

= Old Bacon Academy =

The Bacon Academy , nicknamed Old Bacon Academy , was the original Bacon Academy until 1993 . The Old Bacon Academy was built in 1803 and is located at 84 Main Street , Colchester , Connecticut . The main structure is a 70 feet (21 m) long by 34 feet (10 m) wide three @-@ story Flemish bond brick structure with Federal style details . Noted for its plain , utilitarian floor plan consisting of two rooms off a central hall and stairway , the inside has seen some renovations throughout its history . The Day Hall , a contributing property purchased by the Bacon Academy trustees in 1929 , is a church hall that was used for the high school until 1962 .

Originally operating as a white male school , Bacon Academy integrated " negroes and persons of color " around 1833 and began to educate women in 1842 . The school has educated important figures like Edwin Denison Morgan , Morgan Bulkeley , William A. Buckingham , Lyman Trumbull , and Morrison Waite . Due to the structure 's utilitarian style combined with its Federal details , the National Register of Historic Places recognizes it as architecturally significant . Currently , the Old Bacon Academy building is used as part of an alternative education program and Day Hall is used as a nursery . The properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 .

= = Design = =

Bacon Academy is named for Pierpoint Bacon , a prosperous farmer who died childless in 1800 . Bacon bequeathed most of his property and assets to the First Society of Colchester to support schooling . The trustees decided to build an academy , an institution to have young men be educated , and then go directly into the workforce . Completed in 1803 for the cost of \$ 7000 , the main Bacon Academy structure is a 70 feet (21 m) long by 34 feet (10 m) wide three @-@ story Flemish bond brick structure with Federal style details . The foundation of the academy is made of fieldstone with a facing of dressed granite blocks . The bricks were produced on a local farm for the purpose building Bacon Academy . The front facade has 26 windows arranged in 9 bays with gaps for the chimneys in between the second and third bay from the corners . The sash is 6 @-@ by @-@ 6 and was noted to appear original in the nomination form . Originally the hipped roof had four chimneys , with two matching chimneys on each the west and east sides . Only the east chimneys remain . Facing the front entrance , the chimneys are spaced about 18 feet (5 @.@ 5 m) from the side corners . In the 1982 nomination , the hipped roof was reported to have asphalt shingles .

The building was altered in 1890 , with two additions of Victorian architecture , the first being the main entrance , above the fanlight , is an arched awning with incised consoles . The other addition was the octagonal cupola on the roof over the original bell tower which dates from 1830 . The exterior of the school has complementary colors . The walls are painted a cream color while the foundation , doors , window trims , and cornices are a chocolate @-@ brown .

The interior of the building was termed " severely plain " and utilitarian for its simple design of two large rooms on each side with a central hall and stairwell . Each room was filled with natural light from the windows , and had a chimney for the iron stoves on the east and west ends of the building . The oak floors were installed in the early 20th @-@ century and the ceiling was covered with modern acoustical tiles . The third floor is a shallow attic that gives access to the cupola . The ceiling and roof framing is supported with two king @-@ post trusses at the ends of the main ridge . The basement is divided into halves and supported by summer beams that run the length of the sills and supported by posts on stone pedestals . By 1982 , the steel I @-@ beams were " recently " inserted under the floor joists and between the summer and the sills . The cellar also has an old furnace that is not in service due to the building using electrical heating .

The other contributing property , Day Hall , is a church hall that was originally built in 1858 . It was acquired and used for " high school purposes " from 1929 until they completed construction of the new Bacon Academy in 1962 . After that it was adopted for use as a kindergarten and offices for the trustees . Described as " vaguely Italianate " , the one @-@ room church hall has a basement and a T @-@ shaped addition dating to around 1928 . It has a steep gabled , hipped roof . The entrance has two modern fire doors that lead to an auditorium and gallery on the east and stage on the west

end .

= = Operation = =

The school was originally only for white male students , with " negroes and persons of color " using a separate facility , but integration occurred thirty years later and the school also began to educate women in 1842 . Throughout the first 136 years of Bacon Academy 's operation its endowment was its sole provider of funding . In 1939 , the town began contributing funds to the institution , resulting in the loss of complete control of its own affairs . In 1982 , at the time of its National Register of Historic Places nomination , the trust provided a " small percentage " of Bacon Academy 's funding .

In 2013 , the Bacon Academy building was used by the school as part of an alternative education program and Day Hall functions as a nursery school . The school is rented by the Board of Education for around \$ 21 @,@ 000 a year and the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees says that the operational costs are between \$ 25 @,@ 000 and \$ 28 @,@ 000 a year . According to the Colchester Public Schools website , " the Mission of the Alternative Education Program is to provide academic , social , and emotional supports for students at risk of dropping out of high school . "

= = Importance = =

The National Register of Historic Places nomination submitted Bacon Academy as being important under criteria A , B and C. Bacon Academy 's development in the 176 years , up to the time of nomination , represents the evolution of social attitudes and ideas of education ; criteria A. Under criteria B , Bacon Academy is associated with numerous influential and prominent figures . The school was responsible for educating New York governor and senator Edwin Denison Morgan , Connecticut governors Morgan Bulkeley and William A. Buckingham , Iowa senator Lyman Trumbull , and Morrison Waite , the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court . Criteria C reflects the architectural significance and merit of the structure which is only impeded by its Victorian @-@ era cupola . It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 .