

Chamber of Commerce (Makie) Building
611 North Broadway (Southwest corner of
North Broadway and East Michigan Avenue)
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-158

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MAKIE) BUILDING

Street Address: 611 North Broadway (Southwest corner of North Broadway and East Michigan Avenue), Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Present Owner: Chas. D. Ashley (Charles Realty Co.), 611 North Broadway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Present Use: Office building

Present Occupant: Business offices

Brief Statement of Significance: Imposing example of large commercial structure of the 1870's, typical of Milwaukee's rapid growth and commercial development following the Civil War. It is also a good example of the prevailing style, which is described in a contemporary document as "simple Italian."

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built originally by Alexander Mitchell under contract with the Chamber of Commerce to occupy the exchange room for twenty years beginning May 1881 at a yearly rental of \$3,000.00.
2. Date of erection: Corner stone laid, 1879 by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Wisconsin.
3. Architect: E. Townsend Mix
4. Notes on alterations and additions: There may have been a minor addition toward the north, but the details are not clear.
5. Sources:
 - a. Important old views: Steel engraving in Milwaukee History cited below and reproduced in city directories, guide books, and other publications around the turn of the century.
 - b. References: History of Milwaukee (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), pp. 1131-1132, illus. p. 1133.

- B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Investigation of the Abstract would probably augment the chain of title but would add little to general information. Original plans may exist, but opportunity for thorough search was not available.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Described in History of Milwaukee as "simple Italian" in style, the building is a heavy eclectic composition typical of the 70's.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 100' on Broadway by 120' on Michigan Avenue.
2. General description of exterior: Building is constructed entirely of gray Ohio sandstone with 160' center tower with clock on four faces. Roof is of slate. Window surrounds are elaborate heavy projections with pediments, brackets, and various other motives from the eclectic vocabulary. The entrance door is flanked by granite pillars with figures of "commerce," "bear," and "bull." Actual entrance door has been modernized.

- C. Technical Description of Interiors: The present interior has been variously modified to serve as an office building. The following description of the original interior is taken from The History of Milwaukee, 1881, cited above: "on the first floor, set back 12' from the entrance, was the Exchange room which measured 115' east and west and 60' north and south, and extended through three stories to a height of 45'. On the south side was an alcove 20' x 60', for the president's desk. Offices for the secretaries, director, etc., together with a visitor's gallery surrounded the Exchange room on the upper floors. All was lighted by a center sky-light."

- D. Site: The building faces north. It is part of an entire block of buildings on East Michigan Avenue, just east of the Milwaukee River, all built around the same time and constituting the turn-of-the-century financial center of Milwaukee.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect
National Park Service
August 1960

ADDENDUM TO:
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(Mackie Building)
(Grain Exchange Building)
225 East Michigan Street
Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Wisconsin

HABS WI-158
WIS, 40-MILWA, 7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001