### National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form

- 1. Name
   Bulkeley School
- 2. Location
  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 Historic Preservation Officer Certification

Photographs
Geological Survey

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

| <b>5.16</b> 47.18 |         | A Section 1 |  |
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|---|--|
| 1. Name   |  |
| historic Bulkeley School  |  |
| and/or common   |  |
| 2. Location   |  |
| street & number Huntington Str  | reet not for publication   |
| city, town New London   | vicinity of congressional district 2nd   |
| state Connecticut coo   | le 09 county New London code 011   |
| 3. Classification   | ·  |
| Category  — district — x public — yrivate — structure — site — object — in process — being considered | Status  Occupied  agriculture  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no  Present Use  agriculture  commercial  park  private residence  religious  religious  scientific  transportation  other: |
| 4. Owner of Prope   |  |
| name City of New London, costreet & number 181 Captain's  | /o Mr. Robert J. Flanagan, Director of Real Esta   |
| city, town New London   | vicinity of state  |
| 5. Location of Lega   | al Description   |
| courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City  | Clerk, Municipal Building Captain's Walk   |
| ity, town New   | London state Connecticut   |
| 6. Representation   | in Existing Surveys  |
|   | lan for Connecticut: Volume II: The Inventory.   |
| late 1974   | X  |
| lepository for survey records Connec  | ticut Historical Commission  |
| ity, town Hartford  | state Connecticut  |

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New London, CT

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Page

Representation in Existing Surveys (Continued)

Title: State Register of Historic Places

Date: 1981 x state

Depository for survey records: Connecticut Historical Commission

City, town: Hartford state: Connecticut

Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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date entered A THE SECTION AND A SECTION ASSESSMENT

fixed pane. A brownstone course defines the springing line of this arch, to The gable-roofed dormer within which this window is set has flared eaves. Between the central group of three first floor windows placed beneath the center dormer, and the two first floor windows which correspond to the gables at either end of this elevation, are placed single windows on the first floor. That to the right of center has a basement door with a hood above it. Another door has been cut into the masonry at an intermediate level. Under the eaves here is a circular opening which once contained a window with cusped tracery.

The south elevation described above is the result of a west wing added in 1899 to the original south wing of the school. This replaced an earlier, smaller wing. (see Plan 1). The west end of this wing has two full-sized on the right side, one of which has been altered to a door. Beneath the small gable end, a large rectangular window with 2-over-2 double-hung sash is flanked by two narrow windows with 1-over-1 double-hung sash. Above this, within the gable, a triple-arched window opening similar to those of the south elevation is set. The central window has been altered to a door by lowering the sill. The upper sash has been fixed in place as a transom. A steel fire escape leads to the ground level. (Photograph 6).

The north side of this wing has rectangular first floor windows with 2-over-2 double-hung sash. Under the eaves is a variant of the Diocletian window consisting of a central rectangular window with flanking quarter round windows. (Ordinarily, the center window would be rounded to form a semicircle with the two to either side). A small, gable-roofed dormer is placed on this side near the intersection with the north wing. Within this is a triple window opening consisting of a central, triangular-headed window flanked by narrow rectangular windows. The central window was replaced with a door in the early 1950s to permit access to a fire escape. The sill was lowered to accept the door, and the upper sash of the window left in place as a transom.

The rear entrance to the Bulkeley School is located at the intersection of the north and west wings, and faces west. It is similar in design to the main entrance, although smaller in scale and lacking the elaborate granite railing of the main entrance. The west elevation of the north wing has the usual first floor rectangular windows with 2-over-2 double-hung sash. Small hipped-roof dormers are let into the gable roof on this side of the wing. These feature paired 1-over-1 double-hung sash. The end of the north wing, which faces the Antientest Burial Ground to the north, has rectangular windows on the first floor, and a triple-arched window opening on the second floor, let into the gable end. This is similar in design to those on the south facade. The right window, however, was converted to a door in 1959.

The interior of the Bulkeley School was originally very straight-forward in plan. A vestibule in the tower has an arched opening to a corridor which leads to the rear entrance. Access to the classrooms is provided by the corridor. (Photograph 7). Each wing contained a corresponding classroom. The west wing of 1899 contained an assembly room on the first floor and

### 7. Description

| Condition         deteriorated           good         ruins           fair         unexposed | Check one unaltered X altered | Check one X original site moved date |  |
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Eulkeley School is a High Victorian Gothic building constructed from 187] with subsequent additions in 1899, 1912, 1922, and 1934. The school is on a lot bounded to the east by Huntington Street, to the south by Eulkeley Place, to the west by Hempstead Street, and to the north by the Antientest Burial Ground. Facing Huntington Street to the east, the school overlooks downtown New London and the harbor. The building consists of a square tower 19' on each side, to which wings are attached to the north, south, and west, the dimensions of which are, respectively, 36' by 40', 25' by 39', and 42' by 73'. The wings are two stories in height with gable roofs, and are constructed of rock-faced granite ashlar. To the east, two 3-story, tile-block additions covered in stucco were added in 1922 and 1934. These are 58' by 119' and 55' by 84', respectively. (Photograph 1).

The two stucco-covered additions of 1922 and 1934 dominate the appearance of the building as viewed from Huntington Street. These two wings are very similar in design and construction, the 1922 addition having been remodelled in 1934 to conform with the later work. Both wings are attached by a lobby to the original building, and extend to the eastwards with a slight gap between them. (see Plan 1). The eastern ends of both additions have a central pavillion with paired pilasters between which the front doors are set in a simple classical surround consisting of pilasters, entablature, and pediment. The 1922 addition, to the south of the 1934 addition, has a slightly recessed, rectangular panel above the door. Raised vertical members rise to a second recessed panel, semi-circular in shape. To either side of the central pavillion, recessed, round-headed panels are placed. The 1934 wing, to the north, contains windows in place of the recessed, blind panels of the 1922 addition. Multiple 4-over-4 double-hung sash occupy these window openings. The south elevation of the 1922 addition, which faces Bulkeley Place, has rectangular first floor windows with 4-over-4 double-hung sash in multiples within each opening. Above these are large window openings with Tudor arches. Within each opening, 6-over-6 double-hung sash are set, in groups of three. Transoms occupy the arches. One window has been converted to a door with a steel fire escape. (Photograph 1). The other sides of the additions are similar in arrangement, although lacking the Tudor arche of the side facing Bulkeley Place.

To the south side of the lobby which connects the stucco additions to the original building, the original entrance to the Bulkeley School has been relocated. (Photograph 2). Granite stairs lead to the double doors of the entrance. Newel posts and railings are of granite, the railings decorated with pierced quatrefoils. Flanking the doorway are granite columns with cushion capitals which bear abstract foliate designs in low relief. These support an equilateral or pointed arch comprised of smooth granite voussoirs with a bowtell or roll molding along the inner edge. Brownstone voussoirs with returns surround the granite. An outer course of granite voussoirs was not retained when the entrance was relocated in 1922.

The original facade of the Bulkeley School remains, although altered and somewhat obscured by the 1922 and 1934 additions, which were constructed on the broad lawn which once sloped down to Huntington Street. (Photograph

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3). At the base of the tower, the entrance described above was located. When the lobby was attached to the building at this point, the entrance was removed and relocated to the south side of the lobby. The tower, which featured an open, arched belfry and bartizans at each corner, had its upper portion removed in 1922. To the south and north of the tower, wings extend, forming the original facade of the building. The north wing is recessed somewhat in comparison with the south wing. Both rest on a raised basement with segmentally arched window openings containing 2-over-2 double-hung sash. Directly above these basement windows, rectangular first floor window openings have chamfered edges with stops. Both wings have three windows on both first floor and basement. The south side of this facade has a granite corbel table uniting the sills of the second floor windows. (Photograph 4). The second floor windows are set within a gable roofed dormer. A triple-arched opening comprised of pointed or equilateral arches frames the windows. Columns supporting the central arch rest on polygonal bases stopped down to square plinths. Cushion capitals are ornamented with trefoil design in low relief. The intrados of each arch has trefoil drop tracery. Brownstone springers emphasize the base of the three arches. The chamfered sides of the window openings are provided with lamb's tongue stops. Double-hung, l-over-1 sash is used in the windows. Above the window arrangements on both wings, the gabled dormers have projecting eaves supported by wooden brackets. Wooden gable trim, pierced with elaborate tracery, now removed, once occupied the peak of this gable and others through out the building. (Photograph 3).

The north wing of the original building was extended in 1912 with great care. The gable end was removed, carefully marked, and reconstructed once enlargement had taken place. Materials and workmanship are entirely consistent with the earlier portion. (see Plan 1). Another alteration was the removal of the original slate roof and its replacement with asphalt shingles, perhaps in the 1950s. The original roof of the building was constructed of dark slate with horizontal bands of lighter slate bearing designs worked with colored slate. (Photograph 3).

The south elevation of the older portion of the Bulkeley School faces Bulkeley Place. (Photograph 5). This elevation is carefully balanced. with a central gable-roofed dormer flanked by the gable end of the south wing to the east, and a large, gabled dormer to the west, forming a continuous elevation. Beneath the gables at the east and west sides of this elevation, two window openings are located on both the basement level and the first floor level, similar to those of the original facade. The second floor windows on either side of the central dormer are triple-arched, the central arch being larger than those next to it. Granite columns and capitals support the center arch. The sides of the window openings are chamfered with lamb's tongue stops. A brownstone belt course is laid at the springing line of the arches. The window in the center arch has 2-over-2 double-hung sash. The smaller windows to either side have 1-over-1 double-hung sash. The central dormer has three basement windows and three first floor windows, with 2-over-2 double-hung sash. A four centered arch is divided by Y-tracery into two lancet windows with 1-over-1 double-hung sash, above which is a

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laboratory space on the second floor. Stairs to the upper floor were located in the tower and the west wing. The second floor was organized in a similar fashion, although the west wing contained two rooms connected by a hallway.

Changing educational requirements resulted in the division of the interior into smaller units for specialized instruction. (see Floor Plan). Much of the original fabric remains, for new partitions have been superimposed over the older room arrangements. Walls and ceilings are plastered throughout except for recent partitions, most dating from 1959. The original walls of the building and of the 1899 and 1912 additions have a wainscot dado and chair rail. On the first floor, deeply molded baseboards and plaster coving are evident. Interior doors throughout the building are panelled, except where new doors have been added. (Photograph 8).

The surviving staircase to the second floor has a newel post with beak molding in profile. The handrail remains, although the balusters have been covered with fiberboard. (Photograph 9). The second floor rooms also have wainscot dados and chair rails, although the elaborate plastercoving of the first floor is not repeated. A fireplace with a corbelled brick mantelpiece remains in the hallway of the west wing. (Photograph 10).

The 1922 addition contains classrooms on the lower floor. The upper two stories are occupied by an auditorium. Dark-stained wooden molding defines the outlines of windows and transoms. Exposed beams are supported by braces terminating in molded corbels. (Photograph 11). The 1934 addition contains a two-story gymnasium and a floor of classrooms.

The Bulkeley School was last occupied for city offices. Since its abandonment, damage from vandalism and from natural weathering has occured. The basic structure is sound, however, and retains much of the original fabric.

#### 8. Significance

| Period         | Areas of Significance—C |                      |                         |                  |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| prehistoric    | archeology-prehistoric  | community plannin    | g landscape architectur | 'e religion      |
| 1400-1499      | archeology-historic     | conservation         | law                     | science          |
| 1500-1599      | agriculture             | economics            | literature              | sculpture        |
| 1600-1699      | x_ architecture         | _X_ education        | military                | social/          |
| 1700-1799      | art                     | engineering          | music                   | humanitarian     |
| _X 1800-1899   | commerce                | exploration/settlem  | ent philosophy          | theater          |
| X 1900-        | communications          | industry             | politics/government     | transportation   |
|                |                         | invention Bui        | lders: George Press     | other (specify)  |
|                |                         |                      | (1871-73; 1899)         | John Ryan (1912) |
| Specific dates | 1871-73, 1899.          | Builder/Architect To | opold Fidlitz Don       | 2211- (1022)     |

Specific dates 18/1-/3, 1899, Builder/Architect Leopold Eidlitz, Donnelly (1922), 1912, 1922, 1934

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Payne & Keefe (1934)

The Bulkeley School was designed by Leopold Eidlitz, an important figure in late 19th-century American architecture. The building exhibits several of the distinctive characteristics of Eidlitz's work, reflecting his architectural theories as propounded in The Nature and Function of Art (1881). (Criterion C). The Bulkeley School was a private boys high school which operated from 1873 to 1951, when it was absorbed by the public school system founded through the will of Leonard H. Bulkeley, the school admitted New London residents free of charge, functioning as a quasi-public institution. The curriculum, at first intended as college preparation only, was later expanded to meet community needs. Many of the 20th-century leaders of New London and Southeastern Connecticut were graduates of Bulkeley School, which played an important role in the local community. (Criterion A).

Leopold Eidlitz was born in Prague, Bohemia (now Czechoslovakia) in 1823, of German parents. He received architectural training prior to his emigration to America at the age of 20. After a brief period as a draftsman in the office of Richard Upjohn, he entered into a partnership with a Bavarian named Blesch. About 1848, Eidlitz began an independent architectural practice, designing churches, public buildings, and commercial structures. His preferred architectural style was that of the Gothic Revival. Although influenced by Ruskin and other advocates of Gothic architecture, Eidlitz was insistent that architects be free to draw on a wide range of historic styles for inspiration. This eclecticism is reflected in his work. Another characteristic of Eidlitz was his emphasis on the mass and solidity of his buildings. Architectural masses should, according to Eidlitz, express their structural function.

The Bulkeley School illustrates both the influences upon Eidlitz and his own individualistic theories of architecture as expressed in The Nature and Function of Art; More Especially of Architecture, published in 1881. The influence of Ruskin's writings are particularly evident in the steep gable roofs of the Bulkeley School. The boldly projecting eaves supported by brackets produce a picturesque effect heightened by the polychromed slate roof and the gable trim, both now removed.

Eidlitz was concerned that a building should reveal its mass rather than disguise it, and placed particular stress on displaying the strength and rigidity of materials. The rough finish of the granite ashlar walls indicate apparent strength, according to Eidlitz's theory:

A rough quarry face, as well as a polished surface of many sorts of stone, reveals a vigorous crystallization, and heightens the color, and thus indirectly the apparent capability of the material to do mechanical work. The experiment may be tried with a series of cubes of one and the same stone, and of equal dimen-

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sions, which may be made to range from a rough quarry face to a finely tooled surface, and it will be found that the rougher the surface, the greater the seeming rigidity of the material. For this no mechanical reason can be assigned. A block of stone offers a resistance to a load pressing upon it perpendicularly exactly proportional to the area of its smallest horizontal section. No projections on its face beyond the lines constituting these limits can help this stone in the labor of resisting pressure; yet the stone seems stronger than another stone which is dressed down to an even surface at the line which is the boundary of its horizontal area. 1.

This careful concern for the psychological effect created by texture is also reflected in Eidlitz's assertion about color: "The deeper the color of a structural part the greater its apparent resistance to strain." 2. The dark gray color of the locally obtained granite, seamed with veins, is also approriate in the construction of the Bulkeley School. Even the position of window sash within the openings is important, according to Eidlitz:

The thickness of walls and piers constitutes and element, and hence an expression of strength, as well as their width. To make the thickness apparent, the doors and windows should not be placed on the outside, but in the middle of the wall, a practice not observed in modern structures. 3.

The window sash in the Bulkeley school is set deeply, as in many other works by Eidlitz. The chamfering of the edges of the window openings may also have served to give the appearance of greater mass, although this is not explicitly stated by Eidlitz.

In contrast, the surrounds of the triple-arched second floor window openings are lighter in color and smoother in finish than the walls. The thickness of the voussoirs and supporting columns and cushion capitals counteract this. The dark color of the brownstone course defining the springing line of the arches gives special prominence to that feature. The low relief decoration of the capitals is subordinated to the function, leaving the structural nature of the mass clearly visible.

The Bulkeley School, despite alterations, demonstrates the principles of the architect consistently. The impact of the building is one of solidity and permanence. The craftsmanship displayed in its construction is notable, the masonry work being executed by George Prest in 1871-73 and 1899, and by John J. Ryan in 1912. The consistency of the design is suggestive that Eidlitz was consulted for the addition of 1899. 5. The building is enhanced in value by the presence of three other major buildings by Eidlitz in New London, each designed for different purposes: the First Congregational Church in the Gothic Revival style (1850), the Jonathan Newton Harris

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residence in the Italian Villa style (1859-1860), and a commercial structure in the Romanesque style, the Harris Building (1884). Each represents the application of Eidlitz's personal architectural theory to structures of widely varying purpose.

The Bulkeley School originated in a bequest made in 1849 by Leonard H. Bulkeley. Bulkeley, a merchant, left a sum of about \$25,000 for the purpose of establishing a free school for the boys of New London, to be known as the Bulkeley School. The stipulations of the will were specific: the money was to be invested by the trustees until a sum of \$50,000 had accumulated. At that time a school building was to be erected, providing that no more than \$7,000 should be expended for both land and building.

In 1869, the City of New London gave to the trustees of the Bulkeley estate the land on which the former almshouse had stood, next to the first burial plot of the city. Leopold Eidlitz was commissioned to design the new school in 1870, and construction began the following year. As construction costs totalled \$40,000, the trustees were forced to apply to the state legislature for relief from the original provision of \$7,000. In September of 1873, the Bulkeley School admitted its first class of 36 pupils. As free education at the high school level was now provided for New London boys, the Bartlett High School, a public school, was closed.

The Bulkeley School soon proved popular. Its function was, originally, to prepare students for entrance into college. Although no tuition was charged to New Londoners, applicants were required to pass an examination prior to admittance. Instruction was in a classical curriculum: Latin, Greek, and the liberal arts were taught. During the 1890s, scientific and technical courses were added: chemistry, physics, mechanical drawing, and surveying. In 1908, a commercial course of studies was added, the curriculu then offering classical, scientific, and commercial courses.

In 1891, the trustees of the Bulkeley School admitted non-resident students for the first time, although requiring tuition. This measure resulted in substantial enrollment from surrounding towns and from more distant areas. At least one student attended from Minnesota. By 1923, after fifty years, the enrollment of the Bulkeley School had increased 700%, while the tion of New London had increased only 200%. The increase was attributed to the admission of scholars from out of town and to a greater demand for a high school education. 6.

The existing physical plant proved inadequate. In the words of Walter A. Towne, headmaster from 1888 to 1921: "the school was a little gem architecturally, but, in light of subsequent events, it showed small vision of the demands that would soom be made upon it." In 1899, a generous gift from George Tinker, former mayor, permitted the construction of the west wing, providing an assembly room and laboratory space. Prest, the original contractor, was hired, and the new wing carefully matched to the old. The same concern for the architectural integrity of the building was manifested in 1912, when local stonemason John J. Ryan was hired to extend the north wing of the school. 7.

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By 1922, the need for further physical expansion was evident. The trustees expressed the desire for a stone annex, but found the cost prohibitive. Local architect Dudley St. Clare Donnelly was retained to design the first of the two stucco additions, containing an assembly hall and four new classrooms. The original entranceway, however, was re-used on the south side of the new lobby. In 1934, the need for additional classroom space and a gymnasium resulted in the construction of the second stucco addition, designed by the local firm of Payne and Keefe. 8.

Bulkeley School succeeded in providing high quality secondary education to the male New London population through continual expansion of its programs and physical plant. The construction of the various additions from 1899 to 1934 resulted not only from an increased school population, but from the need to provide specialized facilities unnecessary by the standards of the 1870s, when the original structure was built. Much of the business and legal community within the New London area graduated from Bulkeley School. While a private institution, the Bulkeley School filled a public role. Similar institutions existed in Norwich and Woodstock, the Norwich Free Academy and the Woodstock Academy. These, however, retained their identity when absorbed into the public school system. The Bulkeley School, forced to depend on subsidies from the City of New London as early as 1893, was eventually merged with a private technical school in 1951 to form New London High School. For 78 years, however, the Bulkeley School provided an essential service to the community, and is of significance in the educational history of New London.

#### Footnotes

- 1. Eidlitz, Leopold. The Nature and Function of Art; More Especially of Architecture. New York: A.C. Armstrong & Son, 1881, pages 318-319.
- 2. <u>Ibid</u>, page 322. 3. Ibid, page 407.
- 4. <u>Ibid</u>, page 321.
- 5. The writer is unable to verify whether or not Eidlitz designed the 1899 addition. Given the remarkable cohesivesness of the design, it seems likely. The 1912 extension took place 4 years after Eidlitz's death, and may have been a simple duplication of features already used in the building.
- 6. Towne, Walter A., "History of Bulkeley School," The Evening Day, June 30, 1923.
- 7. <u>Ibid</u>.
  8. "Bulkeley School Annex Now Ready for Inspection," The Evening Day, in clipping file at Public Library of New London, Env. 2, # 19.

| 9. Major Bibliograph  | ical References  |
|---|--|
| Box Company, 1909.  Decker, Robert Owen. The Whal Connecticut: The Pequot Pr                            | New London, Conn. New London: Bingham Paper ling City: A History of New London. Chester, ress, 1976. and Function of Art: More Especially of Archi-  |
| 10. Geographical Da   |  |
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| in Volume 251, page 127 of to of the City Clerk, New London   | Zone Easting Northing  D   |
| List all states and counties for properties   | s overlapping state or county boundaries   |
| state code  | county code  |
| 11. Form Prepared E   | code   |
| name/title Dale S. Plummer, Nation organization Connecticut Historica street & number 59 South Prospect |  |
| city or town Hartford   |  |
|   | reservation Officer Certification  |
| The evaluated significance of this property with  |  |
| nationalX state   | local  |
| according to the criteria and procedures set for  | Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–<br>ion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated<br>th by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. |
| State Historic Preservation Officer signature   | Mis in Morrow  |
| title Director, Connecticut Historic  | al Commission date July 1, 1981  |
| For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included                                       |  |
| Keeper of the National Register  Attest:  |  |
| Chief of Registration   |  |

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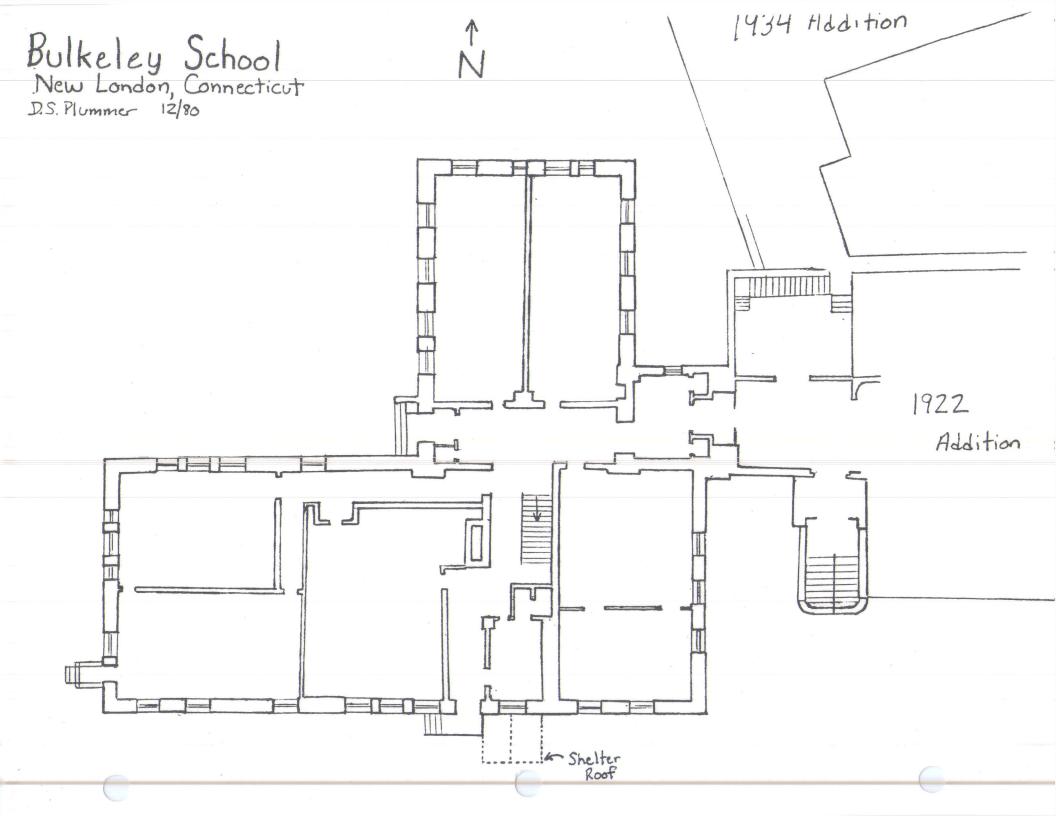
Major Bibliographic References (continued)

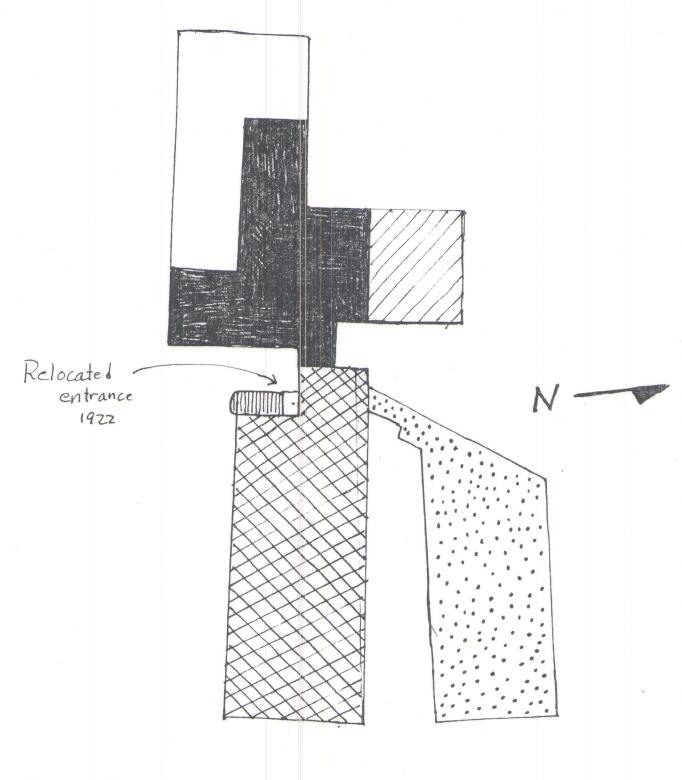
tecture. New York: A.C.Armstrong & Son, 1881.

Schuyler, Montgomery, "A Great American Architect: Leopold Eidlitz. Part 1, Ecclesiastical and Domestic Work," The Architectural Record, Volume XXIV, No. 3, pages 164-179. (September, 1908).

Stark, Benjamin, "Historical Sketch of the Schools of New London," Records and Papers of the New London County Historical Society, Part II, Volume 11. 1896

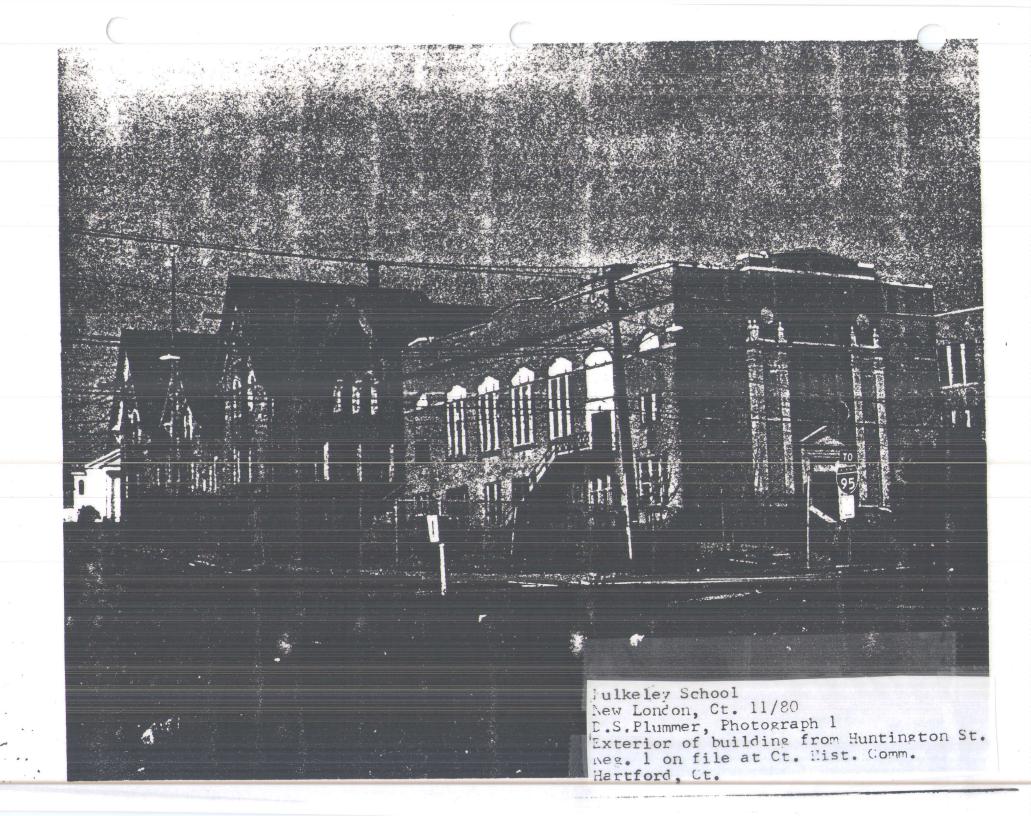
II, 1896
Towne, Walter A., "History of Bulkeley School Has Real Beginning in Founder's Death," The Evening Day, June 30, 1923, pages 11-12.





Plan 1
Bulkeley School Showing Additions
Code:
1871-73
1899
1912

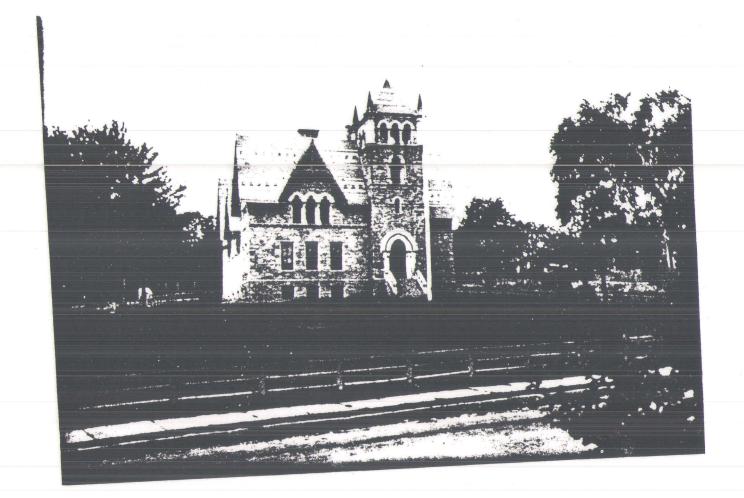
1922

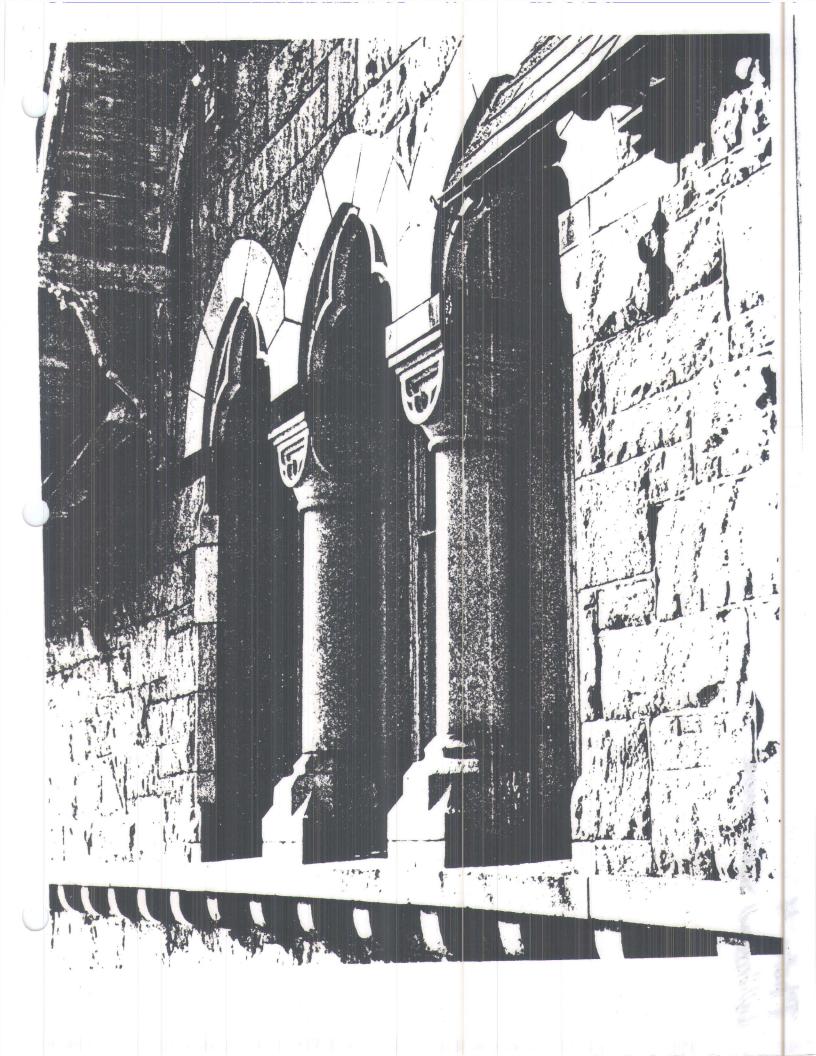


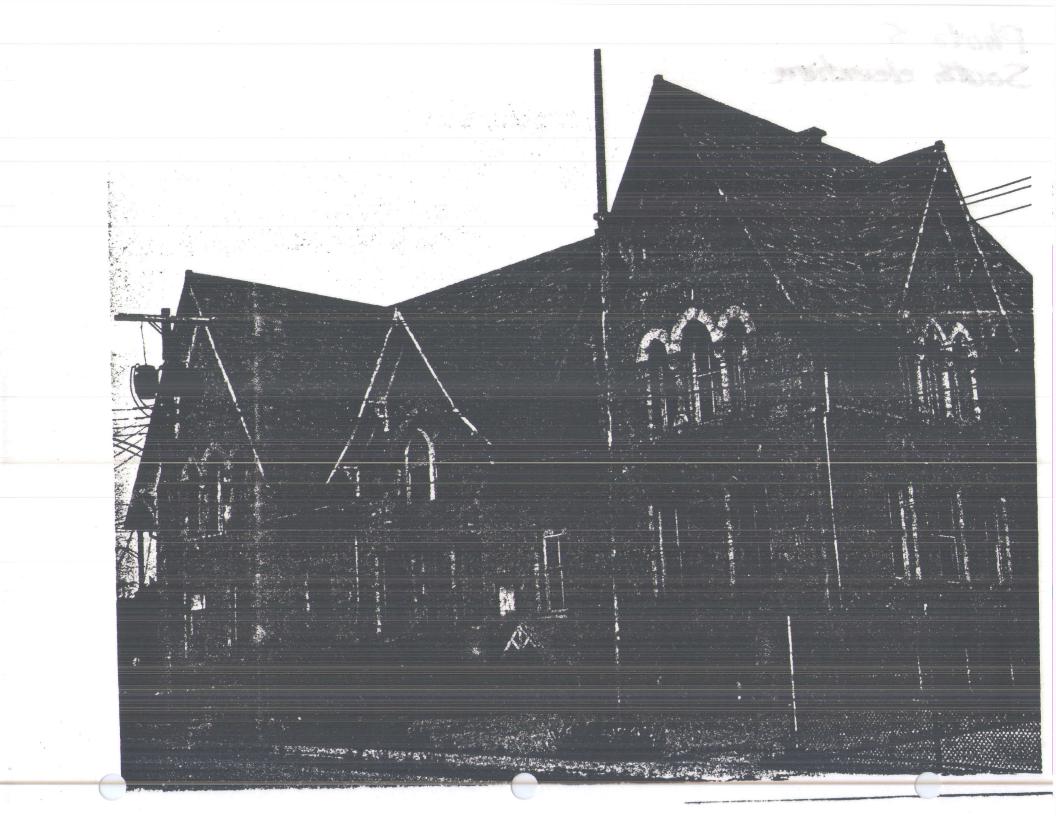


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2, circa 190
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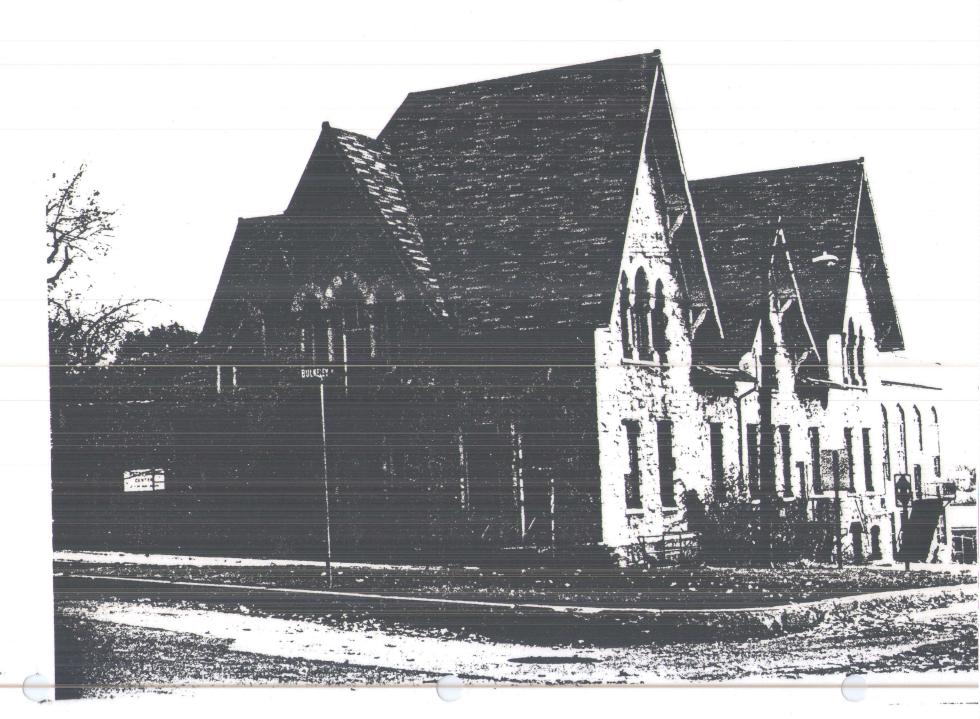
Rew London, Ct.
Photograph 3, circa 1900
Exterior of building from Huntington St.
Neg. 3-8-1, Picture Group 370
On file in Connecticut State Library
Hartford, Ct.





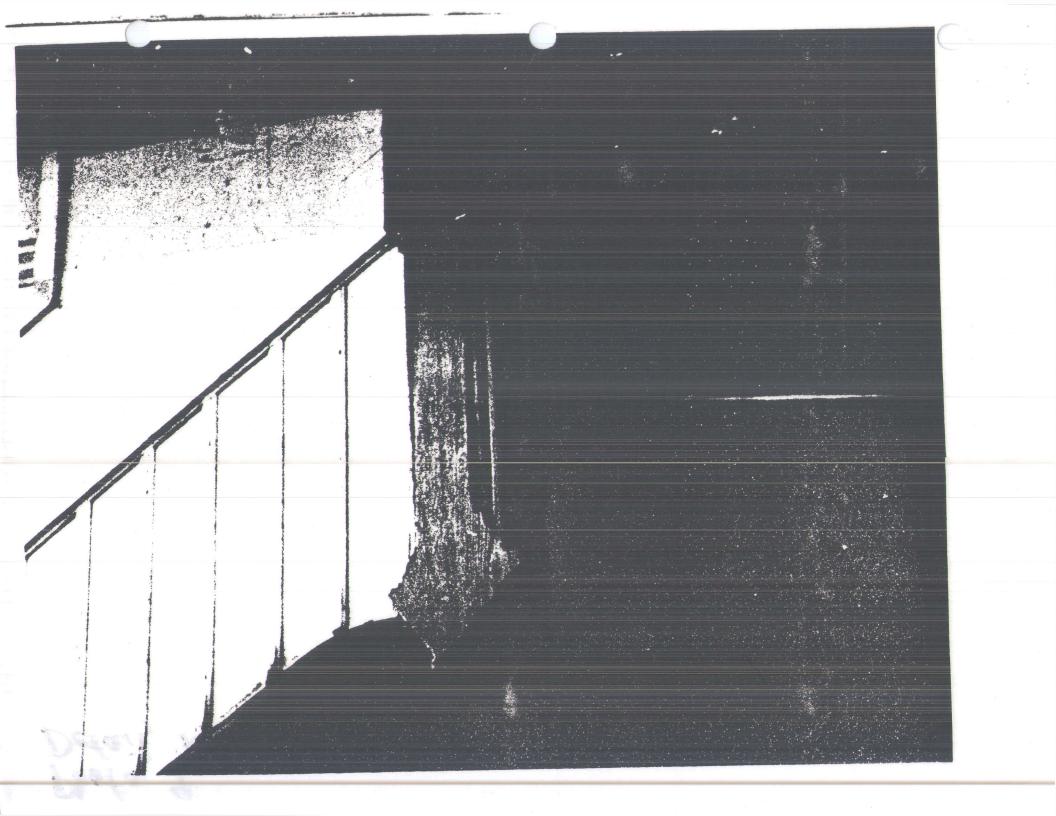


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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

