

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Deep River Town Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Corner of Routes 80 and 9A

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Deep River

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

#2- Christopher Dodd

STATE Connecticut

CODE 09

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

007

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Deep River

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Deep River

___ VICINITY OF

STATE Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.) Deep River Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Deep River

STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington, D.C.

STATE

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

Passing through the farmlands enroute to the town of Deep River, Connecticut one's preconceived notions are of a tiny New England town, complete with village green and numerous eighteenth century homes. However, upon entering Deep River from the southwest on Route 80, it is apparent that Deep River architecture is predominantly nineteenth century. The one-street downtown area meets up to expectations, but in the center of town there is one building, the monumentality of which gives to the town a very unrural aspect.

The Deep River Town Hall, facing north on a triangular plot of land is a "flatiron" building, an urban building type, designed to utilize the odd shaped lot. It is a three story brick building constructed in 1892 and designed for a variety of purposes. The first floor serves as office space for the town officers. The second and third floors were originally built as an opera house and, though they are no longer used for performances, the interior construction remains the same.

The single-bay main elevation, around which the side elevations pivot, contains a six sashed door surrounded by sidelights and surmounted by a semicircular wood transom. Recession of the entry serves to emphasize the main entrance as does a recessed arch of brick which frames it.

Along both side elevations there are three groups of three sashed windows on the first floor (the central group has a door flanked by two windows). Three small, square windows are irregularly spaced at the second floor level and above them is a brick dentil course. At the third floor level, just over the dentil course, are five regularly spaced, double sashed windows, surmounted by wood transoms as the front door is. All the windows on the Town Hall are recessed, giving the building a sense of depth.

The flanks of the roof project only slightly to form a small peak, which accomodates the third floor vaulted ceiling. But this peak is obscured, for the most part, by a large bracketed cornice which tends to shorten the building.

Though it is such an oddly shaped building, placed in a very prominent position it does not seem out of scale, or even, out of context with the other buildings downtown. In fact, it is an intriguing building for just that reason.

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Town of Deep River, Connecticut developed as one of a group of towns united under the name of Saybrook. (It was not until 1947 that the name was officially changed to Deep River.) Settlement began in 1635 when the English, under the direction of Governor John Winthrop, Jr., took possession of the land near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

Deep River grew to become a fairly thriving industrial town, producing ivory combs, piano keys, and auger bits, to name a few products. Though it was not a poor town, the town government administered its business in an inadequate hall adjoining the post office until a fire destroyed the post office in 1891. In 1893 the present town hall was built as a town project.

That it was designed for use as an opera house, as well as for housing town offices, is not unusual. This combination of uses was provided for in at least **two** other Connecticut towns - Derby and Thomaston. What does make it an unusual building, however, is its very urban design. Located in a village setting, it creates a striking visual impression and contributes much in style and flair to the town of Deep River.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connors, Daniel J., Deep River, Pequot Press, Stonington, Conn., 1966.

Gates, Gilman C., Saybrook at the Mouth of the Connecticut, Wilson H. Lee, Company, New Haven, Ct., 1935.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	7,1,4	3,7,0	4,5	8,4	4,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	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 Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE July 21, 1975.

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street TELEPHONE _____

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 M. Shannahan*

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE 10/3/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 1/1/96

ATTEST: *Ronald M. Brunberg* DATE 12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER