

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

155

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

Downtown 243-290-04

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Gold Building		(Historic)	
2. TOWN/CITY New Haven		VILLAGE	COUNTY New Haven
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 234 Church St.			
4. OWNER(S) MGIC Financial St.		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) Commercial		(Historic) Same	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DBH

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Post-Modern		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1978	
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) Steel frame, glass panels
<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 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		
<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 14&B		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 105'X134'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Exterior)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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	None
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			

Situated along Church St. just north of Elm St. This is a new office tower situated in a mixed-use neighborhood of early 20th-c. commercial and institutional buildings. Yale University lies just west of here. (OVER)

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Building: 14 story fireproof office building on a small corner site. Building is steel frame construction. The exterior is sheathed in a reflective glass curtain wall. Metal frames in the curtain wall create a delicate grid of horizontal and vertical members. The lobby or ground level is recessed from the street and has glass walls. The piers are sheathed in cut-stone at this level.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Bonsignore, Brignati, Goldstein, and Mazzotta, N.Y. May Car Construction Co.

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: Example of a post-modern office building, one of the latest to be built in downtown. The construction of this tower further defines the commercial nature of upper Church St. This building was the first in New Haven to use reflective glass curtain wall. The bronze color of the glass led to its description as the "Gold" building, a name that has gained popular acceptance. The building was constructed as a speculative venture and suffered from planning and design flaws which weakened its marketability. Floor areas were small for the types of tenants desired in a class "A" office building. And the mechanical services of the building encroached upon much of the south wall of the structure, eliminating the expansive views of the Green and Downtown, a favored feature in other downtown commercial spaces.

SOURCES

New Haven Building Dept. Records  
Interview with R. Aldrich Edwards, New Haven Downtown Council, Oct. 15, 1981

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	Alan Rutberg	DATE	Oct. 1981
VIEW	South (side) East (front)	NEGATIVE ON FILE	NHPT, CHC Sheet #57

COMPILED BY

NAME	Preston Maynard	DATE	Oct. 1981
ORGANIZATION	New Haven Preservation Trust		
ADDRESS	Box 1671, New Haven, Ct. 06507		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- |                                                |                                   |                                        |                                     |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism     | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal               | <input type="checkbox"/> Private  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning     | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanction |