

= Barrington Civic Center Historic District =

Barrington Civic Center Historic District is a historic district in Barrington , Rhode Island on County Road . The district , which consists of the Barrington Town Hall , Leander R. Peck School and Prince 's Hill Cemetery , is located on Prince 's Hill near the center of Barrington . In 1728 , Prince 's Hill Cemetery was purchased and later expanded to its present size by 1898 . The one @-@ and @-@ half story Barrington Town Hall was completed in 1888 and originally served as the seat of the town 's government , library and high school . With the completion of the Leander R. Peck School in 1917 , the high school moved into the adjacent building and the library used its space . The two @-@ story Elizabethan Revival style Peck School is designed with a T @-@ shaped plan and features a stairway to access the main entrance on the second story . The Peck School was later used by the fifth and sixth grade elementary students before becoming the public library . Also located within the district is Wood 's Pond . The Barrington Civic Center Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 , and serves as historically significant example of civic and natural environment planning of the late nineteenth @-@ century .

= = Overview = =

Located in Barrington , Rhode Island on County Road , the Barrington Civic Center Historic District includes the Barrington Town Hall , the Peck School , sports field and tennis court , Wood 's pond and Prince 's Hill Cemetery . The cemetery dates to the early 18th @-@ century with stones dating from 1728 . Bicknell 's A History of Barrington , Rhode Island notes under April 7 , 1886 that the town voted and approved an appropriation of \$ 2000 for the land to build a town hall . The town hall was completed in 1888 and was originally used as the town 's government offices , library and school . In 1917 , the high school students transferred to the newly completed and adjacent Peck School .

= = Barrington Town Hall = =

The one @-@ and @-@ half story Barrington Town Hall was designed and constructed between 1887 and 1888 by Stone , Carpenter & Willson of Providence , Rhode Island with an appropriation of \$ 15 @,@ 000 . The town hall was officially dedicated on December 12 , 1888 . Constructed on the north @-@ south axis of a ridge Prince 's Hill , the town hall 's design was self @-@ described as medieval by the architects . Morgan describes the town hall as having " three flank gable units of varying height and depth " and [it] has two circular towers on the front facade of varying height . Morgan notes that " [in the Town Hall ,] institutional functions are given something of a domestic architectural character , for the building suggests an expansive house in a half @-@ timbered manorial style . " The basement , first and portions of the second story of the Town Hall are constructed of fieldstone . Some of the stones are inscribed as memorials and one stone is claimed to have originated from Plymouth Rock . The second story , below the eaves , is half @-@ timbered . The center of the building features planned irregularity with two large projecting dormer @-@ gables , a chimney to the left of a projecting entrance porch . The southern gable , facing the front , also has two projecting dormers . The southern tower is topped by a copper weather vane with an elaborate three @-@ mast ship .

According to Morgan , the town hall was designed for multiple uses and this is evident from the plans and the exterior of the building . The largest section , the center section , serves as the government function and has municipal offices on the first floor . A stairwell to the right leads to the second floor , which functions as a town meeting room . A secondary entrance on the western facade accesses the northern section of the building , previously a library . The southern section of the building was previously a high school with separate entrances for boys and girls . The second floor of the southern section was used by the Antiquarian Society for meetings and its collections . In 1917 , the original library was moved to the southern section following the completion of the Leander R. Peck School . Two additions to the town hall were made to expand the library . The two additions

consisted of two parallel gable units that matched the original material and form of the town hall , the first addition was made in 1938 by Howe & Church and the second in 1963 by Michael Traficante .

= = School and library = =

The Leander R. Peck School was donated to the Town of Barrington by Sarah Gould Peck in memory of her husband , Leader Remington Peck . A committee was formed to oversee the project and construction began in the spring of 1916 . It was designed by Martin & Hall of Providence , Rhode Island and constructed by Wilmarth and Mackillop of Pawtucket , Rhode Island . The two @-@ story Elizabethan Revival school is made of red Barrington brick with Indiana limestone trim and topped with a gable roof . Designed with a T @-@ shaped plan , the main entrance at the top of the " T " is accessed on a second story terrace reached via a large double stairway . The flanks have large projecting gable pavilions which include offices for the principal and superintendent . The central hallway is 14 feet (4 @. @ 3 m) in width and is lined with class rooms on the first floor and the second floor has an assembly room and two recitation rooms . The full basement of the school includes the gymnasium and locker rooms . The building was opened on September 14 , 1917 . Additions to the school were made in 1924 and 1935 on the east . In the 1970s , these additions were used as a cafeteria and stage . By 1976 , the Peck School was used as an elementary school for fifth and sixth graders . Later the school was renamed and re @-@ purposed as the Barrington Public Library . The Barrington Preservation Society uses the lower level as a museum and for the storage of records .

= = Prince 's Hill Cemetery = =

Located in the northwest half of the historic district is the Prince 's Hill Cemetery . According to Morgan , " [a] t a town meeting on January 18 , 1728 @-@ 29 , a committee of Timothy Wadsworth , Lieutenant Peck , Zachariah Bicknell , and James Smith was empowered to purchase land on Prince 's Hill from Ebenezer Allen to lay out a burying ground for the recently erected Congregational Church ... " The earliest stones are located in the narrow northern end of the cemetery and date to 1728 . The cemetery was first expanded on December 31 , 1729 with the purchase of a half acre for five pounds sterling . It would expand four more times by 1898 to encompass more than four acres . In 1849 , the cemetery was fenced in and Morgan describes it as " presently exemplifies the " rural cemetery " tradition of the nineteenth century with meandering drives and natural landscape planting . " Markers of note include the Ward family marker , consisting of a " large rugged cross and an ethereal angel " , a 1903 stone marker dedicated to the slaves of the Barrington families and a Classical Revival crypt dating to 1909 .

= = Importance = =

According to the National Register of Historic Places , the Barrington Civic Center Historic District is significant as it represents the " historical concentration of public and governmental functions in the Prince 's Hill area of Barrington ... [and as] a unit , the cemetery , town hall and school , and Wood 's Pond , epitomize the late nineteenth @-@ century interest in a planned natural environment . " Barrington was transformed by a tripling of its population from 1840 to 1900 , going from a rural to suburban environment . From 1881 , the development of the land was regulated by the Barrington Rural Improvement Society , and the historic district serves as evidence of its planning . Morgan notes that a train station just south of Prince 's Hill influenced the decision for construction of civic buildings . The historic district still " show [s] the imprint of early civic pride and planning " . It was added to the register in 1976 .