

PH0021113

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 70.12.09.0046	DATE 12/29/70



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Shaw Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
11 Blinman Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New London

STATE Connecticut	CODE 06320	COUNTY: New London	CODE 011
----------------------	---------------	-----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
New London County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
11 Blinman St.

CITY OR TOWN: New London	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: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey (CONN-210)  
(2) Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: (2) 1967  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: (1) Library of Congress  
(2) Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: (1)  
(2) 75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: (1) Washington (2) Hartford	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 06
--	-----------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut  
COUNTY: New London  
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.12.09.0046  
DATE: 12/29/70  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally situated on the Boston Post Road and on the eighteenth century New London Waterfront, the house was three stories of granite with unfinished cellar, two end chimneys, a small attic, and a three story wooden annex. In 1840 a granite annex replaced the wooden one (burned in 1781), a full-front one story portico was added and balustrades along the edges of the roofs of both annex and the main house. At this time also the interiors were plastered and papered.

The house has a Georgian central plan with central first and second floor halls with rooms to each side. However, the symmetrical plan of the house is centered slightly to one side of the structure, there being three windows to one side of the front door and two to the other. The main facade has the original thirteen Portland brown stone steps and wrought iron railings and fence of unknown vintage. The front hall is in two sections with a back door directly opposite the front door, opening onto a garden. The staircase is in two flights with an upstairs hall lighted by a large double window overlooking the garden and an unbroken mahogany banister with an "S" curve newel post. In the first floor there are evidences of Georgian paneling, which has been plastered over.<sup>1</sup>

On a knoll in the center of the rear garden is a charming gazebo, from which there was a fine prospect of the town. The New London Garden Club has restored the gardens to their original form, and memorial plantings have been contributed.

<sup>1</sup>This description has been taken in most part directly from the HABS Survey Form CONN-210, recorded by Philip Saunders, Jr. January, 1956.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

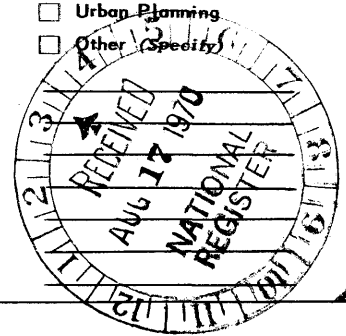
- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. 1756

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building has architectural importance as an example of an eighteenth century mansion and social interest as the home of a wealthy merchant. However its primary significance is historical for it was the location of Connecticut's naval office during the Revolutionary War. The Naval Office was located

at the home of Captain Nathaniel Shaw ...his son ...having been appointed Naval Agent successfully accomplished the enormous task of providing ships, provisions, arms and money for the troops.

Captain Shaw, who came to New London about 1722, started a career sailing vessels from this port. He soon became a master and owner, and his successful ventures enabled him to establish a lucrative mercantile business. In January 1756 a ship load of dispossessed Acadians from Nova Scotia reached the port and Captain Shaw helped with rehabilitation by engaging thirty-five of them to quarry stone from his land and build his house.

When Benedict Arnold burned New London in 1781, a portion of the building was destroyed, but most of it was saved by the prompt action of the neighbors....

Members of the Shaw family owned the property until 1907, when it was purchased by the New London County Historical Society. Numerous pieces of furniture owned by the Shaws, as well as silver, china and books are on display. There is also a superb collection of letters and manuscripts. The room that was once occupied by General George Washington is maintained as a memorial.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H.F. Randolph Mason, Historic Houses of Connecticut. Stonington, Conn.: The Pequot Press, Inc., 1966, p. 51.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

H.F. Randolph Mason, Historic Houses of Connecticut. Stonington: The Pequot Press, Inc., 1966.

Historic American Buildings Survey, CONN-210.

Florence S. Marcy Crofut, Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937.

Old Houses of Connecticut, ed. Bertha Chadwick Trowbridge. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923.

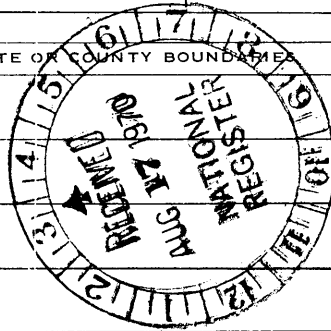
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41	21	02
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72	06	06
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: July 14, 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: July 14, 1970

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**DEC 29 1970**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **NOV 27 1970**