

*National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form*

1. Name  
New London Public Library
2. Location  
63 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 Public Library	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 63 Huntington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New London			
STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 06320	COUNTY: New London	CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION	
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" 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
STATUS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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 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) Library	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: New London Public Library Association	
STREET AND NUMBER: 63 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	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

8. 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) 1889			
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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The New London Public Library was built in 1889 after the death of H.H. Richardson and after the completion of his massive and dignified New London Railroad Station. The library is very much in the Richardsonian manner and is recorded as having been worked up from preliminary drawings of Richardson by his successors Shepley, Coolidge, and Rutan.<sup>2</sup> It is an important building because its quality approaches very closely those designs carried out by Richardson himself for other libraries<sup>3</sup> and because it is symbolic of the popularity of Richardsonian architecture in the decade after his death.</p>			
<p><sup>2</sup>Helen Kilduff Gay (the first librarian of the New London Public Library), "The Benefaction of a Pioneer Alaskan Trader," in <u>Connecticut Magazine</u> (Vol. 11), 1907, p. 142.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Henry-Russell Hitchcock, <u>H.H. Richardson and His Times</u> (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936) p. 285.</p>			

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
☐ Excellent    ☒ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Deteriorated    ☐ Ruins    ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)  
☐ Altered    ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)  
☐ Moved    ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New London Public Library is located diagonally across from New London's gambrel roofed State Courthouse on the corner of Huntington and State Streets. It is a heavy compact structure which is cramped on a treeless corner immediately next to the sidewalk at a very busy intersection. The building plan consists of two sections which intersect at right angles. The gabled section which faces on Huntington Street contains the main area of the library. To the right of the three Syrian arches which form the entrance on Huntington Street is a round turret with polygonal roof, the top of which is not higher than the facade gable, and which is consequently subordinated to it in the totality of the building design.

The materials of the building consist of Milford granite with contrasting brownstone trim in the manner typical of Richardson. The rough-faced granite is laid in regular courses; while the brownstone creates a darker contrast in the window frames and mullions, the Syrian arches of the entry and the windows of the second floor, the steps of the entrance and the band courses which circumscribe the building below the windows and at the cornice which continues up the rake of the roof. The Akron tile roof has an eyelid dormer on the Huntington Avenue side and there are higher more conventionally-roofed dormers in the rear.

State

Shortly after its construction in 1889 the building was described in Harper's Weekly in the following manner:

The site is a pleasant slope practically in the centre of the city, at the junction of two broad elm-bowered streets, Huntington and State, the latter being the chief business thoroughfare, but bordered at this point--at its head, and near the quaint eighteenth-century Court-house--with handsome dwellings and gardens. The sloping ground gives opportunity for a large and convenient basement, dry, and well-lighted. From the front the building (40 x 90 feet) presents somewhat the appearance of one tall story with a high sloping roof, although in reality there are two stories, as may be seen by the gable, pierced with three arched windows, over which appears a carved stone tympanum bearing the arms of New London--a ship under full sail.

. . . . .  
 The interior arrangements are excellent. The Delivery Room, entered from the porch which has three groined vaults is nearly in the middle of the building, with a Magazine Room at the rear, and on the left a Reading-Room lighted from three sides. It contains an elaborately carved stone fireplace, and will be paneled, both between the heavy beams of the ceiling and around the walls, to a height of thirteen feet, with quartered oak well rubbed, which forms the finish of all the lower rooms. To the right of the Delivery-Room are the Librarian's Office and the spacious Book-Room. The latter has an immediate capacity of 30,000 volumes, on the "stack" plan, bringing every book

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(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

- 2 -

Description: The New London Public Library

within easy reach of the arm, and the height of the stacks can be increased so as to accommodate 50,000. Every aisle between the stacks is flooded with light from the two sides of the room. The whole second story of the building is occupied by one large room, finished in fine Georgia pine which will be the home of the New London County Historical Society.<sup>1</sup>

The building has not been altered since the time of its construction with the one possible exception of an elevator which although it appears to date from the nineteenth century does not appear in the plans.

<sup>1</sup>George Parsons Lathrop, "The Public Library at New London,"  
Harpers Weekly, July 27, 1889.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

H.K. Gay, "The Benefaction of a Pioneer Alaskan Trader," in Connecticut Magazine (Vol. 11) 1907.  
H-R. Hitchcock, H.H. Richardson and His Times. (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1936.  
G.P. Lathrop, "The Public Library at New London," Harpers Weekly, July 27, 1889.

# 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' 00"	
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

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: September 10, 1970

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

Date September 10, 1970

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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