NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)		O	MB No. 1024-0018
United States Department National Park Service	of the Interior		
NATIONAL REGISTER C REGISTRATION FORM	OF HISTORIC PLAC). Es	
1. Name of Property			
historic name:			
other name/site number:	N/A		
2. Location			
street & number: <u>185 Br</u>	oad Street		
city/town:Killin	gly		publication: <u>N/A</u> : _Danielson
state: <u>CT</u> county: <u>Win</u>	dham	code: <u>015</u>	zip code: <u>06239</u>
3. Classification Ownership of Property:	public-local		
Category of Property:	building		
Number of Resources with	in Property:		
Contributing N	oncontributing		
	buildings sites structures objects Total		
Number of contributing r Register: <u>0</u>	esources previously	y listed in the	e National
Name of related multiple	property listing:	N/A	

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

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	ederal Agency Certifica			
As the des of 1986, a request for standards Historic E set forth does	signated authority under as amended, I hereby cer or determination of elig for registering propert places and meets the pro in 36 CFR Part 60. In not meet the National R of certifying official	the Nation tify that t ibility mee ies in the cedural and my opinion, egister Cri	his <u>X</u> nominati ts the documentat National Register professional reg the property <u>X</u> teria. <u>See c</u> February 20,	rvation Act on ion of uirements meets ont. sheet.
	, Connecticut Historical Com	mission	Date	
State or F	ederal agency and burea	u		
	ion, the property riteria See conti			National
Signature	of commenting or other	official	Date	
State or F	ederal agency and burea	u		
I, hereby enter deter Nati deter Nati remov	ed in the National Register See continuation sheet. mined eligible for the onal Register See continuation sheet. mined not eligible for onal Register ed from the National Re	rty is: ster the gister	Velous Byen	3/26/92
			gnature of Keeper	Date of Action
6. Functio	n or Use			======
Historic:	EDUCATION		school	
Current:	RECREATION AND CULTURE	Sub:	other: activity	center

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

7. Description Architectural Classification: Renaissance Colonial Revival Other Description: <u>N/A</u> Materials: foundation <u>LIMESTONE</u> roof <u>SLATE</u> walls BRICK other CONCRETE LIMESTONE BRICK Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet. 8. Statement of Significance Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <u>local</u>. Applicable National Register Criteria: <u>A,C</u> Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____ Areas of Significance: EDUCATION ARCHITECTURE Period(s) of Significance: <u>1908-1927</u> Significant Dates: 1908, 1927 Significant Person(s): N/A Cultural Affiliation: <u>N/A</u> Architect/Builder: Hartwell, Richardson & Driver, architects A. Fales & Sons Company, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References	
<u>X</u> See continuation sheet.	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
 preliminary determination of individual listi requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the Nationa designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Surve recorded by Historic American Engineering Rec 	l Register Y #
Primary Location of Additional Data:	
Other state agency 59 So	cticut Historical Commission uth Prospect Street ord, CT 06106
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property: <u>approx. 3/4 acres</u>	
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Ea	sting Northing
A <u>19 260280 4631800</u> B C D	
See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description: See continuat The nominated property includes the parc Map 100-4 in the records of the Killingl Broad Street.	el shown as Lot 16, Block 8,
Boundary Justification: See continuation s The boundary includes the entire histori school.	
11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, Nation	al Register Coordinator
Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth	
Organization: <u>Historic Resource Consultants</u>	
Street & Number: <u>55 Van Dyke Avenue</u>	Telephone: _203-547-0268_
City or Town: <u>Hartford</u>	State: <u>CT</u> ZIP: <u>06106</u>

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Old Killingly High School	7-1
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

The Old Killingly High School in Danielson, Connecticut (Town of Killingly), is a large two-story, hip-roofed brick building constructed in 1908 and enlarged with two end additions in 1927 (Photographs 1 and 2). The older center portion measures 60' by 100' in The side wings, each 50' by 95' in plan, extend beyond the plan. center portion at the rear (Photograph 3). The high school occupies a small corner lot in a densely built residential neighborhood of large Victorian-period and early 20th-century homes. The school is set back about 50' from Broad Street. Tall deciduous trees near the sidewalk shade much of the front lawn, which is landscaped with a circular walkway leading to the two entrances and a transverse walkway close to the school leading to the Cottage Street sidewalk. There are no playing fields adjacent to the building. Throughout its use as a school, students used other town facilties for outdoor activities.

The east elevation of the center portion is divided by brick piers into seven bays, with two identical entrances in the bays second from the Between the piers are tall small-pane wooden windows, the lower ends. sash of which pivot to open. The entrances (Photograph 4) are recessed within shallow porches; they feature double wood and glass doors, granite steps, a bold cyma molding following the outline of the shallow-arched opening, and a large paneled keystone. The entries have a stylized Classical parapet with a pediment in the center flanked by end blocks decorated with large guttae. These details are executed in Other limestone trim includes a stringcourse above the high limestone. basement story, window sills, molded capitals on the piers (Photograph 5), and a tablet inscribed "Killingly High School" centered on the second story. Brick ornamental effects include dentils below the window sills, recessed courses creating a rusticated effect on the piers and at the corners, soldier-course jack-arch lintels above the windows, and panels with diamond-shaped designs on either side of the name tablet. The brickwork is common bond with Flemish variation. The building's widely projecting cornice (Photograph 5) features sheetmetal mutules; the cornice moldings incorporate a rain gutter, currently connected to modern drainpipes. Four large brick chimneys emerge from the center portion's roof.

The end additions each have a wide portion that projects about 4' beyond the plane of the facade and a narrower end bay treated as a single tall arched window. The projecting portions have a band of four windows on each story and a hip roof that intersects the main roof. The end-bay windows (Photograph 6) have wrought-iron balconies at the first-story level, a panel with a single festoon in low relief above the first-story sash, and small keystones above the radially glazed

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Old Killingly High School	7-2
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

arched heads. The other decorative details of the additions match those on the original portion of the building, except that in place of limestone, the trim is a cast concrete-based material. The side elevations of the added wings are slightly different, reflecting the fact that the south wing accommodated an auditorium and front stairwell leading to a side entrance (Photograph 1), whereas the north wing accommodated classrooms, with the stairwell at the rear.

The interior of the school features long transverse corridors on each floor. Classrooms (Photograph 7) have plaster walls, hardwood floors, extensive blackboard areas and, in the older part of the school, built-The corridors (Photograph 8) have dropped ceilings and in cupboards. modern classroom doors, but the original hardwood floors, chair rail, baseboard, and molded door surrounds remain; in the first-floor corridor a large marble plaque inscribed in Latin marks the location of a memorial water fountain, the plumbing and fixtures for which are no longer in place. Firedoors and wire-glass partitions separate the corridors from the stairwells, which have exposed brick walls and steel Notable interior spaces include a small cafeteria stairs and railings. in the north wing and, in the south wing, a gymnasium in the basement and an auditorium (Photograph 9) occupying the top two stories. The auditorium has a small stage and is plainly finished except for simple two-story pilasters and, in the balcony along the east wall, theater seats with special end castings featuring the school's monogram (Photograph 10).

The building served as Killingly's high school from 1908 to 1965, and its junior high school from 1966 to 1990. Currently it is administered by the Killingly Recreation Department, which uses it as a facility for its programs.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Old Killingly High School 7-3 Killingly, Windham County, CT

SKETCH PLAN OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:



100 150 feet O 50

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Old Killingly High School	8-1
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

Summary

The Old Killingly High School is significant both architecturally and historically as a well-preserved example of early 20th-century school construction. Many features of the building, such as the tall, wide windows, brick construction, and steel stairs, directly embody the educational ideas of the early 20th century, when fresh air, light, and fire safety became paramount in the design of school buildings. The school's stylish exterior, combining Renaissance and Colonial Revival elements, is also representative of the school architecture of that period and was intended to convey a sense of culture, dignity, and serious purpose. The architects were the well-known Boston firm of Hartwell, Richardson and Driver. The building is also important because it symbolizes a period of growth and prosperity in Killingly's history. In the early 20th century, Killingly had a thriving economy based upon textile production and related enterprises, as well as a strong commercial base in Danielson, which served as the business center for the surrounding mill villages and farms. The High School, built in 1908 and enlarged in 1927, was the largest of several public buildings erected in this period of growth. Finally, the building is important as a community landmark. Open for more than 80 years, the school saw generations of Killingly residents pass through its doors, first as the high school and then as a junior high school.

Significance in Educational History

In the early years of the 20th century, a number of factors converged to create a heightened awareness of the importance of school design. Frustration with inadequate 19th-century schools, the pressing need to build new schools to cope with a burgeoning urban population, and a belief that improvements in the environment could result in social change led to a distinctive type of school building. Killingly High School is typical of these Progressive-Era schools. It replaced an older wooden high school building that had become so crowded that the belfry atop the roof had been converted into a classroom. The new high school building provided students from Killingly and other area towns with large classrooms, broad corridors suitable for changing classes (a system just then coming into common use), and built-in storage for supplies and apparatus. The building was made as fireproof as possible through the use of brick construction, steel stairs isolated in stairwells that were totally devoid of combustible material, and doors that all opened outward. The building was also designed to admit as much light and fresh air as possible, and thus the window

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Old Killingly High School	8-2
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

space was especially generous. Although the registers are now blocked up, the classrooms appear to have had air ducts leading to the large chimneys, which typically were designed to carry away hot air in warm weather and provide heated fresh air in winter. The building committee specifically cited these advantages in its final report:

The building . . . should mark the beginning of a new era of usefulness and prosperity. The matter of ventilation and lighting has received special attention, as it is believed that the success with which these features are treated has an important bearing on the health of the pupils, and furthermore that the same individuals will do at least ten per cent. better work in a perfectly lighted room, well supplied with pure air, than in one indifferently provided for in these respects (Town of Killingly, <u>Report</u>, 1907, p. 117).

The rapidly increasing high school population that led to the construction of the school (the enrollment went from 138 in 1906 to 180 just two years later) continued in the 1910s and 1920s. Some of the building committee's original ideas had been shelved when townspeople would not increase the \$50,000 they authorized in 1905. As a consequence, a projected third story was left off the building, as were several unspecified amenities. These shortfalls were addressed in 1925 when \$150,000 was appropriated to double the size of the building. The new space provided additional classrooms, specialized instruction areas such as science laboratories and a home economics room, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and an auditorium. When the additions were completed in 1928, Killingly High School became complete, offering all the varied curricula and physical facilities expected of a modern high school in With few changes beyond sprinklers and better lighting, the 1927. building served its intended purpose until 1965, when the town built a new high school and moved its junior-high grades into the building. After another 20 years serving the children of Killingly and surrounding towns (even Foster, Rhode Island, sent its students here at one time), the building is now being adapted for other activities.

The new high school was one of several improvements undertaken in Killingly in the early years of the 20th century. Buoyed by commercial and industrial prosperity, townspeople in this period erected substantial buildings for a public library and for Danielson's fire headquarters, and Davis Park and other public spaces received renewed attention. Danielson, at one time a separately incorporated borough, was by far the largest settlement in the town and thus the natural choice for locating improvements such as these.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Old Killingly High School	8-3
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

<u>Architecture</u>

Stylish architecture was an integral component of the Progressive-Era school building. The elaborate cornice, the Classically detailed entries, and the extensive brick and limestone ornamental effects symbolized the serious educational purpose of the building. It also testified to the importance that Killingly residents accorded education. Like many schools of the period, Killingly High School does not easily fit into a particular historical style, though the overall massing of the building, the relatively flat pitch to the roof, and the prominent cornice suggest that Renaissance precedents were uppermost in the minds of the architects.

Hartwell, Richardson and Driver was a Boston firm with a large practice designing schools and other public buildings. The leading authority on the firm's work characterizes its buildings as "neither forward in style nor innovative in interior planning . . . [but] comfortably upto-date." (Vogel, p. 132) Henry W. Hartwell (1833-1919) served an apprenticeship in a Boston architectural office before starting his own firm in 1856. Little is known of Hartwell's work until he obtained commissions for several public buildings in Boston-area towns during the mid-1870s. William C. Richardson (1854-1935), a graduate of the M.I.T. architectural program, joined Hartwell in 1881 to help with the design of the Milton, Massachusetts, Town Hall. Though no relation to H.H. Richardson, the new partner capitalized on the popularity of the more famous architect's work, and during the 1880s the firm of Hartwell and Richardson turned out a spate of Shingle-style residences and Romanesque-influenced public and commercial buildings that aped the forms, materials and details commonly associated with their eminent competitor. Vogel found it "interesting to speculate but impossible to document" (p. 146) whether the similarity in names contributed to the success of Hartwell and Richardson, although it is intriguing to note that William Richardson named his son Hadwin Houghton. James Driver (1859-1923), an English-trained draftsman who began working for the firm in the early 1890s, was admitted to the partnership in 1895. During this period and until the retirement of the principals in the 1920s, the firm concentrated its efforts on public buildings. "Above all," wrote Vogel (p. 146), "the firm built a large number of staid public and normal schools." The Old Killingly High School fits chronologically and stylistically into this period of the firm's history.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Old Killingly High School	8-4
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

The 1927 additions seamlessly continued the original architectural detailing of the building, except that the arched end windows introduced a Colonial Revival element into the mixture of Classical and Renaissance-derived features found on the original school. The additions were planned by William T. Towner of School Plan Service Bureau, Inc. Plainfield, the next town south of Killingly, had completed a high school designed by School Plan just three years earlier, which was perhaps a factor in Killingly's seeking their services. NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Bibliography	Old Killingly High School	9-1
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Aero-view of Danielson. Bird's-eye view. Boston, 1913.

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- Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. Insurance maps of Danielson, 1911, 1927.
- Weaver, Margaret. Miles of Millstreams. Killingly, 1976.
- Vogel, Susan Maycock. "Hartwell and Richardson: An Introduction to Their Work," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 32,2(May 1973):132-146.

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Withey, Henry F. <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects</u> (Deceased). Los Angeles, 1956. NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs	Old Killingly High School	Photos-1
	Killingly, Windham County, CT	

All photographs:

 Old Killingly High School
 Killingly, Windham County, CT
 Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
 June, 1991
 Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission Hartford, CT

Captions:

South and east (facade) elevations, camera facing northwest Photograph 1 of 10

East elevation, camera facing southwest Photograph 2 of 10

West (rear) elevation, camera facing southeast Photograph 3 of 10

Detail of south entrance, east elevation, camera facing west Photograph 4 of 10

Detail of cornice, east elevation, camera facing southwest Photograph 5 of 10

Detail of south end-bay window, east elevation, camera facing west Photograph 6 of 10

Typical classroom, first floor, west side, camera facing southeast Photograph 7 of 10

Typical corridor, first floor, camera facing north Photograph 8 of 10

Auditorium, south wing, camera facing southwest Photograph 9 of 10

Detail of balcony seats, auditorium, camera facing north Photograph 10 of 10