

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES  
HIST-5 NEW 5 77

199

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY                                    |  |
|--|--|
| Town No.:  | Site No.:  |
| UTM  |  |
| QUAD:  |  |
| DISTRICT   | IF NR. SPECIFY   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

Church St. South Oak St. Connector 238-206-03

IDENTIFICATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. BUILDING NAME (Common)   | (Historic)  |
| Knights of Columbus Building/ New Haven Coliseum  |   |
| 2. TOWN/CITY  | VILLAGE   |
| New Haven   |   |
| COUNTY  |   |
| New Haven   |   |
| 3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)  |   |
| 1 Columbus Plaza  |   |
| 4. OWNER(S)   |   |
| Knights of Columbus Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private  |   |
| 5. USE (Present)  |   |
| Offices (Historic) Same   |   |
| 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:   | IF YES, EXPLAIN   |
| EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Public areas only   |   |

DESCRIPTION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. STYLE OF BUILDING  | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION   |
| Post-Modern   | 1967   |
| 8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  | Glass and steel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone   | Ceramic tile covering concrete cylinders.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: Reinforced <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:   |  |
| 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel (Cortan type finish)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reinforced concrete sub-basement   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |  |
| 10. ROOF (Type)   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)   |  |
| (Material)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |  |
| 11. NUMBER OF STORIES   | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS   |
| 23&B  | 130'X130'  |
| 12. CONDITION (Structural)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated   | (Exterior) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| 13. INTEGRITY (Location)  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved   | WHEN? (Alterations) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  |
| IF YES, EXPLAIN   |  |
| 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden   | Large landscaped plaza along Church St. side designed by Dinkeloo and Roche 1972.  |
| 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density  |  |
| 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  |  |
| Built at the southern end of Downtown between Church and Orange Streets. To the south passes the Oak St. Connector, to the east lies the mammoth New Haven Coliseum. Across Church St. is the Malley's and Macys Department |  |

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

**Building:** 23 story reinforced concrete and steel frame office building with flat roof. Building features four corner towers. These are cylindrical in shape, are constructed of reinforced concrete, and faced with large, square bricks. These towers hold fire-stairs, ventilating shafts, and bathrooms. Between the towers are steel beams which support the floor loads. These are weatherized "Cortan" steel. The window wall is recessed slightly from the supporting beam. At ground level is a 3-story opening with tall plate glass curtain walls. This houses the entry vestibule and some commercial space. At the center of the building is a concrete elevator tower.

18 ARCHITECT: Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo and Associates. BUILDER: Koppers Co. Inc.

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

**Architectural:** The Knights of Columbus Building is a building of the automobile age. Lying adjacent to the Oak St. Connector the architects designed a structure that has a scale compatible with the highway and which would be perceived and understood by the passing motorist. This building and others along the connector represented a major change in scale for architects at the time. The new highways fascinated them with their wide expansive corridors, large engineering works such as bridges and over-passes, and huge costs. For a motorist passing the City, at 60 miles per hour, buildings in the city became an undefined mass. The Knights of Columbus Building and the New Haven Coliseum were designed in a giant scale which was harmonious with the new highways. The Tower especially formed a new entry to the City and gave definition to the skyline. It, like the Kline Biology tower, was easily perceived. The architects solution for the building was ingenious. Because the Coliseum covered the majority of the site, the K of C Tower had to be tall, and cover a minimum of the site. The building was also visible on all four sides. By put-

SOURCES

Maps: 1888, 1911, 1923  
 N.H. Bldg. Dept. Records  
 Brown, pg. 110  
 Metz, New Architecture in New Haven  
 Cook and Klotz, Conversations with Architects  
 Futagawa, Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo and Associates 1962-1975

PHOTOGRAPHER: Alan Rutberg DATE: 4/1981  
 VIEW: Southwest (side) NEGATIVE ON FILE  
 NAME: Preston Maynard DATE: 2/10/1981  
 ORGANIZATION: New Haven Preservation Trust  
 ADDRESS: Box 1671, New Haven, Ct. 06507



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

- 21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE
- None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Other
- Renewal     Private     Deterioration     Zoning     Explanction

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

Knights of Columbus Tower / ~~New Haven Coliseum~~

238-206-03

1 Columbus Plaza

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 199 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

|                     |   |     |           |
|---------------------|---|-----|-----------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY |   |     |           |
| TOWN NO.:           |   |     | SITE NO.: |
| UTM: 18             | / | /   | /         |
| QUAD:               |   |     |           |
| DISTRICT:           | S | NR: | ACTUAL    |
|                     |   |     | POTENTIAL |

#19. Architectural Significance:

ting the ventilating equipment and services in the corner towers, the architects were able to minimize the size of the central core of the building, thus creating more useable floor area for office space. (The central core which is usually almost half the floor area at any level thus contained only the elevators.) The use of the corner towers also allowed for identical facades on all four sides, solving the perception problem. The building unfolds as a unified entity as one passes the City on the highway.

The corner stairtowers are reinforced concrete and provide the major structural supports for the building. The steel beams spanning between the towers carry the floor loads but not the structure of the building. Thus the steel did not have to be fireproofed and exists in the building in its truest form. The building is very readable because of this fact. Dinkeloo and Roche were two of the very early architects to use weatherized steel. This material, with its rich oxidized surface, was harmonious with the colors of the predominant building materials of the 19th-c. and early 20th-c. city (red and brown). The concrete cylinders were sheathed in large, brick tiles to blend in with the steel. The K of C Tower relates to Philip Johnson's Kline Biology Tower in scale and coloration and also to Tower One.