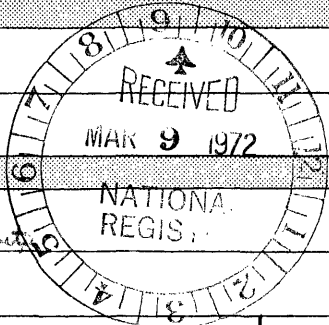


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 2	1972



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Town Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
intersection of Atlantic

CITY OR TOWN:  
Stamford

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE 09	COUNTY: Fairfield	CODE 001
------------	----------------------	-------------

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Stamford

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Stamford

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
09

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
179 Atlantic Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Stamford

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
09

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Stamford

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: Fairfield

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 2 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

**7. DESCRIPTION**

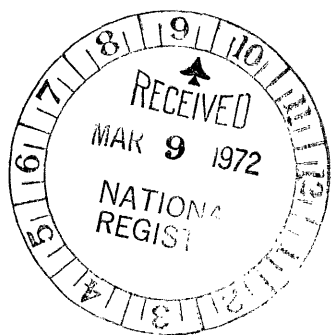
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing on a large open space formed by intersecting streets and restored to prominence by recent demolition of taller buildings closely adjacent, the Town Hall dominates and is the focal point of the whole area. The cupola is reminiscent of those on New York City Hall and the Old State House at Hartford, being octagonal in plan with paired columns fronting four of the eight faces at the belfry stage. This stage is open, leaving the large bell visible from four directions, and the clock faces are considerably larger than in the earlier buildings so that they break the entablature and actually replace it. Four large urns stand on pedestals above the columns. The dome also varies from the true dome shape, its eight sides curving upward in an elliptical profile to an urn-and-ball finial. The roof presents a hipped form, modified by the position of the bays of the building at a pronounced angle to the main axis, following the street configuration. A parapet defines the cornice line all around, alternating solid sections with open spaces filled with turned balusters. The cornice is wide and fairly plain with modillions, below which is an equally simple frieze and architrave, with a band of Greek fret defining the meeting point of wall and entablature in the corner areas. The walls in these areas are set forward from the plane of those surrounding the windows and defined into a quoin effect by deeply incised horizontal lines. Horizontal pediments and projecting frames surround the first floor windows, contrasting with the flat, plain framing of the smaller second story openings. This kind of rustication is seen also in the wall surfaces of the basement.

The building is approached by a wide arc-shaped flight of steps leading to a terrace fronting the entire facade. Large stone plinths divide these steps into three sections and also support the smaller flight leading to the building entrance. Above this is centered a large carved stone console with swags draped to either side. Paired Ionic columns two stories in height, based on large plinths, divide the fenestration of the facade, with antae at either end for transition to the angled wall surfaces. Centered in the roof balustrade here is a large carved stone rococo shield in an oblong panel, with supporters to either side in the form of military equipments. The whole ensemble, with the cupola above, forms an impressive backdrop to the open space before it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input checked="" 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 Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

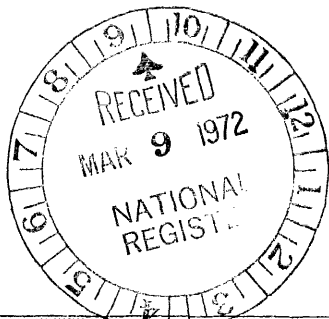
Stamford's Old Town Hall is an imposing structure designed by the New York firm of Mellon and Josselyn in 1905 in the Beaux Arts tradition. Immediately in the downtown area it has until very recently been crowded and shadowed by two tall office buildings to the west. These have been razed and in their place is planned a pedestrian mall and park.

With a new City Hall, the former municipal building is now available for use and local interest has spurred town officials to preserve the old building through adaptive use for the benefit of the entire community. SMS Partnership/Architects has done a feasibility study and has included plans for the entire building and the immediately surrounding area.

Plans have been submitted to the city and endorsed by the Mayor and Public Works Commissioner. A trustee of a major New York museum has expressed interest in the Old Town Hall as a medium for housing traveling or semi-permanent art and sculpture exhibits if fire safety and air-conditioning are provided. Stamford Citizens for Conservation, Inc., and officials of the Stamford Museum and Nature Center are enthusiastic. Tentative plans include local historical collections, rotating exhibits illustrating the "Research City", loan exhibits from the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and traveling fine arts exhibits from major museums. There may be a small lecture and movie center, and classroom areas for children and adult educational programs. There could be a restaurant facility, perhaps coordinated with the park during summer months. Special attention would be given to the movement of the elderly and the handicapped, to service and freight handling, and to access to the park from the building.

The alternative to a dynamic use of the Town Hall would be its eventual destruction. As one of the significant monuments of Stamford's past and as a substantial building of fine material and design, the city would lose an unusual opportunity to benefit all of its citizens with a downtown cultural and educational center, so badly needed in a city that is predominately commercial and industrial.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES



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	03	11	73	32	26
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: February 9, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Pratt Street

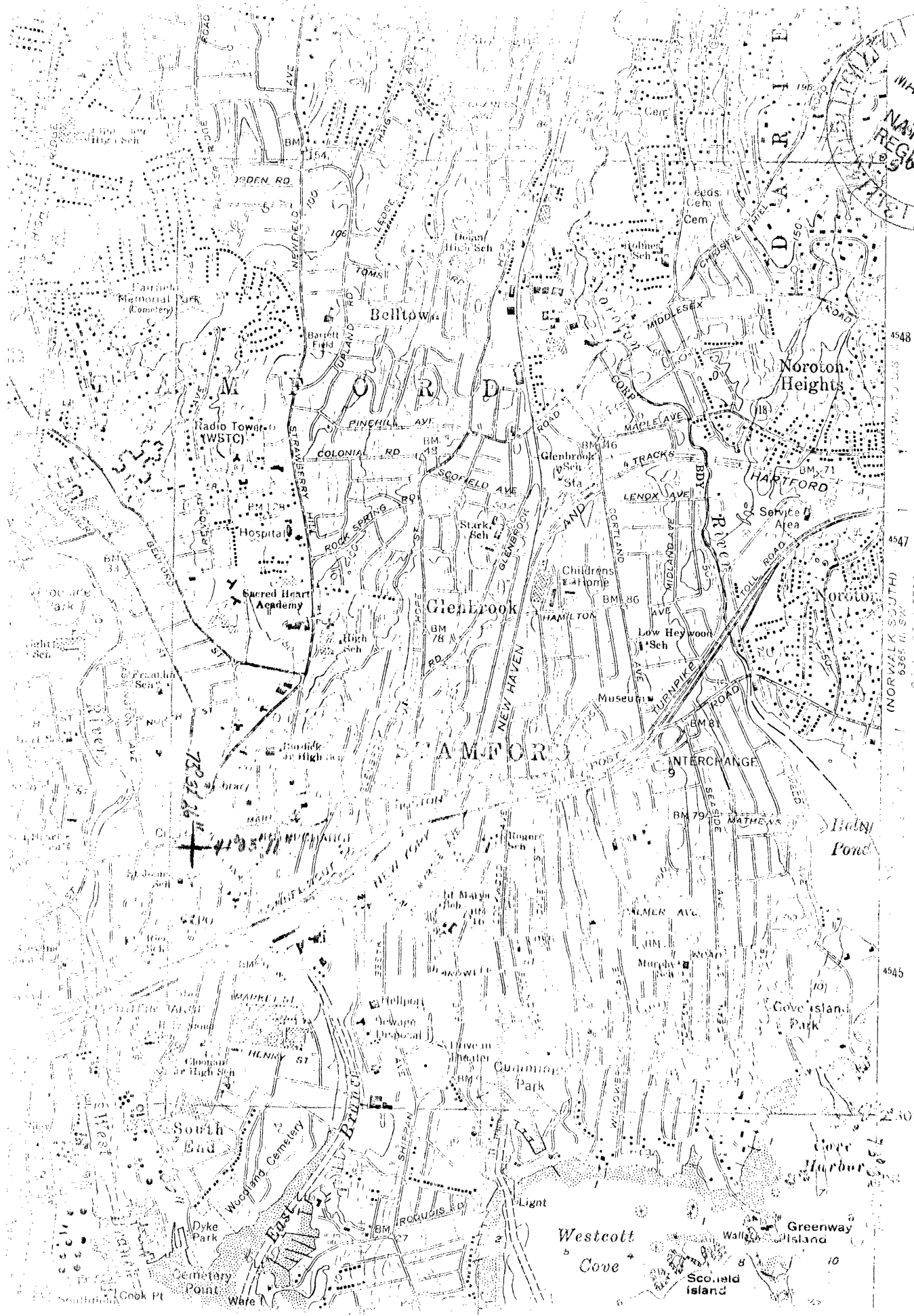
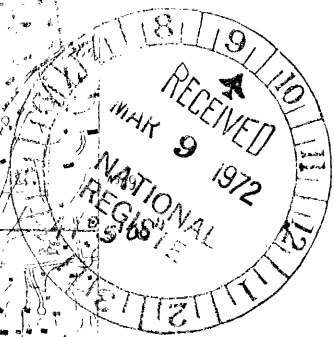
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Susan Babbitt</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>February 17, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert K. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>6/2/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William J. Huntington</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
--	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





4548  
4547  
9365 11 SW 10000  
4545

