

Exchange Building
121-127 Church Street, 855-871 Chapel Street
New Haven
New Haven County
Connecticut

HABS No. CT-412

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PHOTOGRAPHS

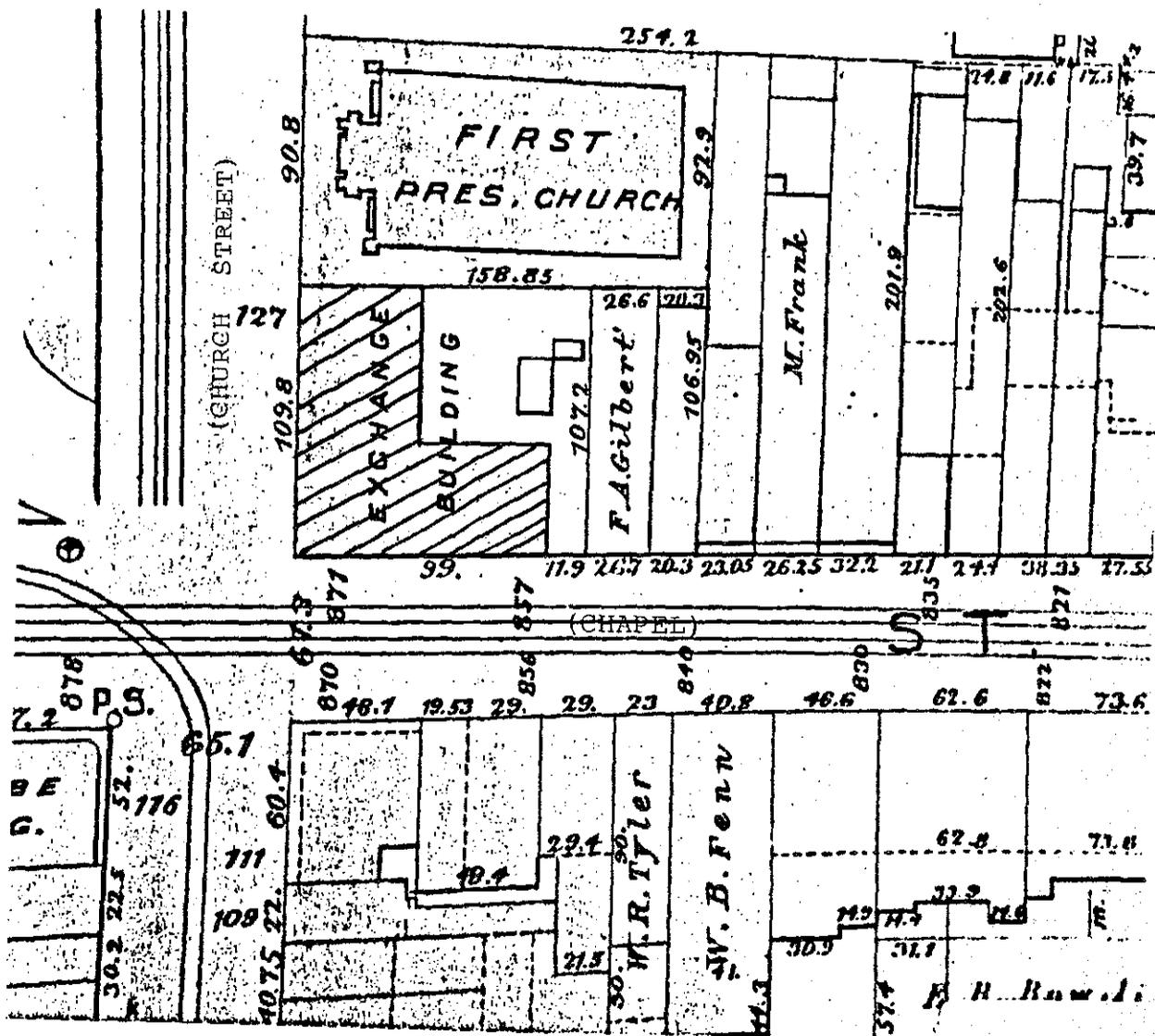
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Connecticut	COUNTY New Haven	TOWN OR VICINITY New Haven
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Exchange Building		HABS NO. CT-412
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 121-127 Church Street, 855-871 Chapel Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1832 (Brown, p. 112)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A fine example of a large scale Greek Revival commercial building with strong clean lines and fenestration of even rhythm. By its functional statement of a truly commercial architecture, The Exchange established the corner of Church and Chapel streets as the heart of the business district.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing walls. Granite piers at first-floor street elevations. Granite and sandstone sills and lintels in upper floors.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Approximately 108 feet square.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Brick walls are laid up in common bond. The regular fenestration of the upper floors has been little changed since construction. The drum for a domed lantern remains in place on the roof.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The door and window trim on the upper floors consists of ribbed jambs and lintels with circle corner blocks, of two different descriptions. The stairway from second to fourth floors has molded handrail and turned balusters.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Originally an ell-shaped building along Church and Chapel streets, the other two sides of the square were added before 1900. At that time, a new Colonial Revival entrance and stair hall were introduced in the middle of the Chapel Street elevation.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The building is sound structurally, but is in violation of code on many counts. The ground floor is used for shops; upper floors are vacant.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE In plan, the square is not closed; there is a narrow opening at the northeast corner to allow access to the court. The large 3-sided 1/1 bay windows in offices of the added east side of the square are large and pleasant, reflecting typical 19th-century design.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Elizabeth Mills Brown, <u>New Haven, A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design</u> (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), p. 112. The building is a contributing structure in the Ninth Square Historic District, listed May 3, 1987		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION David F. Ransom, Architectural Historian	DATE Sept. 21, 1987	

Showing Former L-shape



Showing Existing Site Plan

