

RECORDS OF THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD RAILROAD  
IN CONNECTICUT

Compiled by:  
John J. Doody, PE & PLS  
Principal Engineer, CDOT  
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**Connecticut Department of Transportation  
District 3 Surveys  
140 Pond Lily Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06525 Attn: John J. Doody**

**Tel: 203-389-3110**

**Fax: 203-389-3169**

**Email: [john.doody@po.state.ct.us](mailto:john.doody@po.state.ct.us)**

RR valuation maps on microfiche (also in each District Office & Newington)  
Centerline and Topography for New Canaan Line, Danbury Line  
& Waterbury Line 1"=40', reduced to 1"=100', paper and digital.  
Maine Line topography and centerline, various locations  
from Greenwich to New Haven, 1"=40', mostly Railroad Stations.  
AMTRAK topography, New Haven to Clinton, 1"=40'

Dodd Center NYNH&H RR Archive Map Index (to be completed 6/2001)  
Over 2,300 maps in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and  
New York east of the Hudson River, including New York City.

Connecticut State Library RR Commission Records Index  
Over 8,400 decisions rendered by the Railroad Commission from  
1860 to the 1960's. This references complete files, including maps,  
on land transactions that came before the commission, as well as other  
matters.

Connecticut State Library RR Commission Map Index  
Over 1,500 maps pertaining to RR Commission hearings listed  
above, all in Connecticut.

Railroad Company Index. This is a listing of over 100 RR companies  
that later became part of the NYNH&H RR, when they were founded,  
and when they were bought out by other companies.

Connecticut Department of Transportation 1998 Rail Transportation  
Ownership and Service Map. Lists owners, status of all rail lines in  
Connecticut.

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**Town Hall Deeds and Maps**

Volumes and Pages of Deeds listed on the Railroad Valuation Maps can be found in the Town Clerk's Offices of the Town in question. Maps may be found attached to the deed on the older maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When searching deed indexes, you might have to look under "T", "The", or "R" as well as "N".

The name of the NYNH & H Railroad is different in different periods of their land transactions:

Aug 6, 1872: New York and New Haven Railroad Company merged with Hartford and New Haven Railroad Company to become: The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company (N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co.)

Feb 28, 1910: New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company (N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co.) became the successor to railroad corporations organized prior to May 31, 1907.

November 8, 1935: N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co. Debtor; Howard S. Palmer, Trustee; W.M. Daniels, Trustee; James Lee Loomis, Trustee

April 1, 1938: N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co. Debtor; Howard S. Palmer, Trustee; James Lee Loomis, Trustee; Henry B. Sawyer, Trustee.

September 18, 1947: Trustees conveyed all Debtor's property interests to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company.

January 13, 1966: N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co. Debtor; Richard Joyce Smith, Trustee; William J. Kirk, Trustee; Harry W. Dorigan, Trustee.

December 31, 1968: N.Y.,N.H. & H. R.R. Co. Debtor; Richard Joyce Smith, Trustee; William J. Kirk, Trustee.

December 31, 1968: Trustees convey all of Debtor's property interests without limitation to Penn Central Co.

December 18, 1969: Name change to Penn Central Transportation Company.

June 21, 1970: Penn Central Transportation Company, Debtor, George P. Baker, Trustee; Richard C. Bond, Trustee; Jervis Langdon, Jr., Trustee; Willard Wirtz, Trustee.

December 29, 1972: Penn Central Transportation Company; George P. Baker, Trustee; Richard C. Bond, Trustee; Jervis Langdon, Jr., Trustee;

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January 11, 1974: Penn Central Transportation Company; Robert W. Blanchette, Trustee; George P. Baker, Trustee; Richard C. Bond, Trustee.

July 3, 1974: Penn Central Transportation Company; John H. McArthur, Trustee; Richard C. Bond, Trustee; Robert W. Blanchette, Trustee.

Special Court orders conveyance of substantially all operating railroad lines to the Consolidated Rail Corp. Excepted and reserved to Debtor are main line and 3 branches. Conrail does acquire operating and trackage rights on the main line and the three branches.

March 30, 1976: Trustees of the property of Penn Central Transportation Company, Debtor transferred to Consolidated Rail Corp. certain operating rail lines (profitable freight lines) and operating and trackage rights on the excluded main line and the 3 branches. Doc. PC-CRC-RP-"Number"

March 30, 1976: Trustees of the property of Penn Central Transportation Company, Debtor transferred to Consolidated Rail Corp. the remaining operating rail lines except the main line and the 3 branches. Doc. PC-CRC-ATK-RP-"Number".

April 11, 1976: Consolidated Rail corp. (Conrail) transferred to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) the remaining operating rail lines except the main line and the 3 branches, over which only operating and trackage rights were granted. Conrail reserved to itself a freight service easement over the transferred rail lines and certain rights under Conrail and Amtrak's Joint Facility Agreement. Doc. "Number"/PC-CRC-ATK-RP-"Number"

October 16, 1978: Trustees of the Penn Central Transportation Company, Debtor, conveyed all remaining lands, real property and lines of railroad (Main line and the 3 branches) to Penn Central Corp.

October, 1985: Penn Central Corp. conveyed remaining title for the following railroad lines in Connecticut; Main Line, Greenwich to New Haven; Danbury, Waterbury and New Canaan Lines, to State of Connecticut.

American Premier Underwriters, Inc., successor in interest to Penn Central Corp.

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**History & Genealogy Unit  
Connecticut State Library  
231 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106**

**Tel: 860-757-6580**

**Hours: Library M-F 9am-5pm  
Archive M-F 10am - 4:15pm**

**Fax: 860-757-6521**

**Requests taken 9:45am**

**Email: can be accessed through web site. 1:45 pm**

**Web: [www.cslib.org/archives/htm](http://www.cslib.org/archives/htm)**

Connecticut State Library RR Commission Records and Index

Over 8,400 decisions rendered by the Railroad Commission from 1860 to the 1960's. This references complete files, including maps, on land transactions that came before the commission, as well as other matters. There is a separate index of deaths on the railroad. The Commission meeting records and work folders for each transaction are available here for research.

Connecticut State Library RR Commission Map Index

Over 1,500 maps pertaining to RR Commission hearings listed above, all in Connecticut. The maps are housed in a separate facility and are brought over to the library for viewing.

Note: This is an archive. You will be required to get an ID made up at the security office on site, which takes about 45 minutes. Requests are in writing twice a day, and the material is brought out to a secure area for reviewing and transcribing. Permission must be obtained to get photocopies. Only paper and pencils are normally allowed in the viewing area.

Secretary of State's Office, Railroad Files. The Secretary of State's Office has old railroad records from the 19<sup>th</sup> century in their warehouse files. They are not indexed and their contents not known. The State Archivist has been informed that these files should be brought over to the State Archives.

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**Laura Katz Smith, Curator for Business and Railroad Collections**  
**Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, U-1205**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1205**

**Tel: 860-486-2516**

**Fax: 860-486-4521**

**Email: [laura.katz.smith@uconn.edu](mailto:laura.katz.smith@uconn.edu)**

**Web: [www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/](http://www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/)**

**Hours:**

**In Session M 10am-7pm**

**T-F 10am- 4pm**

**Vacation & Summer M-F Noon- 4pm**

Dodd Center NYNH&H RR Archive Map Index (to be completed 6/2001)

Over 2,300 maps in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York east of the Hudson River, including New York City. Maps should be requested ahead of time from the index, then an appointment can be made as to when the maps will be available. The maps are stored on site, but staffing to retrieve them may not be readily available.

NHRHTA Railroad Valuation Maps. There are various versions of railroad valuation maps, including the original 1915 maps on velum, which are in excellent condition. If the CDOT microfiche cannot be read, these originals are available. There are numerous valuation maps that predate the 1915 valuation mapping for the NYNH&HRR system. Of particular importance is a 1911 valuation map of the main line from NYC to New Haven. These maps contain many mathematical relationships from the 4 track centerline to the 2 track centerline and original 1847 line of location, and traverses, not found on the 1915 valuation maps. These valuation maps can be located using the Dodd Center Map Index noted above.

The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Corporate Collection.

There is a finding aid listing the materials in the collection, only some of which refer to surveying and mapping. There is an extensive group of deeds in this collection. There are index cards on site to review items of interest. The finding aid is also on the web at:  
*[www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/nhtrains.htm](http://www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/nhtrains.htm)*

The New Haven Railroad Historical and Technical Association Collection.

A finding aid is available on site and on the web at:  
*[www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/trains/nhrhta1.htm](http://www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/trains/nhrhta1.htm)*

Note: the valuation maps finding aid is not presently on the web.

Some items of particular interest from this collection are listed below:

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NHRHTA Collection Record Group 8 Series 2 Box 31, Structures and Crossings,  
*Complete List of Railroad Crossings, 1925, CT, MA, NY, RI.*

These 5 books contain the real estate history of many (but not all) railroad crossings in the railroad system. It is invaluable in researching crossing rights and easements. In Connecticut there may be references tying the crossing into RR Commission records, which has complete work folders.

Book 1 Connecticut

Book 2 New York, New York City, east of the Hudson River

Book 3 Western Massachusetts, west of Worcester

Book 4, Eastern District, Rhode Island and Eastern Mass.

Book 5 Main Line Connecticut, Greenwich to New Haven

NHRHTA Collection Record Group 1 Series 4 Real Estate, Box 36

*Central New England Railway Locations.* This is a bound book which contains a corporate history. 1913 map shows rail line ownership, mostly in New York, east of the Hudson River, Fishkill and Reinbeck, NY. There is one line in Connecticut, from Ore Hill through Salisbury, Colebrook New Hartford, Tariffville, with a split to Hartford and Springfield. The book contains complete written descriptions of centerline layouts. Official layouts as adopted, 1860-19??

NHRHTA Collection Record Group 1 Series 4 Structures and Crossings, Box 39.

*Miscellaneous Maps, Indexed by Town.* Most of these maps are of facilities and switching areas, with few property related maps.

NHTHTA Collection Record Group 8 Series 2 Box 79 *Calculation Books*

Book 1 1847 Baseline of Location, compass readings and rods, converted to bearings and feet, no physical reference points.

Main Line, NYC to New Haven, CT. This information was plotted on a large linen roll and used under the 1915 valuation mapping to layout the 1847 baseline of location.

Book 2 Main Line Computations, New York to New Haven

Book 3 New Haven to Springfield

Book 4 & 5 New Haven to New London

Book 9 & 10 Housatonic Railroad

Book 13 & 14 Naugatuck Railroad

Book 15 New Haven & Derby and others

Book 20, Misc Calculations, all states no index 1913-1914

Book 26, Misc Calc., 1914-1915 indexed, Guilford, New Milford, Stamford, Middletown, Groton, RI, Deerfield, MA.

Book 27, Misc Calc, indexed, CT, RI, MA, New London Terminal

Book 28, Misc Calc, 1918-1924, no index, CT, RI, MA

Book 29, Misc Calc., 1923-1924 indexed

Book 30, Misc Calc., 1924-1925 indexed

Book 32, pp 1-79 list of items purchased by mapping department 1913-16

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pp 80 to end, misc calc 1923-1927  
Book 33, Traverses and Misc Calc indexed 1925-1928  
Book 34 New York State Calc, undated, case 3880 Glenham, case 3878 Bangall,  
case 3877 Stanford, case 3875 State Line NY

In performing railroad historical research on land problems, keep in mind that  
the materials listed below have not been recovered:

All the field survey books

Centerline Ties on the Main Line

Surveying Instructions for developing the valuation mapping system

The New York New Haven and Hartford Railroad is gone forever. It is due  
to the efforts of people who saw value in what others wanted to throw away  
that gives us the privilege to research the material listed above.