

P40000566

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: CONNECTICUT	
COUNTY: HARTFORD	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.06.0004	DATE 7/6/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wadsworth Atheneum

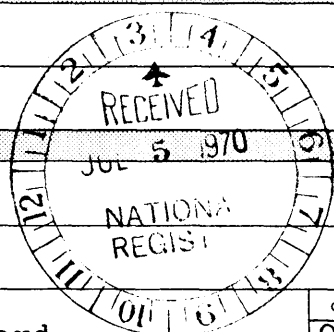
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wadsworth Atheneum

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Atheneum Square, North

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06101 COUNTY: Hartford CODE: 003



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Board of Trustees - Hugh Campbell, President

STREET AND NUMBER:
Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company 1 American Row

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford, STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
550 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures & Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: CONNECTICUT
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

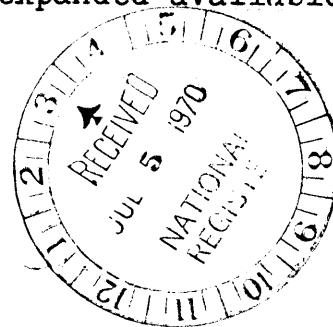
The building was begun in April, 1842, and completed in the most thorough manner in July, 1844. It was designed by Ithiel Town, of New Haven, in the castellated Gothic style. The material employed is a cream-colored granite, obtained from Glastonbury. The central section is eighty feet in depth, the wings seventy, and the whole frontage is one hundred feet. The cost was nearly \$35,000.

Memorial History of Hartford County, 1886

The Atheneum was this nation's first free art museum, thanks to the large fortune of Hartford's first great merchant, Jeremiah Wadsworth. Its original portion built in 1842, the Wadsworth today is among the ten best art museums in the country. Its wealth of art treasures, colonial furniture, and painting of all periods, its 65 galleries of permanent displays and its rotating exhibits are free to public viewing.

Grant, M. H., A Guide to Greater Hartford, Connecticut.

The building was reopened to the public early in 1969 after a renovation of the interior that left only the 1842 facade and adjacent side walls standing, and greatly expanded available space to the rear.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

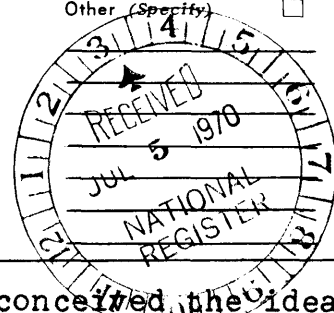
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Art | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

In the year 1841 Daniel Wadsworth, having conceived the idea of founding a gallery of the fine arts in Hartford, took steps for carrying it into effect by placing in the hands of trustees his valuable lot of land on Main Street for that purpose. His gift was conditioned upon the formation of an association and the erection by it of a suitable building to contain the proposed art-gallery, and at the same time to furnish rooms for the uses of the Connecticut Historical Society and the Hartford Young Men's Institute. In accordance with these terms a subscription was at once set on foot to raise the required money, and over \$30,000 was soon subscribed, Mr. Wadsworth himself being the first and largest subscriber in the sum of \$4,000, which he subsequently increased to \$6,500. The subscribers obtained an act of incorporation (approved June 1, 1842), and organized as a stock concern, under the name of Wadsworth Atheneum, with two classes of shares, those of \$100, which were transferable, and those of \$25, conferring a life interest simply. Following the plan marked out by Mr. Wadsworth in his original proposition, a building was erected in three principal divisions, the central one for the proposed art-gallery, and the north and south wings for the Young Men's Institute and the Connecticut Historical Society respectively. The latter Society was also to provide a room in its portion of the building for the Natural History Society of Hartford, then in a flourishing condition, so that under the same roof art, literature, and science should be cultivated.

Memorial History of Hartford County, 1886

Daniel Wadsworth was born in Hartford, and in early life married Faith Trumbull, daughter of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut. From childhood Daniel Wadsworth had delicate health. He possessed great wealth, being probably the wealthiest man of his day in Connecticut, was generous, and gave liberally to all good purposes, using his estate as though it was a gift of Providence. He did much for the growth and prosperity of Hartford. The Wadsworth Atheneum, on Main and Atheneum Streets, is a lasting monument of his desire to promote library and institute objects. He gave the ground, valued at \$20,000, on which the Atheneum building stands, for that purpose, it being the site of his birthplace and the family home

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut, J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1901

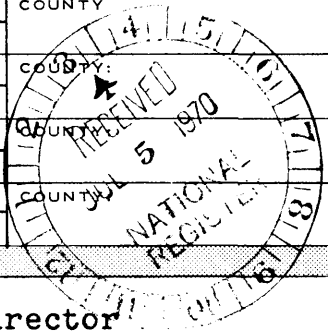
Trumbull, J. Hammond, ed., The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut. 2 vols., Edward L. Osgood, Boston, 1886.

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 ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	45'	48"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	40'	26"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert C. Darbee, Associate Director

ORGANIZATION: **Connecticut Historical Commission** DATE: **August 25, 1969**

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 *Eric Hatch*
Eric Hatch

Title **State Liaison Officer and Chairman, Conn. Historical Comm.**

Date **August 25, 1969**

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

Ernest Allen Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 6 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:
William G. Brewster
Keeper of The National Register
AUG 26 1970

Date _____

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

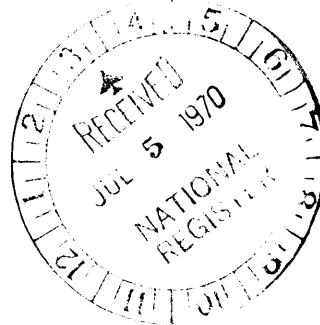
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE CONNECTICUT	
COUNTY HARTFORD	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.06.0004	10/6/70

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (WADSWORTH ATHENEUM)

for three generations. He also contributed largely to the building. He died in 1848, and his wife passed away in 1846. Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1901



RECEIVED
 JUL 5 1970



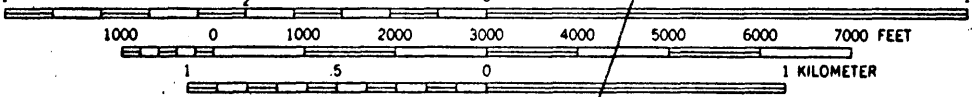
41° 45'
 72° 42' 30"

692 (HARTFORD SOUTH)
 6467 11 NW

72° 40'

SCALE 1:24 000

0.9 MI. TO
 MERIDEN (VI)
 1 MIL



Latitude 41° 45' 53"
 Longitude 72° 40' 31"

Wadsworth Athenaeum