### 1. Name
- **Common:** Elizabeth Building
- **And/or Historic:**

### 2. Location
- **Street and Number:** 100 North Main Street
- **City or Town:** Providence
- **State:** Rhode Island, 02903

### 3. Classification
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Yes; Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use:** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Park
- Religious
- Private Residence
- Transportation
- Museum
- Scientific
- Other (Specify)

### 4. Owner of Property
- **Owner's Name:** Iroquois Company
- **Street and Number:** 100 North Main Street
- **City or Town:** Providence
- **State:** Rhode Island, 02903

### 5. Location of Legal Description
- Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.: City Hall
- **Street and Number:** Dorrance and Washington Streets
- **City or Town:** Providence
- **State:** Rhode Island, 02903

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys
- **Title of Survey:**
- **Date of Survey:**
- **Repository for Survey Records:**
- **Street and Number:**
- **City or Town:**
- **State:**
- **Code:**
Completed by 1876, the Elizabeth Building was part of a boom in the construction of commercial buildings in Providence during the 1870s and 1880s. (As this building is first mentioned in the Providence business directory of 1876, it is logical to conclude that it was erected in 1875 or 1874-1875 and—although the architect has not been identified—that it was designed by one of the twenty-one local architects or firms listed in the 1875 directory. At this time such cast-iron structures as the Equitable Building, by Walker and Gould, and the Hoppin Homestead Building, by James Bucklin, were also being erected here. These Providence "cast-iron fronts" were of four storeys only, in contrast to the higher structures of the same type seen in New York City.

The black-painted cast-iron front of the Elizabeth Building not only forms the main (east) street façade but also wraps around a two-bay section of the south side of the slender but massive rectangular structure (otherwise brick-walled), extending the ornamental detailing around an angle viewed from approaching streets. An 1891 photograph of the building shows the upper storeys of the iron front painted in a light colour, no doubt imitating stone, as such ironwork was intended to imitate. While the cast-iron east façade is divided into four storeys, the building actually contains five storeys, as the brick side and rear elevations reveal. The fifth floor is masked on the east elevation by a windowless mansard roof with ribbed metal covering.

Each floor of the iron front is divided from the next by a deep entablature with brackets in the frieze. These frieze brackets connect the vertical impetus begun at the base by the (now free-standing) fluted Corinthian columns with the Doric pilasters of the upper floors. A central accent is created by the groupings of the façade's five bays: the three middle bays are set between a wider bay at each end. At first-floor level the end bays both originally contained entrances (at present, there is only one, in the north bay). On the upper floors the three central bays each contain one window; the end bays contain paired window openings. On each floor these bays are separated by four fluted Doric pilasters into a configuration of aa-b-b-b-aa. The angles of the building are marked by panelled Doric pilasters at each floor level; the upper portions of their panels contain stylised floral ornament. The plain brick back and side walls of the building are pierced by a variety of window arrangements with strongly projecting and varied cast-iron cappings.

The interior of this building is of extremely simple plan. Directly inside the north, street-level entrance is a hall which contains an iron staircase and an elevator. Offices now fill the rest of this floor, doubtless originally devoted to shop space. Upper floors contain, as always, variously subdivided office space.

(See Continuation Sheet.)
7. Description.

Alterations on the exterior are minor. The original glazed shopfronts of the ground floor were in 1960 replaced by Philemon Sturges with a marble curtain wall recessed behind the stone-based iron Corinthian columns and corner piers. A section of cornice on the north side is missing; a columned store-front at the south-east has been filled in with brick. These changes, however, do not interfere with the over-all form and ornament of the Elizabeth Building or with its architectural integrity.

* Information has been received that the cast-iron structural and decorative elements of the Elizabeth Building were produced in Providence by the Builders Iron Foundry (still existing under the name of B.I.F. Industries).
### PERIOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15th Century</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
<th>19th Century</th>
<th>20th Century</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>☐ 16th Century</td>
<td>☐ 18th Century</td>
<td>☒ 19th Century</td>
<td>☐ 20th Century</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

C. 1874-1875

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>☐ Prehistoric</th>
<th>☐ Education</th>
<th>☐ Political</th>
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<tr>
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<td>☐ Engineering</td>
<td>☐ Religion/Phil.</td>
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<td>☐ Industry</td>
<td>☐ Architecture</td>
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<td>☐ Landscape</td>
<td>☐ Social/Human-</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Art</td>
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<td>☐ Conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As one of the few cast-iron fronts remaining in Providence, the Elizabeth building has an important place in the historic and architectural fabric of its city. It is representative of a period when commercial architecture was becoming, in both volume and design, conspicuous on the American scene. The age of the cast-iron-framed and ornamented business building has been called the precursor of our modern age of the steel and glass skyscraper. Immensely popular as cast-iron architecture was across the country, for decades, comparatively few examples remain in any of our cities now.

Those examples which we still have, and those which we can now see only in photographs, are handsome and disciplined structures—as is the Elizabeth Building. Cast-iron may have permitted variety and elaboration of textural or sculptural forms (particularly capitals, cartouches etc.), but the discipline imposed by the use of pre-made, uniform structural and ornamental members prevented the often-incoherent mixtures of shapes and styles seen in many other coeval buildings.

Where it stands, the Elizabeth building is also important in its immediate architectural and visual context—a three- or four-block stretch of shop and office or loft buildings which are roughly contemporar y with it, similar in height and "weight." At the base of College Hill, with its treasures of residential architecture, this row of hundred-year-old commercial buildings forms an important retaining wall and a good screen against the open and often ugly traffic spaces and the heterogeneous business and governmental structures of the modern downtown immediately to the west.
**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 49' 39&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 24' 35&quot; W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** Less than one acre

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Alice H. R. Hauck, Consultant

**ORGANIZATION:**

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

**DATE:**

April 7, 1971

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

State House, 90 Smith Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Providence

**STATE CODE:**

Rhode Island, 02903

**STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [x]

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

**Date**

**ATTEST:**

Keeper of The National Register

**Date**
## 1. Name

**Common:** Elizabeth Building
**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

## 2. Location

**Street and Number:** 100 North Main Street
**City or Town:** Providence
**State:** Rhode Island

## 3. Photo Reference

**Photo Credit:** Alice R. Hauck
**Date of Photo:** March, 1971
**Negative Filed At:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R.I., 02903

## 4. Identification

**Describe View, Direction, Etc.:**

Exterior seen from the south-east.
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME

COMMON: Elizabeth Building
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Providence
STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Alice R. Hauck
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I. 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Cast iron columns at street-level, supporting the iron façade; the marble screen behind them is a very recent insertion.
1. NAME
COMMON: Elizabeth Building
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Providence
STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Alice H. Hauck
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Window treatments on south side.
1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** Elizabeth Building
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** 100 North Main Street
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Providence
   - **STATE:** Rhode Island
   - **CODE:** RI
   - **COUNTY:** Providence
   - **CODE:** 007

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - **PHOTO CREDIT:** Alice R. Hauck
   - **DATE OF PHOTO:** March, 1971
   - **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:**
     Detail of iron structure and ornament on east façade.
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 40' 39" N
Longitude: 71° 24' 35" W
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Elizabeth Building
   - AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Main Street
   - CITY OR TOWN: Providence
   - STATE: Rhode Island
   - CODE: 14
   - COUNTY: Providence
   - CODE: 007

3. **MAP REFERENCE**
   - SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey
   - SCALE: 1: 24,000
   - DATE: 1957

4. **REQUIREMENTS**
   - TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
     1. Property boundaries where required.
     2. North arrow.
     3. Latitude and longitude reference.