

OLD HOUSES OF CONNECTICUT - COLONIAL DAMES SERIES

Introduction

The Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames of America was established in Hartford in 1893 "to create widespread interest in history, to inspire love of this Republic, to do justice and honor to heroic ancestors, and to commemorate the labors and achievements of the founders of our country." They formed the Committee on Old Houses in 1900 (later renamed the Historic Buildings Committee) as a part of their program of community service and historic preservation and education; it soon became one of their most active endeavors. The Committee originally planned to make records only of Colonial houses, but encountered so many historically noteworthy buildings of later periods that they decided to expand their efforts. In order to produce a uniform series, the Committee prepared a standard form to be used in compiling the histories. This form includes the history of the property, technical architectural information, and an additional essay relating local traditions and anecdotes relating to the house and its former inhabitants. Most volumes also contain photographs and/or sketches.

By 1912 the Society had gathered an impressive collection of unique information. The members voted to give the manuscripts to the State Library to insure their safekeeping and make them accessible to the public. State Librarian George S. Godard accepted eagerly and arranged to have the volumes uniformly bound and catalogued. The Society continued to add to the collection, which today has become particularly valuable as many of the buildings represented are no longer standing. The Society of Colonial Dames makes the volumes available for public use, reserving all publication rights. The volumes described below are catalogued, and are kept in the probate vault.

List of Records

1. Old Houses of Connecticut - Colonial Dames Series.
Historical and architectural information relating to houses of the colonial period and later. Houses are listed in a card catalog arranged alphabetically by town. 1070 volumes. 48 ft. \swarrow
(728 qC718) (Reading Room)
- 1A. Registration book containing the number of each volume of Old Houses of Connecticut, the house's name, owner, town, date built, compiler of the volume, at whose request it was compiled, and the date it was deposited in the State Library. (025.24 fC762co v.1)
- 1B. Bulletin of the State Library, #17, Hartford, 1942.
A list of manuscript histories of Conn. houses compiled by the Colonial Dames as of 1942. With supplements 1942-1961.

Main Vault
I
~~Probate Vault~~
~~Retrieve as archival records~~
~~Probate Vault~~
~~This volume should be retrieved as an archival record.~~

025.24 fC762co v.1
Main-1
with Colonial Dames "Old Houses"
at the end of the series.

2. Old Houses of Connecticut, Bertha Chadwick Trowbridge, editor. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1923.

*Spec Coll
NA
7235
.C8
N3* This volume contains information collected by the Committee on Old Houses of the Conn. Society of Colonial Dames, arranged to show the chronological development of domestic architectural styles in Connecticut. 1 volume. (~~728 qC718t~~)

3. List of Slides - Committee on Old Houses, Colonial Dames of America. Lists of slides (15 copies) by counties. Includes house name, location and approximate date. (Address - Miss Mary C. Beach, Vine Hill, W.Htfd.)

4. List of Old Colonial Houses Still Standing in the State of Conn. 1903. Conn. Soc. of Colonial Dames. (728 C718c)