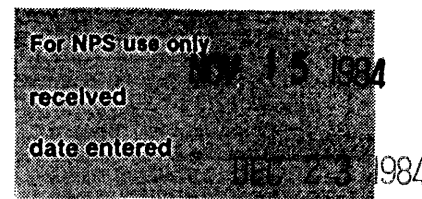


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Hartford Club
46 Prospect Street

1903
Photograph 6
Building #18

Description

The Hartford Club is a 3-story, Georgian Revival building constructed in red brick with white trim. It faces west on Prospect Street, a block and a half south of the Old State House, surrounded by buildings of the Travelers Insurance Co. There are five well-spaced bays across the front elevation, three in a slightly-recessed central section and one in each of the flanking end sections. Windows are symmetrically placed one over the other. The clubhouse is divided horizontally by two limestone string courses below the second- and third-floor windows. At the base there are high, vermiculated granite foundations and at the roof line a projecting, molded cornice that is supported by paired modillions.

The single most important decorative element of the facade is the 1-story, flat-roofed, Corinthian portico, that is approached by broad stone steps. The portico is curvilinear in plan with clusters of three columns, right and left, supporting the entablature. There is an additional column at each side near the wall, in front of a pilaster, while pilasters flank the glazed, double door that has windows on either side and a fanlight above. The portico has a wooden balustrade that follows the curvilinear plan. On either side of the portico, in the central section of the facade, there is an 8-over-8 window. In each end section there is an 8-over-12 window flanked by glazing one light wide, in a tripartite effect. All of these windows have splayed lintels with key blocks and sills of limestone.

In the central section of the second floor are three tall French windows under fanlights. The central window opens onto the roof of the portico. The two flanking windows have iron grilles. Each window is set in an arched recess. The arch of the recess rises from limestone impost blocks and has a limestone key console. Each end section has a 12-over-12 window in similar arched recess with the tympanum of the arch filled with raised embellishment in the center of which is a medallion with the letters HC. The arches are flanked by cartouches. The end windows have bowed iron balconies. The windows of the second floor are taller than those on the first, making the second floor the piano nobile.

At the third floor the windows are 8-over-8 without stone lintels but with stone key blocks. At the center of the central section and in the end sections, the 8-over-8 window is flanked by 4-over-4 windows, continuing the tripartite motif from the first floor.

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The front entrance leads to a large rectangular hall that runs parallel to the street. A wide stair runs from north to south against its back wall. Behind the hall is the main dining room and to its right is the main lounge. The second floor is given over to a second dining room, social and meeting rooms. Rooms for overnight guests are found on the third floor. The millwork of the interior corresponds to that found in the porch, with ample columns, capitals and moldings in the Georgian Revival style.

The clubhouse has been altered from time to time, notably in 1912 by the addition of a ballroom at the rear that was removed in 1968 to facilitate an extensive building program carried out by the Travelers.

Significance - Criterion C, Architecture

The Hartford Club is an excellent example of the fully-developed Georgian Revival style that was popular and prestigious in the early part of the 20th century. The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago had successfully established a return to classical precedent as the architectural fashion of the day. The Georgian Revival style was used for buildings of many types, including homes, churches, commercial buildings and clubhouses. At the Hartford Club it is carefully detailed and well proportioned in a sophisticated manner.

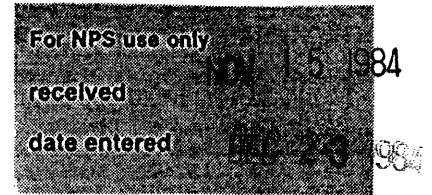
In the Hartford Club, the style, design and scale are almost domestic in character; this could be a large, private mansion. Buildings of corresponding style and design, if not as large, were contemporaneously being built as homes in the west end of Hartford. The members of the Hartford Club when this structure was built no doubt felt comfortable with the design because it was fashionable for homes they or their friends were building at the time.

Architects for the Hartford Club were Andrews, Jacques & Rantoul of Boston. Robert D. Andrews (1857-1928) was a native of Hartford. As a young man, he worked as a draughtsman in the office of H. H. Richardson. In Hartford the firm designed, in a style similar to the Hartford Club, the house at 990 Prospect Avenue, now the Governor's mansion, and the Connecticut School for the Blind. In Boston, the firm is best known for designing the East and West wings to the Massachusetts State House (1895-1913).

The Hartford Club was organized in 1873 as a men's club and has been the largest luncheon club in the city ever since.

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Geographical Data

Acreage: Less than one acre
UTM Reference: 18/693350/4626000
Boundary: City map No. 5, parcel No. 498, 499