

1965-THEME: Arts and Sciences

1967-THEME: Architecture

SUBTHEME: Education NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

SUBTHEME: Colonial Architecture

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New Haven
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Connecticut Hall, Yale University
AND/OR HISTORIC: Connecticut Hall, Yale University

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Campus, Yale University			
CITY OR TOWN: New Haven		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third	
STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: New Haven	CODE 009

**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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Office of President, Yale University		
STREET AND NUMBER: Woodbridge Hall		
CITY OR TOWN: New Haven	STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: New Haven Town Hall, Hall of Records		
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 Orange Street		
CITY OR TOWN: New Haven	STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (2 photographs, 15 data sheets)		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs		
STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New Haven
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Connecticut Hall, built in 1750-52, is an altered example of a conservatively designed Georgian structure. It is also Yale's oldest extant building and only surviving example of an eighteenth century structure.

Connecticut Hall, sometimes called Old South Middle, was the first of Yale's brick buildings, and was built under the direction of Francis Letort of Philadelphia and Thomas Bills of New York. In size and arrangement, Connecticut Hall is a close parallel to Massachusetts Hall at Harvard, which was built in the Early Georgian style in 1718-20.

The erection of Connecticut Hall had its inception in 1748 when the directors who "had concerted and drawn a Lottery whereby they had raised the sum of 5400 Pounds in bills of Old Tenor" ordered that there be "a new College House built with brick of 105 feet in length, 40 in breadth and 3 stories high beside the Garrets, with a cellar under the whole house."

By 1752 the building was almost completed but not entirely so, does it appear, until 1757, when a rendering of accounts placed the cost at £ 6725/0/10. The first Yale building in New Haven was a "great timber" frame structure, built in 1718 and razed in 1782, which stood upon a two acre plot adjoining the Green. When, in 1750, President Clap planned the construction of Connecticut Hall his first step was to set the foundations of the new building well "back in the yard that there may be a large and handsome area before it and toward the north side of the yard with a view..."

The new building, named after Colony of Connecticut whose legislature had been very generous in the fund for its construction, is said to have been of "elegant appearance" and "the best building in the colony." It was three stories high, with a gambrel roof and "Dormar" windows. It had 124 windows and four "great doors." The caps of the windows and doors are of fine brown sandstone, apparently Portland stone, and have ornamental projecting keystones. There are belt courses of projecting bricks marking the different stories, and the water table is formed of bricks molded in an ogee pattern.

It was some time before the interior was fully completed and there are several entries in the college records showing that students were allowed to finish and occupy rooms on an agreement with the corporation to reimburse them. In general style and interior arrangement the building was a pattern for all the dormitories for a long period. It had two halls on each floor from front to rear, those on the lower floor having doors at either end. There were two principal rooms on each side of each hall on each floor, making thirty-two studies or parlors, each having two sleeping rooms attached, making ninety-six rooms in all besides ample closets. By 1757 the building seems to have been substantially completed.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1750**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" 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

Yale University is the third oldest institution of higher learning in the United States, having been founded in 1701 and preceded only by Harvard (1636) and William and Mary (1693). Connecticut Hall is Yale's oldest surviving building, and continues in active use at one of the nation's outstanding universities.

At first the college was housed in wooden building; but, as it expanded, a row of brick buildings of Georgian style replaced them. Connecticut Hall was the first of the brick structures, and, of the original "Brick Row," it alone remains. Yale spared no expense in the construction of Connecticut Hall and for many years it was probably the handsomest building in the colony.

History

The University was founded in October 1701, as the "Collegiate School within his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut." Classes were first taught at Killingworth (now Clinton) in the home of the Reverend Abraham Pierson. Upon Pierson's death in 1707 the College moved to Saybrook, and in 1716 to New Haven, whose citizens had surpassed other communities in subscribing sums toward the construction of a college building. Two years later Elihu Yale, a retired East Indian merchant, who was born in New England but was then living in London, presented the school with goods valued at £ 562. In gratitude the institution took his name.

Since its founding Yale's growth has paralleled the expansion of the country. Elihu Yale's financial contribution to the college in 1718 helped to guarantee its continuance. Located in New Haven by then, after having been twice moved, the college erected Connecticut Hall in 1750-52 and established its first professorship in 1755, a chair in divinity. In 1771, chairs in mathematics, physics, and astronomy were added. Further expansion occurred in the nineteenth century, a School of Medicine being established in 1813, a Divinity School in 1822, a School of Law in 1824, a Graduate School in 1847, and additional schools in later years. The university opened the first college gallery of fine arts in America in 1832, granted the first degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the nation in 1862, and inaugurated the country's first School of Forestry in 1900. The turn of the century witnessed the further growth of the institution, enabling Yale to retain a position of leadership among American universities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "				
NE	0 , "	0 , "				
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				
				UTM 18.673330.4574820		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; 1967  
Charles W. Snell; 1965 S. Sydney Bradford

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: Dec. 6, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
Designated: DEC. 21, 1965

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Defined  
7-16-75

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

ATTEST: Secretary Assisted  
7/24/75  
Keeper of the National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	
Connecticut	
COUNTY	
New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Connecticut Hall, Yale University

Connecticut Hall's simple and functional style made it adaptable down through the years to the changing conditions. Its exterior was altered at least three times, its interior more times than are recorded. Apparently it changed color with the changing tastes of the world around it--from red-and-white to cream to allover-drab and back to red-and-white.

It was built in 1750-52 in a style that was even then rather conservative, following in a model at Harvard. By 1790 it was already old-fashioned, and when John Trumbull, exponent of the new classical style of the post-Revolutionary generation, learned that he would have to incorporate the old building into his modern plan for a new Yale campus, he complained to James Hillhouse and said that it would have to go.

Instead Connecticut Hall was given an additional story and a new roof and took its place as part of Trumbull's classical Brick Row, fronting the Green along College Street, completed by 1820. But by the middle of the century the Brick Row was out of style and Connecticut Hall was being described as "dilapidated, scabby and malodorous." After the Civil War Yale decided to raze all its old Georgian architecture and redevelop the West side of the Green with larger and more modern buildings. But by the 90's the Colonial Revival was beginning and before Connecticut Hall could be demolished, a group of alumni organized to save and restore it.

Once again Connecticut Hall received a new roof and became part of a new campus plan. The dark paint was scraped off the window frames and the gambrel roof that Trumbull had removed was replaced. Another major operation followed fifty years later in 1952-54, when the interior was entirely gutted and a new set of modern rooms was built inside the brick shell. The building remains in that form today, housing faculty, seminar and freshman reading rooms.

Boundary Description

Connecticut Hall, approximately 100 feet long and 40 feet wide is situated on the Old Campus of Yale University, about 185 feet from Chapel Street to the south and 140 feet from College Street to the east. The building is surrounded by other university buildings on the east, south and west and the north end faces the Green.

The landmark boundary for Connecticut Hall is the sidewalk that runs parallel to the building on every side, thus including the building and a small margin of lawn and shrubbery, as indicated in red on the tax assessment map of the City of New Haven, included with this report.

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References: (1) Connecticut Hall, Yale University

Chamberlain, Samuel, and French Robert D. The Yale Scene. New Haven, 1950.

Garven, Anthony N. B. Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut. New Haven, 1951.

Kelly, J. Frederick. Connecticut's Old Houses. Stonington, Conn., 1963.

Klauder, Charles Z., and Wise, Herbert C. College Architecture in America. New York, 1929.

Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture. New York, 1952.

Historic American Buildings Survey Report, HABS No. 3-5, "Connecticut Hall, Yale University." Measured drawings and description prepared under the supervision of Harold H. Davis, 1936.

Yale University. Pamphlet prepared for the dedication ceremony for the national historic landmark, April 1964.

