

PH0000884

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.09.0025	DATE 10/15/75

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
New London Public Library

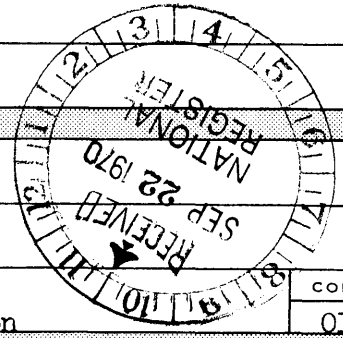
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
63 Huntington Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New London

STATE Connecticut	CODE 06320	COUNTY: New London	CODE 011
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
New London Public Library Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
63 Huntington Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New London

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
New London Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
New London

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hartford

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE:  
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The New London Public Library is located diagonally across from New London's gambrel roofed State Courthouse on the corner of Huntington and State Streets. It is a heavy compact structure which is cramped on a treeless corner immediately next to the sidewalk at a very busy intersection. The building plan consists of two sections which intersect at right angles. The gabled section which faces on Huntington Street contains the main area of the library. To the right of the three Syrian arches which form the entrance on Huntington Street is a round turret with polygonal roof, the top of which is not higher than the facade gable, and which is consequently subordinated to it in the totality of the building design.

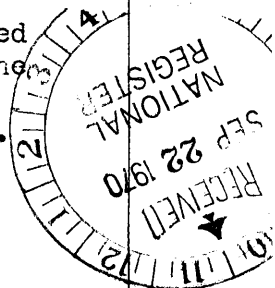
The materials of the building consist of Milford granite with contrasting brownstone trim in the manner typical of Richardson. The rough-faced granite is laid in regular courses; while the brownstone creates a darker contrast in the window frames and mullions, the Syrian arches of the entry and the windows of the second floor, the steps of the entrance and the band courses which circumscribe the building below the windows and at the cornice which continues up the rake of the roof. The Akron tile roof has an eyelid dormer on the Huntington Avenue side and there are higher more conventionally-roofed dormers in the rear.

Shortly after its construction in 1889 the building was described in Harper's Weekly in the following manner:

The site is a pleasant slope practically in the centre of the city, at the junction of two broad elm-bowered streets, Huntington and State, the latter being the chief business thoroughfare, but bordered at this point--at its head, and near the quaint eighteenth-century Court-house--with handsome dwellings and gardens. The sloping ground gives opportunity for a large and convenient basement, dry, and well-lighted. From the front the building (40 x 90 feet) presents somewhat the appearance of one tall story with a high sloping roof, although in reality there are two stories, as may be seen by the gable, pierced with three arched windows, over which appears a carved stone tympanum bearing the arms of New London--a ship under full sail.

The interior arrangements are excellent. The Delivery Room, entered from the porch which has three groined vaults is nearly in the middle of the building, with a Magazine Room at the rear, and on the left a Reading-Room lighted from three sides. It contains an elaborately carved stone fireplace, and will be paneled, both between the heavy beams of the ceiling and around the walls, to a height of thirteen feet, with quartered oak well rubbed, which forms the finish of all the lower rooms. To the right of the Delivery-Room are the Librarian's Office and the spacious Book-Room. The latter has an immediate capacity of 30,000 volumes, on the "stack" plan, bring every book

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Connecticut	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	70.10.09.0025	DATE
		10/15/70

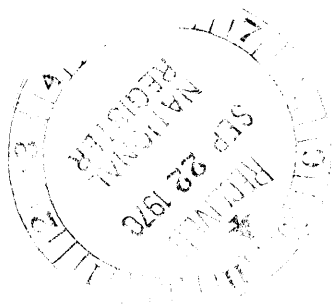
(Number all entries)

- 2 -

Description: The New London Public Library

within easy reach of the arm, and the height of the stacks can be increased so as to accommodate 50,000. Every aisle between the stacks is flooded with light from the two sides of the room. The whole second story of the building is occupied by one large room, finished in fine Georgia pine which will be the home of the New London County Historical Society.<sup>1</sup>

The building has not been altered since the time of its construction with the one possible exception of an elevator which although it appears to date from the nineteenth century does not appear in the plans.



<sup>1</sup> George Parsons Lathrop, "The Public Library at New London," Harpers Weekly, July 27, 1889.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1889

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 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 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

The New London Public Library was built in 1889 after the death of H.H. Richardson and after the completion of his massive and dignified New London Railroad Station. The library is very much in the Richardsonian manner and is recorded as having been worked up from preliminary drawings of Richardson by his successors Shepley, Coolidge, and Rutan.<sup>2</sup> It is an important building because its quality approaches very closely those designs carried out by Richardson himself for other libraries<sup>3</sup> and because it is symbolic of the popularity of Richardsonian architecture in the decade after his death.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<sup>2</sup>Helen Kilduff Gay (the first librarian of the New London Public Library), "The Benefaction of a Pioneer Alaskan Trader," in Connecticut Magazine (Vol. 11), 1907, p. 142.

<sup>3</sup>Henry-Russell Hitchcock, H.H. Richardson and His Times (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936) p. 285.

1887/10

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

H.K. Gay, "The Benefaction of a Pioneer Alaskan Trader," in Connecticut Magazine (Vol. 11) 1907.  
 H-R. Hitchcock, H.H. Richardson and His Times. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1936.  
 G.P. Lathrop, "The Public Library at New London," Harpers Weekly, July 27, 1889.

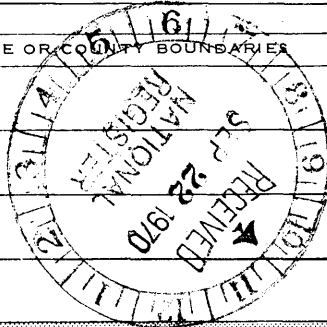
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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°	21'	18"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		72°	06'	00"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: September 10, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

**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: [Signature]  
 State Liaison Officer and Chairman  
 Title: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: September 10, 1970

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 12 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

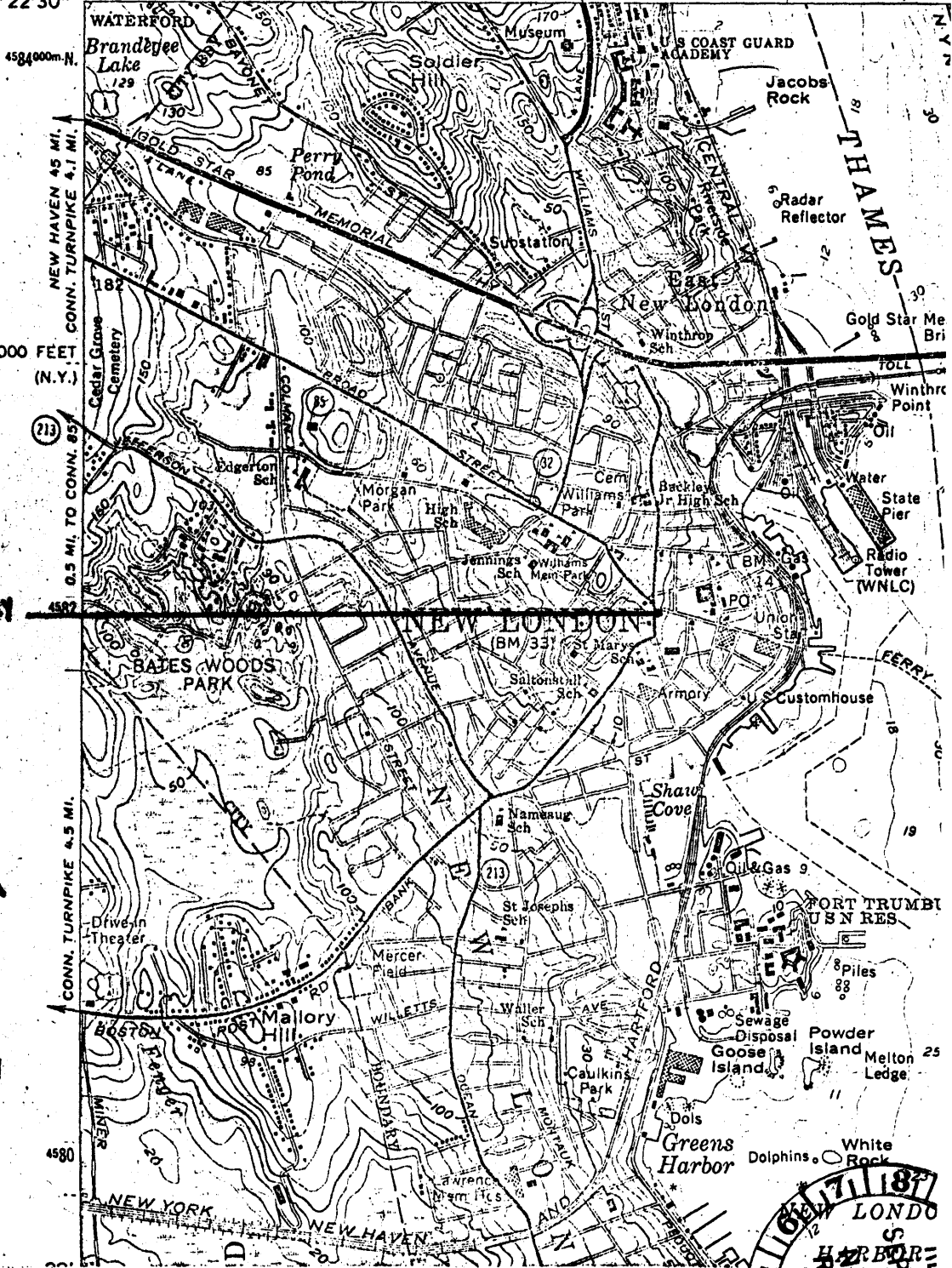
8366 (MONTVILLE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

32 UNCASVILLE 4.2 MI.  
QUAKER HILL 1.9 MI.  
2 520 000 FEET (N.Y.)

72° 07' 30"  
41° 22' 30"

741 000 m. E.



New London  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Latitude  
41° 22' 18"  
Longitude  
72° 06' 00"

