

1 State Street, Bristol RI
SCOPE OF WORK FOR
BRISTOL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Built in 1884, this building is known as the Holmes Block. This is a 2-1/2 story masonry Second Empire Style building that stands at the Northeast corner of Thames Street and State Street.

This corner has long been in commercial use. It was known as Gifford's Corner in the 1850s, from Gifford's Wharf, west across Thames Street. Three small buildings crowded the site by 1870. In 1877 Hugh Holmes operated the Peoples Market here, and in 1884 he built this 2-1/2-story brick building with a slate mansard roof and bracketed wooden cornice. The main, 7-bay, State Street facade has a 2-story, hip roof tower. The first floor has been altered by the addition of a 20th century rubblestone storefront with a central entrance and square windows. *(Historic and Architectural Resources of Bristol, Rhode Island, Page 105)*

The scope of work being proposed for this building is an exterior restoration and reconstruction of select non-surviving elements. The exterior mortar joints are starting to crumble and will need repointing throughout various areas on all four facades along with the repair and replacement of damaged bricks in select areas with appropriate brick and mortar mixtures. Original wooden sash windows on both the second and third floor and proposed to be restored and reglazed. Various wood detailed elements and trim are missing and/or damaged which are proposed to be replaced in kind with wooden elements of the same profiles and exposures. Various slate roof shingles throughout the building are damaged and/or missing. Replacement and repair of various slate roof shingles are proposed to be in kind.

There are two window openings that are to be restored to their original sashes. One is located in the alleyway on the East side of the building, and one is located in the alley way on the North side of the building. The North side has a wooden 2 over 2 sash which is proposed to be restored and reglazed. The East side opening is proposed to have a wooden 2 over 2 window which would have been appropriate in the opening. The upper story wooden sash windows on both the State Street and Thames Street are to be restored and reglazed.

The scope also includes restoration of the two wood pediments. Both the State Street and Thames Street third stories have pediments over their center windows. The State Street pediment has a sunflower relief/painting which is still visible but

in bad condition. This feature is thought to be original to the building to match the sunflowers carved into the brownstone façade flanking the “Holmes” sign. A sunflower relief/painting is proposed in the Thames Street pediment to match which would have been appropriate at its original date of construction. The sunflower would have been commonly used when this building was first constructed thanks to Oscar Wilde, an Irish poet and playwright, who made the symbol of the sunflower popular during this trip to America in 1882.

The final scope of work includes the reconstruction of the tower window on the upper story of the State Street Façade. Currently this window opening is boarded up with plywood. A historic photograph from the 1970s during the architectural survey around town shows a square 4 pane window in the opening. This window style is consistent with what would have been seen during the Second Empire architectural style. Exploratory investigation in the tower space showed a light which would illuminate the window at night. A wooden replicated 4 pane window is proposed to be installed in the opening like that of the historic photograph.

Historic Image 1 – This image is from the Bristol Historical Preservation Society archives and was most likely taken at some point in the 1970s during the architectural survey performed in town at that time. It shows the conditions of the building and its architectural features during that time. The field stone façade was not original to the building and was most likely added at some point in the mid 20th century. The original 4 pane window can be seen in the upper story of the State Street façade.



Historic Image 2 - This image is from the Bristol Historical Preservation Society archives and was most likely taken at some point in the 1970s during the architectural survey performed in town at that time. It shows the conditions of the building and its architectural features during that time. The original 4 pane window can be seen in the upper story of the State Street façade.



Historic Image 3 - This image is from the Bristol Historical Preservation Society archives and was most likely taken at some point in the 1970s during the architectural survey performed in town at that time. It shows the conditions of the building and its architectural features during that time. The field stone façade was not original to the building and was most likely added at some point in the mid 20th century. The upper story window opening on the State Street façade can be seen boarded up in this image which gives a strong possibility that this is a later photo than the previous.



Historic Image 4 – This image from the 1938 hurricane damage shows the 1 State Street building in the distance in the center of the frame and is one of the oldest images showing this building.



Historic Image 6 – *These images show a side by side comparison of what the upper story tower looked like at some point in the 1970s and what it looks like in present day 2024. The only difference is a 4-pane window in the upper portion of the tower. This window is proposed to be replicated and reinstalled.*



RECONSTRUCTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION SCOPE OF WORK.

- **Repoint Mortar Joints & Repair Damaged Brick-** Various mortar joints areas around the building are crumbling and need to be repointed. Various bricks around the building are missing and/or damaged and need to be replaced in kind.
- **Repair & Replace Slate Roof Shingles as Needed-** Various slate shingles on the roof are damaged and need to be replaced in kind.
- **Restore Historic Windows-** Original wood sash windows on the third floor are proposed to be restored and reglazed.
- **Reconstruction of Missing Windows-** There are 2 window openings that are boarded up, 1 on the North façade and 1 on the East façade. These windows are proposed to be replicated and reinstalled in their original openings. Both windows are proposed as 2 over 2 sashes which match in kind with the building. The North façade window sashes appear to still be in the opening but will need restoration. The State Street upper story window in the tower space is proposed to be reinstalled per the historic photograph as a 4-pane sash.
- **Repair & Replace Missing Wood Elements -** There are a number of areas where there is rotted trim, missing brackets, or other various wooden architectural details. These areas are proposed to be repaired when possible and replaced in kind with wood where needed.
- **Restore Pediment Relief/Paintings –** Both the State Street and Thames Street facades upper stories have wood pediments. The State Street pediment has a sunflower relief that is proposed to be restored. The same relief is proposed to be installed on the Thames Street pediment.

Exhibit A - Photos (Photographs Taken on October 23, 2024)

Photo 1 – Existing State Street Facade



Photo 2 – Existing Thames Street Facade



Photo 3 –Close up Image of Existing State Street Tower condition.



Photo 4 – Close up of Thames Street upper story windows and pediment.



Photo 5 – Close up image showing upper story of State Street window condition.



Photo 6 – Close up image showing damaged and missing wood elements.



Photo 7 – East façade showing visible view of window opening to be restored.



Photo 8 – North elevation showing window to be restored.

