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
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory - Nomination Form

Type all entries - complete applicable sections

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Yes: Occupied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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</table>

Present Use: (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainement
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- 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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc:
New London Municipal Building
Street and Number:
City or Town: New London
State: Connecticut

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title of Survey: Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey
Date of Survey: 1968
Depository for Survey Records:
Connecticut Historical Commission
Street and Number: 75 Elm Street
City or Town: Hartford
State: Connecticut

For NPS Use Only
Entry Number: 09
Date: 
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. It is an important building because its quality approaches very closely those designs carried out by Richardson himself for other libraries and because it is symbolic of the popularity of Richardsonian architecture in the decade after his death.

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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 crammed 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.

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 Leading-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
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 entire 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. [1]

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.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee
Connecticut Historical Commission
75 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut

DATE: September 10, 1970

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
Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE: September 10, 1970

13. NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

______________________________
Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: __________________________

ATTEST:
______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

DATE: __________________________