

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 21 1987

date entered MAY 21 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic GREENWICH TOWN HALL

and or common Greenwich Senior Center/Art Center

2. Location

street & number 299 Greenwich Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Greenwich

N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut

code 09

county Fairfield

code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: senior center, studios, gallery

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Greenwich

street & number Town Hall - 101 Field Point Road

city, town Greenwich

N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenwich Town Clerk

street & number Town Hall - 101 Field Point Road

city, town Greenwich

state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

February 23, 1979

date 1987

federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town 59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

state Connecticut

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Glenville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is shown as lot 45, Greenwich Assessor's Aerial Map 169, and is bounded by Bruce Place, Havermeyer Place, Greenwich Avenue, and an unnamed street at the rear of the building. The property is recorded in the Greenwich Land Records, Vol. 102, p. 491.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Bruce Clouette & Matthew Roth, partners, National Register Coordinator	edited by John Herzan,
organization	Historic Resource Consultants	date October 29, 1986
street & number	The Colt Armory 55 Van Dyke Avenue	telephone (203) 547-0268
city or town	Hartford	state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

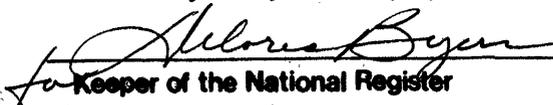
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date April 13, 1987

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

 Keeper of the National Register date 5-21-87

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greenwich Town Hall (Photograph 1) is a large, Beaux Arts-style, three-story building of brick and stone constructed in 1905. Measuring 64' x 100' in plan, the building appears as a massive, mansard-roofed cube overlooking a major intersection at the edge of Greenwich's busy commercial district. Although large, the building does not quite fill its block: there is a lawn in front of the building, and a small park (of recent construction) at the southeast rear corner (Photograph 2). Neighboring structures include early 20th-century commercial buildings, the Neo-Classical Post Office, and the old high school.

The ground floor is of rusticated blue limestone, as are the building's prominent quoins. The upper stories are grey brick. The upper-story window openings are two stories in height and are outlined by raised brick. They have wooden two-over-two sash, with copper cornices and panels filling the space between stories. Each opening has a large carved keystone. The building's copper cornice is enriched with dentils, above which is a low crenelated parapet, partially concealing the green-slate mansard roof. Small round dormers fitted with louvers are spaced along the sides of the roof, while on the front is a single large dormer with a clock face (Photograph 3). The clock dormer is ornate, with fluted pilasters, elaborate side scrolls, and a cartouche centered within a pediment on large carved consoles. Above the dormer, rising from a square base at the front of the roof, is an equally ornate cupola, with fluted pilasters, arched openings, copper urns, a dome-shaped roof, and a flagpole. At the front of the building are two small flat-roofed flanking wings of matching brick, added c.1960.

Dominating the facade is a shallow, full-height pavilion, created by six two-story engaged Ionic columns with festooned capitals; the outermost columns are paired. The pavilion's cornice continues the building's main cornice, with the addition of modillions. The double-door main entrance (Photograph 4) is centered in the base of the pavilion and features a stepped molded surround, a large keystone flanked by leaf clusters, and a heavy pediment on carved consoles, within which are a cartouche and other carvings.

The building was converted to a combined senior center and art facility in 1981. On the first floor are a lounge, cafeteria, and offices, while the upper floors contain offices, galleries, and studios (Photograph 5). Considerable historic material remains, including the ground floor lobby, with a series of columns and marble baseboards (the marble floors have been carpeted); the original front staircase (Photograph 6), with marble steps and cast-iron newel posts and railing; and a wood-paneled meeting room, created c.1950 from the building's original auditorium space on the second and third floors, with a chandelier which probably dates from the building's construction (Photograph 7). In the basement are visible partially barred windows and doorways, reflecting its use as the town jail, as well as several oak settees which probably are remnants of the building's original furnishings. (Photograph 8). On each level the floor-plan is symmetrical: a central corridor runs between the formal front stairway and the plainer rear stairs, with rooms to either side.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Criteria A,B,C

Specific dates 1905 - completed **Builder/Architect** Architect: Mowbray & Uffinger, New York
 Builder: W.J. Smith, Greenwich

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Greenwich Town Hall is significant because it is an excellent, well-preserved example of Beaux Arts Classicism, embodying the distinctive characteristics of monumental scale, symmetry, ornate detail, and eclectic borrowings from Renaissance and Classical sources (Criterion C). It is also important because it reflects Greenwich's growth and development as a town: in the early 20th century, residential and commercial expansion demanded greater town-government activity and made a larger town hall desirable (Criterion A). Finally, the building is significant as the gift of Greenwich residents Robert and Sarah Bruce, the town's chief early 20th-century philanthropists (Criterion B).

The Town Hall epitomizes Beaux Arts Classicism in its symmetrical facade, two-story paired columns, and elaborate architectural ornament, all of which were meant to convey a sense of monumentality and good taste. The combination of Classical columns and pediments with Renaissance and 17th-century French elements (rusticated first story, mansard roof) is also typical of the style, which aimed for a richly detailed, deeply sculptured effect. The Beaux Arts aesthetic is particularly evident in the oversized carved keystones and the density of decoration (festoons, leaf carvings, cartouches) in the dormer and entrance treatments.

The building's New York-based architects, Louis M. Mowbray and Justin M. Uffinger, are best known for a group of Beaux Arts townhouses on Riverside Drive in New York. Mowbray & Uffinger also designed several large, ornate bank buildings, including the pretentious People's Trust building on Montague Street in Brooklyn.

Greenwich was a growing town in the early 20th century. Proximity to New York City, easily accessible on the commuter trains of the New Haven Railroad, produced strong, steady growth, with the population first exceeding 10,000 in 1890 and growing at a rate of over 30% per decade after 1900. The commercial center around Greenwich and Putnam avenues expanded as well, and that area of town received additional municipal services through an incorporated borough. The Bruces' offer was a welcome gift, since the new building allowed larger quarters for both town and borough governments. The building also provided space for entertainments and civic functions until the auditorium was divided up for more office space.

Robert M. Bruce (1822-1909) was a wealthy New York City cotton merchant who lived most of his adult life in Greenwich. Bruce held seats on both the Cotton Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange; in addition to his Greenwich residence (now the Bruce Museum), he maintained a home on Madison Avenue. Along with his sister Sarah, Bruce donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to hospitals in Greenwich, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Tarboro, North Carolina. They also gave land in Greenwich for a large public park bearing their name. In 1903 they began work on a new town hall, which they built on their own account before turning it over to the town. The deed of gift included the stipulation, "all religions and races to have equal privileges," but requested that "strolling theatrical companies" be barred from the auditorium.