

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5 77

154

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

Downtown

243-291-01

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

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
Same		Southern New England Telephone Co.	
2. TOWN/CITY		VILLAGE	
New Haven		New Haven	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
223-227 Church St.			
4. OWNER(S)			
SNET Co. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Commercial (offices)			
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Art Moderne		1937	
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) <u>Pressed metal panels</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: <u>Sandstone</u>			
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <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	
		122' X 102'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated			
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN? (Alterations)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
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 <u>Rear parking area.</u>			
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"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density			
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

Situated along Church street just north of Elm and the New Haven Green. Across the street is the State Circuit Court building. This high-rise dwarfs its immediate neighbors.

(OVER)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (including use of exterior):

**Building:** 17 story office tower, 9 bays wide by 9 bays deep. Building is fireproof construction with steel frame. Limestone and glass panels form exterior skin. Building is composed of a main shaft (7 bays wide) flanked by two side wings (1 bay wide). Side bays end at 13 stories, accenting the main shaft. A 2-story cap sits above main shaft and has no windows (it houses mechanical equipment). The faces of the cap have large scallop shell enrichments. The shaft and wings are composed of vertical bays rising the full height of the structure. These have thick ovolo shaped surround (limestone) which gives sculptural quality to otherwise flat surface. Above the vertical bays in the main shaft are a group of stylized Ionic capitals, floating openly in a large fascia. At the base of the shaft is a 2-story entry pavilion, 3 bays wide. The bays here rise 2-stories and have the same ovolo shaped

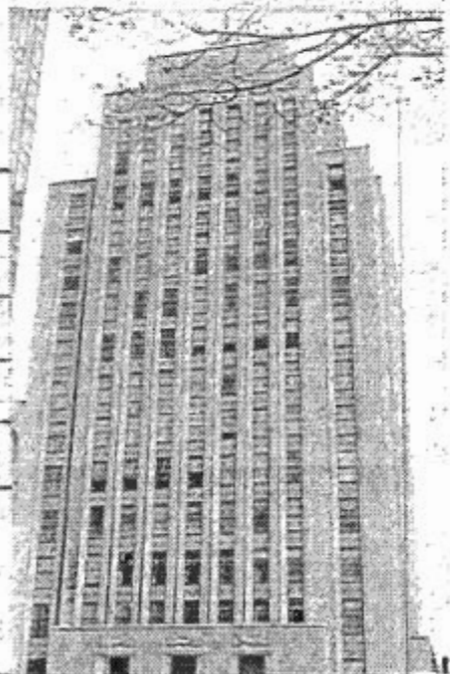
18 ARCHITECT: R.W. Foote and Douglas Orr  
 BUILDER: The Dwight Building Co.

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: NHPT 1978 List

**Architectural:** The Southern New England Telephone Co. building greatly expanded the New Haven skyline when it was built in 1937. It was New Haven's premier office tower constructed for the corporate headquarters of one of the City's largest industries. The Art Modern styling used here was a radical departure from the Colonial Revival and Neo-Classical designs that had dominated popular taste for the first 3 decades of the 20th-c. In this example, architects Foote and Orr turn their backs on local history and get their inspiration from the slick, urban towers rising in America's largest cities, most notably New York. The Colonial Revival would never recover from this desertion, and was reduced largely to a residential style. Note how the vertical bays with their pillow-like surrounds create a sharp vertical feeling to the building. The staggered shaft adds to this effect. Not until the renewal years of the 1960s would New Haven build a tower

SOURCES: Dana, bk. 11, pg. 53  
 Brown, pg. 114  
 NH Bldg. Dept. Records (permit #19232)  
 City Directories

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Alan Rutberg	5/1981
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	West (front)	NHPT, CHC Sheet # 57
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	Preston Maynard	/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     Explanations

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

223-227 Church St.

243-291-01

4/1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 154 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#17 Building Description

surround is in the main building. The bays have glass panels in metal frames with decorative metal grillwork forming exterior screen. Above each bay is a sculptured tablet with allegorical figures. The lobby of the building is highly decorative with rich Spanish marble, white bronze, and stainless steel used in a polychromatic interior.

#19 Architectural Significance

to match this one. Compare it with the Union Trust Tower at 205 Church St., the Powell Building at 157 Church St., and the Kline Biology Tower on the Yale Campus.