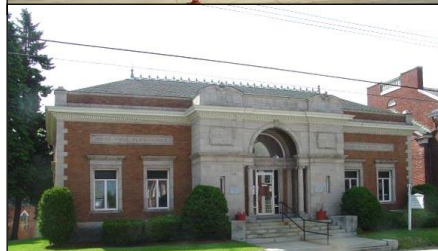


National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Danielson Main Street Historic District Killingly, Connecticut



AHS Senior Historian Bruce Clouette, Ph.D., prepared the National Register nomination for the Main Street Historic District in the Danielson section of Killingly, Connecticut. Danielson started out as a textile manufacturing mill village but, with the coming of the railroad in the late 1830s, emerged as a commercial and social center for the surrounding countryside. The historic district contains a wide variety of 19th and early 20th-century buildings: brick commercial blocks, four churches, a fire station, and institutional buildings such as the town hall, public library, and post office.

The nomination discussed the 20-acre district's architectural qualities, especially the buildings' significance as examples of the distinctive commercial architecture of the late 19th century, when multi-story brick commercial buildings with elaborate street facades came to dominate the commercial centers of cities and even small industrial towns such as Danielson. The nomination also cited institutional buildings in the district as outstanding examples of the Classical and Colonial Revival styles of the early 20th century.

The Statement of Significance related the district's buildings not only to the history of Danielson as a commercial center, but also to its importance in the social and religious life of the area. In the 1850s, the Congregationalists relocated their meetinghouse from an outlying area to Danielson, and the churches of other denominations followed suit. The Town Hall served as a place for vaudeville entertainment as well as political meetings, and buildings in the district accommodated the activities of organizations like the Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic.

Finally, the nomination recognized the contributions of women and European ethnic groups to Danielson's history. One of the largest business blocks was built by Valerie M. Cyr, a milliner of French-Canadian heritage, and the efforts of other immigrant groups are made evident by the Hajdun Building, Longo Block, Pulaski Café, and Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.