

HARTFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 State Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Apartment at 49-51 Spring Street Historic: Asylum Hall Women's Club
2. TOWN CITY: Hartford VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Hartford
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 49-51 Spring Street
4. OWNER(S): Merritt Baldwin/ 1 Myrtle Street, Hartford CT 06105 PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Apartments Historic: Apartments
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road yes ___ no
Interior accessible: ___ yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Richardsonian Romanesque DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1890
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 ___ clapboard ___ asbestos siding brick
 ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
 ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
 ___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type: _____ ___ cut stone: type: _____
 other: Quarry-faced brownstone foundations, sills, door framing
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 ___ wood frame: ___ post and beam ___ balloon
 load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
 ___ other: _____
10. ROOF: type:
 ___ gable flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
 ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other _____
 material:
 ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
 ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: _____
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Front entrance door replaced
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: Blacktopped parking lot, adjacent to S wall
 ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 ___ open land ___ woodland residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial ___ industrial ___ rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 Interstate 84 runs by the house approx. 500 yards to east, 6-story office building opposite on east side of Spring Street, vacant lot north, 3-story, c. 1885 apartment building (70-11 Spring) next door to south. 49-51 stands approx. 30' back from

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

49-51 Spring Street is a 3-story, brick apartment building built c. 1890. An attractive structure set on a raised, 1/2-story basement of quarry-faced brownstone, 49 Spring Street is a good local interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The central entrance of the building is its most-developed Richardsonian feature. A Syrian arch of ashlar brownstone frames the door and is supported by stubby, clustered colonettes with carved, ivy capitals. Unfortunately, the original door has been removed and replaced with an inappropriate modern door. The Syrian arch, clustered colonettes, and the use of stone in combination with a different building material, in this instance,

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

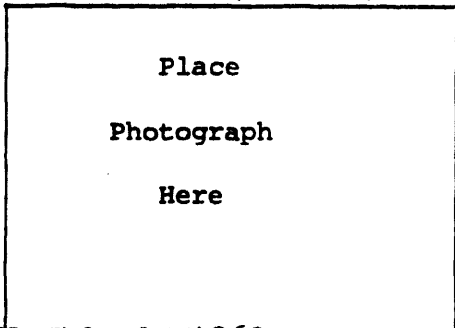
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

49-51 Spring Street is architecturally significant as a simple yet well-executed and identifiable local interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. H.H. Richardson's Cheney Building of 1875-6 several blocks east of Spring Street on Main Street in Hartford provided the resource of one of Richardson's own works to which local builders could turn for inspiration. Certainly no rival of the Cheney Building, 49-51 Spring Street does illustrate the way such a masterwork became, through derivation and imitation, a part of the builder's idiom. At the time of the apartment block's construction, Richardson's work was still fashionable and the use of Richardsonian detailing was a move to be stylish and up-to-date. With its earlier neighbor immediately south, 39-41 Spring, 49-51 was one of the more substantial and elegant residential blocks on Spring Street, the two being the only free-standing structures, as well as the largest, at that end of the street, the remainder of which was built up with smaller rowhouses; several large homes were located north on Spring Street towards Garden Street.

(con't.)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Sarah Zimmerman
date: June 1979 view: _____
negative on file: CT Historical Commission



COMPILED BY:

name: Sarah Zimmerman date: June 1979
organization: Hartford Architecture Conservancy
address: 65 Wethersfield Avenue Hartford CT

19. SOURCES:

Baker and Tilden, Atlas of Hartford City and County, Hartford, 1869.
Geer's City Directories for Hartford, various years.
L.J.Richards and Company, Atlas for the City of Hartford, Springfield, 1896, 1909, 1917.

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____

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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: _____

17. (con't.)

brownstone with brick, are all distinctive elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque. In its other aspects of plan, construction and detailing, the apartment block is less an exponent of one particular style than it is a pragmatic and functional urban, residential structure with a dash of decoration for consumer appeal. It is, nevertheless, attractive and well-organized. A simple block, 49 Spring, as first built, was probably intended as a six-unit structure, with two apartments per floor, either side of the central entry and stairwell. An almost universal late 19th- and early 20th-century apartment plan, this configuration is reflected in the two shallowly-projecting bays at either side of the facade on the first and second stories: these three-window bays provide light for the main living rooms of each apartment. On the third floor, the bays are flat and topped with round arches; the center, stairwell window is also topped with a round arch. The remaining ornament is at the cornice, which extends above the roofline. It is flat, with corbelled parapets at intervals across the facade and a raised escutcheon in the center.

18. (con't.)

Historically, 49-51 shares a common lot and owner with 39-41. Both were built on the rear of Robert Allyn's house-lot, on which Allyn's house was located. Allyn, and his son, Robert J., were proprietors of the Allyn House, a 300-bed hotel nearby at the corner of Trumbull and Asylum Streets downtown in Hartford. Doubtless, the Allyns' management of experience with residential income properties played a role in the construction of two apartment blocks on their own house-lot. As the two properties are stylistically dissimilar (though in plan, they are near-twins, both being 6-unit, 3-story structures), and 39-41 is the elder, it seems certain that the Allyns had 39-41 constructed first and, then, some five or so years later, built the block at 49-51.