

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**  
 HIST-6 NEW 5 77

156

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Town No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Site No.: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM: \_\_\_\_\_

QUAD: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT:  S  NR  IF NR, SPECIFY:  Actual  Potential

IDENTIFICATION

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005  
 Downtown Hartford (203) 243-312-04

BUILDING NAME (Common): **New Haven County Courthouse** (Historic)

2. TOWN/CITY: **New Haven** VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: **New Haven**

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): **235 Church St.**

4. OWNER(S): **New Haven County**  Public  Private

5. USE (Present): **Public (courthouse and offices)** (Historic) **Same**

DESCRIPTION

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD:  Yes  No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE:  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN: **DBH**

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: **Post-Modern** DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: **1971**

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding  Fieldstone  
 Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone  
 Aluminum Siding  Concrete Type: **reinforced**  Cut stone Type: **limestone-facing material.**

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 Wood frame  Post and beam  balloon  
 Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. ROOF (Type):  
 Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Material):  
 Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  
 Asphalt shingle  Built up  Tile  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: **151' X 246'**

12. CONDITION (Structural): (Exterior)  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location):  
 On original site  Moved WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_ (Alterations):  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 Barn  Shed  Garage  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carriage house  Shop  Garden **Parking area in rear.**

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 Open land  Wood-land  Residential  Scattered buildings visible from site  
 Commercial  Industrial  Rural  High building density

6 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
 Situated at the north end of Church St. in a district of public and private buildings including the SNET CO. building, Quinnipiac Club, First Bank etc. This is a prestigious neighborhood constructed during the first half of the 20th century (except for recent, post-modern additions). (OVER)

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

**DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

Building: 10-story fireproof office building and courthouse. Building is reinforced concrete and steel frame. The facade is highly sculptural with recessed entries and balconies, half-round walls and cut-out bays. Standard window types include small square windows in 3-part groups (Church St. side, 1st and 2nd floors), larger office bays with paired ventilator window under each (found mostly on 3rd to 6th floor), and finally glass curtain walls, 2 to 3 stories in height (7th to 9th stories). These window groups are interrupted by deep recesses which form balconies or porches. The entry is at the Church and Wall St. intersection of the building and is recessed under a 2-story porch. The Wall St. side has 5 large round windows at the 9th floor. Front, street-facing facades are limestone, rear facades are common brick.

18 ARCHITECT: **William F. Petersen and Associates** BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architectural: Example of a Post-Modern office building with traditional form yet highly unusual window arrangement. The diverse window treatment and placement breaks up the weight of a massive building placed on a small urban lot. The deep balconies and recesses help to lighten the appearance of the form. The materials blend well with the Southern New England Telephone Co. tower next door. Compare this building with the New Haven Savings Bank at 195 Church St. and with the Federal Building on Orange St. These are other Petersen designs, and show his influence in the 1970-era renewal efforts in the city.

**SOURCES**

NH Bldg. Dept. Records  
Brown, pg. 115.

<b>PHOTO</b>	PHOTOGRAPHER	Alan Rutberg	DATE	5/1981
	VIEW	West (front)	NEGATIVE ON FILE	NHPT, CHC Sheet #57
<b>COMPILED BY</b>	NAME	a Preston Maynard	DATE	4/1981
	ORGANIZATION	New Haven Preservation Trust		
	ADDRESS	Box 1671, New Haven, Ct. 06507		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

Known  Highways  Vandalism  Developers  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  Private  Deterioration  Zoning  Expropriation \_\_\_\_\_