

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCPS use only

received MAR 16 1982

date entered APR 29 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Amendment to Winsted Green National Register Historic District
historic Winsted, Connecticut

and/or common Northwest Bank for Savings

2. Location

street & number 86 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Winsted N/A vicinity of congressional district 6th -

state Connecticut code 09 county Litchfield code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Northwest Bank for Savings

street & number 86 Main Street

city, town Winsted N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winchester Town Hall

street & number 338 Main Street

city, town Winsted state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle State Register of Historic Places this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Boundary Justification

The purpose of this amendment is to alter the boundary of the Winsted Green National Register Historic District at its southwest corner to include the Northwest Bank for Savings (formerly the Mechanics Savings Bank) at 86 Main Street. (Photograph 1)

The focus of interest in the district is the Winsted Green. "Buildings included in the district," the nomination reads, "either actually face the Green or are so close to it that they contribute visually to enclosing it." (See sketch map) Whether the buildings at 62, 64-68, and 70-74 Main Street contribute visually to enclosing the Green is questionable, but if they do the rationale for excluding the next building west, 86 Main Street, the Northwest Bank for Savings, is not clear.

86 Main Street provides a sensible visual boundary. The next building is a brick Greek Revival-style house that has been insensitively altered by the addition of a tiled-roof porte-cochère on the front and a large garage-type structure at the rear. (Photograph 2) Moreover, inclusion of 86 Main Street tends to bring the western boundary of the district at this point more into balance as concerns the two sides of the street.

Probably a consideration in the exclusion of 86 Main Street was the fact that it was not 50 years old at the time the nomination was written. The building was constructed in 1929; the nomination was written in 1976.

Since the nomination was written, the Northwest Bank for Savings has purchased 70-74 Main Street, the Baird and Woodruff Block, and has carried out a certified historic rehabilitation of the building. In addition, the bank has constructed a connector between the two buildings, (Photograph 3), and now operates them as a single unit. (Photograph 4) Thus, the present district boundary bisects the bank's property.

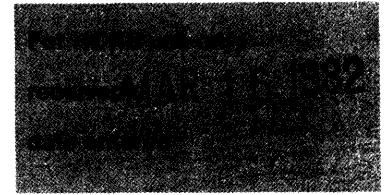
In view of these considerations, and in view of the architectural significance of the building at 86 Main Street as set forth in the balance of this amendment, the district boundary is adjusted to include 86 Main Street, as shown by the sketch map.

86 Main Street

The Northwest Bank for Savings building is a Neo-Classical composition of 2-story central block flanked by one-story wings, executed in tan Indiana limestone. Its dimensions are 72 feet across and 42 feet (for the wings) and 46 feet (for the main block) in depth. (See sketch plan) The three-bay facade of the central block is articulated by four colossal, attached, Tuscan columns on high pedestals. Each bay contains a tall, round-headed aperture. To the left and right are large, 9-over-9 windows that are separated from side lights by heavy mullions. Each mullion is topped with

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Amendment to Winsted Green National Register Historic District
Continuation sheet Description Item number 7

Page 1

a vase finial. A crowning, round-arched window with radial muntins completes the glazing in each aperture. In the central bay, the two-leaf, glazed, bronze doors are under a five-light transom above which appears the raised bronze lettering MECHANICS SAVINGS BANK in a central panel, flanked by swags. Above the lettering there is a triangular pediment with a bas relief bust and festoons in its typanum. The lower angles of the pediment are formed by consoles.

The broad frieze supported by the columns contains the dates 1875 and 1929, and a circle over each column. The cornice is elaborate, with dentil course under cyma recta cymatium. The lettering MECHANCS SAVINGS BANK is incised in the parapet above. The entablature and parapet are carried around the side elevations where, along with half-round windows, they appear above the roofs of the wings.

The central element in the facade of each wing is a pair of 4-over-4 windows separated by a panelled mullion under a flat molded cap. The wings have molded cornices and parapets, scaled down in size from those of the principal block, that carry around the side elevations. On the facades, the parapet of each wing has a bust flanked by garlands in a central panel. The fenestration of the side elevation of the west wing is three 6-over-6 windows and one blind window, while one 6-over-6 window and the beginning of the connector occupy the side elevation of the east wing.

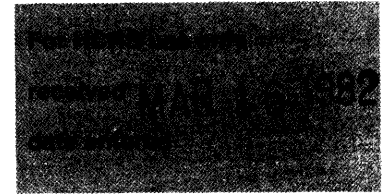
On the rear elevations there are limestone quoins at the corners of the main block and of the wings, but the walls are buff brick approximately the same shade as the limestone. The central block has round-headed windows over an added one-story, central wing to the north. (See sketch plan) This addition is constructed with buff brick and 6-over-6 windows similar to those of the original structure. The rear elevation of the flanking west wing is a solid brick wall, while there are two 6-over-6 windows in the east wing.

The main banking floor is the two-story high, interior space of the central block. Recently renovated, the ceiling is once again at its original height, allowing light to flood the floor from the high round-headed windows on all four sides. (Photograph 5) A balcony across the back of the room originally was open, above a balustrade. The balustrade later was converted into a wall to the ceiling, but has now been restored to a low wall under plate glass, restoring the original effect.

The west wing houses the vault and the east wing the president's office. This room, finished with dark woodwork, has a panelled dado, an elaborate cornice with an odd double-dentil course, and an Adam mantel. (photograph 6)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Amendment to Winsted Green National Register Historic District
Continuation sheet Description Item number 7

Page 2

The space behind the building, between the bank and the burying ground, is devoted to parking and to drive-up tellers.

Overall, the bank continues today very much as it did when it was built in 1929, both in function and appearance.

The main banking floor with its ceiling again opened up to full height in this respect today resembles its original condition more closely than it did after the 1961 renovations that lowered the ceiling and closed in this central space. On the other hand, the recent renovations have introduced wall areas of white gypsum board with hanging vines (Photograph 5) in a contemporary effect, carried through in the tellers' counter, that is quite different from the original treatment of the interior. A sense of the original treatment is given by the interior of the president's office (Photograph 6) which has been unchanged since 1929, not affected by the 1961 or the current renovations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect** Hoggson Brothers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion

The Northwest Bank for Savings building was constructed toward the end of the period when classicism was popular in American architecture. It is a competent design that combines elements from both Beaux-Arts classicism and Neo-Classical Revival styles. Its timing, its stylistic features, and the preservation of its exterior almost intact, make the building a valuable contribution to architectural history. (Criterion C.)

History

When the Mechanics Savings Bank of Winsted decided in the late 1920s to erect a new banking house, it engaged the architectural and engineering firm of Hoggson Brothers, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York City, to design, construct and furnish the new building. Correspondence between the bank and Hoggson, and Hoggson's complete specifications for the structure, are in the bank's records.

The specifications give a good deal of information about the building. The first-floor construction is reinforced concrete and the balance of the building non-fireproof. The stone for the exterior was furnished by the Bloomington Limestone Co., Bloomington, Indiana. Cast granite was used for a base course at the grade across the facade and side elevations. Plaster models were furnished to guide the stone carvers in executing the ornamental stone work.

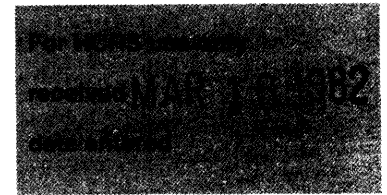
The balustrade of the stairs to the balcony, still in place, is birch stained to match walnut. A 25-foot flagpole was provided for the roof. (There is now a flagpole in front of the building.) Marble was specified for the baseboards and for the hearth of the fireplace in the president's office. No detail was too small to receive attention: cuspidors at a cost of \$14.40 were specified.

The cost of the building was \$111,643. Hoggson Brothers received a 10% "constructor's service fee" and 6% architectural fee.

The date of construction of the added one-story rear wing is uncertain. While this wing does not have the moldings and other fine trim of the original structure, it was built of nearly-matching buff brick, has similar 6-over-6 windows, and in any event is not visible from the street.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Amendment to Winsted Green National Register Historic District
Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8

Page 1

During insensitive interior alterations in the early 1960s, the ceiling of the main banking floor was dropped to a level below the round-headed windows and the open mezzanine balcony was converted into a closed room. These changes have now been reversed. The interior layout of tellers' counter, check-writing desks, and small offices, was changed in the early 1960s and in the present renovations; most of the original dark wood trim has been lost, except in the president's office, and, of course, the original vault remains in place in the west wing.

Discussion

The savings bank building presents an interesting, and successful, combination of elements from Beaux-Arts Classicism and the Neo-Classical Revival styles.

First among the features of the building normally associated with Beaux-Arts Classicism is the strictly symmetrical massing with clearly articulated parts; the central mass dominates the wings. The use of both arched and linteled openings in the facade is another Beaux-Arts characteristic, as is the presence of sculpture in relief, although the three busts are quite restrained in comparison to the sky-line figures often found in Beaux-Arts designs. On the other hand, coupled columns, one of the commonest features of Beaux-Arts Classicism, are missing from the bank building. Nor does the bank have a monumental flight of steps such as typically is found in Beaux-Arts work. Advancing and receding planes in the facade with re-entrant angles are missing as well; only the engaged (not free-standing) columns provide depth and shadows. The overall effect has more restraint and simplicity than is typical of Beaux-Arts Classicism.

Neo-Classical Revival style buildings in general tend to be simpler in effect than those of Beaux-Arts Classicism. For example, plain wall surfaces are more common, and roof lines are likely to be level and unbroken by sculptural incident, as is the case with the bank. Pedimented porticos are often used, and while the savings bank building does not have a portico, it does have a pediment over its entrance.

Classicism in American architecture was popularized by the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. During ensuing decades classical revival styles were used for buildings of all sorts, but especially for public or semi-public structures where an imposing image of strength and stability was desired. The Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical Revival modes were well suited for banks and were widely used for bank buildings in the early 20th century. This phase of architectural history reached its zenith about 1915, and by 1929 was nearing the end of its period of popularity. Hoggson Brothers had a great deal of precedent to guide them when they undertook the Winsted commission.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Amendment to Winsted Green National Register Historic District
Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page

2

The date of 1929 places the Winsted bank at the end of the period of active construction that was terminated by the Great Depression. When construction of commercial buildings was resumed some years later, contemporary architectural styles were favored and classic revival styles were widely regarded with strong negativism. The Northwest Bank for Savings is representative of the end of an era, competently designed, and particularly valuable as an example of its type because of its sound condition and unaltered exterior.

Hoggson Brothers gave close attention to the interior as well as to the exterior of the building. They fitted out the interior with dark wood panelling and classically-inspired features and fixtures as may be seen in the president's office, which has not been altered. The main banking area has seen two programs of alterations, in 1961 and during the past year. The 1961 program was unfortunate in that it closed in the room by reducing the ceiling height, thereby shutting off the natural light from the high round-arched windows. The current program has reversed that error, but has given a contemporary character to the main banking area that is not in keeping with the nature of the building in general. The main banking room until this time was dominated by dark wood fixtures, including the tellers' cages and counter, check-writing desks, and a small vestibule that had a clock above it. In order to provide for today's volume of business it was necessary to increase the size and number of the tellers' counters and stations and check-writing desks. Rather than try to add non-matching dark wood features, a decision was made to alter the overall character of this space. The difference is vividly displayed by Photographs 5 and 6.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Synopsis of Specifications for Mechanics Savings Bank, Winsted, Conn.," New York: Hoggson Brothers, 1929.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.66 acres

Quadrangle name Winsted *Winsted*

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UMT References Amended southwest boundary

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property added to the district by this amendment is described in the Winchester Land Records, volume 164, page 994.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom

organization Architectural Historian

date June 6, 1980

street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive

telephone 203 521-2518

city or town West Hartford

state Connecticut

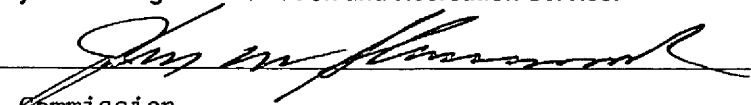
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

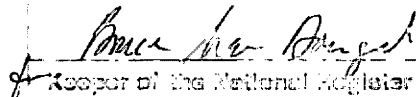


title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date February 23, 1982

For NCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

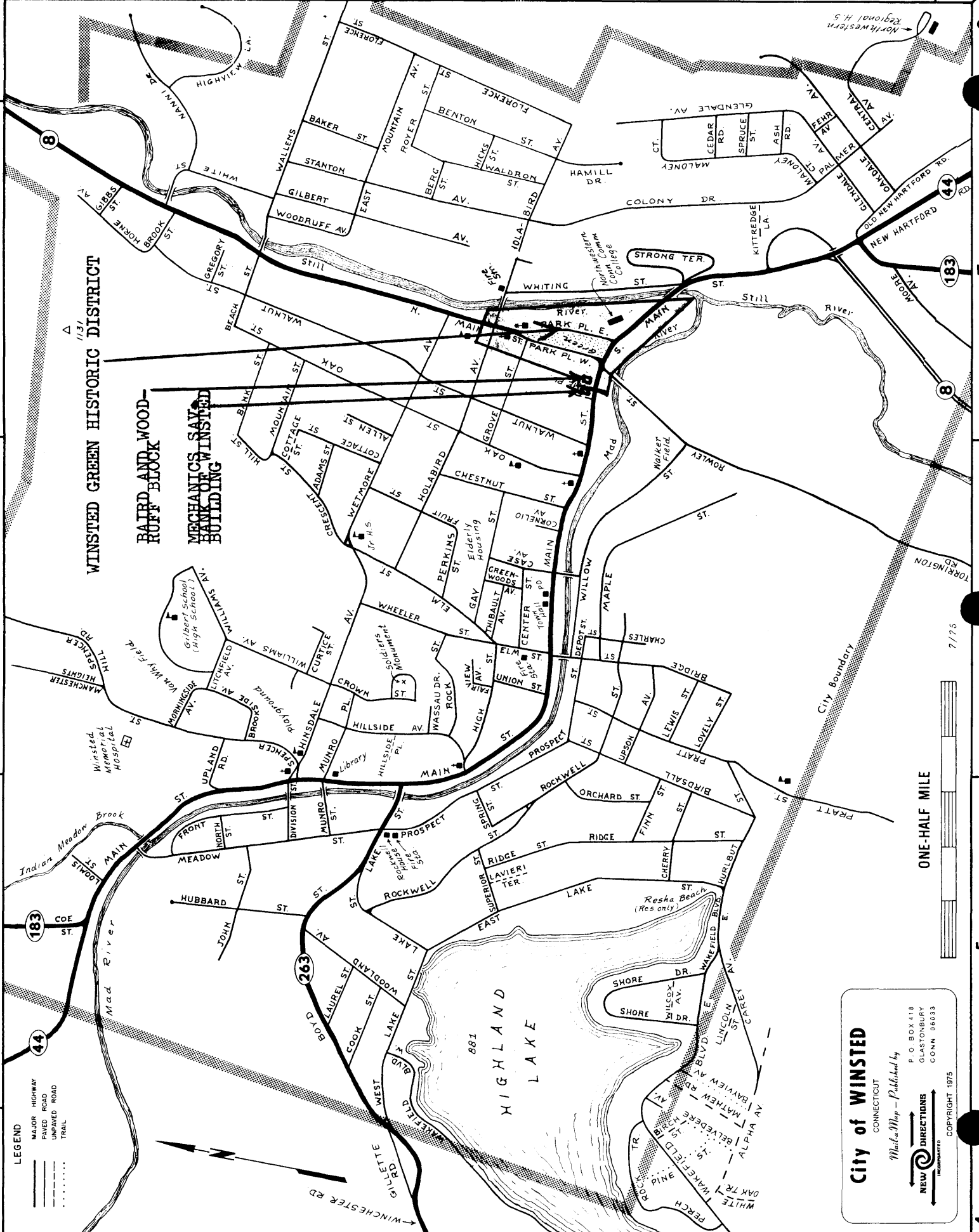

Keeper of the National Register

date 4/29/82

Witness:

date

Chief of Registration



WINSTED HISTORIC DISTRICT

BAIRD AND WOOD-ROFF BLOCK

MECHANICS SAY BANK OF WINSTED BUILDING

City of WINSTED
CONNECTICUT

Master Map - Published by

P.O. BOX 418
GLASTONBURY
CONN 06033



COPYRIGHT 1975

ONE-HALF MILE

7/75

City Boundary

Northwestern Regional H.S.

Northwestern North Conn College

Resha Beach (Res only)

HIGHLAND LAKE

Gilbert School (High School)
Winsted Memorial Hospital
Morningside Av.
Williams Av.
Winsted Memorial Hospital

113/

8

183

44

44

183

8

183

7

7/75

E

A

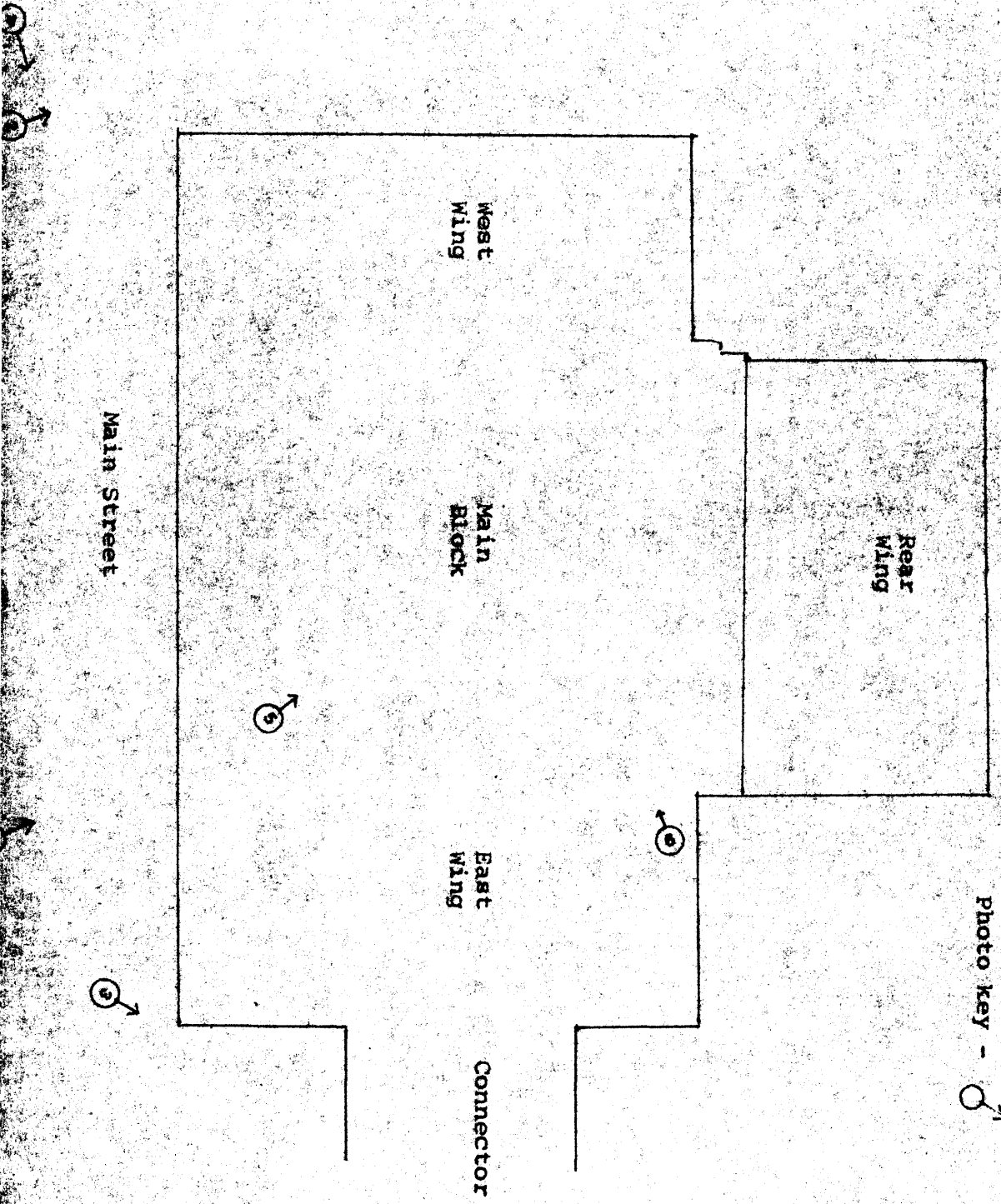
E

A

Amendment to Winsted Green National Register
Historic District
Winsted, Litchfield County, CT
Northwest Bank for Savings, 86 Main Street,
Winsted, CT

Scale: 1" = 124' prox.

Photo key - 



Main Street

West Wing

Main Block

Rear Wing

East Wing

Connector