

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

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

For NCRS use only  
received **MAY 11 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Hartford Seminary Foundation  
and/or common University of Connecticut Law School

**2. Location**

street & number 55 Elizabeth St. & 72-120 Sherman St. (east side) N/A not for publication  
city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd  
state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name See continuation sheet  
street & number "  
city, town " N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state "

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hartford Land Records, Municipal Building  
street & number 550 Main Street  
city, town Hartford state Connecticut

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date "  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records "  
city, town " state "

# 7. Description

## Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

## Check one

unaltered  
 altered

## Check one

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

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

### Over View

The Hartford Seminary Foundation is a 25-acre college campus built in the 1920s in the west central section of Hartford, Connecticut. The Seminary is bordered on the west by several blocks of upper middle income homes. On its south is a middle income residential section. To the east the North Branch of the Park River is the Seminary's boundary; it separates the Seminary from buildings on Woodland Street that include offices, apartments, a branch of the University of Connecticut, and Hartford Community College. On the north the Seminary's neighbors are the Connecticut Historical Society and Hartford College for Women.

Most of the 25-acre campus is open land, gently sloping from Elizabeth Street and Girard Avenue down to the river. The buildings divide into two groups. First, there are six institutional buildings constructed in light grey granite ashlar with slate roofs, in the late Gothic Revival style of architecture, attractively sited to the south and east of the intersection of Elizabeth Street and Girard Avenue. (Photograph 1.) Second, there are five smaller buildings for faculty housing and students' apartments; three of these were constructed as part of the master plan, and two were acquired subsequent to the principal building program.

As initially planned in 1978, the nomination also included five buildings on a five-acre section of land bounded on the east and north by Sherman Street and on the west by Girard Avenue. Since then, three of the five buildings have been demolished and a new building constructed in their place. As the other two were considered not to contribute to the historic character of the Foundation, this five-acre section has not been included in the nomination.<sup>1</sup> The demolition and new construction by the Seminary followed the sale by the Seminary of the six institutional buildings to the State of Connecticut for use by the University of Connecticut Law School. The district encompasses the six Law School buildings and five of the Seminary's residential buildings. (See Sketch Map A.)

### The Buildings

The main road entering the Hartford Seminary Foundation leads south from Elizabeth Street to a vista of an archway that pierces a great, square tower. (Photograph 2.) The tower is at the west end of Avery Hall. Avery Hall is located in the center of the group of six institutional buildings. By its location and its tower, it dominates the group. The others are Gillett, Hosmer, Mackenzie, Hartranft, and Knight Halls, all named after benefactors or faculty members of the Seminary.

Avery Hall runs east and west, with a wing extending to the south. At each corner of its great tower is a turret rising from the ground to a pinnacle in which are blind lancets. Three of the pinnacles rise in two stages; the fourth has a single stage and is lower than the other three. Castellated parapets connect the pinnacles. In the turrets and in the walls between them are narrow windows. The archway that pierces the

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The name and address of each building is followed by the name and mailing address of the owner.

All buildings are considered to contribute to the historic character of the nomination with the exception of 74-76 Sherman Street, which is designated NC (non-contributing) in front of the date.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Avery Hall<br/>55 Elizabeth Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>Dept. of Administrative Services<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p>     | <p>c. 1926. 2½-story, granite, Collegiate Gothic style, L-shaped building with great tower.</p>   |
| <p>Gillett Hall<br/>55 Elizabeth Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>Dept. of Administrative Services<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p>   | <p>1955. 2-story, granite, Collegiate Gothic style, square building, connected to Avery Hall by the tower.</p>  |
| <p>Hosmer Hall<br/>55 Elizabeth Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>Dept. of Administrative Services<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p>    | <p>c. 1926. Large, L-shaped, 2½- and 3-story, granite building with square, castellated tower. It is in the Collegiate Gothic style except for the west elevation of the north/south section, which is Tudor Revival.</p> |
| <p>Mackenzie Hall<br/>110 Sherman Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p>                                       | <p>1924. A long, granite, 2½-story, Collegiate Gothic style building with square tower and gables</p>   |
| <p>Hartranft Hall<br/>55 Elizabeth Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>Dept. of Administrative Services<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p> | <p>c. 1926. 2½-story, granite, rectangular building in the Collegiate Gothic style with extensive exterior and interior decorative detail</p>   |
| <p>Knight Hall<br/>55 Elizabeth Street<br/>State of Connecticut<br/>Dept. of Administrative Services<br/>165 Capitol Avenue<br/>Hartford, CT 06106</p>    | <p>c. 1926. 2½-story, T-shaped, granite, Collegiate Gothic style building with slate roof, oriel window and other embellishments.</p>   |

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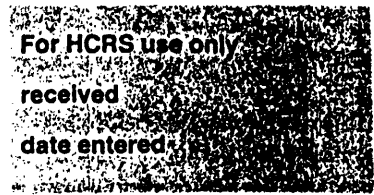
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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Capen Hall<br/>80 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford Seminary Foundation<br/>77 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford, CT 06105</p>                  | <p>c. 1929. 2½-story, granite building resembling a house in appearance. Half-timbered, with a slate roof.</p>                                   |
| <p>Faculty Circle, South Building<br/>Sherman Street<br/>Hartford Seminary Foundation<br/>77 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford, CT 06105</p> | <p>c. 1929. 3-story, Neo-Tudor style, frame structure covered with stucco and wood shingles, with gables and a shed dormer.</p>                  |
| <p>Faculty Circle, East Building<br/>Sherman Street<br/>Hartford Seminary Foundation<br/>77 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford, CT 06105</p>  | <p>c. 1929. 3-story, Neo-Tudor style, frame structure covered with stucco and wood shingles, with recessed porches and gambrel-roofed gables</p> |
| <p>74-76 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford Seminary Foundation<br/>77 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford, CT 06105</p>                              | <p>NC c. 1940s. 2-story, brick-veneer housing. Ordinary.</p>   |
| <p>72 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford Seminary Foundation<br/>77 Sherman Street<br/>Hartford, CT 06105</p>                                 | <p>c. 1875. 2½-story, Queen Anne style house with brick and shingled exterior walls. The round tower at one corner has a conical roof.</p>       |

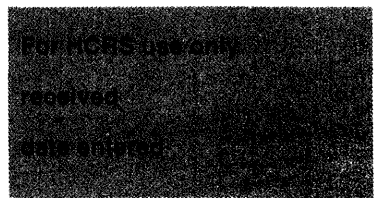
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Hartford Seminary National Register Historic District

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State Register of Historic Places

1982 State

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford Connecticut

Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey of Hartford

1978 Local

The Stowe-Day Library

Hartford Connecticut

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tower at ground level has a groined ceiling and archivolts supported by decorative bosses. (Photographs 3 and 4.)

A series of gables runs to the east of the tower on the north facade of Avery Hall. Under the gables at the second floor level are tripartite windows with heavy stone tracery alternating with oriels. (Photograph 5.) On the south facade truncated dormers of paired windows separate flat gables that project from the long roof. The walls of the dormers as well as their roofs are covered with slate.

Avery Hall housed the Case Memorial Library. The reading room is in the second floor of the long section of the building. It is a large room with a high ceiling, lighted by seven great windows along the north wall and with desks to accommodate 125 students. (Photograph 6.) A tall stone fireplace is the central feature of the east end of the room. Its opening is in the shape of a wide arch between engaged three-quarter columns. Above the opening a bas relief frieze is composed of a foliate motif in which a vine separates three shields. Above the frieze is a clock. Bas relief scholars in caps and gowns are seated back to back on either side of the clock. Above the clock a high overmantel slopes up to the ceiling. (Photograph 7.)

A square portico with a parapet forms the entrance to Avery Hall on the north. The arch in the portico repeats the moldings from the archway in the tower. The entrance leads to a central hall whose walls are decorated by ten bosses supporting five ceiling arches. The designs of the bosses are related to the institution; one consists of a bust of Samuel P. Avery, the donor, and a likeness of the building itself. (Photograph 8.)

To the west of Avery Hall, and connected with it by the tower, is Gillett Hall, built 30 years later than Avery but to the master plan. It is square, two stories high, and in plan is a companion wing to Avery.

Hosmer Hall is to the west of the main entrance road at the northwest corner of the campus. It is an L-shaped building with its longer wing running parallel to Girard Avenue. (Photograph 9.) Built as a men's dormitory, it also houses meeting rooms and a dining hall. The main entrance to Hosmer is in the center of the shorter wing, under a low, square tower with castellated parapets. Many of the components of this building, the tower, granite building material, pointed arch entrance, gables, and dormers, continue the late Gothic Revival style. However, the west side of Hosmer Hall, which faces away from the campus, has half timbering on the second and third floors. The Tudor Revival detail here is the only exception to the late Gothic Revival style in the six principal buildings.

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Diagonally opposite Hosmer, at the southeast corner of the group of principal buildings is Mackenzie Hall, built as the women's dormitory, with its own entrance on Sherman Street. Mackenzie is an irregular oblong in shape, running north and south. In harmony with the other buildings, Mackenzie is constructed of granite, its long slate roof punctuated with gables and dormers, here over pavilions. The main entrance is off center to the south under a castellated square tower. This tower has a turret rising from one corner only. The entranceway in front of the tower is surmounted by a bay and a gable. Four pointed-arch windows to the south of the entrance light a large lounge. (Photograph 10.)

A 1934 history of the Seminary gives the architect's own description of Mackenzie Hall. He describes the building as "Collegiate Gothic" on both the exterior and interior, with walls of Buckingham granite laid up in rubble ashlar, all windows glazed with leaded glass. He also noted that the building was arranged in one- and two-room suites, and that the social room had a Moravian tile chimney breast, a heavy beamed ceiling, and large tracery Gothic arched windows.<sup>2</sup> These features all survive. However, the Moravian tile chimney breast, the beamed ceiling, and the walls of the lounge have been painted a uniform cream color. The windows remain intact. (Photograph 11.)

West of the main entrance road, between Avery and Hosmer Halls, is Harttranft Hall. It is a square, two-story building. Its granite construction and low, square tower at one corner continue the theme of the overall campus design. (Photograph 12.) The carved heraldic symbols over the west door are an example of the attention to detail that is evident throughout the buildings. (Photograph 13.) Harttranft's oblong windows, arranged in groups of two and three, are protected by granite dripstones. The interior is devoted to offices and to a chapel. (Photograph 14.) The wooden ceiling of the chapel and the lectern, pulpit, and altar all are in natural-finished wood. Carvings in floral and foliate designs and inset Gothic arches adorn the lectern, pulpit, and altar.<sup>3</sup> Octagonal colonettes with stylized foliate capitals support the altar.<sup>3</sup> The hallway outside the chapel has a vaulted ceiling with the ribs terminating in foliate carved bosses. The floor is stone, and the doors along the hallway have frosted, leaded glass.

Knight Hall is the last of the six principal buildings. Located east of the main entrance road, it again was executed in granite with a square tower under castellated parapet off center to the north. Entrance is through a Gothic arch in a two-story projecting bay similar to the north entrance to Avery. The expanse of slate roof is broken by a small gable to the north and a larger gable to the south. All windows are rectangular except those in the tower which have pointed arches, stone tracery, and leaded diamond panes. The building contains classrooms and an auditorium. (Photograph 15.)

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The residential quarters for Seminary faculty members are located on Sherman Street south of the six principal Collegiate Gothic buildings. Faculty Circle consists of three buildings. Capen Hall, nearest the street, is half-timbered with a slate roof. The other two are in a sophisticated eclectic style reminiscent of Richard Norman Shaw, quite different from any other buildings on the campus. The facade of the building on the south side of the circle has an imaginative combination of stucco on the ground floor with dark brown shingles on the second and third floors under a roof in which are a half-timbered gable, a truncated gable, a conventional gable, and a shed dormer. The building on the east side of the circle is constructed of similar materials and motifs arranged differently in a variation of the same theme. In this building there is a gambrel roof over end gables at attic and third floor heights, and at the ground floor, in the center, are recessed porches and entrances. (Photograph 16.)

The remaining two residential buildings were not built as part of the master plan and are not part of the original overall architectural concept. 74-76 Sherman Street is a 2-story, gable-roofed, brick-veneer, barracks-like building. The house at 72 Sherman Street originally was a private home in the neighborhood. Because of its location adjoining the Seminary grounds, it was purchased in 1929 for faculty housing. Although not part of the original Seminary architectural concept, it is a good example of a late-19th-century, brick-and-shingle Queen Anne house. At one corner it has a round tower with a conical roof.

Present Status

Work is scheduled to start soon on alterations to the six institutional buildings for occupancy by the University of Connecticut Law School. On the exterior, the only changes will be those made to accommodate requirements for handicapped access and life safety. Access ramps will be built to all buildings and a stair tower will be added on the rear of one building. On the interior, some partitions will be removed to satisfy the need for larger rooms. Architectural detail both on the exterior and interior will not be disturbed. The question of how to handle the requirements for parking has not yet been resolved.

The five Seminary residential buildings east of Sherman Street will not be affected by the current program of changes.



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1.

The following details with respect to those five buildings are noted for the record.

Thompson Hall (demolished)  
85-97 Sherman St.

c. 1929. U-shaped, 3-story, brick building with big, half-timbered gables, diamond-pane windows, and slate roof. Its half-timbering echoed the treatment of the west elevation of Hosmer Hall.

Tyler Hall (demolished)  
99 Sherman Street

c. 1929. Smaller, rectangular version of Thompson Hall.

Barstow Hall (demolished)

NC c. 1950s? A rectangular, red brick building. No architectural pretensions.

90-92 Girard Avenue

NC c. 1950s? 2½-story, gable-roofed, barracks-like building.

98-100 Girard Avenue

NC c. 1950s? Duplicate of 90-92 Girard Avenue

2.

Geer, p. 255.

3.

The interior fittings of the chapel have been dispersed. This space is scheduled to be used by the Law School as its courtroom.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

c. 1875,

**Specific dates** 1923-29, 1955    **Builder/Architect** Charles Collens

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Criteria

The Hartford Seminary Foundation is an outstanding example of the "Collegiate Gothic" version of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. As the buildings were constructed in a single building program in the 1920s to a master plan, they have good coherence, and they are the only such Late Gothic Revival style grouping in the Greater Hartford area. (Criterion C.) Three separate educational institutions came together in the Seminary buildings, and there conducted for 50 years a distinguished program of Christian education. (Criterion A.)

#### Architecture

The Hartford Seminary Foundation buildings faithfully reflect the characteristics of the third, or Late, stage of the Gothic Revival in American architectural styles that was popular for several decades from the turn of the century. The buildings are quieter in design than those of the High Victorian Gothic era (1860-1890), with simpler silhouettes and without the polychromy and top-heavy effects. The English Perpendicular mode again became the primary source, as it had been during the Early Gothic Revival period (18220-1860), but was expressed always in substantial masonry, never in the earlier wooden construction, and always with stone tracery and superior craftsmanship. The Seminary buildings are a typical statement of these characteristics.

The pace-setters in establishing the Late Gothic Revival style were Ralph Adams Cram and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who practiced together from 1895 to 1913, specializing in ecclesiastical buildings. A "Collegiate Gothic" version of the style was introduced at Bryn Mawr in the 1890s by Cope and Stewardson, who carried the mode to Princeton where the supervising architect from 1909 to 1931 was Ralph Adams Cram.

The architect of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, Charles Collens (1893-1956) of Boston, was a successful practitioner in the "Collegiate Gothic" style. A graduate of Yale University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, he designed buildings at Williams, Vassar and Mt. Holyoke Colleges, Union and Andover Theological Seminaries, and was the architect for Riverside Church and Park Avenue Baptist Church in New York.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Exercises at the Ninety-third Anniversary and Dedication of Buildings and Campus of the Hartford Seminary Foundation (1834-1927), May 17 and 18, 1927."  
Curtis Manning Geer, The Hartford Theological Seminary, 1834-1934, Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1934.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 25 prox.  
Quadrangle name Hartford North Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See continuation sheet.

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Hartford Seminary Foundation is shown by the dotted line on the accompanying Sketch Map A drawn at a scale of 1" = 250'.

For boundary justification see continuation sheet.

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 David F. Ransom  
organization Hartford Architecture Conservancy date March 20, 1978, updated to June 10, 1981  
street & number 130 Washington Street telephone 203 525-0279  
city or town Hartford state Connecticut

# 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 April 21, 1982

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register date 6-27-82

Attest:   
Chief of Registration date 6/21/82

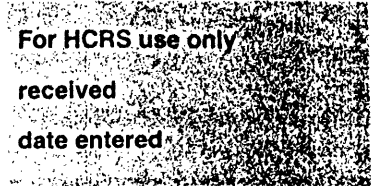
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Collens' wealth of experience in the style gave him a sure hand in designing the Hartford Seminary Foundation buildings. The design, materials and details are of a high quality and do full justice to the spirit of the "Collegiate Gothic" version of the Late Gothic Revival style, without intrusions. Moreover, the Hartford Seminary Foundation is the only campus expression of the style in the Greater Hartford area. Trinity College is dominated by the High Victorian Gothic architecture of William Burges, with many additional buildings, some in "Collegiate Gothic" but entirely without the pervasive influence of "Collegiate Gothic" that exists at the Seminary. The University of Hartford campus post-dates the Gothic Revival period, while the University of Connecticut Hartford campus and the Hartford College for Women are housed in either former residential buildings or modern buildings. The Seminary alone is a cohesive group of well-related, well-designed "Collegiate Gothic" structures. The buildings and their relationship to one another and to their environment appear today as they did when they were constructed, an unusual circumstance.

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History

The institution that became the Hartford Seminary Foundation had its origin in 1834 in East Windsor Hill across the Connecticut River from Hartford. It was started there under the name of the Theological Institute of Connecticut, in association with the East Windsor Hill Academy, which prepared young men for the study of the ministry. The Theological Institute consisted of 16 students, three instructors, and a library of 2,000 books.

The Institute at East Windsor Hill was started because of a difference of opinion between the Pastoral Union of Connecticut and the theologians at Yale's divinity school.<sup>1</sup> A second school was considered desirable. In 1854 when both were experiencing financial difficulties, the two institutions considered a merger. No action was taken then, nor on a subsequent occasion when consolidation was discussed. The two schools continued their independent careers.

About 1865 the Seminary's sister school, the East Windsor Hill Academy, closed its doors. At that time the steamboats no longer plied the river, the stagecoach had been withdrawn, and ferry facilities across the river were restricted. Confronted with these circumstances, the Theological Institute removed from its isolated position to the city of Hartford, at the same time adopting the name Hartford Theological Seminary. For its quarters the Seminary rented from the trustees of the Watkinson Library the former Daniel Wadsworth house on the southwest corner of Prospect Street and Wadsworth Alley, now Atheneum Square North, where the Avery Memorial Building of the Wadsworth Atheneum presently is located.

In 1879 another move was made to the west side of Broad Street, south of Farmington Avenue. Here a substantial building program was carried forward and the Seminary flourished until World War I, by which time it had outgrown its site. The growth derived in part from the affiliation of two additional institutions with the Seminary. In 1902 the School of Religious Education, incorporated in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1885, joined forces with the Seminary at the Broad Street location. Additionally, the Kennedy School of Missions was founded in 1911, made possible by the gift of \$500,000 of Mrs. John Steward Kennedy in memory of her late husband, a New York financier. The Kennedy School of Missions also elected to affiliate with the Seminary. In 1913 there was a general reorganization by which the triad under a new charter became the Hartford Seminary Foundation. One of the provisions was that no denominational test would be invoked in appointment of members of the Board of Trustees, or of the faculties, or of the student body - and the latter henceforth was to consist of women as well as men. The three schools operated in one facility and with a common president, but with three deans and three faculties. They maintained their individual identities until the 1960s.

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The expansion implicit in the 1913 reorganization required more room than the Broad Street location provided. Consequently, in that year the 30-acre site in the western part of the city was purchased from James J. Goodwin. After the Seminary purchased the land, World War I intervened and construction of new buildings was delayed until the 1920s.

The ambitious new building program required an ambitious new fund-raising program. Almost all the money was raised in Hartford, including \$150,000 appropriated by the City of Hartford.

The reason for the selection of Collens for the Seminary commission has not come to light. It may be postulated that his Hartford connections were relevant. Even though he spelled his name with an e instead of an i, he was related to the old and influential Hartford Collins family of which Erastus Collins was the patriarch. Charles Collens had been in charge of the 1912 renovation of the interior of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, and was the architect for the Gross Memorial Chapel there in 1940. Charles Welles Gross was president of the Seminary's Board of Trustees for the period of the building program.

The construction contractor for the Seminary's buildings was the firm of Bartlett and Brainard.

The first building to be completed was Mackenzie Hall, the dormitory for women. The women students moved into their new quarters in January 1924. The new campus was dedicated with suitable ceremonies in May 1927, by which time Knight, Avery, Hartranft, and Hosmer Halls were completed. Tyler and Thompson followed, as did Faculty Circle, but 1929 brought an end to the building program. At that time the principal buildings contemplated but not built were a chapel, gymnasium, administration building, and a separate building for the Kennedy School of Missions. In subsequent years only Gillett, 1955, was constructed. Initially, it was for the Kennedy School of Missions, and later became an administration building.

In 1941 resident students numbered 141 and faculty 28, but after World War II general interest in theological education began a gradual decline. By the mid-1970s the decline was so serious that the Hartford Seminary Foundation reached a decision to terminate its program of preparing undergraduates for the ministry. It decided to continue and strengthen its graduate program. One discipline of graduate study for which the Seminary has long been known for its excellence is the field of Islamic studies, with an outstanding accompanying library. This field of studies with its accompanying library continues in the Seminary's revised program.

In view of the physical reduction in the size of its activities, the Seminary sold its six granite buildings to the State of Connecticut to become the new campus of the University of Connecticut Law School.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, CT

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

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Summary

Charles Collens' 'Collegiate Gothic' campus functioned for 50 years as an educational institution in support of the Protestant churches of America. The lack of growth and development in such education during these years left the architectural entity of the Seminary unimpaired as a prime example of a style widely popular for American college campuses in the early 20th century.

1. The Pastoral Union of Connecticut, which sponsored the Theological Institute, represented the conservative position in the Taylor-Tyler Controversy. The conservatives were led by the Rev. Bement Taylor of Portland, Maine, while Nathaniel W. Tyler, professor at the New Haven theological school, was the leader of the progressive group. The point at issue between the two groups was disagreement as to the proper degree of rigidity to be followed in the Calvinist views to which they both subscribed. See Geer, p. 26 ff.

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

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

Hartford Seminary District, Hartford, CT

Continuation sheet    Geographical Data    Item number 10

Page 1

UTM References

A 18/690800/4626800  
B 18/690800/4626760  
C 18/690740/4626700  
D 18/690800/4626600  
E 18/690860/4626520  
F 18/690680/4626480  
G 18/690680/4626510  
H 18/690620/4626520  
I 18/690620/4626480  
J 18/690560/4626480  
K 18/690540/4626630  
L 18/690400/4626630  
M 18/690400/4626900  
N 18/690500/4626900  
O 18/690590/4626630  
P 18/690690/4626790

Boundary Justification

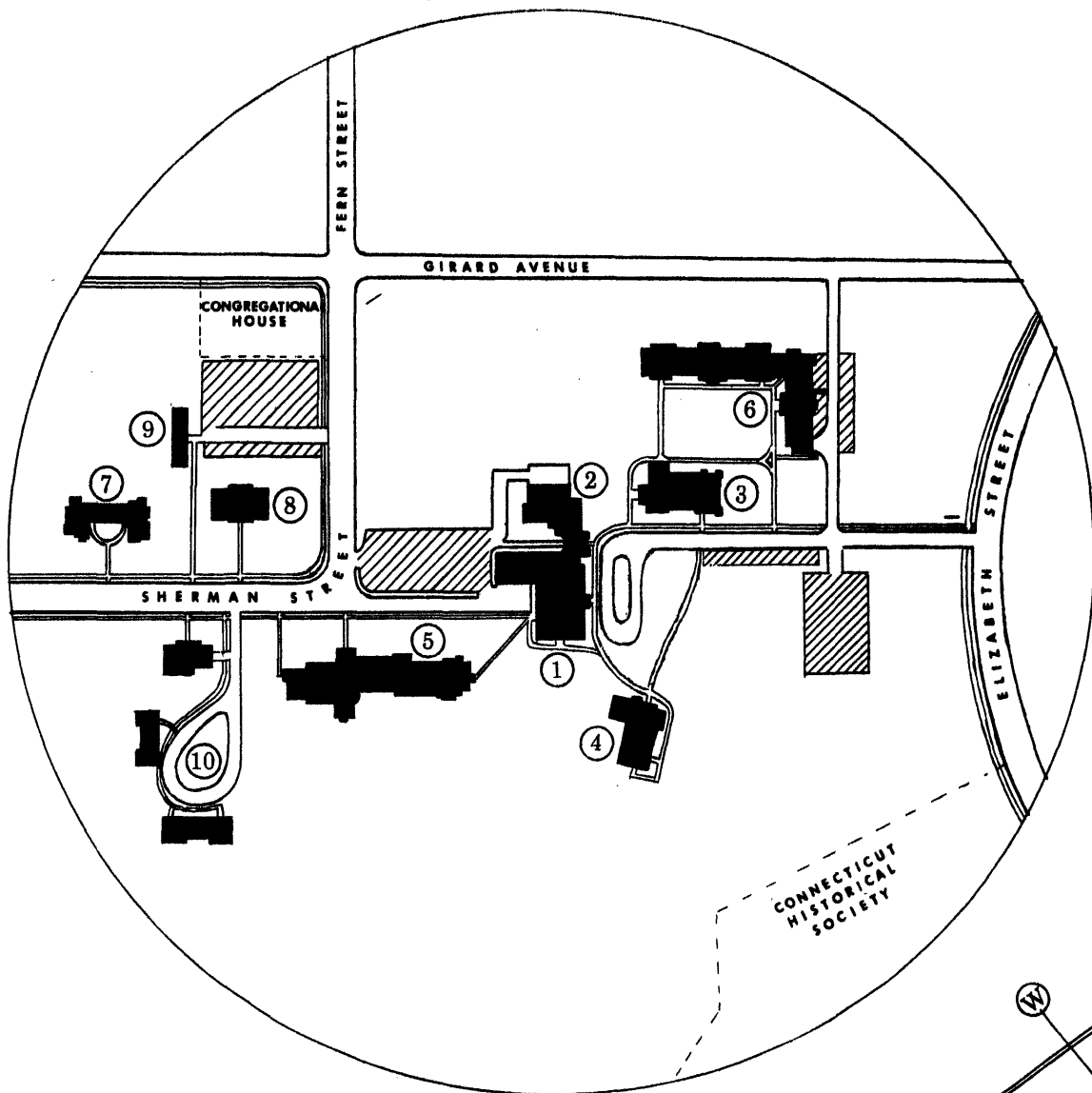
The boundary of the district is the traditional boundary of the Hartford Seminary Foundation as established by the 1913 land purchase plus the acquisition of the property known as 72 Sherman Street less the section bounded on the east and north by Sherman Street and on the west by Girard Avenue.

The lot at the southeast corner of Sherman Street and Girard Avenue was sold some years ago (to a church-affiliated organization), removing it from consideration as a Seminary property. The balance of this section was scheduled for inclusion in the district as it was first planned in 1978. Since that time Thompson, Tyler and Barstow Halls have been demolished and a new building has been constructed on their site. As 90-92 and 98-100 Girard Avenue were considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district, the entire section west and south of Sherman Street is not included in the district although it continues to be owned by the Hartford Seminary Foundation.



# HARTFORD SEMINARY FOUNDATION

- |                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Avery Hall     | 5. Mackenzie Hall | 9. Barstow Hall    |
| 2. Gillett Hall   | 6. Hosmer Hall    | 10. Faculty Circle |
| 3. Hartranft Hall | 7. Thompson Hall  | ▨ Parking          |
| 4. Knight Hall    | 8. Tyler Hall     |                    |



Hartford Seminary Foundation

Hartford, CT

Sketch Map A

Boundary 

Photo Key 

Scale: 1" = 225' prox.  
For building names see Sketch Map B

