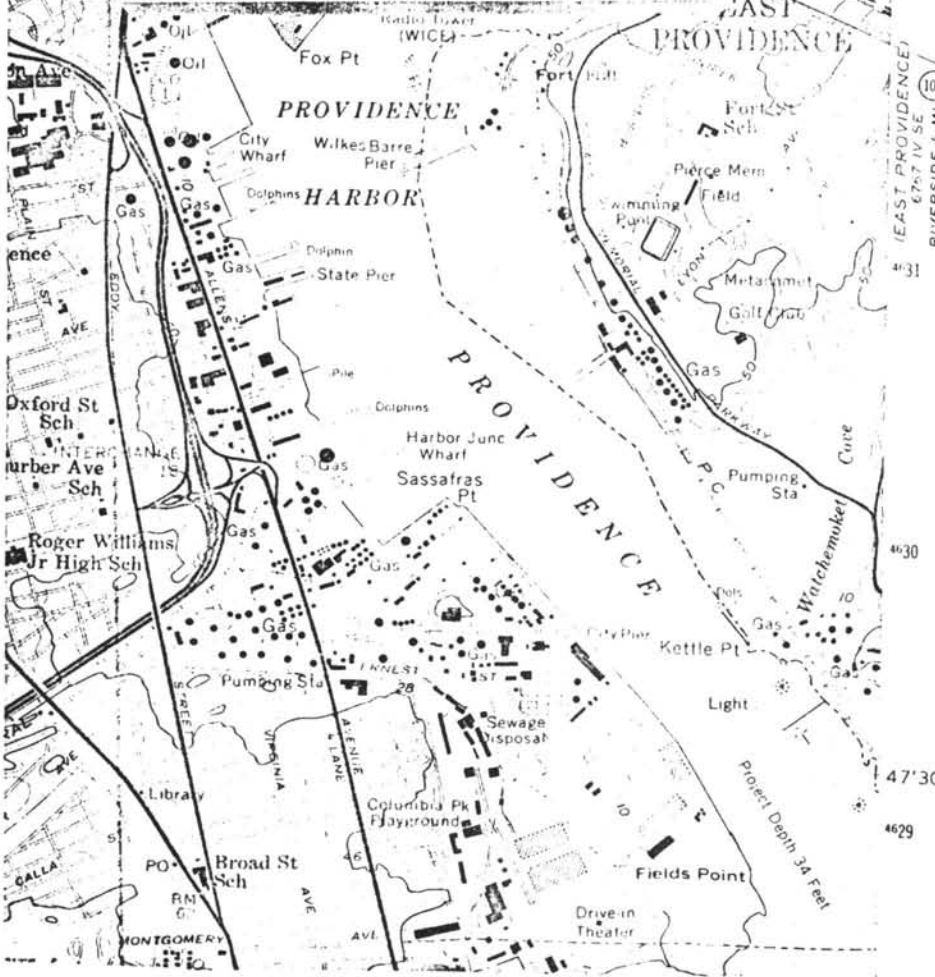
9. Major Bibliographical References.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr.: Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1958), p. 86.

Kaufmann, Edgar, Jr., ed.: The Rise of an American Architecture (New York etc., 1970), pp. 226-227.



The Arcade
 130 Westminster St. & 65 Weybosset St.
 Providence, Providence County, R.I.
 USGS 7.5' series Providence Quadrangle
 UTM 19.299780.4632800



4634
 50'
 Project Depth 16 Feet
 TAUNTON, MASS. 16 M
 PLYMOUTH, MASS. 42 MI
 44
 4032
 EAST PROVIDENCE
 6.747 IV SE
 RIVERSIDE 5 MI
 BARRINGTON 7.5 MI
 RUMFORD 3.4 MI
 89 MI TO U.S. 1
 SOUTH SEEKONK, MASS 3.5 MI
 FALL RIVER, MASS 15 MI
 4630
 47'30"
 4629
 Project Depth 34 Feet



Arcade Providence, Rhode Island

Photo credit: HABS



Arcade, Providence Rhode Island

Photo Credit HABS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Arcade

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

130, Westminster Street and 65, Weybosset Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1: 12,000

DATE:

1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

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114

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin

DATE OF PHOTO: 1957

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House,
90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Interior view (towards north) from third-floor balcony cross-over,
showing balcony setbacks and central bridge at second-floor level.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin

DATE OF PHOTO: 1944

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House,
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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Air view from north, showing Westminster Street portico, arrangement of skylights, placement of wings.



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DATE OF PHOTO: 1944

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Staircase detail, showing granite supports of treads, cast iron railing.



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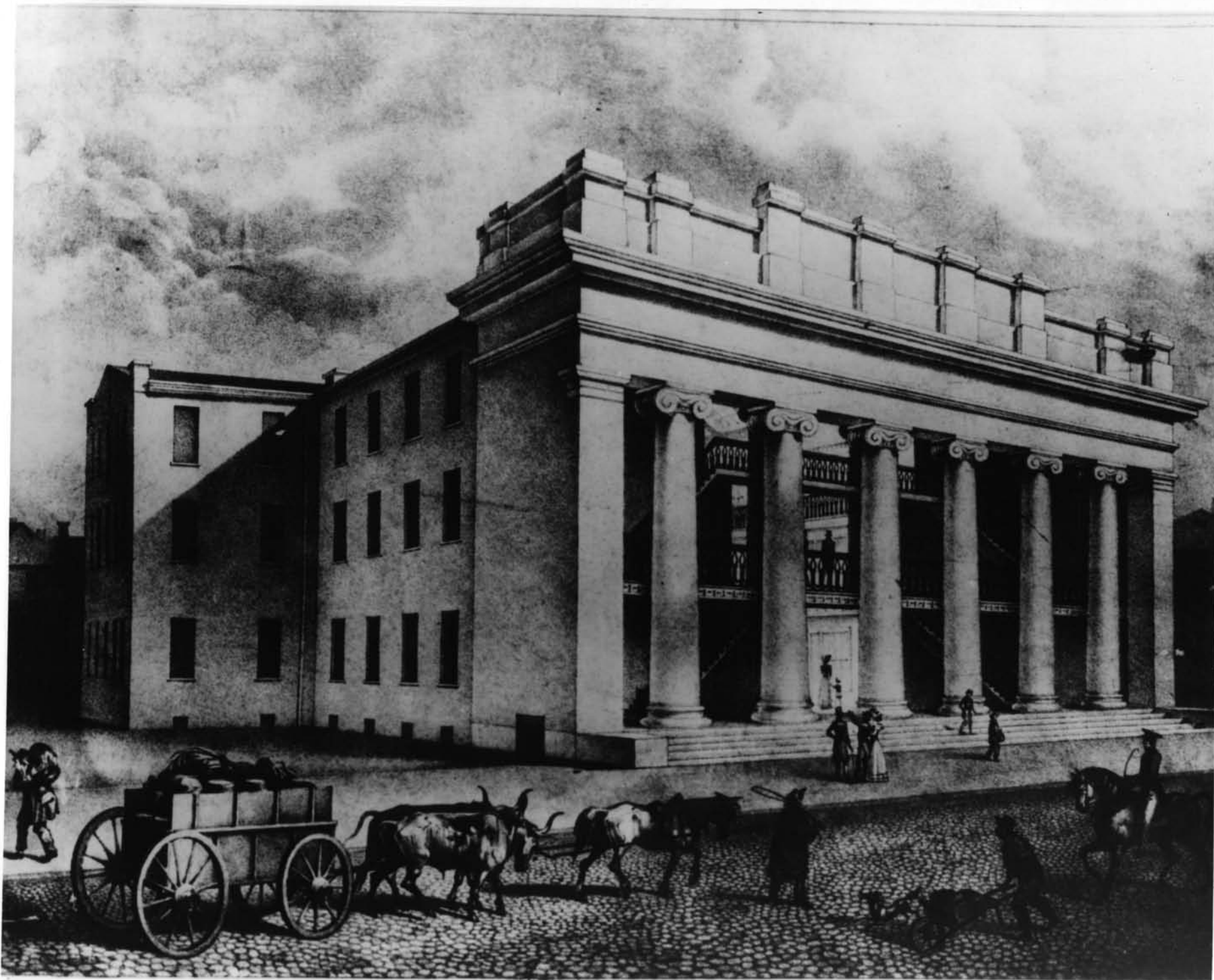
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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 130, Westminster Street and 65, Weybosset Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1957			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North end of interior seen from second-floor balcony.			



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CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin			
DATE OF PHOTO: Copy negative, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Lithograph by Pendleton after M. Swett, 1829, looking north-east and showing the Weybosset Street elevation by Russell Warren with (at left) one of the two lateral wings.			



1850

Howard & Sons Architects

W. B. Brown

THE ARCADE,
PROVIDENCE R.I.

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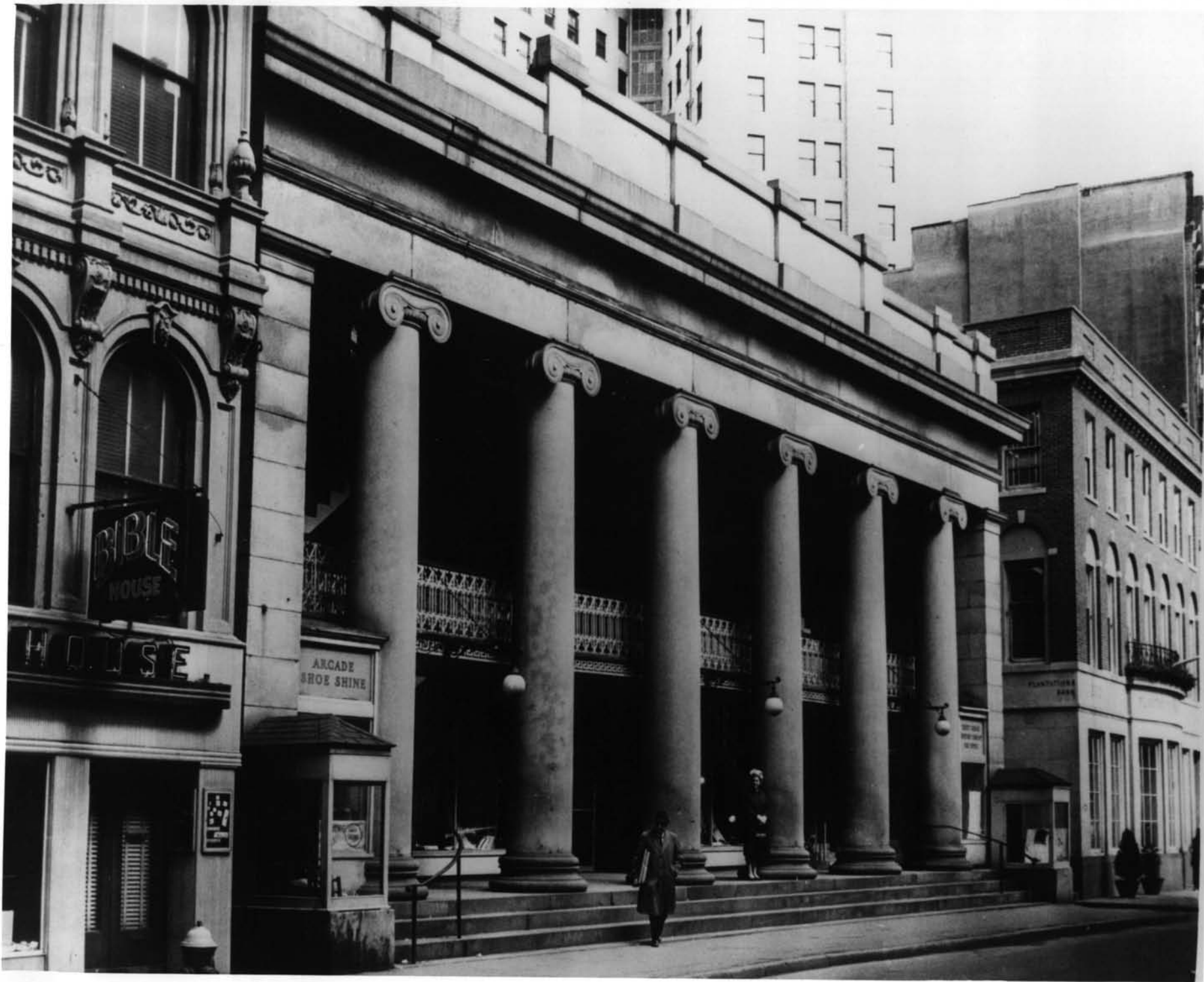
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STATE:	Rhode Island	CODE	COUNTY:
		44	Providence
			CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Society			
DATE OF PHOTO: Copy negative, 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society, 52, Power Street Providence, Rhode Island, 02906			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Lithograph, c. 1830, by Moore after J. A. Underwood, showing the Westminster Street (north) front, designed by James Bucklin.			



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin

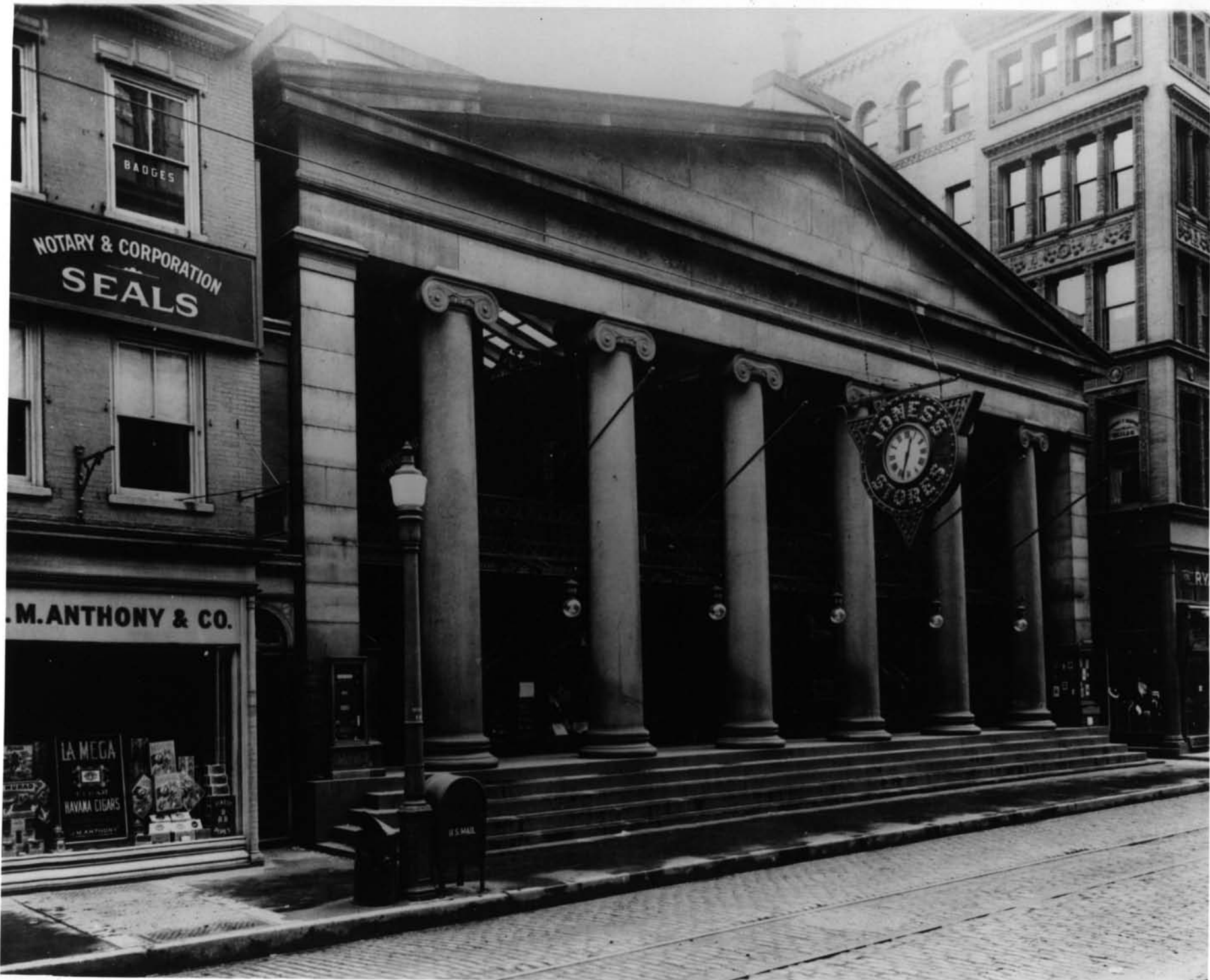
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967

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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Weybosset Street (south) elevation, designed by Russell Warren.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Providence Journal-Bulletin

DATE OF PHOTO: C, 1925

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House,
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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Westminster Street (north) elevation, designed by James Bucklin.