

PH 0000876

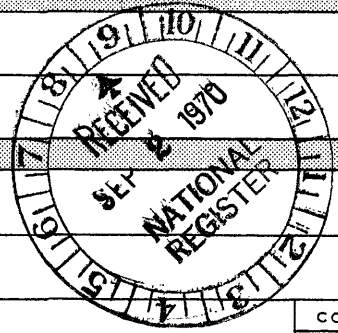
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 70110.09.0026	DATE 10/15/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
New London Custom House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
150 Bank 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Government—General Services Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
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:
1967

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

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: New London

ENTRY NUMBER: 70110.09.0026

DATE: 10/15/70

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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

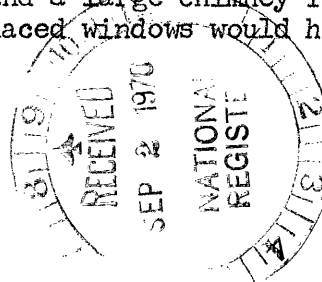
The United States Custom House is located on Bank Street on a rise above the waterfront in the section of New London where the great marine companies were located in the nineteenth century. It is built of light and dark gray granite. The building has a rectangular shape and houses three sotries of offices.

The three bay facade has as its focal point a porch of light colored granite with two plain Doric columns supporting a flat entablature, plain architrave, and a frieze separated from the architrave by a narrow stone filet. The door is studded with heavy iron nails. The corners of the building have massive pilasters composed of granite blocks which are lighter in color and more smoothly finished than those of the other parts of the building, and which ressemble the stone of the foundation and the porch. The granite blocks of which the building is constructed are laid in regular courses, continuing those of the facade around the side walls.

The windows are narrow and have twelve over twelve sash. These sit above light colored granite panels on the lower level of the facade, and at the upper level their sills continue into a belt course which girdles the building. This horizontal band is one of the most important design elements in the building. Its effect is to decrease the apparent size of the second story and to emphasize the vertical elements of the street level facade such as columns and the windows with their paneled bases.

Above the upper level of pilasters and windows a filet moulding continues around the cornice separating plain architrave from plain frieze and continuing out like eyebrows over the three windows of the top floor. The cornice consists of rectilinear mouldings separated by a sunk filet and topped by a blocking course.

In the back of the building a central arched basement opening forms an entrance for unloading trucks and a large chimney fills a space where one of the symetrically placed windows would have been, if the chimney was not necessary.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1833

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 | | | _____ |

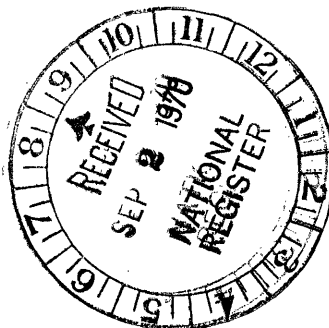
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1833 when the government decided to build a custom house in New London plans were prepared by Robert Mills, then a government engineer and architect. Mills was an important nineteenth century architect, and the building which he designed is a fine, simple, dignified building, typical of many U.S. government buildings of the period and eminently worthy of preservation.

Some of the interesting features of the building are the flying stairway in the interior which is beautiful, and the door which has a strong historic association, for it was once a part of the Frigate Constitution. The granite for the building came from the historically interesting Millstone Quarry.

In 1955, the New London County Historical Society enlisted the aid of its congressmen and the General Services Administration to repair and clean the building in time for an observance of the centennial of the death of Mills. In 1961 the possibility arose that the Custom House was to be sold, and the office moved. To counteract this possibility the local historical society prepared at the request of the General Services Administration proof of the economic as well as the historic value of the building. As a result the building was retained for Federal use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brochure "The New London County Historical Society observes the death of Robert Mills 1781 - 1855 and the recent cleaning of the New London Custom House, An example of his Federal architecture" June 26, 1955.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America.
London: Oxford University Press, 1944.

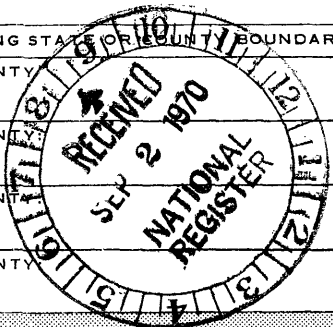
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 21' 08"	72° 05' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: August 18, 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 August 18, 1970

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date OCT 15 1970

Date _____

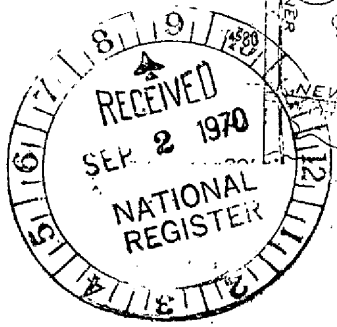
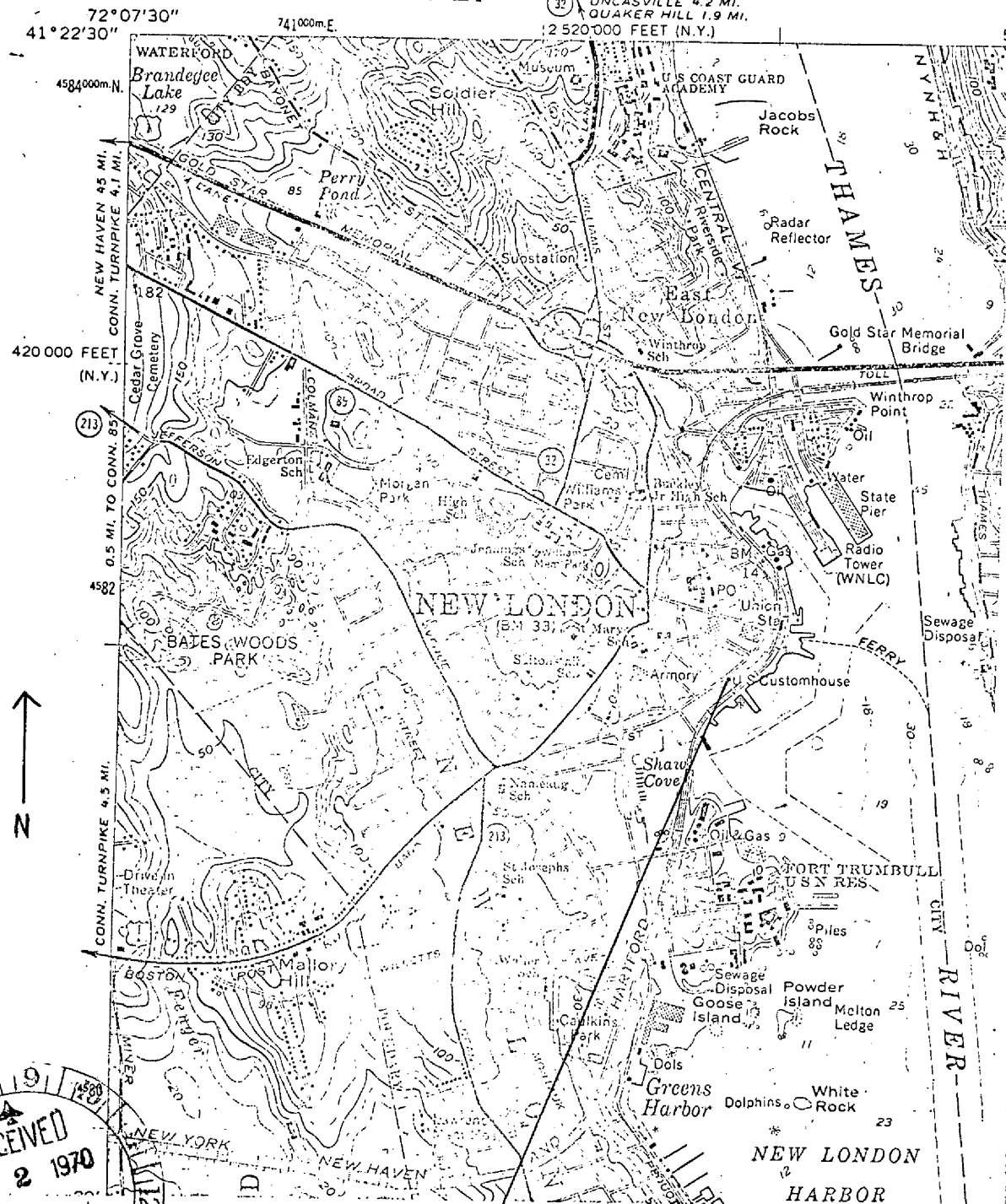
ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register
Date SEP 25 1970

Date _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(32) UNCASVILLE 4.2 MI.
QUAKER HILL 1.9 MI.
12 520 000 FEET (N.Y.)



U.S. Customhouse
Latitude 41° 21' 08"
Longitude 72° 05' 46"