

National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form

1. Name
Whale Oil Row
2. Location
105-119 Huntington Street(#1,#2,#3,#4 Whale Oil Row)
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

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: Whale Oil Row	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 105 through 119 Huntington Street (#1, #2, #3, and #4 Whale Oil Row)			
CITY OR TOWN: New London			
STATE: Connecticut	CODE 06320	COUNTY: New London	CODE 011

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Doctor's Offices
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: One--The Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Connecticut, Two--Dr. Elsie M. Tytla, Three--Dr. Carl H. Wies, Four--St. James Episcopal Church	
STREET AND NUMBER: 105 --119 Huntington Street	
CITY OR TOWN: New London	STATE: Connecticut
	CODE 09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: New London Municipal Building	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: New London	STATE: Connecticut
	CODE 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Connecticut Historical Commission	
STREET AND NUMBER: 75 Elm Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford	STATE: Connecticut
	CODE 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four Greek Revival buildings which constitute Whale Oil Row are lined up side by side on Huntington Street north of the intersection with State Street. Like many buildings built by developers these have nearly identical facades which consist of two story porticos of fluted Ionic columns supporting pediments with semicircular lights. All the buildings have a similar rectangular form, bounded at the corner by pilasters and at the roof level by an architrave and plain frieze --with a line of dentils just below the mouldings of the roof line and the pediment.

The buildings stand gable ends to the street and with the exception of number one the primary differences in the facades of the buildings are in the door frames and the mullions of the over door and side lights. Number four has flat mullions and boxed low relief carvings of the anthemion. Number three is topped by a bracketed flat pediment and has mullions in oval and circular pattern as well as attached Ionic columns which support a partial entablature on each side of the door frame; and number two has mullions in quarter circle and circular pattern while the frame appears to duplicate that of number four with fillet mouldings and a boxed anthemion motif. Number one Whale Oil Row, now the location of the New London Chamber of Commerce, is a wider building than the others; so that the actual facade extends beyond the portico on each side. Pilasters mark both the corners of the building as well as the boundaries of the projecting portico. The building also differs from the others in the center location and simplified mouldings of the doorway, and in the greater width of the cornice which bounds the building at the roof line.

The conversion of these buildings from residences to offices has occurred within the last twenty years with the exception of number one which has been the home of a fraternal organization, a USO headquarters and the offices of the Chamber of Commerce for over thirty-five years. The adaptation of the buildings to commercial purposes had required alteration of the interiors and the addition of wings in back. However, the street facades have retained their original form, and it is these which give Whale Oil Row its unique and distinctive appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1835 - 1845			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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 Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>This row of buildings is unique to Connecticut and possibly the whole United States; although two buildings with similar histories may be found in Nantucket (the Starbuck Residences). The four houses of Whale Oil Row were built in the decade between 1835 and 1845 and are fine examples of the American Greek Revival. The developer and owner of the land on which the buildings stand was Ezra Chappel, the builder was Charles Henry Boebe. The earliest owners with the exception of one were men whose fortunes were derived from whaling and/or the prosperity which whaling brought to New London:</p> <p><u>#1 Whale Oil Row</u> (105 Huntington Avenue) was purchased by Enoch V. Stoddard, who ran a whaling firm with two schooners.</p> <p><u>#2 Whale Oil Row</u> (111 Huntington Avenue) was purchased by Elisha North, a physician who ran the first eye infirmary in the country.</p> <p><u>#3 Whale Oil Row</u> (115 Huntington Avenue) was purchased by Thomas Williams who owned ten whaling ships. Williams was an incorporator of a savings bank and later president of the New London, Willimantic, and Springfield Railroad Company; and a member of Congress from 1839 to 1843.</p> <p><u>#4 Whale Oil Row</u> (119 Huntington Avenue) was purchased by William H. Chapman, Head of E.C. Chapman, Drygoods, 15 State Street and later President of the Union Bank.</p> <p>Whale Oil Row is a significant group of Greek Revival Buildings because of the quality of its architecture and because it provides physical documentation of the life style and wealth of the whalers of New London who grew rich from successful participation in the whaling industry of the town between 1820 and 1850.</p>			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Connecticut. Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1938.

Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. VI (1944), p. 266.

Major, Howard. The Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic--The Greek Revival (1926).

The New London Historical Society, "Report from the New London Historical Commission." Report to the New London Redevelopment Agency, 1962."

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							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0		"	0		"	41°	21'	22"	72°	06'	00"
NE	0		"	0		"						
SE	0		"	0		"						
SW	0		"	0		"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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		DATE September 8, 1970
ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: 75 Elm Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford	STATE Connecticut	CODE 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

September 8, 1970
Date _____

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