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County Court House
New London, Connecticut
New London Co.

HABS No. 3-2

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District #3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

COUNTY COURT HOUSE
State Street, New London
New London County
Connecticut

Owner: New London County.

Date of Erection: 1784.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement in rear addition.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ See White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, 1920, volume 6, number 1; 1930, volume 16, number 6.

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Very little historical data is available on this building and the information below is taken from an address delivered by Mr. Abel Tannar at the time of the Dedication of the Addition, September 16, 1910:

"In 1774 a committee was appointed to provide a new Court House. It was built in 1784 and was located at what was then the head of State Street. For fifty-five years it remained here and in 1839 was moved back a little to its present site."

"The courts convened on the second floor which had a gallery on three sides. Before the building of other public buildings, the political rallies of both parties were held here and on February 23, 1815, a Peace Ball was celebrated in honor of the signing of the Treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Among those present were Commodores Decatur and Shaw and several British officers."

"Patrick Henry participated in Jury trials here and at one time Daniel Webster defended the Constitution of the United States".

Aside from the roof framing, little of the interior remains that is original; alterations were made in 1909 and court rooms added in the rear. Dudley St. Clair Donnelly was the architect of these changes. The front and ends of the original building remain unaltered.

Compiled by Arthur M. Thompson

Revised 1936, H.C.F.

Approved: Harold H. Davis