

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Connecticut
COUNTY:
Hartford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
SEP 10 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Town Hall of Enfield
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Enfield Town Meeting House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Enfield Street (U.S. Route 5) at South Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Enfield
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#6 - Hon. Ella T. Grasso
STATE:
Connecticut
CODE:
09
COUNTY:
Hartford
CODE:
003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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) unoccupied

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Enfield
STREET AND NUMBER:
Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Enfield
STATE:
Connecticut
CODE:
09

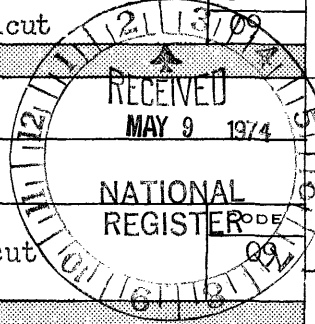
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Clerk's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Enfield
STATE:
Connecticut
CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey
DATE OF SURVEY:
1973
 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
59 S. Prospect Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Enfield
STATE:
Connecticut
CODE:
09

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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 (1848)	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved (1848)	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Town Hall of Enfield is a rectangular-plan, two-story, clapboard sided frame building constructed in the Greek Revival style of architecture. It is set upon a low, brick foundation and has a medium-pitch temple style gable roof. The main(east) elevation is dominated by a full-height pedimented portico supported by four fluted Ionic columns of wood. A three-part entablature of the Classical order, constructed of wood and consisting of a moulded cornice, plain frieze, and moulded boxed architrave, surmounts the columns. A moulded and boxed raking cornice of wood appears on the pedimented end gable, and wood corner pilasters frame the main elevation. Fenestration in the main elevation consists of central double-doors on the ground floor enframed by a decorative wood frontispiece. The central entrance is flanked by two single doorways of smaller proportions which are surmounted by single transoms and enclosed in similar frontispiece treatment. A six-over-six light double-hung sash window is centered over the main entrance in the second story. The treatment of this window suggests it is a survivor from the original plan of the 1774 meeting house and was not Greek Revivalized in the 1848 "modernizations".

The side(north and south)elevations are identical in treatment. Each elevation is sided in clapboard and divided into five bays. The entablature treatment duplicates that of the main elevation, including the design and application of the moulded wood corner pilasters. Fenestration in the side elevations are six-over-six light double-hung sash type throughout, and appear to have been neglected during the 1848 modifications. The rear(west) elevation is clapboard sided in its entirety, and includes a moulded wood raking cornice with partial cornice return. Fenestration includes two unembellished single doorways in the second floor spaced near the ends of the elevation. A companion doorway is placed slightly off-center in the ground floor. Access to these rear entranceways is provided by an iron balcony which is of 20th-century design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" 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) 1773-74; 1848

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Old Town Hall of Enfield was the primary locus of community life from 1775 until the 1920's. It is a landmark building and a focal point on Enfield's main street, and is a reference point in the village.

The Old Town Hall was built between 1773 and 1774 as a meeting house for the First Ecclesiastical Society. It originally occupied a site across Enfield Street from its present location.¹ In 1848, the building was moved to its current site and set upon a low, brick foundation. The meeting house was moved to open the view of a larger church, the Fourth Congregational Meeting House, which occupied the rear of the lot. The prevalent Greek Revival treatment, added to the meeting house at the time it was moved, was an attempt to update the styling of the building in accordance with the Classical tastes of the period.

According to town records, the First Ecclesiastical Society elected to build the meeting house in May, 1772, and ordered the duplication of the plan of the meeting house at East Windsor, Connecticut. The Society selected a local craftsman, Isaac Kirby, to build the meeting house from vernacular materials and to "complete it with stepstones". Kirby began building in the summer of 1773 and finished the meeting house before New Year's Day, 1775.² Although the Greek Revival modifications partially obscured the original work, it may be assumed that Kirby erected a relatively austere rectangular-plan frame meeting house, which in its simplicity was quite adaptable to the later treatment. Kirby's original design included a steeple and weather-cock. It is not known if these elements were removed in the 1848 work.

Although the Old Town Hall is no longer used for town meetings and offices, the building has been leased and stabilized by the Enfield Historical Society who plan to restore the building as a community center. The historical fabric of the structure is

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Francis Olcott, History of Enfield from Public Documents.
Lancaster, Pa., 1900.

Minutes of the Town Meeting, Enfield, Connecticut; July 9, 1772 and subsequent dates. Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Enfield, Connecticut.

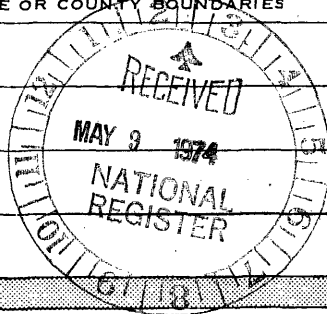
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	0 . "	0 . "		41 ° 58 ' 16 "	72 ° 35 ' 37 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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



18/699586
4649160
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen J. Raiche, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: Jan. 9, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 59 S. Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Harlan Griswold
Harlan Griswold, Chairman,
Conn. Historical Commission
and Acting State Historic
Preservation Officer.

Date: May 6, 1974

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

AK Martensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/10/74

ATTEST:

Harlan Griswold
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9-6-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 10 1974

(Number all entries)

Old Town Hall of Enfield

#8 (1)

intact, and its present position within the community will insure that it remains a key building in Enfield.

1. Francis Olcott Allen, History of Enfield from Public Documents, (Lancaster, Pa., 1900), 2519-2524.
2. Minutes of the Town Meeting, Enfield, Connecticut; July 9, 1772. Office of the Town Clerk.

