

Form 10-300
 (Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Providence
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: University Hall, Brown University
AND/OR HISTORIC: University Hall, Brown University

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Prospect Street between Waterman and George Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st	
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: President, Brown University	STATE: Rhode Island
STREET AND NUMBER: University Hall, Brown University	
CITY OR TOWN: Providence	
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Providence City Hall	STATE: Rhode Island
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Providence	
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	STATE: D.C.
DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs	
STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	
STATE: D.C.	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

University Hall, built 1770-1771, is an altered example of late Georgian architecture, similar in design to the few pre-revolutionary university buildings constructed in America, such as Hollis Hall at Harvard and Nassau Hall at the College of New Jersey. Hugh Morrison wrote that "By 1770 college edifices in America had crystallized into a more or less standard pattern; a long building mass three or four stories high, covered by a hipped roof and topped by a belfry, with a pedimented pavilion breaking the middle of the long side and three entrance doors." (Early American Architecture, p. 469.)

Modeled after Old Nassau Hall, which was constructed 1754-56, University Hall fits this description exactly. However, Morrison commented that "University Hall lacks the fine proportions that Nassau originally had, the increase in height to four stories being the most damaging difference." Further, he wrote that the three-window pavilion on University Hall "appeared too tall and narrow for its four-story height and that the cupola was "of insufficient size to dominate such large building masses." (Early American Architecture, p. 469.)

The exterior of University Hall appears today, after numerous alterations and restorations, essentially as it did when completed in 1771. It is a four-story red brick structure, trimmed in wood painted white, with a hipped roof and central cupola and balustrade along the roof. The center three bays of the building's seventeen-bay front project ten feet to form pedimented pavilions with gable roofs. On both the east and west facades there are three very simple entrances (the central doors are now blocked from the inside), with small semi-elliptical arches and narrow double wood doors. The rectangular building is quite austere, the slightly arched heads over the windows and doors, and the beltcourses between each story being the only elements which relieve the plain brick walls.

Joseph Brown, a wealthy merchant and amateur architect, was a member of the building committee which drew up the plans for the college's first building. The ground was broken for the College Edifice March 27, 1770 and on May 14 John Brown, Joseph's brother, laid the first foundation stone at the south-west corner, on land once owned by his great-great-grandfather, Chad Brown. Under the direction of the Brown brothers the construction of the frame and walls was completed quickly, at a cost of less than ten thousand dollars. The two lower floors were ready for occupation in the winter of 1771-72, but the interiors of the third and fourth floors were left unfinished until enrollment increased.

From December 1776 until May 1782 university activities were suspended as the College Edifice was used first as a barracks for American troops and then as a hospital for French soldiers. During this time the building was severely damaged. A stable was attached to the hall during this occupation and when it was finally vacated, the building was stripped of every window, hinge, lock and valuable piece of lumber that could be removed. The college sent a claim for damages to the government, but received only a fraction of the costs back, more than ten years later.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1770-1771; 1819-1821

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

University Hall, built in 1771, is an important example of colonial university architecture. It was the first, and, until 1832, the only building constructed at Brown University, the seventh college founded in this country. This building possesses significance also in the history of American education by its association with Horace Mann, "perhaps the greatest of the 'founders' of our American system of free public schools," (Cubberly, Public Education in the United States, p. 226).

Born in Franklin, Massachusetts in 1796, Mann entered Brown as a sophomore and graduated with high honors in 1819. A few months after graduation Mann returned to Brown as tutor in Latin and Greek, and remained there until 1821. During Mann's years at Brown, the College Edifice, now University Hall, housed the entire institution.

Although Mann was a very successful lawyer and a member of the legislature, he chose in 1837 to become secretary of a state board of education in Massachusetts and functioned in that capacity for twelve years. His annual reports to the state board of education were most effective presentations of the needs and proposed remedies in the public school situation. He accomplished remarkable results in improving buildings, professional standards, training and teaching conditions.

Horace Mann's influence extended to many other states where his reports were studied and his advice was sought. His period of activity and the years immediately following have come to be known as the common school revival in the United States. University Hall is the only outstanding building closely associated with Horace Mann.

University Hall, known simply as "The College Edifice" until 1823, was built in 1770 to house the college that became Brown University in 1804. In the early days, the institution was called Rhode Island College. It had been founded under Baptist leadership in Warren, Rhode Island in 1764. Providence in 1804 was a town of about 4,000 persons, most of whom lived in some 400 houses concentrated between Benefit Street and the Providence River. The Corporation decided to erect the College Edifice "above the smoke and stir" of the town, preferring the "regions calm, of mild and serene air" up the hill from Benefit Street.

(Continued)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

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		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "		19.300310.4633040	0 , "	
NE	0 , "	0 , "			0 , "	
SE	0 , "	0 , "			0 , "	
SW	0 , "	0 , "			0 , "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than two acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; original reports--1962, Charles Shedd, 1967, Charles Snell**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service** DATE: **Oct. 29, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street NW,**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register as a **Landmark**

Designated: **June 13, 1962**
date

Boundary Certified:

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Chief, List. & Arch. Surveys

Date _____

ATTEST: **Boundary Affirmed:**

Director, OAHP date

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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7. Description: (1) University Hall, Brown University

The interior of the third floor was completed in 1785, the fourth in 1788, the cupola was finished in 1791, and a major overhaul of the building, amounting to a reconstruction, was undertaken in 1795. When the college's second building, Hope College, was built in 1823, the name "College Edifice" was dropped and "University Hall" adopted. Some years later, Manning Hall, a Greek Revival style building was erected just north of University Hall, and the oldest building was then covered with stucco to blend with the new building. At this time also extensive interior repairs were made, the balustrade was removed and the leaky colonial windows were removed and replaced by more modern ones.

In 1883, after more than a century of hard use, there was, as President Exekial Robinson reported, "a loud demand of many friends of the College" to level University Hall "and to put up a modern structure in its place." Instead the building was completely renovated. The entire inside of the building was removed and replaced with new material. A new roof was put on the old frame, new stairways were constructed, modern windows replaced those with small panes, the chimneys were rebuilt and the cupola encased, and the balustrade was replaced. The stucco coating was left on the brick walls, but "painted of a neutral olive tint."

In 1905 the building was restored to a colonial style by removing the stucco covering and repairing and recementing the underlying brick. Colonial style small-paned windows were installed and the chimneys were remade and the belfry remodeled to resemble the earlier one.

Based on the details of early nineteenth century prints the latest renovation work in 1940, actually the fifth major reconstruction, restored the building very closely to its original exterior appearance. Restorations or copies of the early windows, doors, balustrade, cupola and chimneys were made. The eight new chimneys are built of hand-molded bricks, resembling the bricks of the walls in color and texture.

While the exterior was restored to its original appearance as accurately as possible, the university administration determined that it was neither possible nor desirable to reproduce the original interior of the structure. Although the records of University Hall's construction are very complete in some respects, the archives have no plans which show the exact original floor-plan and very little is known of the early interior finish.

The deteriorating parts of the cupola and two hand-hewn oaken beams set into the fourth floor walls of the projections are all that was found of the original woodwork. The restoration architects, Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn studied the interiors of three grand New England Colonial houses, the John Nicholas Brown House and the Avis Brown House in Providence, and the Caleb Clapp House in Boston, for detail models for moldings, pilasters, paneling and doors. However, no particular models were used in the planning of the rooms and staircases.

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7. Description: (2)

University Hall, Brown University

Boundary

University Hall, approximately 150 feet long on the westerly and easterly sides and 45 feet wide at the southerly and northerly ends, is situated at the summit of the College Green about 125 feet back of the Van Wickle Gates on Prospect Street. It is one of a row of buildings along the Green, with long lawns on the east and west sides. The landmark boundary runs along the sidewalks closest to the building on each side, leaving a small border of lawn and shrubbery along the front and rear elevations between the building and the walkway. From the northwest corner, the boundary runs east along the sidewalk between University Hall and Manning Hall (immediately to the north), then south along the sidewalk bordering College Green, then west along the sidewalk between University Hall and Slater Hall (immediately to the south), then north along the sidewalk in front of University Hall to the beginning point.

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8. Statement of Significance: (1) University Hall, Brown University

The Edifice was modeled after Nassau Hall of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, from which Brown's first president, James Manning had been graduated in 1762. As construction of the Edifice was begun by the firm of Nicholas Brown & Co., Manning's letters to his friends were filled with proud references to the new structure. But the Boston Gazette commented that the Corporation was building "a College near as large as Babel; sufficient to contain ten times the number of students that ever have, or ever will, oblige the tutors of that popular university with opportunity of educating or instructing them." The two lower floors of the Edifice were ready for use in the winter of 1771-72, when total enrollment was about 20 students.

In December of 1776, a British fleet of seventy transports, seven ships of the line and four frigates landed 6,000 British and Hessian troops at Newport. The town and Aquidneck Island were quickly occupied, and colonial militia from various areas flocked to Providence to shore up the patriot defenses. The College Edifice was seized to quarter the American Militia, dispossessing about 40 students then in residence. The American troops remained until April of 1780. In vain did Manning complain of the "rude and wasting soldiery" and of the "great waste and destruction" they brought to his College Edifice.

No sooner had the troops departed, when the Edifice was seized again, this time as a hospital for the French troops of Rochambeau, who occupied the building for two years, until May of 1782. The French proved to be even more destructive tenants than the Americans had been. They engaged themselves, the college records assert, in "knocking down the closets...to sell the boards" and in making plans "to sell all the college windows." The building, said Manning, was left in a "most horrid, dirty shattered situation."

Nevertheless, the college was soon back in operation after five years of occupation by troops. There were then about 20 students, and the faculty consisted of Manning and a single tutor. The College Edifice was visited in 1790 by President Washington, who was accompanied by his Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, and other officials. Shortly after Washington's visit, the Corporation voted him an honorary doctorate.

Until Hope College was built in 1822, the College Edifice housed the entire college, containing dormitory rooms, lecture and recitation rooms, the chapel, the library and the dining hall. It continued to house students and classrooms until the time of the last major renovation in 1940. It now provides office space for most of the University's administrative officers.

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9. Major Bibliographical References: (1) University Hall, Brown University
Bronson, W. C., The History of Brown University, 1764-1914 (Providence, 1914).
Brown, John Nicholas, "Legacy on College Hill," Brown Alumni Monthly, July
1960.
Cubberly, Ellwood P., Public Education in the United States: A Study and
Interpretation of American Educational History (Cambridge, 1947).
Hinsdale, B. A., Horace Mann and the Common School Revival in the United
States.
Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
Swift, Fletcher Harper, "Horace Mann," Dictionary of American Biography.
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A Brief History of University Hall, Brown University publication (pamphlet,
n. d.).