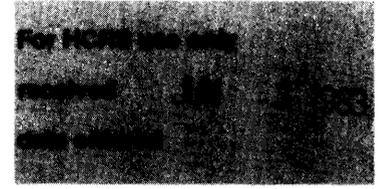


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic THE ELTON HOTEL

and/or common The Elton

2. Location

street & number 16-30 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Waterbury N/A vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Connecticut code 09 county New Haven code 009

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>offices</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Elton Limited Partnership

street & number 30 West Main Street

city, town Waterbury N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waterbury Town Clerk

street & number 235 Grand Street - City Hall

city, town Waterbury state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Waterbury Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elton is a large steel-framed buff-brick building situated near the the northeast corner of The Green, a park located in the heart of Waterbury's central business district. It stands six stories high and is square in plan, measuring 100' on a side. Built in 1904, the Elton is in the Second Renaissance Revival style, with a strong Beaux-Arts influence apparent in the richly embellished facade. Originally a hotel, its interior has recently been remodeled into office suites. Its exterior is in near-original condition, as is much of the interior, though concealed behind modern partitions and ceilings.

The facade or south elevation (Photo 1) is seven bays wide with a central entrance. The first story is faced with limestone in a rusticated pattern, and the round-arched window openings have scroll-shaped keystones carved with acanthus leaves and floral festoons. Other window openings are rectangular in shape, though the third and fourth-story windows are set within two-story arched recesses with carved wreaths and festoons of fruits and flowers above the windows. Second-story windows have scroll-carved keystones, but those of the upper-floor openings are plain and more stylized. Limestone stringcourses are found above the first, second, and fifth stories. The rustication of the first story is continued in brick on the second story. Other brickwork effects include quoins at the corners and setting off the middle five bays, which project forward less than a foot beyond the plane of the facade, and brick panels between the top-story windows. Windows are fitted with eight-over-two dark-painted sash, except for the first floor openings, whose double casement windows have ogee-curved horizontal muntins, and the small basement lights, which are covered with iron grills which curve outward in a bombe effect.

On the third, fourth and fifth stories are two copper-clad oriel windows on either side of the central bay of the facade (Photo 3). Set off by brick quoins, the windows have paneled pilasters at the angles, recessed panels below the openings, and classical cornices at each level. The cornices are all different: that on the third story has a round pediment and dentils, the fourth story's is straight with small mutules, and the fifth story's has large mutules and a huge cartouche centered in the frieze.

Both the second and sixth stories have wrought-iron balconies (in different patterns) carried on large richly carved limestone scroll brackets. The three middle windows of these stories, which give access to the balconies, are larger than others on the same story and have recessed French doors. Historical photographs (Photo 12) show individual balconies on the third-story windows as well: their absence is the only noticeable change in the exterior.

The entrance (Photos 4 and 13) is recessed well behind the plane of the facade and is sheltered by a shallow flat-roofed portico. The frieze of the portico is decorated with triglyphs and paterae. The Ionic columns are rather unusual, with alternating fluted and unfluted drums. There are corresponding pilasters behind the columns and surrounding the shallow-arched entranceway. The latter continue upward to form the arch itself;

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Elton Hotel

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Existing Surveys (continued):

State Register of Historic Places

State - 1983

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Criteria A, C

Specific dates 1904 - completed **Builder/Architect** Wilfred E. Griggs, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elton is a landmark in downtown Waterbury. Its monumental scale, its prominent location on the north side of The Green, and its richly detailed exterior make it the visual focal point of the area. An excellent example of the Second Renaissance Revival style, it incorporates many typical features of the genre as well as finer details which set it apart from its more pedestrian contemporaries (Criterion C). It is, moreover, a work by one of Waterbury's leading architects of the early 20th century, Wilfred E. Griggs. The Elton is more than an architectural treasure, however: it is also a monument to the civic improvement movement of the early 1900s (Criterion A). As Waterbury grew and developed into a commercial as well as an industrial city, prominent citizens banded together to provide for many municipal amenities, among which was a first-class hotel. Built with funds raised by wealthy individuals and leading industries, the Elton Hotel was for many years an elegant symbol of Waterbury's prosperity.

Prior to the Elton, Waterbury's best hotel had been Scovill House, an early 19th-century building which had been enlarged over the years. After it burned in 1902, many of Waterbury's leaders saw an opportunity to provide the city with a larger, more stylish and more modern facility. A company was formed, and all the leading Waterbury families - the Scovills, Kingsburys, Chases, Benedicts, and many others - joined with the major brass companies and other industries and raised \$300,000 to build the new hotel. Perhaps because he and his son contributed the most, J.S. Elton had the honor of having the building named for him. Elton was the founder and president of the Waterbury Brass Company, and later the American Brass Company. The proprietors' aim in this venture was to provide the city with a hotel comparable to what Boston or New York could offer; it was not anticipated that the Elton would make a profit. But instead of the expected losses, the hotel was an immediate success. Its restaurants were popular, and its ballroom was in demand for all the banquets, receptions and parties of Waterbury's high society. The Elton was also the starting point for the "Ideal Tour" for automobiles, inaugurated in 1905 by the Elton's first manager, Almon C. Judd. The "Ideal Tour" was a convoy of automobiles which visited the major resort hotels of New England, including those at Sunapee Lake, Crawford Notch, and Poland Spring, over a several-week period in the summer. And, of course, the Elton fulfilled its primary purpose, that of providing first-class accommodations for visitors to Waterbury. Its guestbook is filled with notable names from the worlds of art, entertainment, sports and politics: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Rosalind

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Anderson, Joseph. The Town and City of Waterbury. 3 vols. New Haven, 1896.
Maloney, Cornelius et al. Waterbury 1674-1974: A Pictorial History.
Waterbury, 1974.
Pape, William J. History of Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley. Chicago, 1918.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property c. 1/4

Quadrangle name Waterbury

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	6	63	3	20	46	0	2	20	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B

Zone		Easting				Northing				

C

Zone		Easting				Northing				

D

Zone		Easting				Northing				

E

Zone		Easting				Northing				

F

Zone		Easting				Northing				

G

Zone		Easting				Northing				

H

Zone		Easting				Northing				

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is that parcel shown as Lot 19, Block 2, on Waterbury Assessor Map 274.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Partner, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Resource Consultants date November 14, 1982

street & number 103 Mansfield Hollow Road telephone (203) 423-8903

city or town Mansfield Center 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 

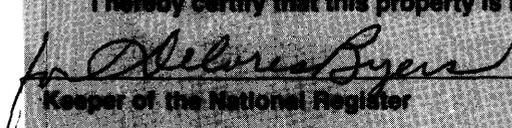
title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date May 17, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

date 6/30/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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received

date entered

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Significance (continued):

The architect, Wilfred E. Griggs (1866-1918) had a major effect on Waterbury's appearance in the 1890s and early 1900s. Born in Waterbury, he studied at Yale's Sheffield Scientific School and the Columbia School of Mines before entering the employ of R.H. Hill, a leading Waterbury architect and former student of Henry Austin. Among the important buildings designed by Griggs in the 1890s were the Venetian-Gothic Odd Fellows Hall just east of the Elton on North Main Street, and the office of the Waterbury Clock Company, part of a complex recently nominated to the National Register. After the Elton, Griggs designed the large New Haven County Courthouse on Kendrick Street and the Masonic Temple. In 1912 his design for the Lilly Building resulted in Waterbury's first office tower, its eight stories considered tall for the period. Griggs's combination of a mastery of architectural details with sound, up-to-date engineering knowledge is apparent in the Elton. Behind its Old-World facade is a steel-and-concrete building completely modern for 1904: it was equipped with elevators, electric lights, and telephones in all the rooms. Griggs gave the leading citizens of Waterbury what they wanted: an elegant, modern hotel which would reflect their pride in the city. Both Griggs and his clients must have been gratified upon seeing the Elton described as "the most attractive hotel in New England, a magnificent fire-proof hotel with every comfort and luxury, delightfully located on 'The Green.' " (Views of Waterbury, 1908)

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date entered

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Bibliography (continued):

Views of Waterbury, Connecticut. Portland, Maine: L.H. Nelson, 1908.

Waterbury Republican, Anniversary Edition, December 28, 1905.