

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 93000210**

**Date Listed: 4/2/93**

Eno Memorial Hall  
Property Name

Hartford  
County

CT  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

4/6/93  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Period of Significance:**

The period of significance cannot predate the resource being nominated. The period should therefore be 1932, reflecting the date of construction and the point at which Ms. Wood's significant benevolent and philanthropic efforts reached their fruition.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan of the Connecticut SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 23 1993

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
other names/site number Eno Memorial Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 754 Hopmeadow Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Simsbury N/A vicinity  
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06070

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b> <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<b>Category of Property</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings	_____	_____	sites	_____	_____	structures	_____	<u>1</u>	objects	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total
Contributing	Noncontributing																			
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings																		
_____	_____	sites																		
_____	_____	structures																		
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<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total																		

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

February 18, 1993

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 4/2/93  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/town hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival/Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

marble

roof asphalt shingle

other limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Eno Memorial Hall is a classically inspired Colonial Revival-style building located on the east side of Hopmeadow Street in the center of the Town of Simsbury (Photograph #1). It is set well back from the street and framed by mature trees. An elevated stone terrace, centrally located in front of the building, is bordered by a marble balustrade. The town's war memorial is located to the front and left of the building in a small park-like setting.

Essentially unchanged since its construction in 1931-32, Eno Memorial Hall is built of brick, detailed in marble and limestone with a marble-veneer watertable. It has a symmetrical plan with a two-story hipped and gabled center main block, flanked by two narrow projecting one-story wings (Exhibit A). The wings have near-flat roofs with brick parapets above a projecting cornice, which displays inset marble panels with swags in each bay (Photograph #2). A similar parapet is found on the long (92-foot) two-story auditorium wing, which projects from the rear of the main block (Photograph #s 3, 4, 5). There, the cornice caps the edge of the parapet but the stone panels are repeated. A one-story boiler room at the rear completes this wing.

A two-story pedimented colonnade is located at the center of the facade. It projects from a shallow gabled pavilion, which is differentiated from the facade wall by brick quoins. The full pediment of the colonnade is elaborated by a foliated pattern with a central medallion, highlighted in gold leaf, and is supported by tall columns of the Corinthian order. The colonnade shelters the main doorway, which has an arched surround entirely constructed of marble. Modillions and a dentil course define the entablature of this arch and the capitals of the flanking Corinthian pilasters, a pattern repeated entirely around the cornice of the main block and the auditorium wing. The recess for the double-leaf door and transom is framed by a carved, shouldered surround and is capped by a broken scrolled pediment, which terminates in rosettes.

The main block is surmounted by a pilastered, three-stage clock tower capped by a gilded dome. Each face of the first stage displays a narrow multi-paned window capped by a fanlight. The second stage has a clock face on all sides. Four end chimneys of brick also project from the main roof.

The fenestration of the building is generally detailed in the classical manner. The first-floor windows of the main block and the flanking wings have limestone sills and lintels, the latter decorated with Greek frets, and contain 15-over-15 sash. At the

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Eno Memorial Hall, Simsbury, Connecticut

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second floor of the main block the windows have 12-over-12 sash. Taller multiple-paned sash used in the auditorium wing are surmounted by fanlights with keystones. Those lighting the stairwells at the rear corners of the main block are detailed with tracery rather than radial muntins. Just behind the projecting wings on the side elevations of the main block are identical secondary entrances sheltered by pedimented porticos (Photograph #6). Pedimented doorways are also found in the last rear bays of the side elevations of the auditorium, set within blind arched bays.

The interior of the main block is classically detailed and utilizes polished marble floors and walls. It is organized around a two-story rotunda with a domed ceiling (Photograph #7). Paired Doric columns of black polished marble, connected by a metal railing, support the dome at the second level. Black marble also is used for the four classical doorway surrounds on the first level: inside the main entrance, the auditorium, and the two that open onto the connecting corridors (Photograph #8). The plastered ceiling of the dome has recessed panels elaborated with gilded starbursts and a frieze with a continuous applied foliated pattern. The star motif is repeated in black marble insets in the rotunda floor and the corridors. Other features include the matching suspended staircases, which have delicate metal balustrades detailed with brass railings and brass finials on the balusters.

The auditorium, which seats 600, has a shallow barrel-vaulted ceiling (Photograph #9). The main floor is level and ramped under the balcony. Decorative features include a continuous ceiling cornice with modillions and a large shell centered over the raised stage at the east end of the room. Under the balcony at the west end are two pedimented side exits, supported by consoles, similar to those on either side of the stage. There is a recessed colonnaded section in the middle for the main entrance to the room, which has an arched pediment, also supported by consoles (Photograph #10).

Rooms in the flanking wings are more Colonial Revival in their detailing and contain fireplaces with Federal, Greek Revival, or Colonial surrounds and utilize wood panelled walls or wainscot (Photograph #11). Windows there are set within panelled recesses.

The only changes to the building since its construction have been the addition of an access ramp and elevators, the removal of the town vaults, and the renovation of the auditorium.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c. 1880 - 1930

Significant Dates

1932

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Wood, Antoinette Eno

Architect/Builder

Roy D. Bassette

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

A bequest to the Town of Simsbury in 1930 from one of its most philanthropic citizens, Antoinette Eno Wood, the Eno Memorial Hall is an exceptionally fine example of institutional Colonial Revival style. Designed by Roy D. Bassette of Smith and Bassette, a Hartford architectural firm, it is distinguished by its almost perfect state of preservation, the unity of its design, the variety and level of its classical detail, and its elaborate finishes.

### Historical Significance

Antoinette Eno Wood (1842-1930) was the daughter of Amos Richards Eno (1810-1898) and Lucy Phelps (1818-1882). The Enos were descendants of early settlers in Windsor and Simsbury; the first was James Eno (Jacques Hennot), a French Huguenot who left France because of religious persecution and eventually settled in Windsor, Connecticut. Antoinette was born in New York City where her father, a native son of Simsbury, amassed a \$25 million fortune in real estate and banking. One of the founders of the Second National Bank in New York, he had a home on Fifth Avenue and also built the Fifth Avenue Hotel at the intersection with Broadway in 1859. His real estate investments included much of the land which later became known as Times Square and included the ownership of the landmark Flatiron Building. He was a major developer of the area around City Hall and invested in property in the uptown neighborhoods near Columbia University. Eno often summered in Simsbury, purchasing the home of his father-in-law, the Hon. Elisha Phelps, a U.S. Congressman, where he spent his later years. It was also a summer home for Antoinette and her youngest brother William; the latter later inherited the property.<sup>1</sup> Amos Eno's appreciation and love of Simsbury was expressed in several gifts to the town, including the public library and the town poor farm.

Antoinette Eno Wood was a member of the social elite, a self-made American aristocracy that developed in the late nineteenth century, a group trained from childhood to recognize its obligation to contribute to society. In her lifetime, she exemplified the role of Victorian women in this privileged social class. Although not yet concerned with political and economic equality for women, they were the precursors of the feminist movements of the twentieth century. Often well educated and widely travelled, they

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- American Architecture. Vol. 131, 1927.
- Architectural Record. Vol. 89, 1941.
- Barber, Lucius I. M. D. A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury. Simsbury, Connecticut: D.A.R., 1931.
- Crofut, Florence S. Marcy. Guide to the History and Historic Sites of Connecticut, Vol. I. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937.
- Montgomery, John A. Eno: The Man and The Foundation: A Chronicle of Transportation. Eno Foundation for Transportation, Inc., 1988.
- Richardson, Douglas C. "Eno and Enos Family in America: Desc. of James Eno of Windsor, Conn." Typescript, revised 1985.
- Vibert, William M. Three Centuries of Simsbury, 1670-1970. Simsbury, Connecticut: Simsbury Tercentenary Committee, Inc., 1970.
- Woollacot, Evan W. The Gavel and The Book: The Simsbury Town Meeting, 1670-1986. Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing, 1987.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Simsbury Genealogical Library; Simsbury Public Library; Yale University Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 1+

**UTM References**

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is described in the Simsbury Land Records, located in the Town Clerk's Office, Simsbury, Connecticut, in 69:76, 1930, being the same property which is identified on the Simsbury Tax Assessor's Map G-10/Block 206/Lot 2.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property described above encompass all the land still associated with Eno Memorial Hall, which are substantially the same as they were when the building was constructed.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By** Reviewed by John Herzan, Connecticut National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 7/15/92

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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occupied themselves with charitable works and maintaining and affirming their social position. A number were donors of town libraries or other public buildings. Ever conscious of their ancestral connection to colonial America, they were the founders of organizations such as the Colonial Dames or the Daughters of the American Revolution. Part and parcel of their reverence for their colonial ancestry was their active participation in historical societies and the Colonial Revival movement in architecture.

A prominent figure in Washington society for 60 years, Mrs. Wood maintained her winter home there in a Beaux Arts-style mansion on Rhode Island Avenue, returning each summer to Simsbury. Like all of her family she was also an international traveller and was presented at both the Court of St. James and at the Court of Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie.

Having life use of the Elisha Phelps House from her brother William Eno, Mrs. Wood extensively remodeled the house in the Colonial Revival manner around 1900 and renamed it "Eaglewood."<sup>2</sup> The firm of Frederick Law Olmsted was engaged to redesign and landscape the grounds. A reception was held there every Fourth of July, when the town turned out to welcome Mrs. Wood back to town and to celebrate the holiday. She provided a band concert and served refreshments. She also held teas and receptions for the townspeople in the old Bartlett Tower in Tariffville. A charter member of the Abigail Pettibone Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in Simsbury in 1893, Mrs. Wood served as its second regent from 1896 to 1902. The chapter was named for a Simsbury ancestor, her maternal great-grandmother.

Before her death in 1930 Mrs. Wood had discussed the need for a community hall with the town fathers and undoubtedly had approved preliminary plans drawn by her chosen architect, Roy D. Bassette. In keeping with the family tradition of philanthropy, her will contained a bequest of \$350,000 to design and construct Eno Memorial Hall to honor the memory of her parents. A \$75,000 endowment was provided for its maintenance. The bequest specified that the building be "constructed of red brick in the style of architecture generally known as Colonial and have a cupola or tower containing a clock."<sup>3</sup> Among the other bequests in her will were two \$20,000 scholarships at Yale University in memory of her husband and \$25,000 to the First Ecclesiastical Society in Simsbury for the relief of the poor.

An earlier Shingle-style casino was razed so that Eno Memorial Hall could be constructed. Completed in May 1932 and dedicated that year, it had both civic and social functions. As specified in the bequest, it was designed to house the town offices, with vaults for the land and probate records, the office of the superintendent of schools, and a courtroom. The auditorium, used for town meetings and elections, was also equipped with a motion picture booth and an orchestra pit. The D.A.R. had a chapter room in the building on the first floor of the south wing. The Simsbury Historical Society was provided with two display rooms and the Girl Scouts with an assembly room. There was also a banquet room and kitchen in the basement level.

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In 1982 the town remodeled the building for access, installed elevators, and renovated the auditorium. However, most of the official town functions had already moved elsewhere. The town offices had been transferred to the former Simsbury Bank and Trust Building in 1969 and the auditorium no longer had the capacity for the larger town meetings common in this period. By the end of 1983, the former Belden School had been renovated as the new town hall. Today Eno Memorial Hall serves primarily as a senior center and for activities sponsored by the Culture and Recreation Commission.

Architectural Significance

The sophistication and skill of architect Roy D. Bassette are evident in all elements of the Colonial Revival design of Eno Memorial Hall. Derivative of the villas of Andrea Palladio, archetype for many early twentieth-century public buildings in the United States, the building is well proportioned and scaled to its site and incorporates a building program of some complexity.

Bassette responded to the requirements for the multi-purpose function of the building by dividing it into formal and informal areas. The most public space, the central rotunda, is the most formal and highly detailed with expensive finishes. The orders are freely interpreted to great effect, with the most elaborate, the Corinthian order, reserved for both this space and the main portico. The auditorium, the other major public space, is highly functional and yet treated in a formal, almost stylized manner. The smaller rooms and offices, which are generally confined to the flanking facade wings, are residential in character, a relative informality emphasized by the reduction in scale of the elements and the use of fireplaces and painted woodwork and panelling, rather than marble finishes and detailing.

Working with an almost unlimited budget, the architect showed admirable restraint in his embellishment of the building. Design details are carefully scaled and placed to good effect to enhance the overall design. Of particular note is his individual treatment of the various classical elements and the variety of applied detail and finishes. He focused his attention on the design of both the exterior and interior doorways. While some designs echo each other, they are rarely exact duplicates unless bilateral symmetry is being maintained. For example, compare the designs of the main arched doorway and the interior surround of the main entrance to the auditorium which are similar but subtly different in their execution. Pedimented doorways are more common but have differing supports, ranging from full columns to pilasters and consoles.

The architectural firm of Smith and Bassette became known for its design of multi-purpose public buildings and their skill in the Classical and Colonial Revival genres. For example, in 1917 the firm shared first place with Paul P. Cret for the design of a Classical Revival building in the Hartford County Building Competition.<sup>4</sup> The reputation of the firm may have been established with Eno Memorial Hall. Although it was not featured in an architectural periodical, the plans for a similar later building by Smith and Bassette, the c. 1940 William Stanton Andrews Memorial, the town hall in

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Clinton, Connecticut, were published.<sup>5</sup> It bears such a remarkable resemblance to the nominated property that it may have been a reworking of the earlier plan. Although there the rotunda was omitted and the interior was less elaborately detailed, the design is essentially the same. The only exterior difference between the two plans was the use of gabled wings set at 90° to the main block in the Clinton Town Hall, which have stepped parapets ending in chimneys. They are joined to the main block by short gabled connectors. The Clinton example was also a multi-purpose social and civic structure donated by a private citizen. Coincidentally, William Stanton Andrew's bequest is almost identical in its wording to the one written by Antoinette Wood. It included the same phrases to describe the proposed building and even the same sum of \$350,000 for its design and construction.<sup>6</sup>

## End Notes:

1. William Phelps Eno (b. 1858) was a noted international figure in the field of traffic control in the early automobile era, devising traffic systems for major cities such as Paris and New York. With a multimillion dollar bequest from his father, he established the Eno Foundation for this purpose, first located in Westport, Connecticut, and since 1991, in Washington, D.C. (See footnote 4 below.) He is also credited with writing the first "rules of the road" for automobiles. See Eno: The Man and Foundation, 1988, pgs. 13, 14.
2. Known today as Simsbury House, it was listed on the National Register in 1975 as the Amos Eno House.
3. Cited in John E. Ellsworth, Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury, 1642-1935 (The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary), p. 164. Other terms of the bequest are found in Evan Wollocott, The Gavel and The Book (Canaan, New Hampshire, Phoenix Publishing, 1987), p. 102.
4. American Architecture, Vol. 131, No. 2512, 1927. The firm also designed the Eno Foundation Building in Westport, Connecticut, also constructed of brick in the Colonial Revival style.
5. "Civic and Social Face Under One Roof," Architectural Record, Vol. 89, No. 3, March, 1941, pp. 99-102.
6. Ibid., p. 99.

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List of Photographs

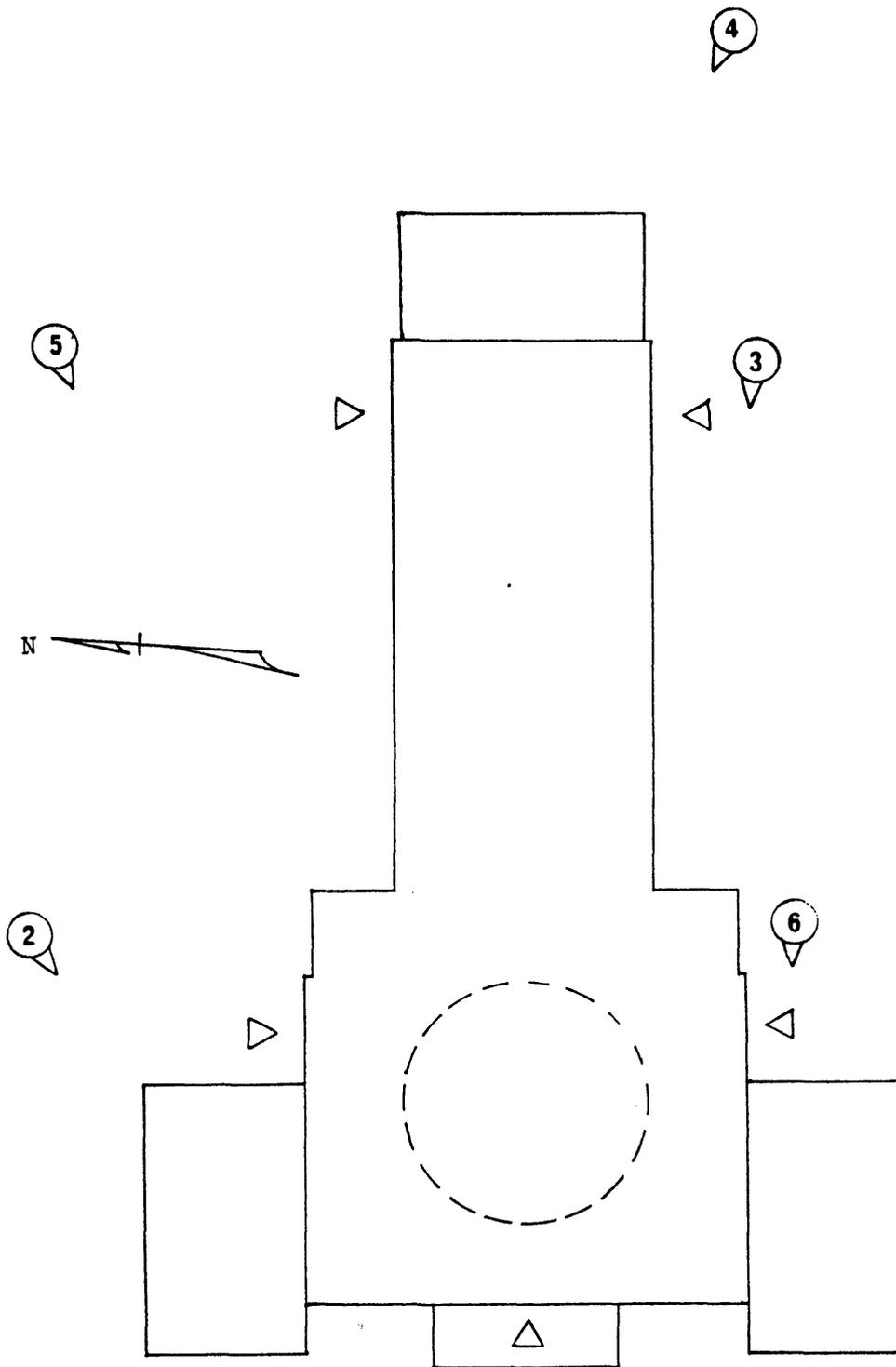
Property: Eno Memorial Hall, Simsbury, Connecticut

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 6/92

Negatives on File: Connecticut Historical Commission

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Facade<br>Facing: NE  | 2. North wing from rear<br>Facing: SW       |
| 3. Auditorium wing<br>Facing: SW                                       | 4. Auditorium wing<br>Facing: NW            |
| 5. North elevation auditorium and left<br>rear main block<br>Facing: W | 6. Detail: rear north entrance<br>Facing: W |
| 7. Rotunda, second level<br>Facing: NE                                 | 8. Rotunda<br>Facing: SE                    |
| 9. Interior auditorium<br>Facing: W                                    | 10. Rear of auditorium<br>Facing: S         |
| 11. 2nd-floor room, typical<br>Facing: SE                              |   |



ENO MEMORIAL HALL  
Simsbury, Connecticut

Schematic Diagram and Photograph Views (exterior only)  
Approximate scale: 1" = 30'