

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

American Baptist Publication Society

AND/OR COMMON

Crozer Building

RECEIVED

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1420-22 Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Philadelphia

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sidney M. & Belle K. Baer

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Locust Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Philadelphia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Broad & Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

12/79

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The American Baptist Publication Society at 1420-22 Chestnut Street occupies the location of an earlier building for the same owners, which was damaged by fire in the mid 1890's. The increased values of center city real estate caused the owners to commission a design for a building that essentially covered its entire site, stretching 46' on Chestnut, and extending 230' to the rear to Sansom Street. Early published accounts make it apparent that the building took advantage of contemporary technics, being steel framed, and clad with a non load bearing terra cotta and pompeian brick skin, while the heating and power for the presses was provided by steam generation; electric lights gave illumination to the building.

The architects, Frank Miles Day and Brother, designed a 9 story slab, given interest and articulation by a taller front tower that forms the principal identifying feature of the building. The Chestnut Street facade is organized into the by the, traditional tall building solution, with an articulated base, developed here as a three bay arcade, surrounded by a mezzanine level that visually caps the base. Above rises an eight story shaft clad in brick, and crowned by an elaborate cornice to terminate the rising shaft. Finally the building is given a glorious crown of two stories sheathed in terra cotta and accented by spectacularly ornamented windows and capped by a multi story pyramidal roof.

The entire building, and the upper levels in particular are detailed after the manner of the French Renaissance, reflecting the era of Francois I^{er}, thereby combining the principal strains of western art--the classic, and the gothic, in a synthetic style sanctioned by history and having the happy result of leaving an elegant bit of a French chateau elevated in the skyline of the city.

Decoration, though concentrated at the base, and the top, is by no means restricted to those zones. A balcony projects in the center of the shaft, and each window is given emphasis by a decorative terra cotta border. The net effect is a visually stunning building that stands out on Chestnut Street, attracting attention, and thereby assuring that the building would be a commercial success.

More than a generation ago, the original base arcade was replaced by a simple marble revetment, more in keeping with the post World War II taste. But, the principal elements of the Chestnut Street facade remain intact; the Sansom Street facade has been similarly altered at the lower level, and the original brick, in broad courses remains behind the enameled surface.

Within, the original finishes largely remain in the upper office level lobbies. Strongly patterned marble wainscoting lines the corridors; bolding molded decorative borders and cornices accent the stairwell. Of particular note is the long single loaded corridor that achieves interest by the simple device of exposing the structural bay in archways that subdivide the corridor.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896-97

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Miles Day & Bro., Architect
George W. Payne & Bro., Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crozer building is significant as an early solution to the tall building; as an urban landmark in the Philadelphia skyline; as a part of a group of major commercial buildings, and as the work of one of Philadelphia's most important architectural firms, that headed by Frank Miles Day. The role of Day was significant as one of the early reformers of the local architectural profession; he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and later studied at the Royal Institute of British Architects. On his return, Day won the competition of the Art Club (demolished) on South Broad Street, where he demonstrated the effectiveness of the careful revival of known historic styles, in contrast to the more original eclecticism of the post Civil War generation. Over the next generation Day's firm was responsible for many of the greatest houses in Philadelphia, among them, the Charlton Yarnall and E. R. Wood houses on 17th Street, several of the city's most distinguished business offices--notably the Drexel and Co. Building, and various institutional buildings, including the University Museum, at the University of Pennsylvania (with Wilson Eyre, and Cope and Stewardson); Franklin Field, also at the University of Pennsylvania; and the graduate complex at Princeton University. So highly esteemed was the offices' work that it was awarded the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects gold medal.

Day was also important in the development of the local architectural profession, being a founding member of the T Square Club, a teacher of architectural history at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and later a Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Those activities, and his manifest talents made Day one of the principal figures of his day.

The Crozer Building is one of the chief surviving examples of Day's center city work, and is a remarkable period piece that illustrates the development of the tall building. This is particularly noteworthy both for the facade decoration and for the bracket shaped building plan ([]) that assured light to offices along the west side, even if neighboring properties were similarly intensively developed. It is the facade, particularly the top of which attracts attention, primarily because of the delicacy and richness of the Francois I^{er} decoration. This set in motion for the next three decades the course of Philadelphia skyscraper design that relied on rich historical embellishment at base and top. Cope and Stewardson's Harrison Building at 15th & Market (demolished); Mc Kim, Mead and White's Girard Trust Tower, and Ritter and Shay's Packard Building at 15th & Chestnut among others rely on the solution--but none attained the level of finesse shown here.

Finally, the Crozer building forms an important part of the Chestnut Street street-scape, joining with the neighboring Jacob Reed's Sons Store by Price and Mc Lanahan, and the Packard Building to provide a sense of the development of the commercial building for the region.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Exhibition Catalogue of the T Square Club Philadelphia, (1898).
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide XI:51 (16 Dec. 1896); XII:6
 (10 Feb. 1897).
 Philadelphia Inquirer 16 May 1896, p.10
 Moses King, King's Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians, New York, 1902, p.16

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Philadelphia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:21,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 48,58,8,0 442210,9,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point on Chestnut Street W 22' to the east of the eastern line of 15th Street, west 46', south 230' to Sansom Street, east 46', north 230' to Chestnut Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Pennsylvania		Philadelphia	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George E. Thomas, Ph.D., President

ORGANIZATION

Clio Group, Inc.

DATE

30 October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3920 Pine Street

TELEPHONE

215-386-6276

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



4424

4423

4422

4421

(CAMDEN)
5963 1 NE

57'30"

2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130
ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

PHILADELPHIA CO
CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY

YEADON

PENN - CENTRAL

FRANKLIN BRIDGE
TOLL

30

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK

PHILADELPHIA

291

611

