

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **MAY 5 1986**
date entered **JUN 5 1986**

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

1. Name

historic Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building

and or common Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building

2. Location

street & number 763-767 Orange Street N/A not for publication

city, town New Haven N/A vicinity of

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 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 checked="" 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
	<small>N/A</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas F. Formichella, Jr.

street & number c/o Hall-Benedict Drug Company, Inc., 767 Orange Street

city, town New Haven N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennedy Mitchell Hall of Records

street & number 200 Orange Street

city, town New Haven state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(A) State Register of Historic Places
title (B) New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase III. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date (A) 1986 (B) 1983 federal (A) state county (B) local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street

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

Location:

The Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building is located in New Haven, Connecticut, a medium-sized New England industrial city lying along the northern coast of Long Island Sound approximately 80 miles northeast of New York City. Situated about a mile due northeast of the New Haven Green, the building occupies a prominent, level, 60 by 105-foot corner site along the eastern side of the city's upper Whitney Avenue/Orange Street corridor. This residential neighborhood is almost wholly dominated by substantial single- and multi-family houses dating from the early 1890s through the 1920s.

Exterior:

Built in the transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style, the Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building is a relatively small, freestanding, mixed-use building featuring load-bearing exterior walls of "North Haven brick in white sand mortar" laid in stretcher bond (front elevation) and stretcher bond with Flemish variation (rear and side elevations).¹ The building's basically "L"-shaped overall plan encompasses a 41 by 67.3-foot, 2 1/2-story main block erected in 1909, and a small, roughly rectangular, single-story 1929 northeast wing addition. The 1909 main block has a mansard-fronted shed roof. The 1929 wing has a flat roof. Both portions of the building have stone rubble foundations topped by a single narrow course of granite ashlar above grade.

The building's front (western) elevation features a slate-shingled roof pierced by two symmetrically placed gable dormers flanking a central 2-bay-wide shed dormer. The roofs and vertical wall surfaces associated with each of these dormers are covered with slate shingles. Each dormer has diamond-paned casement-style wooden window sash (photograph 1). Capped by tile coping, the upper corners of the elevation's brick end walls are truncated to mimic the rake angle of the front roof (photographs 1,2,3).

The prominent wooden entablature spanning the top of the front elevation's second-story level is elaborated with denticulated moldings and scroll-sawn brackets featuring bulls-eye side-panel appliques (photograph 8). Second-story window openings are embellished with pressed-brick quoins and limestone ashlar sills, and have 1-over-1 pane double-hung wooden sash set beneath diamond-paned transoms (photograph 1). The eastern end of the elevation's first story incorporates a tripartite window set within a semi-circular-arched opening defined by three corbelled courses of pressed-brick headers rising from limestone imposts into a limestone keystone (photograph 5).

A recessed entry porch shielding a range of three doorways dominates the central portion of the first-story front. Notable features associated with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767

Continuation sheet Orange Street, New Haven, CT Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Description (cont.)

the entry include: two-panel doors with upper panels of reeded glass; transom windows (currently painted); pilasters flanking the center doorway; and a stoop surfaced with small, decoratively patterned and colored ceramic tiles (photograph 6). Large scroll-sawn brackets visually support the portion of the adjacent storefront's entablature which extends southward over this entry porch (photograph 1).

The northwestern corner of the building's first story is dominated by a 1909 storefront. Notable features of this storefront include: a prominent entablature with a projecting cornice, denticulated molding, and an original frieze-mounted wooden sign board; large display windows topped by decoratively paned transoms; a door featuring a single large glass panel; base panels with recessed four-pane windows; and a recessed corner entry porch flanked by freestanding Roman-Doric steel columns resting on a decoratively tiled granite stoop (photograph 7).

Perhaps the most significant architectural element associated with the front of the building is its early twentieth-century sidewalk advertising signpost. Restored to its approximate original appearance following damage by vandals in 1983, this signpost is an extremely rare (possibly the only) survivor of its type and period in the City of New Haven (photograph 16).²

The basic cornice, storefront, and/or fenestration treatments found on the front elevation also appear on the western ends of the building's northern and southern elevations (photographs 2,3). Notable detailing associated with the side elevations is otherwise limited to the incorporation of 1-over-1 pane double-hung window sash, and pressed-brick flat arches and limestone ashlar sills embellishing most wall openings (photographs 2,3,9). These latter treatments are repeated on the rear elevation, which also has a small post-World War II concrete entry stoop shielded by an original Stick-style hood (photograph 4).

Interior:

The building's interior retains a substantial proportion of historic fabric. In the upper-story apartments and hallways, and in the southern first-story rooms, this fabric includes: two-panel doors; door and window hardware; simply detailed doorway, window, and baseboard trim moldings; wall and ceiling plaster; staircases, balusters, newel posts, and handrails; and hardwood strip flooring (photographs 10,11,12,13,14). A long wood and glass display case with mirrored backpieces, designed and built in 1925 by Quincy Show Case Works of Quincy, Illinois, remains in place along

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767

Orange Street, New Haven, CT

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Description (cont.)

the drugstore's northern wall (photograph 15). The drugstore's original pressed-tin ceiling also remains in place, although it is currently masked by a code-required, fire-rated suspended ceiling installed in the 1970s and modified in 1983.

The building's original floor plans reflect some modifications resulting from the 1929 northeast wing addition and rehabilitations executed in 1962 and 1983. When the 1929 wing was added, an original first-story rear entry porch was removed and the opening converted for use as an interior doorway. The extant rear doorway (originally a window) leading onto the 1929 wing's roof was also incorporated at this time. Modifications made in 1962 included the removal of the first flights of two of the original four interior staircases in conjunction with the conversion of the original first-story apartment into adjunct office, production, and storage spaces for the drugstore. Alterations executed as part of the building's 1983 rehabilitation were essentially limited to minor modifications to second-story hallway partitions, the elimination of two second-story doorways in the rear third of the building, and kitchen/bathroom modernizations.³

End Notes

1. Specific phrasing for type of brick and mortar derived from undated blueprints executed for A.B. Hall by Frank Elwood Brown, Architect, 116 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
2. Based on a review of New Haven Historic Resources Inventory: Phases I, II, III, IV (New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1981-1984), Dwight Area Historical and Architectural Resources Survey (New Haven: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1980), and subsequent field review.
3. In 1984, the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service designated this building as a Certified Historic Structure on a preliminary basis. The National Park Service also issued a determination that the 1983 rehabilitation of the structure was executed in conformance with the criteria established for Certified Historic Rehabilitations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	XX architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800–1899	XX commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
XX 1900–	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1909

Builder/Architect Architect: Frank Elwood Brown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria C and A.

Historical and Architectural Significance and Background:

The Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building is architecturally significant as one of the finest and most nearly intact, modestly scaled turn-of-the-twentieth-century mixed-use structures still standing in the City of New Haven (Criterion C). Relative to most other structures of its type, scale, and period, the building features a somewhat elaborately detailed exterior locally notable for its unusual combination of Colonial Revival- and Queen Anne-style exterior motifs. It is also notable for its extremely rare and substantially intact early twentieth-century sidewalk advertising signpost (Criterion C). Occupied by the Hall-Benedict Drug Company since its construction, the building is historically significant as an excellent example of the type of scattered structures built to house small businesses catering to the daily needs of expanding populations in city's emerging turn-of-the-century residential neighborhoods (Criterion A).

New Haven Land Records indicate that the building was erected in 1909 for Alonzo B. Hall. A practicing druggist in New Haven since the 1880s, Hall had the building built to house his newly formed business partnership with fellow druggist Edward M. Benedict. Following a typical pattern associated with small-scale businessmen who established themselves in emerging residential neighborhoods during this era, Hall also lived in the building (first-story apartment) until his death in 1923. After Hall's death, Benedict assumed full ownership of the firm and the property, both of which were sold by his heirs to the current proprietor, Thomas Formichella, Jr., in 1977.

Surviving blueprints indicate that the original portion of the building was designed by Frank Elwood Brown. Brown was one of several prolific, lesser-known local turn-of-the-century architects who seem to have specialized in "bread and butter architecture," producing designs for many of the substantial, moderately priced single- and multi-family houses and scattered store buildings found throughout most of the city's turn-of-the-century residential neighborhoods. He was particularly active in the neighborhood which developed in the upper Whitney Avenue/Orange Street corridor during this era; his designs include a number of the houses and stores which currently line Willow, Avon, Canner, Linden, and upper Orange Streets.¹

Unlike the majority of New Haven's surviving buildings of its type, scale, and period, the Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building retains virtually all of its original exterior features.² With the exception of the alterations associated with the addition of the small and unobtrusive 1929 rear wing, exterior modifications have been limited to the installation of modern

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.144

Quadrangle name New Haven

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	7	4	7	2	0	4	5	7	6	2	9	5
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

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 J. Paul Loether/Director, Technical Services, edited by John Herzan,
National Register Coordinator

organization The New Haven Preservation Trust date November 25, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 1671 telephone 203-562-5919

city or town New Haven state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

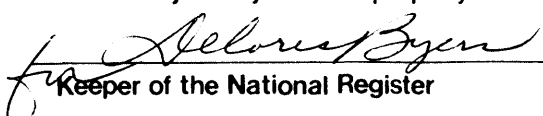
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date April 29, 1986

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

 date 6-5-86
Keeper of the National Register Director of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767

Continuation sheet Orange Street, New Haven, CT

Item number

8

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Significance and Background (cont.)

storm windows, the replacement of an original door on the northern elevation's first story with a recessed brick in-fill panel, and the replacement of the original rear entry stoop. The intact original storefront and the advertising signpost on the sidewalk in front of the building, in particular, constitute rare local survivals of turn-of-the-century commercial design.³ Interior floor plan changes are relatively limited, clearly recognizable, and in most cases executed in a manner sympathetic to the plans as conceived by the original architect. Despite the loss of 20 of 66 original doors, the bulk of the building's significant historic interior detailing and fabric remains intact.

Described by noted New Haven architectural historian Elizabeth Mills Brown as a "...local institution" in "...one of the few residential sections [of New Haven] where the neighborhood store still flourishes," the Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building is today one of a mere handful of architecturally intact, local turn-of-the-century corner stores which retains an original commercial tenant functioning in its traditional role within a relatively intact historic setting.⁴

End Notes

1. Based on a review of construction permit records on file with the New Haven Building Department. See also: Elizabeth Mills Brown, New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), pg. 44.
2. Based on a detailed review of New Haven Historic Resources Inventory: Phases I, II, III, and IV (New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1981-1984), Dwight Area Historical and Architectural Resources Survey (New Haven: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1980), and field review.
3. Ibid.
4. Brown, New Haven: A Guide..., pg. 163.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767

Continuation sheet Orange Street, New Haven, CT Item number 10

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification (cont.)

Beginning at a point at the junction of the eastern line of Orange Street and the southern line of Linden Street: proceed east along the southern line of Linden Street 105 feet, more or less, to the western property line of 54 Linden Street; then south along the western property line of 54 Linden Street 60 feet, more or less, to the northern property line of 759-761 Orange Street; then west along the northern property line of 759-761 Orange Street 105 feet, more or less, to the eastern line of Orange Street; then north along the western line of Orange Street 60 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

The boundaries noted above (which are current) are the same as those associated with the property when it was purchased by Alonzo B. Hall immediately prior to the construction of the Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767
Orange Street, New Haven, CT

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Primary and Secondary Sources -

Brown, Elizabeth Mills. New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976.

Brown, Frank Elwood. Blueprint reproductions of drawings executed for a new building for Mr. A.B. Hall of New Haven, Connecticut (undated, 7 pp.). Currently on file at Hall-Benedict Drug Company, Inc., 767 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

Dwight Area Historical and Architectural Resources Survey (3 vols.). New Haven: The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1980.

Quincy Show Case Works. Drawings depicting cabinetry work to be constructed and installed for Hall-Benedict Drug Company, New Haven, Connecticut (2 pp.), 1925. Currently on file at Hall-Benedict Drug Company, Inc., 767 Orange Street, New Haven, CT.

Loether, J. Paul, and Preston Maynard. New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase II: Eastern New Haven (9 vols.). New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1982.

Loether, J. Paul, and Dorothea Penar. New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase III: Northern New Haven (9 vols.). New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1983.

Loether, J. Paul, Dorothea Penar and Peter Haller. New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase IV: Western New Haven (12 vols.). New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1984.

New Haven Assessor's Records. On file at the New Haven Assessor's Office, 200 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

New Haven Building Department Records. On file at the New Haven Building Department Office, 200 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

New Haven Land Records. On file at the New Haven Town/City Clerk's Office, 200 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

Of Friends and Pharmaceuticals: The Story of Hall-Benedict. New Haven: Hall-Benedict Drug Company, Inc. (undated).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Hall-Benedict Drug Company Building, 763-767

Orange Street, New Haven, CT

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page

2

Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Ryan, Susan, and Preston Maynard. New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase I: Central New Haven (7 vols.). New Haven: The New Haven Preservation Trust, 1982.

Maps and Atlases -

Atlas of the City of New Haven. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1888.

Atlas of New Haven, Connecticut. Bridgeport: Streuli and Puckhafer, 1911.