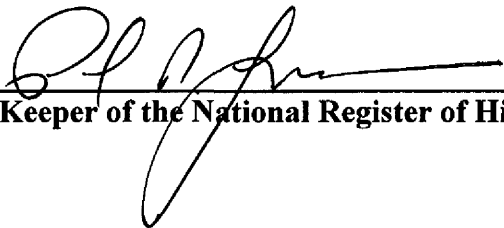




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Academy Hall in Hartford County, Connecticut, reference number 77001419, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 10/07/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7441. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

1/26/2009
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE

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DATE ENTERED

**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 Academy Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 785 Old Main Street

CITY, TOWN Rocky Hill VICINITY OF First

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Hartford CODE 003

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Rocky Hill

STREET & NUMBER Rocky Hill Town Hall, 699 Old Main Street

CITY, TOWN Rocky Hill STATE Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER 699 Old Main Street

CITY, TOWN Rocky Hill STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory

DATE 1968 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

Academy Hall

6. Representation in Existing Surveys p. 1.

Title: Historic American Buildings Survey

Date: 1956 Federal

Depository: Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Academy Hall, situated on the northwest corner of Old Main Street and Center Street, is located in the historic center of the town of Rocky Hill. Across Center Street at the south is the federal period Rocky Hill Congregational Church which is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. These two important buildings were not originally adjacent, but in 1921 a fire destroyed the buildings between them. The site of the destroyed buildings is now occupied by Center Street and the parish house wing of the church completed in 1953. In an open space northwest of Academy Hall is Center School, now used for offices of the town board of education. This colonial revival building was erected in 1916 and received large additions in 1941. Across Old Main Street from Academy Hall are several nineteenth century houses, but adjacent to them at the north is a large office building erected in 1974 which intrudes on the older, more humanly scaled environment.

Academy Hall is basically an unadorned brick federal style building. It is distinguished by its pleasing proportions and its masonry work. The two-story freestanding building is very cubic in appearance since it is rectangular in plan and has a low gable roof. Fenestration is regular. The main (east) facade has eight bays, while the shorter gable ends have two bays. The rear (west) facade has four windows on each floor. Doorways are located in the corner bays of the main and rear facades.

Above the foundation of smooth, regular ashlar brownstone, the main facade is laid in Flemish bond. Other sides are common bond. The horizontality of the building is increased by the belt-course located between the two stories. This features is four bricks wide and continues around the building. Three tie rod anchors are present on the beltcourse on both the main and rear facades.

Openings of the first story of the main facade and of both stories of the end facades have splayed brownstone arches. Lintels of all windows of these facades are brownstone. The heads of the second story windows of the main facade are very close to the cornice. They have flat brick arches. The windows of the rear facade have segmental brick arches. All windows have 6/6 double-hung sash. Some of this sash dates from the 1960's. The gable ends each have a semicircular fanlight. The one in the north end was reconstructed in 1972. The sash in both is of recent origin.

The building's simple box cornice returns at the gable ends. The two stoops on the main facade are recent additions which consist of poured concrete steps and a twentieth century metal railing. The rear doorways do not have stoops. Three doors are twentieth century six-panel doors, but the rear north door has vertical boards. A twentieth century chimney is attached roughly mid-way along the west facade.

Before Academy Hall was gutted by fire in 1839 it had freestanding ing and chimneys. Remains of these exist in the basement.

The building has undergone numerous interior remodellings and does not retain any significant interior features. Both floors each have basically one large room although they do have nonstructural

Continued on Continuation Sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Academy Hall 7. Description p. 2.

partitions. The building has been structurally reinforced by tie rods connecting the front and rear walls and by metal columns on the first floor.

Since the 1960's wooden additions and a brick boiler room addition have been removed from the rear of the building. Openings in the west wall to these have been closed. In 1972 the exterior was sandblasted and repointed. The north gable which had been covered with shingles was rebuilt in brick.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1803

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Abraham Jagers, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Academy Hall, a pleasing federal style brick building erected in 1803 by Abraham Jagers, is one of the few early nineteenth century educational structures with little altered exterior remaining in Connecticut. The building occupies an important place in the history of education in Rocky Hill since almost continuously between 1803 and 1941 it housed local educational institutions. It is also an important landmark in the social history of the community since its upstairs served for many years as a community meeting hall. Currently Academy Hall continues its educational function as the home of the museum of the Rocky Hill Historical Society, Inc.

Rocky Hill, earlier known as Stepeny's Landing, was an important regional maritime center in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Originally Academy Hall was closely linked to the maritime prosperity of the community since higher mathematics and navigation were taught there. Although the building's construction was financed by public funds and public subscription, the project bankrupted its builder, Abraham Jagers.

On New Years Eve, 1839, Academy Hall was gutted by fire. The interior was rebuilt in 1840. However, Rocky Hill was no longer a significant port so a public elementary school replaced the earlier school. From 1840 to 1916 Center School was located in the building. In the nineteenth century only the first floor was needed by the school. The second floor was used by community organizations. Its occupants included the Rocky Hill Ecclesiastical Society, the Rocky Hill Lyceum, and the Rocky Hill Library Association. In addition, public meetings were held there.

By the early twentieth century the school in Academy Hall was overcrowded. In 1916 a new Center School building opened adjacent to the older building, but this structure continued to serve educational functions until 1941. Subsequently Academy Hall was used by the town for offices. During World War II an airplane spotter station was located there. In the 1950's the local American Legion chapter met in the building. By 1963 when the Rocky Hill Historical Society leased the building, it was deteriorated and threatened with demolition. The historical group rehabilitated it and opened their museum there in 1965.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robt. W. Griswald, "Rocky Hill," Chap. XIX in Sherman W. Adams and Henry B. Stiles, History of Ancient Wethersfield, Ct. New York: Grafton Press, 1904, pp. 833-977, especially p. 876.

Peter J. Revill, A Short History of Rocky Hill, Ct., Rocky Hill: The Rocky Hill Historical Society, Inc., 1972, especially pp. 21, 23, 26-27, and 37.

Interview with Peter J. Revill on May 4, 1976. Notes in files of T.R.V. Brown.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 16 | 96 | 58 | 0 | 46 | 15 | 19 | 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

T. Robins Brown, Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford,

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

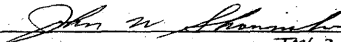
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

S.H.P.O.

DATE

JAN 3, 1977

OR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WITNESS:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER