

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
First Church of Christ and the Ancient Burying Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fourth Meeting House, Ancient Burying Ground

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
60 Gold Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: Hartford	CODE 003
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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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Church of Christ and the City of Hartford

STREET AND NUMBER:
60 Gold Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
550 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Church of Christ in Hartford was probably designed by Daniel Wadsworth and patterned after St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, in London. The facade has three entryways, each arched with fan lights. The portico extends the full two stories; the modified Ionic columns support a triangular pediment replete with modillions. Rising from the front roof are parapets with urns, faced with panels of moulding in a rectangular or square shape with cut-out corners. On the facade a complete rectangle is above each side entry. A frieze runs around the entire building, as do modillions. The tower is the most ornate feature of the exterior. Here the Ionic columns, frieze, and modillions are repeated at each of the three levels. Each tier also has a balustrade with posts upon which sit urns; the work of each balustrade is different. Just below the final tapering of the spire is a row of urns without the balustrade.

The interior is equally ornate. Here fluted columns with the same modified Ionic capital support the balcony and extend to the ceiling; in the pulpit recess are matching pilasters against the blue wall. The barrel vaulted ceiling is coffered and has much intricate detail.

The Ancient Burying Ground is filled with brownstone markers and tablets. In the center rises the Founders' Monument, set up in 1835 by the Ancient Burying Ground Association on the 200th anniversary of the town and of the church, bearing the names of the first settlers of Hartford. In 1899 a restoration was completed; the 1970's have brought another attempt at preserving the weathering stones. Now surrounding the cemetery is a high iron fence, built to deter vandalism. The cemetery is accessible from the front gate and from the Day Gateway on the north side of the meeting house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Church of Christ and Ancient Burying Ground comprise a part of a city block in the downtown area of Hartford. The church sits directly on Main Street with the cemetery at its north and west sides. The group who formed the First Church in Hartford gathered at Newtown, now Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1632. In 1633, Thomas Hooker arrived from England and was recognized as minister. In 1636, the church moved as a body to the west bank of the Connecticut River and in 1637 named their settlement Hartford, after Hertford, England, birthplace of Samuel Stone, a teacher who accompanied the group. The First Meeting House was built in 1636. It was a plain structure, probably square with a hipped roof, and stood about two city blocks from the present structure. The Second Meeting House, built in 1640 at the same site, was more permanent; a frame building, it had glass windows and a small steeple. The Third Meeting House was built in 1739 and was located to the southwest of the previous meetinghouses at the site of the present church. It had a steeple with a tall, graceful spire, with the bell tower standing outside at one end. In 1807 the Fourth Meeting House was built on the same site, at the present corner of Main and Gold Streets.

The Ancient Burying Ground is adjacent to the First Church. It was "set apart" by the town in 1640 and continued to be the only cemetery until 1803. Still public property, it is owned and maintained by the City of Hartford. Among the notable graves there are probably those of Thomas Hooker (reputedly under the newer pulpit recess), Samuel Stone, whose stone is dated 1663, the oldest extant, John Haynes, civil leader of the settlement, who served as governor for eight annual terms after holding a similar position in Massachusetts, David Gardiner, son of Lion Gardiner of Saybrook settlement, the first white child born in Connecticut, (1636), and Joseph and Jeremiah Wadsworth, important men during the Revolution. These men, and others buried at the cemetery, are of "transcendent importance" to contemporary Hartford. The Society of the Descendents of the Founders of Hartford is an active group and is, in fact, the mainstay of historical action on a local basis.

The area formed by the church and cemetery is an important landmark to the people of Hartford. It is across Main Street from the Travelers Insurance Company tower and near new Bushnell Towers, a luxury apartment building designed by I.M. Pei. To the immediate north is a long, low group of buildings slated for demolition. In their place is planned an

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crofut, F.S.M. Guide to the History and the Historical Sites of Connecticut
Yale University Press, 1937.

"The First Church of Christ in Hartford", pamphlet distributed by the
First Church of Christ, Hartford, Connecticut.

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	43'	52"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	40'	28"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Susan Rabbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: April 4, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *Susan Rabbitt* Title: State Liaison Officer Date: April 6, 1972

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

Robert G. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/5/72

ATTEST: *William M. ...*
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.30.72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

(Number all entries)

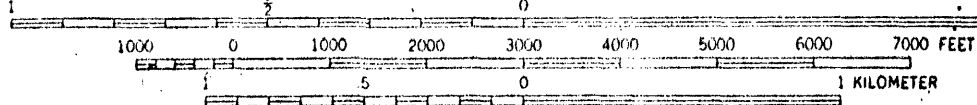
8 Significance

office building to be taller than the Hartford National Building, just to the north. Surrounded by concrete and glass, the brick church and quiet green cemetery form an oasis in contrast to the dynamics of downtown Hartford.



42°30' 691 692 (HARTFORD SOUTH) 6467 11 NW 693 72°40' 694 695

SCALE 1:24 000



0.9 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 86
 MERIDEN (VIA CONN. 15) 18 MI.
 5 MI. TO CONN
 MERIDEN 18 MI.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

Hartford North Quadrangle

CONNECTICUT

