

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 29 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 20 1978

# 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 Williams Memorial Institute

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 110 Broad Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN New London VICINITY OF 2nd - Christopher Dodd  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY New London CODE 011

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of New London

STREET & NUMBER 181 State Street

CITY, TOWN New London VICINITY OF CT STATE CT

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New London City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER 181 State Street

CITY, TOWN New London STATE CT

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE CT

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## 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 Williams Memorial Institute sits upon a knoll in the middle of its spacious lot. There are a few trees on the southeast side, but most of the lot is lawn, separated from the sidewalk by a low granite wall. To the rear of the building is a parking lot, slightly lower and demarcated by a retaining wall. To the northwest is a driveway and beyond that a two-story brick 20th-century building, which, along with an Italianate residence some distance away, later became part of the Institute property.

The building is in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and was completed in 1891. It is T-shaped in plan, 2½ stories high, and has a hipped roof of rectangular slate shingles. The walls are a coursed ashlar of rough-faced Stony Creek granite with brownstone trim around door and window openings. To the rear is a large hipped-roofed ell to which is appended a slightly lower gable-roofed projection. In the rear wall of this small extension and at the points where the walls of the ell meet the main building are tall, simple chimneys, three in all, built of granite with brownstone banding.

The main entrance is on the northeast side and is contained within a porch formed by a three-part arched opening. Above this is a gable-roofed wall dormer, and on either side is a round, conical-roofed turret set into the wall. The arches of the porch are supported on clusters of squat columns with leafy carved cushion capitals. The arches are outlined with a smooth rounded molding, a band of rough brownstone, and a band of floriated carving. There are faces carved into some of the capitals and the molding. Above the entrance is another group of three arches on columns, tall windows which rise higher than other second-story openings. In front of this group is a balcony of stone balusters. Above in the gable are three small rectangular lights and in the very peak, a seal surrounded by a checkerboard pattern.

The side facades are less complex, with wide doors recessed within single round openings and smaller gabled dormers centered above. Like the turrets in front, these dormers have knobby, fleur-de-lis finials.

Except for the round-arched windows in the end gables and those on the upper story of the turrets, the window openings are straight-topped and mostly paired. Those on the first story are divided in two by a stone transom which, like the lintels and sills of both tiers, is extended into a continuous brownstone band. The corners of the window openings are quoined with brownstone and in addition, they have smooth engaged columns with a variety of Romanesque capitals. Similar geometric and floral motifs are found in the copper rainspouts.

The interior was simply finished with a dado of narrow oak boards and plastered walls. In the first-floor south room are cast-iron columns with medieval capitals; recent renovation has revealed that they carry steel beams. In the main building, the attic story is one large room, partially lighted by skylights, and the walls are completely covered with the narrow boards. The building is being renovated for use as a judicial facility, with courtrooms and judges' chambers. The classroom space is being partitioned off and stairways have been relocated, but exterior changes are minimal and most of the interior woodwork is still intact.

# 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 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			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891 - built

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Williams Memorial Institute is significant as an example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. It is typical of the many public and institutional buildings in this style, popular around 1890 and modelled after the work of H.H. Richardson. The building's architects, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, were the successors to Richardson's practice and included his son-in-law.<sup>1</sup>

The Institute is a catalog of the style - a sense of massiveness, simplicity of form, a broad roof plane, rough-surfaced stone in contrasting colors, round-arched openings in groups of three, deeply recessed windows and doors, and medieval details, such as the fat colonnettes, the sculptured faces, and the well-executed geometric and floral motifs carved into the capitals and bands of molding. Somewhat unusual is the large amount of window surface. The darker trim around the openings, the horizontal banding, and the breaks in the main facade formed by the turrets are devices which allowed this functional adaptation, even though the style usually called for a limited number of small openings.

The Williams Memorial Institute was a girls' secondary school. Established by the will of a wealthy New London widow, the school opened in 1891 and could accommodate 300 students. Although legally a private school, the Institute served for many years as New London's high school for girls, for whom the city paid the \$ 5 general fee. The building was a source of pride to the school, especially its large, airy classrooms and the open third floor, a room for Physical Culture. intended, according to an early catalog, to "assist symmetrical physical development."

<sup>1</sup>The Institute offers an informative comparison with another New London building, the Union Station designed by Richardson himself. Although the two buildings are of similar size and shape, the station is much simpler and more brooding. Its effect is almost entirely the product of shape and massing, and ornament is limited to patterns in the brick and some very small scale carving. As a popular style, Richardsonian Romanesque was more successful in imitating the decorative vocabulary of Richardson than his sense of form and proportion. In this sense, the style falls in the revivalist/picturesque mainstream of Victorian architecture.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams Memorial Institute, Catalogue, 1891, copy in library of Williams School, New London.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 3/4  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This building is part of a larger redevelopment project which includes two other nearby structures. Its eventual disposal as a separate parcel, as well as an appropriate historical division, indicates the following boundaries for the historical property: northeast by Broad Street, southeast by Brainard Street, southwest by the retaining wall in the parking lot, and then northerly to the driveway which forms the northwest boundary.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE 3 February 1977

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Propsect Street TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford STATE CT

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL   x  

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*  
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, Connecticut Historical Commission DATE August 29, 1977

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	DATE <u>1 30 78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>1-29-78</u>