

PH 0506478

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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OCT 25 1977

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED MAR 1 1978

**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 Keney Tower

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southeast corner Main and Ely Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First - William R. Cotter

STATE

Connexicut

--- VICINITY OF

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Department of Parks, City of Hartford

STREET & NUMBER 25 Stonington St.

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hartford Land Records, Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER 550 Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey of Hartford

DATE 1976-77 --- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Stowe-Day Memorial Library

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Keney Tower stands in a small park just north of Hartford's downtown business district at the northeast edge of a major intersection where five streets come together (Main, Ely, Ann, and High Sts. and Albany Avenue). The tower, which is set approximately in the center of the one and one-half acre park, measures 30 feet square and 130 feet tall. It is constructed from reddish brown ashlar from nearby Longmeadow sandstone quarries. The upper portion of the tower is occupied by a clock with faces on each of the four walls, and with chimes which ring the quarter hour.

Ecclesiastical Gothic Revival is the architectural style of the design. The upward thrust of the tower is accentuated by the taper of paired piers at each corner which lead up to four pinnacles at the corners of the roof. The rise of the piers to clock level is three times broken by string courses and at each break the dimensions of the piers in both width and depth are diminished. Above the clock level the piers are turned 90° on their axes so that the vertical edges are outward, helping to carry the eye upward to the pinnacles and at the tops of the pinnacles to their finial crosses.

The top third of the tower is occupied by a clock and by louvers behind which are the chimes. The louvers on each wall are in pairs and over each louver is a molding in the form of a Gothic arch leading up to a cornice which supports a balustraded parapet. At the four corners of the cornice are vigorous bird of prey gargoyles.

The entrance to the tower is approached by a flight of four brownstone steps on the southwest side facing Main St. The steps lead to a series of four receding arches which spring from engaged columns in front of a two leaf wrought iron gate and oak batten door.

The northwest corner of the tower is different from the others. The paired piers here give way to the curved wall of the spiral stairway which rises from the ground floor to the level of the clock and chimes. The Seth Thomas clock with eight foot diameter dials was manufactured in Thomaston, Connecticut. Now electrified, it originally worked from weights, the largest weighing some 1,900 pounds. The chimes and hour bell came from the Methuen Bell Co., of Methuen, Massachusetts.

A high wrought iron fence runs along Main St. in front of the tower. Its posts are worked in a variety of S and C curves and at the top of each post is a cluster of carefully wrought leaves. In the center of the fence is a two leaf gate having intricate strap work under a cipher of the letters K and M for Keney Memorial.

The tower and its site are in good condition other than being in need of cleaning. No intrusions or alterations have occurred.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

David F. Ransom, "Keney Tower in Hartford," The Connecticut Antiquarian, v. 27 (July 1975) 1, pp. 5-9.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>693110</u>	<u>4626980</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The small park in which the Keney Tower is located is bounded on the north by Ely St. (261 feet), on the east by land owned by the Board of Education for Barnard-Brown School (206 feet), on the south by land owned by the Board of Education for Barnard-Brown School (230 feet), and on the west by Main St. (227 feet).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE David F. Ransom, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Hartford Architecture Conservancy DATE 24 April 1977

STREET & NUMBER 65 Wethersfield Ave. TELEPHONE 203 525-0279

CITY OR TOWN Hartford 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 *John W. Skunk*

TITLE State Historic Pres. Officer and Director, CT Historical Commission DATE 10/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Muntz DATE 3.30.78
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Wethersfield* DATE 3.10.78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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On the other hand, the pertinent clause of the will charged the trustees with removing the existing buildings from the Keney property and with erecting on said land "...some suitable and proper memorial according to their taste and judgement to perpetuate the memory of the firm of H. & W. Keney." Consideration of the difference in emphasis here leads to the presumption that Rev. Francis Goodwin did a little Christian editing whereby the wording in the will was revised to the wording on the bronze plaque.

The Keney trustees deeded the small park and the tower to the City of Hartford on 30 July 1924 (562/437).