

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: 94000768

Date Listed: 07/27/94

Aldrich Free Public Library
Property Name

Windham
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.


Signature of the Keeper

7/27/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

The clarified beginning date of the documented period of significance for the property is 1895 which reflects the construction date of the library.

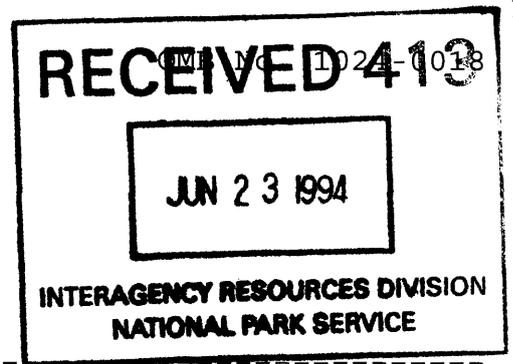
This information was discussed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHP, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



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1. Name of Property

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historic name: ALDRICH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 299 Main Street

city/town: Plainfield

not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Windham code: 015 zip code: 06354

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of certifying official: John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission. Date: 06/20/94

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 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):

Handwritten signature: Paul A. Sarge 7/27/94

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: library

Current: EDUCATION Sub: library

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

Other Description: N/A_____

Materials: foundation STONE roof STONE: slate
walls WOOD other BRICK

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
EDUCATION

Period(s) of Significance: c.1890-c.1930 _____

Significant Dates: 1895 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: Wilcox, Charles F., architect
Rouse, Willis 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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Aldrich Free Public Library 7-1
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

The Aldrich Free Public Library (Photographs 1 and 2) is a 1 1/2-story clapboarded and shingled building built in 1895 in the Queen Anne style. The building rests on a foundation of large rusticated granite blocks, with a high brick basement story fully exposed on the east elevation and partially exposed on the other elevations. Two asymmetrically placed brick chimneys, with flared tops, rise high above the slate roof. The library occupies a corner lot in a mostly residential neighborhood on the outskirts of the village of Moosup, part of the town of Plainfield, Connecticut; the area is also known as Almyville, from the days when nearby woolen mills were active. Two similarly detailed, related buildings occupy other corners at this intersection: Milner Hall across High Street and a former residence of a mill manager farther east at the intersection of Main and Lake streets.

The library is a small building (approximately 33 by 40 feet overall) with an irregular plan. The basic block is a gable-roofed portion with the end facing south toward Main Street (Connecticut Route 14); the southwest corner is cut away below the attic story, which is supported on large sunburst-carved brackets (Photograph 3). A gable-roofed ell extends eastward toward High Street, with a large semi-circular bay window occupying most of its east elevation. Filling the angle between these two portions is a short rounded turret-roofed "tower" rising no higher than the peak of the main roof (except for its copper finial); it is nearly as large in plan as the main block of the building and extends outward from the plane of the facade. The building's asymmetrical plan results in an intricate roofline that is further complicated by a large gabled dormer centered on the west-facing slope.

The library's principal entrance is on the south elevation, reached by a set of six granite steps with rounded cheek blocks. The entry, which has its original oak panel-and-glass door, is sheltered by a porch with a shallow-pitched gable roof. The supporting posts are modern, a replacement for the original, which were clustered columns set on high pedestals, similar to the single engaged columns still in place at the back wall of the porch.

Windows are of several different configurations and most retain their original wooden sash, though aluminum storm windows partly obscure them. A large Palladian window is found in each of the shingled gables, with an even larger round-arched window on the first story to the right of the main entry. On the west and north (rear) elevations,

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Description Aldrich Free Public Library 7-2
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

there are bands of small nearly square windows high on the wall; these have hopper sash with small border panes. The walls of the tower and bay window are predominantly glazed; the openings on the basement story of the tower have rounded upper corners and are separated by slender engaged Corinthian columns. Other architectural features of note include window cornices and molded frames, keyblocks on the arched window openings, dentils along the projecting cornice above the basement story, paneled corner pilasters with Composite capitals, a leafy scroll carving in the frieze at the corners (Photograph 4), and brackets suggestive of exposed beam ends below the wide overhang to the attic story (similar brackets appear below the entry porch's roof). The words "PUBLIC LIBRARY" in raised letters are centered in the frieze below the south-facing gable, above the main entrance.

The interior of the library is largely original. There is a small vestibule just inside the entrance, beyond which are three large rooms. The walls are either lined with oak bookshelves or have an oak wainscot of one of two patterns, either narrow beaded boards or small raised panels. Also of oak and situated just to the right of the doorway as one enters is a counter and desk for the librarian, behind which is a small alcove lighted by the large arched window. In the east ell is a brick fireplace set into a paneled wall (Photograph 5). Rooms in the basement and attic were much more simply finished and today have walls of plywood paneling.

Although the library retains much of its original exterior ornamentation, a few details have been lost (Photograph 6). In addition to the replaced porch columns, exterior alterations include removal of applied festoons in the frieze of the tower and a balustrade with urns above the basement story of the bay window, the filling in of most of the basement windows with novelty siding, and the addition of a small enclosed porch for the basement entrance on High Street.

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Bibliography Aldrich Free Public Library 9-1
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Photographs Aldrich Free Public Library Photos-1
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

All Photographs:

1. Aldrich Free Public Library
2. Plainfield, Windham County, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. December, 1993
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
 Hartford, CT

Captions:

South elevation, camera facing northeast
Photograph 1 of 6

East elevation, camera facing west
Photograph 2 of 6

Detail of bracket beneath overhang, southwest corner, camera facing
northeast
Photograph 3 of 6

Detail of pilaster and frieze ornament, northeast rear corner, camera
facing southwest
Photograph 4 of 6

Interior, east room, fireplace (portrait of David Aldrich over mantel),
camera facing northwest
Photograph 5 of 6

Copy of view of library from Plainfield Souvenir (1895), camera facing
northwest
Photograph 6 of 6