

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only
received MAY 9 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Meeker's Hardware (The Red Block)

and/or common Meeker's Hardware

2. Location

street & number 86-90 White Street n/a not for publication

city, town Danbury n/a vicinity of congressional district

state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name H. Brandes Meeker

street & number 160 White Street

city, town Danbury n/a vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Town Clerk, Danbury City Hall

street & number 155 Deer Hill Avenue

city, town Danbury state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect St.

city, town Hartford state Connecticut 06106

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Meeker's Hardware is a vernacular brick commercial building and warehouse constructed in its present form in 1896-97. A functional structure, its ornamental elements are Neo-classical. Built to house the hardware and feed and grain business of the Meeker family, a use it continues today, the original building is composed of two distinct sections. In front is a two-story section 50' x 55', with a low pitch gable roof facing White Street. To the rear is a three-story section with a gable roof perpendicular to the front section, 48' x 35'. This rear section originally housed the feed and grain warehouse of Oscar Meeker, the firm's founder, and continues to be used as storage space. A grist mill with one run of stone, run by a 28 hp steam engine was originally in the basement of this rear section. There is no separation between the front and rear sections on the ground floor, nor was there originally. A one-story brick warehouse in the rear, 25' x 19', was formerly free-standing. It was attached to the rear of the main building in 1979 by means of a short, concrete block addition covered with brick veneer. The doorways in the connecting addition repeat the segmental arches of the doorway and window openings of the sides of the buildings, and the brick used in it matches the appearance of the brick in the main building and the one-story warehouse. The one-story warehouse and the connecting addition share a flat, built-up roof. The one-story warehouse is used to store hay. (Photographs 2 and 3)

The Meeker Building stands on a lot 50' x 170', facing White Street, a major commercial artery since the mid-nineteenth century and traditionally the principal access to downtown Danbury from the east. Meeker's is located two-tenths of a mile from the intersection of White and Main Street. On the west, Meeker's is separated from other older commercial buildings on the south side of White Street by a contemporary one-story commercial building which abuts it, by the concrete retaining walls through which flow the Still River, by a municipal parking lot and by National Place, a small lane off White Street. (Photograph 4). To the rear of the Meeker Building flows the Still River. To the east is a parking area, purchased by the Meekers in 1976 from the City of Danbury through the Redevelopment Commission, which borders on the newly constructed Patriot Drive on the east. Across Patriot Drive to the east, approximately one-tenth of a mile from Meeker's, is the railroad station, constructed in 1902. On the north side of White Street opposite Meeker's is a small complex of recently constructed commercial buildings. The building's isolation from other older downtown buildings is due to the City of Danbury's Flood Control/Redevelopment projects of the 1960s which resulted in the re-channeling of the Still River and the demolition of older commercial buildings on both sides of Meeker's and across White Street.

The Meeker Building is rectangular in shape, and rests on a fieldstone foundation. Its facade is of a bright, orange-red pressed brick laid in running bond. The facade is seven bays wide and two stories in height. The ground floor incorporates three storefronts, with only one entrance, the easternmost, presently in use. Each storefront has a recessed entry, with wood flooring resting on a granite slab leading to panelled double doors equipped with the original brass locks, door handles and escutcheon plates (Photograph 5). Transoms above the doorways are carried above the

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6' wide plate glass display windows as well. Tapered cast-iron columns support the wall above the storefronts at the corners of the display windows. Above is a storefront cornice of formed, galvanized sheet iron (Photograph 2). The only significant alteration in the storefronts has been the covering of the hinged basement windows in the bases of the display windows with wooden panels, a change made during the 1920s. (Figure 4) The awning recently installed is based on a design from a photograph of the building taken in 1919 (Photograph 1, Figure 5). The second story of the facade consists of seven segmentally arched windows with granite keystones, granite sills, wooden frames and double hung sash, all original. The facade rises to a cornice of formed, galvanized sheet iron. Cornice trim consists of fascia with bead and reel moldings below a row of modillions. Upon the listel rests a parapet with balustrade-like relief, with ornamental fluted urns at the corners and flanking a central pediment, in the tympanum of which is a raised floral design with a torch in the center. Above the peak of the pediment is an anthemion.

The side and rear walls of the building are of common brick laid in American common bond. The front section is five bays deep, the three-story rear section two bays deep, while the attached one-story warehouse is three bays deep. Side windows and door openings are segmentally arched. Heavy wooden shutters which survived in three windows on the east side and two on the west have been duplicated for all the windows, including an exact duplication of the hinges, pintles and tiebacks. (Photograph 3) The former loading platform and elevator opening is located on the east side at the interface of the front and rear sections. The present loading dock is in the connecting addition between the main building and the one-story warehouse structure.

The roof is built up tar on tin, and is supported by 2 x 12" oak rafters. A chimney with corbelled cap is located at the interface of the front and rear sections on each side of the building. The building is of mill construction, with the original heavy oak floorboards supported by 12" square posts and beams of solid oak (Photograph 6). Floor joists are 16" on center. Ceilings are 12' high in the ground floor. In the section of the ground floor nearest the front of the building, ceilings are further braced by boxed iron girders supported by cast iron columns. These columns replaced dividing walls when the two rental stores originally in the building were eliminated in 1912. Walls and ceilings are plastered on the ground floor, unfinished brick throughout the rest of the building.

The hardware store uses fixtures and hardware that in most cases date back to the store's early days. Included are the original seed bins at the rear of the store (Photograph 7). Wooden screw and bolt cases that line the store's western wall were moved there about 1919 from another store the Meekers ran in nearby Ridgefield. The store's counters were constructed in 1925. Most of the rest of the store's drawer-cases, display cases and shelving also pre-date 1930.

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An electric cash register, wood bottom with imitation wood-grained metal top, is still in use, though it is now hand-cranked. The register has been dated to 1900 by a sales receipt found in its cash drawer. Objects relating to the store's history, including bottles and jugs, boxes and packing cases, are displayed on top of the shelving that lines the walls (Photographs 7, 8). Framed photographs from the early days of the store are displayed in the front of the store and in front of the office.

The office occupies the southeast corner of the front section, and dates back to the late 1930s. The office is wainscoted with boards, joined tongue-in-groove to a height of approximately 3', above which are windows topped by wooden panels. The wainscoting is a later addition. The business' original safe is still in use there. (Photograph 8)

The upper floor in the front section is used for storage of hardware items, garden tools, hay and feed. It is lit by two skylights, and the limited lighting conditions have led to its further use as the location of a large bed for starting onion bulbs. Its traditional use has been storage.

The tall rear section originally housed the firm's feed and grain grinding, mixing and storage operation (Figure 2). The steam-operated grindstone was located in the basement and went out of operation about 1912. The upper story is approximately 22" high and originally housed 12' high wooden feed bins, which were removed in 1965. The walls of the bins are still visible on the walls however, and the chutes which directed the grain into the bins for mixing are still in place (Photograph 9). This large open space is used for general storage. The present conveyor dates to 1937. The upper story is also reached by a stairs leading up from the loading platform. Also on the loading platform is a seed mixer, c. 1937. This machine mixes grass or bird seed (Photograph 10).

Between July and October of 1982, the trim of the building was repainted. The cornice, balustrade and pediment were re-painted red, their original color, with slate-blue used on the fascia and to point up the panelling on the doors. The urns and floral tympanum design remain white (Photograph 1).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	Criteria A,C,D	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890, 1896-7 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Meeker's Hardware Building is significant to the history of commerce and agriculture in Danbury. It is one of Danbury's oldest businesses in continuous operation and is the city's last nineteenth century feed and grain and hardware store. 1/ (Criterion A). It is significant architecturally as a well-preserved example of a late nineteenth century store, warehouse and milling structure, embodying distinctive characteristics of its type and representing a distinguishable entity. It is particularly significant to Danbury as a rare example of a late nineteenth century commercial building which has maintained its original architectural features, appearance and character to a more complete extent than any other of its period and building type in the city. It is a rare example in the state of Connecticut of a commercial building of its type and period in a high state of preservation and in continuous ownership by a single family, which maintains its original use. (Criterion C). It is of great importance to the local historian and to the industrial historian as a uniquely well-preserved example of a late nineteenth century hardware store, feed and grain warehouse and mill structure. (Criterion D)

The Meeker family's hardware, feed and grain business and its building has been owned and operated by four generations of Meekers since 1886. The business developed from the Danbury Elevator, constructed in 1872-3 by Hendrick Barnum on Canal Street, a no longer existing street that ran through the freight yards of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad. The elevator, which had an 80,000 bushel capacity, was the first in the Danbury region and was the first major outlet in Danbury for cheap Western grain and livestock feed transported into town by rail. 2/ In 1883 Barnum took in as partner Oscar Meeker, an established feed and grain dealer from Bridgeport. After Barnum's death in 1886, Meeker continued alone what had become a flourishing enterprise. Between September, 1889 and October, 1890, he had a four-story combined feed and grain warehouse, mill and commercial building constructed at 90 White Street (Figure 1). The architect was Charles Crossley of Danbury and the builder was the Joseph T. Bates Co., also of Danbury. 3/ The upper stories of this building were largely destroyed on March 2, 1896 during a fire which swept through eleven buildings on lower White Street.

In October of that year Oscar Meeker began to rebuild the present structure, using the foundation and parts of the lower side walls of the earlier building. The new building was described in the Danbury News of February 24, 1897.

"O. H. Meeker's new mill and feed and grain store on White Street, is nearly completed, and it is expected to be ready for business soon after the first of March. The new building will have beside Mr. Meeker's store two other small stores. The mill, grain elevator,

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .2

Quadrangle name Danbury

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	6	2	9	4	8	5	4	5	8	3	8	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

n	a													
Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Devlin, Historical Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Danbury Preservation Trust date Sept. 21, 1982

street & number 368 Curtis Road telephone 354-1370

city or town Bridgewater state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

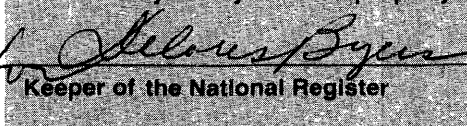
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date April 14, 1983

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register	date <u>6/9/83</u>
 Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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etc. will be located in the rear part of the building, much the same as before the big fire. The machinery will be in the basement, including the 40 hp boiler, 24 hp engine and stone for grinding. In the upper story will be 7 large bins for grain and a big store-room for hay and feed, etc. The large safe, which went through the fire, was moved in today." (Figure 2)

In #90 White Street Oscar Meeker sold seed, hay feed, grain, salt, common farm tools and "horse hardware" - a term inclusive of harnesses, horse collars and blankets, hoof picks, and parts and accessories for wagons. 4/ (Figure 3)

The business' association with the building's White Street location is a significant one. White Street was traditionally the main access to Main Street and downtown Danbury from rural areas to the east and northeast. During the mid-nineteenth century the street developed into a major commercial artery, due largely to its proximity to the northern terminus of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad. Among its earliest businesses were lumberyards, a planing mill, hardware stores and saloons, all of which profited from the nearby freight and passenger depots. During the 1880s and 1890s brick business blocks, including Meeker's, replaced the street's earlier frame buildings. As far east as the present railroad station (constructed in 1902, one-tenth of a mile east of Meeker's), White Street became an integral part of the downtown business district. Meeker's store location on the outskirts of the downtown business district allowed the business to take advantage of commercially valuable frontage on White Street while maintaining proximity to the railroad yards where grain was brought in. The store has traditionally opened at 7 a.m. Farmers who milked their cows at 3:30 or 4 a.m. brought their fresh milk into creameries in the city and the early opening hour made the store a convenient stop for them on their way back to their farms.

The chief market for Oscar Meeker's hardware, feed and grain business was the farmers of Danbury's outlying rural districts, which remained largely agricultural until after World War II. Despite Danbury's better recognized role as a leading center of hat manufacturing, it has a significant agricultural history. It was founded as an agricultural settlement in 1684, and its location in the Still River Valley made transportation of farm produce relatively easy. Danbury's first market crop was beans, which were grown in such quantities during colonial times that the town became known as "Beantown" or "old Beaner". Beans and other produce were carted to Norwalk for further shipment to other markets. 5/ As new agricultural towns grew up around it during the early eighteenth century, Danbury became the commercial center for the region. During the American Revolution the town served as an important depot on the supply line for Continental armies operating in New York and the Middle Colonies. During the 1790s the town's first newspaper, the Farmer's Journal, regularly reported the prices of commodities in New York, suggesting an early orientation towards supplying urban markets as well as local needs. Following the completion of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad in 1852, Danbury

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farmers followed the trend throughout New England of supplying urban markets by rail with fresh milk and butter. Shipments of milk on the railroad grew rapidly, from 2500 gallons in all of March, 1855 6/ to 1000 gallons a day by November, 1871. 7/

A milk cart was observed in New York City advertising "Danbury milk". 8/ A milk condensing enterprise in nearby Hawleyville in 1870 attracted Danbury News editor James Montgomery Bailey, who served as its secretary. Danbury farmers were represented in the Housatonic Valley Milk Association, formed in 1872. An especially significant indicator of the importance of farming to Danbury in the post-Civil War period was the formation of the Danbury Agricultural Society in 1869, which held the first annual Danbury Fair the same year.

Accompanying the rise of the dairy industry in New England was a decline in the local production of small grains and a growing dependence on cheap Western grain for both household flour and livestock feed. In 1873, Hendrick Barnum's grain elevator on Canal Street introduced large quantities of Western grain brought in by train to Danbury for the first time. Rail service to Danbury had improved with a connection to the Housatonic line at Hawleyville in 1871 and improved further with the completion of the New York and New England Railroad through Danbury in 1881.

In 1889 the City of Danbury was established out of the former Borough, which had been organized in 1822. The City, with its concentration of commerce, industry and population, nonetheless occupied only 4.5 of Danbury's 44 square miles. The outlying districts, administered by the Town of Danbury with its traditional board of selectmen form of government remained primarily agricultural. The two governmental bodies were consolidated in 1965. According to U. S. Census Reports of 1920, 56.5% of Danbury's land area was still in farms at that time. 9/ Also in that year there were some 212 farmers in Danbury, suggesting a like number of farms since agricultural laborers were excluded from this figure. 10/

In addition to the sizable rural population, Meeker's and several other stores like it in the early twentieth century had another market within the City. Most City residents lived in one or two-family homes, situated on lots ranging in size from 1/8 to 1/2 acre, and many kept domestic livestock such as poultry, rabbits or a cow or had backyard gardens. Many Yankee hatting families had come to Danbury from farms in surrounding rural areas. Also, many of the early twentieth century immigrants from Italy, Poland and Austria-Hungary who settled in large numbers in Danbury had peasant backgrounds, and kept livestock or gardened.

Agriculture declined in Danbury through the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Abandoned farms reverted to woodland, were incorporated into large estates, or increasingly were developed into suburban housing, particularly during

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the 1950s and 1960s.

The functions of the hardware store changed in response to the economic forces which shaped Danbury. Home improvement items, seeds and gardening tools and supplies, of which the store is a leading supplier, have assumed major importance since the decline of farming in Danbury. Feed, grain and hay, originally the business' main focus, today form only a small percentage of total sales.

In addition to the White Street operation, Oscar Meeker owned and ran a grain elevator on Rose Street in Danbury, no longer standing, and a feed and grain mill, warehouse and store in Ridgefield, also no longer standing. The focus of his business was feed and grain and other farm supplies, and is reflected in the large storage capacity of the rear section of the White Street building. Until 1917, railroad cars bearing Western grain were met in the freight yards by Meeker's high-boxed, horse-drawn wagons, each capable of holding 2 - 3 tons of grain. The wagons brought the grain to the old loading platform and elevator in the east wall of the Meeker building, where the load was weighed and then the grain was blown off the wagons into one or more of seven 12' high storage bins by means of hinged wooden chutes which could direct the grain into any one of the bins, allowing mixing. (Photograph 9) When needed, the grain was bagged in 100 lb. bags by store employees. After 1917 feed companies began delivering pre-bagged feed in 100 lb. bags in 5 ton lots, eliminating the old system. The horse-drawn wagons were replaced by a fleet of trucks. For a time around 1919 Meeker's fleet of trucks was painted in the familiar checkerboard design of the Ralston Co. (now Ralston-Purina).

After the death of Oscar Meeker in 1906, his son Harold E. Meeker took over the business. In 1911 and 1912 the second Meeker terminated the leases of the saloon and liquor dealership at 86 and 88 White Street and expanded the hardware business throughout the entire first floor commercial space, removing the dividing walls between the former stores. In 1919 he closed the store in Ridgefield, moving to White Street many of its fixtures, including the screw and bolt cases that line the store's west wall. Harold E. Meeker expanded the scope of the business as well. Hardware became increasingly important, as well as bicycles, baskets, and automobile-related items, such as axle grease, auto parts and even gasoline at 12½¢ a gallon. (Figure 5) During the 1930s the present seed mixer was installed (Photograph 10). The only one of its kind still in operation in Fairfield County, it mixes grass or bird seeds. 11/ In 1937 the original elevator opening and platform in the east wall was condemned by the State, and the present loading dock and conveyor put into operation, south of the former opening. 12/ Items oriented to a suburban market such as lawn mowers, garden supplies and started plants began to appear in the store during the 1920s and 1930s. Harold Brandes Meeker began managing the business after returning home from the Armed Forces in 1945, and was succeeded in management by his son Harold E. Meeker in 1972. The Flood Control/Redevelopment programs of the 1960s spared Meeker's but resulted in the demolition of

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all the neighboring older buildings, leaving the store physically isolated from the rest of the older downtown district of which it had formerly been a part.

The continuity of family ownership and original use has been a major factor in the maintenance of the building's architectural integrity. Changes in its exterior appearance have been minimal, and have been sympathetic. The joining of the one-story shed to the rear of the main building is illustrative. The brick used in it matched in appearance that of the existing structures and the new door opening used the same segmental arch found throughout (Photograph 3). The interior has not changed significantly since the late 1930s, when the present office was built. Meeker's has a reputation throughout the Danbury area of an "old-time" full-service hardware store, which the firm frequently trades on in its advertising. The reputation is a long-standing one. Meeker's was immortalized as early as 1939 by a New Yorker magazine cover (Figure 6).

In 1976, as part of an agreement with the Danbury Redevelopment Commission which allowed Meeker's to purchase the parking lot to its east, the building was painted for the first time, a red color. Between July and October of 1982, the building was substantially restored to its earliest known appearance. Using a collection of early photographs of the store as a guide, the building's side walls were cleaned and repointed where necessary, the trim repainted, an awning made and installed based on one used in 1919, and a Coca-Cola advertising sign on the east wall restored. In addition external wooden shutters, which were missing on most of the side wall windows, were duplicated exactly and replaced where they were missing.

In addition to the business' historical significance, members of the Meeker family were active in civic affairs. Oscar Meeker, the firm's founder, served on Danbury's first City Council in 1889-90, and served two terms on the Council thereafter. His son, Harold E. Meeker, also served on the Common Council and was a member of the Finance board.

Meeker's is exceptional in Danbury for its overall integrity and the faithfulness of any alterations to its original character. It is the only feed and grain warehouse or mill structure of its kind remaining in Danbury, and stands as an artifact of the importance of agriculture to Danbury's development as a commercial center. No other nineteenth century commercial buildings in Danbury have been as little altered, interior or exterior, and the building's level of preservation and continuity of use and ownership by a single family are rare among commercial buildings of its era in Connecticut. It is also significant as a practically intact example of the transition between the older custom grist mill and the modern feed store.

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Footnotes:

- 1/ Meeker's major competitors in the feed, grain and hardware business during the early twentieth century were the F. C. Benjamin Co. on Spring Street and the Danbury Hardware Co. on Main Street. Both firms are long out of business and their buildings demolished. Meeker's is one of the two oldest retail businesses in Danbury, the other being the Hartwell-Brady Co., originally a men's clothier, established in 1881.
- 2/ Danbury News, December 11, 1872
- 3/ Danbury Land Records, Vol. 92, p. 546
- 4/ Interview with Harold Brandes Meeker, April, 1982.
- 5/ Bailey, James M., comp., History of Danbury, 1684-1896
- 6/ Danbury News, April 26, 1855.
- 7/ Ibid. November 22, 1871.
- 8/ Ibid. September 15, 1870.
- 9/ Davis, I. G. and Hendrickson, C. I., "A Description of Connecticut Agriculture". Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin #127, p. 124.
- 10/ Ibid., p. 184
- 11/ Interview with Harold Brandes Meeker, April, 1982.
- 12/ Ibid.

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Bailey, James M., comp. History of Danbury, 1684-1896, New York
Burr Printing House, 1896.

Danbury City Directories, 1890-1982 (annual)

Danbury Land Records: vol. 92 p. 546; vol. 96, p. 589; vol. 183, p. 530;
vol. 160, p. 41; vol. 218, p. 380; vol. 259, p. 271; vol. 521, p. 616.

Danbury News: April 26, 1855; Sept. 15, 1870; Nov. 22, 1871; Dec. 11, 1872;
Oct. 28, 1886; March 4, 1896; Oct. 21, 1896; Nov. 4, 1896; Feb. 24, 1897;
March 3, 1897.

Danbury News-Times Nov. 12, 1949

Davis, I. G. and Hendrickson, C. I., Storrs Agricultural Experiment
Station, Bulletin #127, 1921.

Russell, Howard S., A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in
New England. University Press of New England, Hanover, N. H. 1976.

Sanborn Atlases, 1904, 1909, 1919.

Interviews

Harold Brandes Meeker April 23 and Sept. 15, 1982

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Meeker's Hardware Building, 86-90 White Street, Danbury is shown as parcel 113053 on the Danbury Tax Assessor's map and is described in Vol. 516, p. 616 of the Danbury Land Records: Bounded Northerly by White Street; Easterly by Patriot Drive; Southerly by the City of Danbury and Westerly by land now or formerly of the City of Danbury.

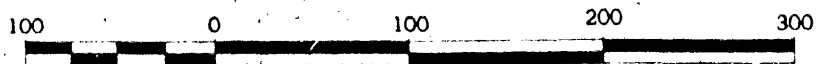
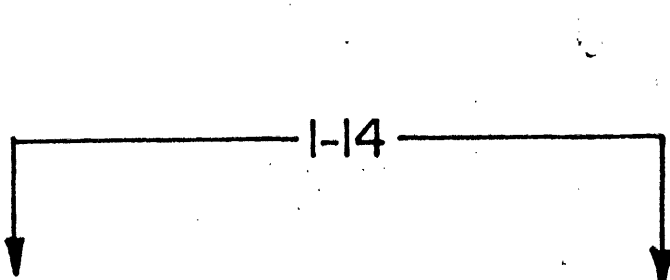
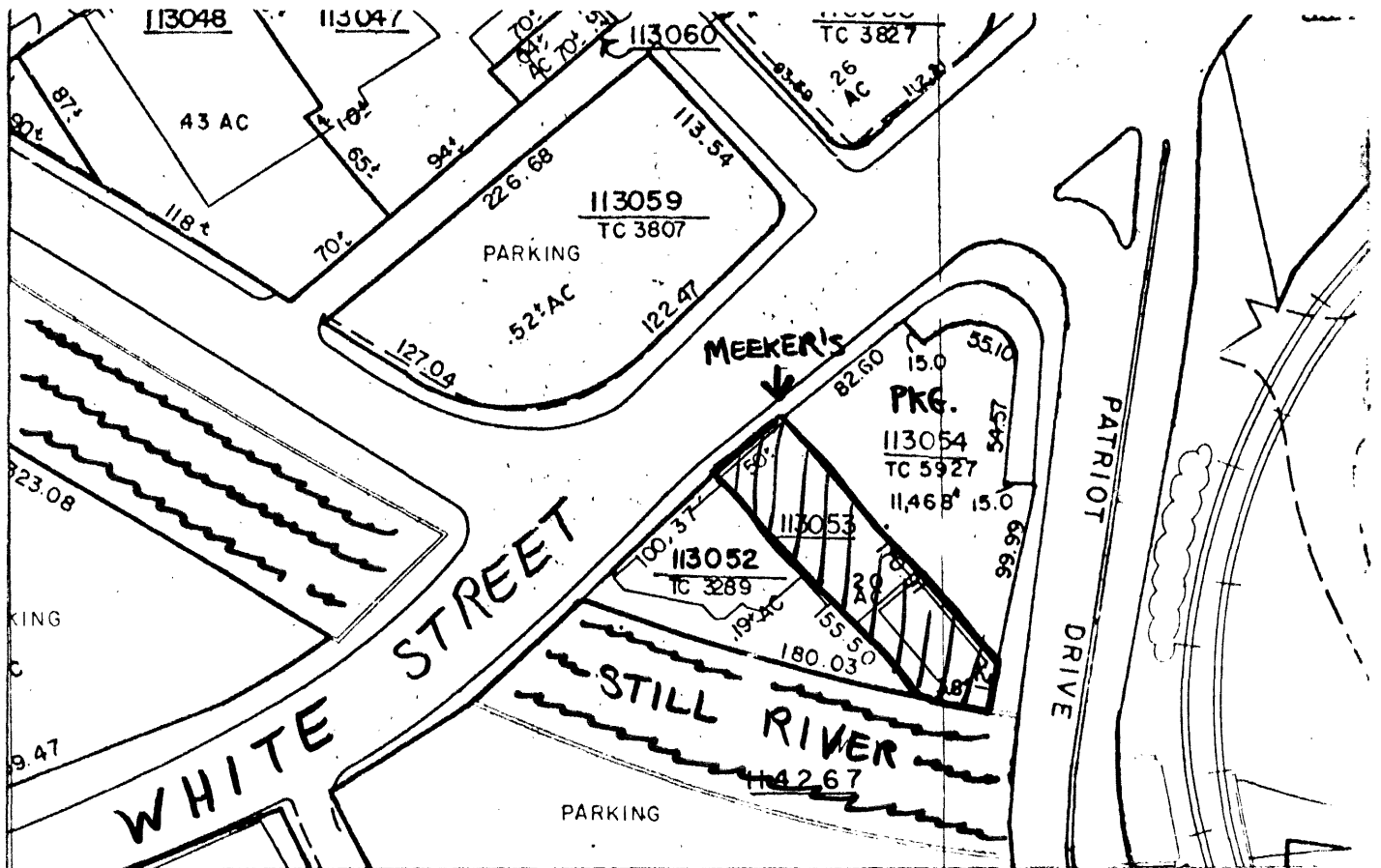


Figure 2
Sanborn Map Co., 1904

