

# DAVID HOADLEY

*"Memory of David Hoadley, architect and builder, a native of Waterbury. Born 1774, he died 1839. Trained as a carpenter, he rose self taught to be one of the foremost designers of his time. This tablet is erected in recognition of his genius by the city of Waterbury, A.D., 1924."*

— From the Tablet

David Hoadley was born in Waterbury on April 29, 1774. One of the greatest architects of his time, Hoadley was self-taught, having no formal training in architecture and little schooling of any kind. He possessed an aptitude for architecture which enabled him to develop from a journeyman house carpenter into an esteemed architect. He designed and built numerous churches and residences which ranked among the foremost architectural examples of his day. The Dictionary of American Biography declared, "Hoadley's works show in every instance taste, refinement, invariable propriety, and the translation of the orders and classical details from stone to wood in a manner amounting to genius."

As early as 1795, he was credited with designing the Congregational and Episcopal churches in Waterbury, both of which were greatly admired at the time and became famed throughout the state. They were followed by contracts for designing and building many other homes and churches. Around 1814, he moved to New Haven where he built North Church on the Green, one of his most notable achievements. Now known as The United Church on the Green, a plaque placed by an admirer of his art reads, "He had a sound judgment, a well-balanced mind and a generous and honest heart." The Samuel Russell mansion (1828) in Middletown was his last design of distinction.

Hoadley returned to Waterbury around 1830. When he died in July of 1839, a fund had to be raised by his friends to defray the expenses of his funeral and to erect a monument over his grave. His remains were interred in the former Grand Street Cemetery where the Silas Bronson Library now stands. They were later removed to Riverside Cemetery.

One of the most important events in the celebration of Waterbury's 250th anniversary was the unveiling of a tablet designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert (the designer of such Waterbury landmarks as City Hall and the Chase Office Building) in recognition of Hoadley's accomplishments. The tablet was placed on the southeastern corner of the Bronson Library as near as possible to where Hoadley had been laid to rest. The whereabouts of the tablet is no longer known.

