

National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination

1. *Name*
State Courthouse
Was New London County Courthouse
2. *Location*
70 Huntington Street
New London, CT
3. *Classification*
4. *Owner of Property*
5. *Location of Legal Description*
6. *Representation in Existing Surveys*
7. *Description*
8. *Significance*
9. *Major Bibliographical References*
10. *Geographical Data*
11. *Form Prepared By*
12. *State Liaison Officer Certification*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: New London County Courthouse (now State Courthouse)	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 70 Huntington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New London			
STATE Connecticut	CODE 06	COUNTY: New London	CODE 011

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	CWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of Connecticut			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 0280	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Municipal Building			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: New London	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 0440	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey (CONN 3-2) 1934-36 (2) Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: (1) 1958 (2) 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: (1) Library of Congress (2) Connecticut Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: (2) 75 Elm Street			
CITY OR TOWN: (1) Washington, D.C. (2) Hartford	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 0280	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: Hartford
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New London County Courthouse is a two and a half story gambrel roofed building, which is topped by a centrally located octagonal cupola with a curved and pointed roof.

The frame building is clapboarded and painted white. Beneath the flared gambrel roof the facade has seven bays with three bays on each side of a central pavillion. The entrance is recessed with the opening framed by blocks of wood cut to resemble angle quoins, the lintel having a large wooden key block with angled blocks on each side. This motif is repeated in the framing of the windows of the ground floor.

Pilasters composed of vortical stacks of wooden blocks resembling angle-quoins bound the central pavillion on the ground floor level and are repeated at all four corners of the building, but these stop at the second floor, the corners being ornamented at this second level by fluted pilasters which echo those of the second story level of the pavilion. All of these pilasters support a large but simple cornice with cushion frieze. Above this, modillion blocks follow the line of the roof across the gable of the triangular pediment of the pavillion and the rake of its roof.

The noticeable discontinuity of the first level with the second points to a major change in the exterior of the courthouse-- the removal of a gallery which ran around the entirety of the building. According to F.M. Caulkins this gallery gave the building a "gay and dashing appearance," however, there is no evidence as to when it was torn down. Another important alteration in the original condition of the structure is its changed location: it was moved back from its original position in the middle of the street.

Aside from the roof framing, little of the interior remains that is original: alterations were made in 1909 and court rooms were added in the back. Dudley St. Clair Donnelly was the architect of these changes. In 1909 also, the front windows were lowered two feet. In 1945 both the windows and the window frames were restored to their original condition. There were some alterations made in 1949, but these entailed only the addition of some partitions and rest rooms.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1784

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is an architecturally outstanding building by a known architect, Isaac Fitch. Its historical significance is tied in with that of the town of New London and with New England. It was a yellow fever hospital in 1798; the Peace Ball was held there in 1815; it was a recruiting center during the Civil War; lying-in-state for Civil War dead took place here; Sunday Schools met here before their acceptance by churches; city and town meetings, political rallies, and abolitionist meetings were held within it.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, 1920, Volume 6,
Number 1; 1930, Volume 12, Number 6.

Historic American Buildings Survey CONN 3-2

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 21' 18"	72° 06' 01"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Connecticut Historical Commission	July 20, 1970
STREET AND NUMBER:	
75 Elm Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Hartford	Connecticut
	CODE
	0280

12. 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 ☒

Name

State Liaison Officer and Chairman

Title Connecticut Historical Commission

Date August 18, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS