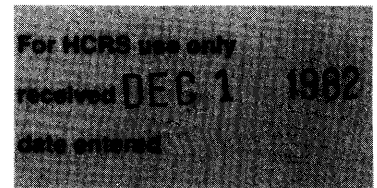


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Caroline Nicoll House

and/or common Caroline Nicoll House

**2. Location**

street & number 27 Elm Street n/a not for publication

city, town New Haven n/a vicinity of congressional district Third

state Connecticut code 09 county New Haven code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Joseph R. Blumberg, Joel Whitten, William A. Sherry

street & number 27 Elm Street

city, town New Haven n/a vicinity of state Connecticut

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Clerk's Office

street & number 200 Orange Street

city, town New Haven state Connecticut

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Caroline Nicoll House is a two-and-a-half-story brick residence constructed in 1828. Situated in the commercial heart of downtown New Haven, the property is flanked to the east and south across Elm Street by Federal period townhouses of similar scale (photograph #1). A rectangular paved parking area, formerly landscaped gardens, is situated north of the house.

The five-by-three-bay structure rests on a cut brownstone foundation (photograph #2). Side walls (east and west) rise above the low pitched roofline, forming stepped gable ends which are defined by paired, exterior-end chimneys. Double-hung sash on the first, second and third floors are enframed by granite lintels and sills, with the exception of third-floor paired casement windows on the north and south facades. All of the windows and entry doors date from the renovation and new rear additions to the house ca. 1894. A finely detailed single-story portico (1828) is centered on the main (south) facade, with paired Egyptian columns with lotus leaf capitals supporting a full entablature and upper balcony rail of decorated cast iron. The tripartite composition of the second-floor balcony entrance door is repeated in the central casement window on the third story. A denticulated roof cornice on the main facade surmounts the third-story flush-boarded frieze, pierced by its five window bays.

A two-story brick ell with a single-story rear extension, constructed ca. 1894, is attached to the east side of the rear elevation of the house, and projects east from the main house (photograph #3). Exterior access to the east ell is provided through a single-story frame porch supported by square, fluted columns with Doric caps. A finely proportioned wood balustrade runs the full length of the side of the porch. A single-story brick ell on the west side of the rear elevation does not extend beyond the side wall of the house (photograph #2).

The center-hall plan of the house was altered during its renovation ca. 1894. Wall partitions and entrance ways on the first and second floors of the north (rear) side were changed to accommodate the two ells. Most of the original trim is intact. On the first and second floors, doorway architraves feature crossets and, in the Egyptian style, battered vertical members. On the third floor, millwork is simplified with flat-faced beaded architraves and molded backbands. The center-hall stair is embellished with delicately carved rinceau on the frieze of the stairwell. The house features a remarkable collection of fireplace mantelpieces. In the basement, the single mantelpiece consists of two simple pilasters supporting panels and a shelf. On the first and second floors, mantelpieces are finished in the Egyptian style with battered pilasters, and with the addition of a dented shelf (photograph #4). On the third floor, the south rooms feature similar though smaller mantelpieces, while mantelpieces of the two north rooms have pilasters with square Doric caps supporting a dented shelf. Finally, the ca. 1894 east ell features a Neoclassical, columned mantelpiece with an overmantel (photograph #5).

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

CAROLINE NICOLL HOUSE, NEW HAVEN  
Continuation sheet

Item number 6,7,8,9

Page 1

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

New Haven Historic Sites Survey, 1981, local. Survey on file at Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford.

7. Description

The ca. 1894 east-ell interior features an elaborately detailed doctor's office on the first floor. The main room is polygonal in plan, with a tripartite segmentally arched window on the west side, and two round-arched windows flanking the fireplace mantel on the east side. Windows are embellished with leaded glass and framed with varnished wood trim decorated with carved garlands in the spandrels. The fireplace features a finely carved overmantel supported by composite columns which frame a glazed tile hearth. The coffered ceiling is also of varnished wood, paneled, with intricately carved patera of varying designs at the intersection of each coffer. A three-light gas chandelier is suspended from the center of the ceiling.

Rehabilitation of the Caroline Nicoll House for office use was undertaken in 1981 by the present owners, under the direction of Herbert S. Newman Associates, architects of New Haven. Rehabilitation spurred restoration of all significant millwork, removal of pressed-board wainscot (applied during the 1930s), and floor plan changes in order to improve circulation and space utilization. On the first floor center hall, for example, the upper half of a portion of the east wall was removed and access provided to a back stair running from the basement to the third floor.

8. Significance

floor are Federal, characterized by simplified pilaster strips and molded architraves. The wide center-hall plan, and delicate rinceau pattern on the stairwell frieze are Federal as well. Egyptian and Greek Revival details are combined by using battered architraves to support denticulated mantelpiece shelves on the two main floors. The east ell interior, completing the architectural history of the house, adds a striking Neoclassical flavor. Varnished and elaborately carved millwork in the former doctor's office of the east ell contrasts with the restrained detail of the main house, all of which have been restored by the present owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of New Haven, City Directories, 1851, 1859, 1913, 1930.

Dana, Arnold Guyot. New Haven Old and New. Yale University, 1883. New Haven Colony Historical Society, microfilm, v. 24.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

CRITERIA B,C

**Specific dates** 1828, ca. 1894      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Caroline Nicoll House is an important local representation of a transitional Federal/Greek Revival urban townhouse. Located in the historic nine-square area of New Haven, it is one of a few extant survivors of inner-city development and urban renewal. The property is historically significant as the home of Caroline Nicoll, wife of Charles and daughter of Abraham Bishop, who was a prominent attorney, author and state politician.

Abraham Bishop (1763–1844) held the Bishop estate, a large land tract bordering Elm and State Street, owned by the Bishop family since 1647. The original Bishop residence was located east of the Caroline Nicoll House at the corner of Elm and State Street. Abraham Bishop was a popular Jeffersonian Republican, active in state politics. In 1800 he authored An Oration of the Extent of Power and Political Delusion. From 1803 to 1829 he was Collector of the Port of New Haven. In 1828 Bishop constructed a residence at 27 Elm Street and gave it to his daughter Caroline (1804–1864) as a wedding present (Arnold Guyot Dana, v.24). Caroline married Charles Nicoll (1797–1871), local businessman. The property remained in the Bishop family until its sale in 1894 to Dr. and Mrs. Frank Whittemore, who had the two ells constructed for office use and who used the house as a residence. Dr. Whittemore sold the property in 1913 to Dr. William F. Verdi, head surgeon of the New Haven Hospital. By the 1930s the entire house was converted to office use.

The architectural style of the house represents a marriage between Federal and Greek Revival periods, expressed in a house type common in New Haven during the first half of the nineteenth century. The property relates stylistically to its neighbors, earlier Federal-period dwellings at 32 and 35 Elm Street, as well as later Greek Revival and early Italianate houses in other downtown locations. The basic exterior appearance of the house is Federal, characterized by the austere, formal appearance of the trabeated fenestration and generally flat exterior surfaces. Other typically Federal design elements include the stepped gable ends, symmetrical five-bay facade with portico, tripartite central bays, and window proportions which vary in size on each of the three floors. The portico, a feature commonly associated with Federal and Greek Revival townhouses constructed here during the first half of the nineteenth century, incorporates a Greek Revival entablature and Egyptian column capitals. This blending of Egyptian and Greek elements continues on the interior. Overall, the structure is one of the city's best preserved brick townhouses, and is a fine example of the early nineteenth-century period.

Interior design features encapsulate architectural styles from the Federal to the Neoclassical. Mantelpieces in the basement and third

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Elizabeth Mills. New Haven A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name New Haven

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	6	7	4	9	4	0	4	5	7	4	7	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

As recorded in Deed Book 2902, Page 354: southerly by Elm Street, 57feet; westerly 255 feet; northerly 56 feet; and easterly 255 feet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack A. Gold, Historic Preservation Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization

date May 1982

street & number 862 Orange Street

telephone 203/776-2420

city or town New Haven

state Connecticut 06511

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date November 23, 1982

For HCERS use only

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

date 1/19/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration