

1552

United States Department Of The Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mory's

other names/site number Mory's

2. Location

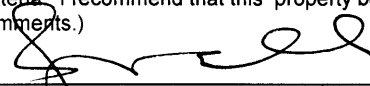
street & number 306 York Street not for publication NA

city or town New Haven vicinity NA

state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06511

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 12/13/04
Signature of certifying official Date

Jennifer Aniskovich, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Signature of certifying official/title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

for
Signature of Keeper Barbara Savage Date of Action 1-25-05

Mory's
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Contributing Noncontributing

1 0

buildings
sites
structures
objects

Total 1 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
SOCIAL/clubhouse
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/clubhouse
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Traprock
roof asphalt shingle
walls Brick, Clapboard
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The building at 306 York Street, also known as Mory's, is a c. 1817 two-and-1/2 story, post-and-beam house, which has served as a private eating club since 1912. The building has a side-hall plan, clapboard siding and a gable-to-street orientation. The building is located on a narrow lot in the heart of the Yale University Campus in New Haven, Connecticut (photographs 1 & 2).

An iron gate separates the house from the sidewalk (photograph 2). The three-bay façade faces east. Its windows have molded frames with a projecting cornice above (photograph 3). The gable has a fanlight. The Federal-style entrance portico and door are not original to the house, but are significant features in that they were taken from the building previously occupied by Mory's and incorporated into the façade of the house in 1912. The entrance porch is characterized by attenuated decorative features including paterae and bead molding. The paneled door is framed by pilasters and a fanlight (photograph 4).

The narrow walkway along the south elevation leads to the 1923 one-story masonry rear addition (photographs 5 & 6). A small courtyard in the rear adjoins the Hall of Graduate Studies of Yale University, separated by a fence and gate.

A bay window with diamond panes projects from the second floor library on the south elevation (photograph 7). The north wing of the building was added in 1960 and designed by the office of Douglas Orr, a local New Haven architecture firm (photograph 8).

The interior of the house retains the mood and setting of almost 100 years ago when the Mory's Association moved into the house in 1912. The ground floor of the interior is divided into three dining rooms, a kitchen, and office space. There are five private dining rooms upstairs and a library which houses books and memorabilia about Yale and Mory's.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 7 Page 2

Interior walls are covered with pictures of Yale sports teams and varsity captains, historic documents, and mementos of campus life. The dining area is furnished with tables that are covered with the carved initials of members who have dined here through the decades. Some of the carved table tops are mounted on the walls.

Souvenir oars from victorious crew meets are suspended from the ceiling (photographs 9, 10, & 11). Other significant interior elements include mantels original to the house (photograph 12), lighting fixtures installed when the Mory's Association moved into the house, and the original 1863 menu signs from the tavern on Wooster Street, which was the birthplace of what would eventually be Mory's (photograph 13).

The entrance hall retains its original configuration (photograph 14). A secondary stairway leads to the upstairs dining rooms and significant interiors including the Cup Room, the Captains' Room, and the library (photographs 15, 16, 17).

Every space contributes to the integrity of feeling and mood established when the club first moved into the house, and the high degree of preservation maintained since then adds to the significance of the interior.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1817-1954

Significant Dates

1817, 1912, 1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

See Item 8

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

306 York Street is the home of "Mory's," a private collegiate eating club associated with Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, since 1863. Mory's is nationally significant as a representative example of traditional collegiate social clubs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although not owned by Yale, membership is open only to Yale affiliates and so the club is locally significant as a reflection of Yale tradition.

Mory's is also significant because it retains a high degree of integrity of feeling and setting, maintaining the tradition and historic atmosphere of the club as it was almost 100 years ago.

The building is architecturally significant in New Haven as an intact example of the Federal style in New Haven. The inventory of buildings in New Haven of this period is dwindling, and Mory's remains one of the best preserved examples of its type.

Background History and Significance

Mory's derives its name from its founders, Frank and Jane Moriarty, who opened a small tavern called Moriarty's in 1863 in Wooster Square, which was then a largely Irish neighborhood. Wooster Square at this point in time was nearing the end of its heyday as New Haven's industrial center. Located near the New Haven harbor, the tavern was discovered one day by a number of Yale crewmen on their way back to campus from a race and it quickly became popular with other Yale students. The Moriartys recognized the merit of moving closer to campus to be near their devoted clientele and opened the Quiet House on Court Street, also in Wooster Square, in the late 1860s. This move galvanized its standing as a favorite watering hole for Yale students.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 2

After Frank Moriarty died in 1876, Mrs. Moriarty moved still closer to campus to a location at the corner of Temple and Center Streets, and the tavern became known as Mory's Temple Bar. When Jane Moriarty died in 1885, the Temple Bar was taken over by Edward G. Oakley, a former waiter at the bar. While Oakley was popular with students, his poor business skills forced him to close the bar in 1898.

A year later, a German immigrant named Louis Linder bought Oakley's lease and reopened the bar. Linder had been a waiter at New York's famous Luchow's Restaurant, which had opened in 1882. August Luchow began a tradition at his restaurant, which continued into the twentieth century, of engaging musical ensembles to play music at dinner and supper. Linder brought with him to Mory's this love of music and it was he who encouraged Yale singing groups to frequent the place.

In 1909 a quintet began to meet there every Monday night. They named themselves the Whiffenpoofs (after a mythical animal described in a popular musical of the day). Thus, Mory's is also significant as the birthplace of the country's oldest all-male *cappella* collegiate singing group. The Whiffenpoofs pre-date other Ivy League groups by at least fifty years and has made Mory's internationally famous through its annual traveling concert.

Also in 1909, the site of the Temple Bar was being sought for development. The building was eventually torn down and is now the site of the Omni Hotel. The threat of losing his establishment, combined with his failing health, led Linder to the decision to close the tavern. Outcry from students and alumni convinced him to change his mind. Cole Porter, a senior student at the time put his plea to music:

Come on down to Mory's,
That's the place to be.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 3

Happy home of friendship
And of jollity.
Now they're going to close it—
Louis Linder, change your mind!
When I'm lonely, one place only,
Mory's Temple Bar.

The overwhelming sentiment against losing a treasured meeting place led a group of alumni to form the Mory's Association, a nonprofit corporation, on September 5, 1912.

The corporation bought the Federal house at 306 York Street (the previous tenant was then-Yale professor and future Connecticut Governor Wilbur Cross) in 1912 and transferred some of the furniture and furnishings from the old location (see item 7). Linder served as the first steward and lived in the upstairs rooms. The "Whiffenpoof Song" which was recorded in 1936 by Rudy Vallee made Mory's famous as the "place where Louis dwells."

Mory's was now not just a popular favorite of Yale students, it was a club whose membership was limited to undergraduates of Yale College. Similar to other college clubs and even those of larger cities, Mory's was established exclusively for the purpose of leisure, as expressed in the bylaws: "The object of the association shall be the culture of its members and the promotion of social intercourse among them."

The club membership continued to grow throughout the twentieth century to almost 20,000 in number. The membership has included a number of nationally known alumni who spent some of their formative years within the walls of Mory's, many people who are significant to our social, cultural and political history, including Cole Porter, Rudy Vallee, Vincent Price, Calvin Trillin, Benjamin Spock, William Wrigley, Paul Mellon, and a number of United States presidents including William Howard Taft, both presidents Bush and William Clinton.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 4

Significance

Much of the significance of Mory's is rooted in its retention of feeling and setting as a representative example of the type of club established on college campuses during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Another example of this type of private eating club is the University Cottage Club of Princeton University (National Register 1999). The high degree of integrity allows the visitor to immediately comprehend and absorb the atmosphere of Mory's which has been preserved for almost one hundred years.

It is important to note that while membership to Mory's is restricted mainly to those affiliated with Yale University, Mory's is not legally associated with Yale. In fact, when Yale became coed in the late 1960s, Mory's was not legally compelled to do the same, and only after a nationally publicized legal battle did the club also began to admit women to the membership. In the event that the Mory's Association ceases to exist, the club does revert to Yale ownership. Thus beyond its local significance, Mory's has served as an inspiration to those who want to understand the "Yale experience." As noted by Cheever Tyler, Yale class of '59, and Mory's board member, "When you bring people here [to Mory's], they're immersed in what Yale means."¹ As such, Mory's has found its way into many facets of American culture, and references to the club are found in literature, song, film, even TV game shows².

¹ Mark Alden Branch, "A Very Special Saloon," *Yale Alumni Magazine* (April 1999), p.1.

² A few examples include Pamela Thomas-Graham's mystery novel *Blue Blood* which includes Mory's and which was used as inspiration for understanding and describing the Yale experience. Academy Award winner Tom Hanks reportedly used Mory's as a case study for researching his role in the 1990 film *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, and a 2002 taping of the popular game show *Jeopardy!* used Mory's as the "answer" to a clue.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 5

Architectural Significance

The house at 306 York is architecturally significant as one of a diminishing number of examples of the Federal style in New Haven (1790-1825). Although there are approximately forty buildings within this stylistic period still standing in New Haven, buildings of the same scale and degree of integrity are a smaller subset. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of a typical early twentieth century collegiate eating club.

The Federal style in New Haven is most notably characterized by the larger more opulent houses such as the John Cook House (1807) at 35 Elm Street, a five bay 2 ½ story house with a ball room designed for the top floor. Its neighbor, the Timothy Bishop House at 32 Elm Street, is a noted example of the great houses built in the Federal Period. The house is also a five-bay 2-story with attic and raised basement, and colonnaded portico.

Houses of the scale and style of 306 York are more rare. Similar buildings include 459 College Street (the Elizabethan Club of Yale), and 12 Academy in Wooster Square, both with the similar 3-bay, side-hall, gable-to-street orientation as 306 York. Because 306 York is a representative example of a diminishing pool of this style and because of its high degree of integrity of materials and preservation, it is architecturally significant.

As an example of a college social club, Mory's has a high degree of integrity, evoking the past through its preserved interior details. Because of the unofficial directive on the part of its membership to "keep Mory's Mory's,"³ the interior retains a high

³ Branch 7.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 8 Page 6

degree of integrity of feeling and setting, maintaining the tradition and historic atmosphere of the club as it was almost 100 years ago. Table tops carved with the names of alumni, photos dating to the early twentieth century of athletic heroes, and the oars used in victorious crew competitions, which hang from the ceilings, all add to the sense of place created and maintained by the membership.

Mory's _____
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	673140	4575180	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Dunne, Preservation Services Officer

organization New Haven Preservation Trust date 09/15/03

street & number 934 State St. telephone (203) 562-5919

city or town New Haven, state CT zip code 06507

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Mory's
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ms. Carol Augur, Senior Vice President
street & number Fleet National Bank and Trustee
The Mory's Association, Inc.
157 Church St.
city or town New Haven, CT zip code 06510

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 9/10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Articles of Association of the Mory's Association Incorporated.* New Haven, 6 November, 1912.
- Atwater, Edward E., ed. *History of the City of New Haven.* New York: W.W. Munsell and Company, 1887.
- Branch, Mark Alden. "A Very Special Saloon." *Yale Alumni Magazine* (April 1999): 1-7.
- Brown, Elizabeth Mills. *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976.
- "In 'Old' New Haven: 'The Dear Old Temple Bar'...." *New Haven Register* 10 August, 1980: B4.
- Mory's Association, Inc., The. *The Mory's Association Inc.* New Haven: The Mory's Association, Inc., 1928.
- New Haven City Directories, 1844-Present.* On file at the New Haven Colony Historical Society and the New Haven Town Clerk's Office.
- "New Haven Land Records, 1840-Present." On file at the New Haven Town Clerk's Office.
- Osterweis, Rollin G. *Three Centuries of New Haven.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1953.
- Renan, Daphna. "Gender Parity or Male Privilege?: Antidiscrimination Law and Mory's Board of Governors." Paper. Yale University Law School, 2002.
- Vaill, George D. "Mory's: A Brief History." Pamphlet. New Haven: n.p., 1977.

Maps and Atlases

- Atlas of New Haven, Connecticut Compiled by Streuli and Puckhafer.* Bridgeport, CT: Streuli and Puckhafer, 1911.
- Beer, Frederick W. *Map of the City of New Haven and Fair Haven from Actual Surveys.* New York: Beers, Hellis and Soule, 1869.
- Harley and Whiteford. *Map of the City of New Haven from Actual Surveys.* Philadelphia: Collins and Clark, 1851.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses the historic resource and is bounded according to the attached plot map provided by the New Haven City Plan Department.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Mory's, New Haven
New Haven County, CT**

Section 9/10 Page 2

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the historic resource, including the property it stands on.

List of Photographs

Photographer: Mary Dunne, New Haven Preservation Trust

Date 9/03 Negatives of File: Connecticut Historical Commission

1. 306 York Street, camera facing SW
2. 306 York Street, camera facing NW
3. 306 York Street, camera facing NW
4. 306 York Street, camera facing W
5. 306 York Street, camera facing E
6. 306 York Street, camera facing E
7. 306 York Street, camera facing W
8. 306 York Street, camera facing W
9. 306 York Street, first floor dining room
10. 306 York Street, first floor dining room
11. 306 York Street, oars suspended from first floor dining room ceiling
12. 306 York Street, first floor dining room mantle
13. 306 York Street, first floor dining room: light fixtures and menu signs
14. 306 York Street, entrance hall
15. 306 York Street, upstairs hall
16. 306 York Street, second floor "Cup Room"
17. 306 York Street, second floor "Captains Room"
18. 306 York Street, second floor library