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### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## Name

N.A. historic

and/or common Washington Street Historic District

#### 2. Location

street & number 158,160, 163-65 Broad Street; 108-356 Washington St.; N.A.not for publication 301-349 Washington Terrace  $_{N \hfill A} \hfill A \hfill A$  vicinity of

city, town Middletown

code 09 state Connecticut county Middlesex code 007

### Classification 3.

Category _x district building(s) structure _X site object	Ownership public private _X both Public Acquisition in process	Status <u>x</u> occupied unoccupied <u>x</u> work in progress Accessible <u>x</u> yes: restricted	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government	museum _X_ park _X_ private residence religious scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial military	transportation other:

#### **Owner of Property** 4.

name Multiple private ownership

See attached street & number

city, town Middletown

vicinity of N.A.

state Connecticut

### Location of Legal Description 5.

Town Clerk's Office courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

deKoven Drive street & number

Middletown ....

city,	town	state Connecticut
6.	<b>Representation in E</b>	xisting Surveys (See continuation sheet)
title	State Register of Historic Places	has this property been determined eligible? yes $\{x}$ no
date	1985	federal statex_ county loca

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street

Hartford city, town

Connecticut state

# 7. Description

Condition         _x excellent       deteri         _x good       ruins         _x fair       unexp	Check one orated <u>x</u> unaltered <u>x</u> altered posed	Check one _x_ original site moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington Street Historic District is primarily a historical residential area, dating from 1752 to 1931, which lies along both sides of Washington Street and Washington Terrace in Middletown, Connecticut. It encompasses approximately thirty acres and includes thirtyfive buildings, a historic cemetery, and the memorial park. Running perpendicular to Main Street, which runs in a north-south direction, Washington Street (Route 66), the principal street in the district, serves as a direct artery into the central business district from the west, and north from Route 72 and Interstates 84 and 91. Because Middletown is located on the sloping banks of the Connecticut River, Washington Street extends uphill to the west, rising 70 feet above Main Street and 180 feet above the river. Washington Terrace Park, the central focus of the district, is a five-acre landscaped open space located near the crest of the hill, bordered by Washington Street on the north and Washington Terrace on its south side. Both of these streets are lined with historic residential properties that face the park.

The district is bounded on the east by the Main Street Historic District (NR:1983) and extends west to Jackson Street. Its northern boundary includes all the properties that face south onto Washington Street, numbering 108-356. The district's southern boundary includes properties between 125 Washington Street to Pearl Street and 301 Washington Terrace to Vine Street. These boundaries surround and encompass Washington Terrace Park, which extends for two blocks between High and Vine streets. The north-south boundaries include all the outbuildings that remain within the property lines of listed buildings.

Washington Street, first known as the Boston Road, was renamed after George Washington's visit to Middletown in 1789. The Barnum Map of the city, drawn in 1825, indicates that the street was lined with well-spaced houses. By 1877, when a birdseye map of the city was drawn, the street appears lined with larger houses, much as it is today, sited well back from the street on large lots. The park has changed very little since the nine-teenth century. Then, as now, it was bordered by Washington Street and Washington Terrace and essentially the same size and shape, an elongated triangular open space.

The district spans 175 years of historic residential construction. Nineteenth-century residential architecture is particularly well represented as the majority of the buildings were built in this time period. Seventy-five percent (26) were built after 1830, reflecting the prosperity of Middletown in the industrial period. This group includes Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne styles. Only six were built before 1830 and these include several buildings which have later nineteenth-century alterations. Two of the early twentieth-century buildings are the only examples of their style in the district: a Shingle style built in 1905 and a 1916 example of Neo-Classicism. There are only three modern buildings in the district. One of these is a brick church and school complex. The others are a modern brick commercial building and a brick apartment building. In function and style as well as massing and materials, they differ from the predominantly nineteenth-century appearance of the district.

The majority of the buildings have retained their historic fabric, form, and appearance. Only two buildings (125 and 144 Washington Street) have been altered with storefront additions at the first story (Inventory #8 and 12). Other alterations include a few houses with inappropriately sized replacement windows. Several, such as 124 Washington Street, are covered with aluminum siding or asphalt shingles that hide the original

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District

	OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84	
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Continuati	on sheetMiddletown, Connecticut	Item nur	nber 4, 7         Page 1
Inven- tory #	Building/Site	C/NC	Map/Lot/Block Owner Photo Address, if different #
1.	158 Broad Street Queen Anne, ca. 1870	С	22/10/17–51 Coughlin, Robert E., Jr. Coughlin, Thomas E.
2.	160 Broad Street Queen Anne, ca. 1870	С	22/11/17-51 Coughlin, Robert E., Jr. Coughlin, Thomas E.
3.	163-165 Broad Street CAMP-STEARNS HOUSE Greek Revival, ca. 1835	С	22/14/17-51 St. Sebastian Church Corporation 155 Washington Street Middletown
4.	108–110 Washington Street JEREMIAH WETMORE HOUSE (Starr-Fisk House) Colonial Georgian, 1752–56 West addition, 1756–87	С	22/56/17-46 1 Briggs, Walter D., Trustee P.O. Box 831 Middletown
5.	116 Washington Street AARON PEASE HOUSE Federal/Greek Revival, ca. 1825	С	22/15/17-46 Dowley, Michael F. 437 Main Street Middletown
6.	120 Washington Street LERNER FURS Modern commercial, ca. 1960	NC	22/54/1 <b>7-4</b> 6 Masda Realty Company
7.	124 Washington Street Queen Anne, ca. 1890	С	22/38/17-46 The Middlesex Optical Company
8.	125 Washington Street Queen Anne, ca. 1890 Commercial storefront	С	22/13/17-51 <sup>°</sup> 2 Dzialo, Stephen J. 3 Alsop Avenue Middletown
9.	128 Washington Street AMERICAN LEGION Renaissance Revival, ca. 1920	С	22/37/17-46 Milardo Wilcox Post American Legion, Inc., #75
10.	134 Washington Street Queen Anne, ca. 1890	С	22/36/17-46 Fortuna, Carl P.

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District

For NPS use only

received

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Continuat	ion sheet Middletown, Connecticut	Item nu	mber 4, 7 Page 2	
Inven- tory #	Building/Site	C/NC	Map/Lot/Block Owner Address, if different	Photo #
11.	138-140 Washington Street JARVIS-HOTCHKISS HOUSE Greek Revival, ca. 1838	С	22/35/17-46 Washington Associates (William Charaton, Arthur Lerner, Harold Miller) 120 Washington Street Middletown	
12.	144 Washington Street Queen Anne, ca. 1880	С	22/34/17-46 Charatan, William & Belle L. 105 Schuyler Avenue Middletown	
13.	147 Washington Street ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH Renaissance Revival, 1931	С	22/13/17-50 St. Sebastian Church Corp.	3
14.	150 Washington Street GEORGE PHILLIPS HOUSE (Phillips-Glover House) Colonial Georgian, 1760-80	С	22/33/17-46 Masda Realty Corporation 120 Washington Street Middletown	
15.	154 Washington Street Queen Anne, ca. 1890	С	22/23/17-46 Palmer, Kalman P. 536 Main Street Middletown	
16.	155 Washington Street ST. SEBASTIAN RECTORY Queen Anne, ca. 1870	С	22/11 + 11A + 12/17-50 St. Sebastian Church Corp.	
17.	160 Washington Street BENJAMIN BUTLER HOUSE Second Empire, 1867-79	С	22/10/17-51 Palmer, Kalman P. 536 Main Street Middletown	
18.	166 Washington Street JACKSON HOUSE Queen Anne, ca. 1890	С	22/1/17-45 Guglielmino, Sebastiana	
19.	184–186 Washington Street Second Empire, ca. 1880	С	22/12 + 13/17-45 Wesleyan University Attn: Burton Sonenstein Vice President	

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87



Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number

Page <sup>3</sup>

4,7

Inven-			Map/Lot/Block Owner	Photo
tory #	Building/Site	C/NC	Address, if different	#
20.	190 Washington Street BRIGGS-STUECK HOUSE Queen Anne, 1δ91-92	С	22/11/17-45 Theodore and Judith Bertz	4
21.	200–202 Washington Street ALSOP-WEEKS HOUSE (Wetmore-Weeks House) Georgian, ca. 1780	С	22/1/17–43 Wesleyan University (same contact)	5
22.	230 Washington Street Colonial Revival, ca. 1920	С	22/20/17-43 Wesleyan University (same contact)	6
23.	240 Washington Street Colonial Revival, ca. 1920	С	22/19/17-43 Wesleyan University (same contact)	6
24.	254-256 Washington Street Modern apartment, ca. 1970	NC	22/17 + 18/17-43 Wesleyan University (same contact)	
25.	300 Washington Street CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1958	NC	22/E/17-39 Christ Lutheran Church	
26.	322 Washington Street Late 19th century cottage c2. 1880	С	23/2/17-39 Wesleyan University (same contact)	7
27.	324 Washington Street ASTON HOUSE Federal/Greek Revival, ca. 1835	С	23/3/17–39 Wesleyan University (same contact)	7
28.	344 Washington Street Colonial Revival, ca. 1920	С	23/6/17-39 Wesleyan University (same contact	
29.	346 Washington Street Early 20th century Domestic ca. 1910	С	23/7/17–39 Wesleyan University (same contact)	

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Washington Street Historic DistrictContinuation sheet Middletown, ConnecticutItem number 4, 7Page 4

Inven-			Map/Lot/Block Owner	Photo
<u>tory #</u> 30.	Building/Site 356 Washington Street ACHESON HOUSE (Armstrong House) Neo-Classical Revival, 1916	C/NC C	Address, if different 23/8/17-39 Wesleyan University Attn: Burton Sonenstein Vice President Wesleyan Station, Middletown	#8
31.	301 Washington Terrace ROBERT W. MERRIAM HOUSE Colonial Revival, 1901	C	24/30/23-16 Wesleyan University (same contact)	
32.	307 Washington Terrace Late 19th century Domestic ca. 1890	С	24/29/23-16 Whitney, Dona & Henry M. 247 Duncaster Road Bloomfield, CT 06002	
33.	319 Washington Terrace POWER-SAGE HOUSE Center-chimney Colonial, 1783	С	24/27/23-16 Wesleyan University Attn: Burton Sonenstein Vice President Wesleyan Station, Middletown	
34.	329 Washington Terrace CAPTAIN JOHN WETMORE HOUSE (Starr-Rand House) Greek Revival, 1830-50	С	24/26/23-16 Wesleyan University (same contact)	
35.	343 Washington Terrace FOWLER-MACDONALD HOUSE Shingle, 1905	С	23/1/23–12 Wesleyan University (same contact)	9
36.	349 Washington Terrace WEST BURYING GROUND (Washington Street Cemetery) 1739, enlarged 1839	С	23/13/23-12 Ehlers, Warren Volpe, Paul 65 Nathan Hale Road Middletown	10
37.	WASHINGTON TERRACE PARK (originally called West Green) 1878 (landscaped)	С	22/A/23-16 City of Middletown	10

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**United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number 6

Representation in Existing Surveys continued:

Historic Preservation: A Plan for Connecticut, Vol. II, The Inventory, 1974.

Jarvis-Hotchkiss House (recorded as Robert, Elisha, House) 138-140 Washington Street

George Phillips House (recorded as Phillips, General George, House 150 Washington Street

Jeremiah Wetmore (recorded as Wetmore House) 108-110 Washington Street

Alsop-Weeks House(recorded as Wetmore, Seth, House) 220-202 Washington Street

Middletown, Connecticut: Historic and Architectural Resources (3 volumes), Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1979.

All surveys on file with: Connecticut Historical Commission 59 South Prospect Street Hartford, CT 061606



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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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 Washington Street Historic District

 Continuation sheetMiddletown, Connecticut

 Item number

 7

 Page

clapboard exteriors (Inventory #7). The condition of the historic buildings in the district ranges from excellent to fair. Two buildings that warrant repairs and maintenance are the Jeremiah Wetmore House (108-110 Washington Street), built between 1752 and 1756, and 134 Washington Street (Inventory #3 and 10). The Wetmore House, the oldest house in the district, shows signs of structural problems and clapboard deterioration. The Queen Anne-style building at 134 Washington Street, until recently vacant and overgrown with vegetation, is currently being rehabilitated. All historic buildings exist on their original locations.

Most of the buildings in the district are two to three stories in height and utilize wood-frame construction, occasionally interspersed with masonry buildings of brick. A consistent setback has been maintained, with most of the buildings located well back from the sidewalk-lined streets. Attached storefronts on the historic houses at 125 and 144 Washington Street intrude on this setback to some degree. Despite their additions, these buildings still conform in height and scale with the neighboring residential buildings.

At the northeastern corner of the district is the Jeremiah Wetmore House, built between 1752 and 1756 (Inventory #4; Photo #1). Originally a clapboarded, five-bay building with a central chimney, it has a three-bay eastern addition which probably was erected by Jehosophat Starr after the Revolution. He may also have been responsible for the Georgian details such as the window mouldings.

An example of the transition period between the Federal and Greek Revival styles is the Aaron Pease House (116 Washington Street), constructed around 1825 by Aaron and his brother Randolph (Inventory #5). This three-bay, gable-roofed building features a leaded fanlight in its gabled pediment. Two-story pilasters and a denticulated cornice enhance its elaborate entryway comprising fluted columns, a leaded fanlight, and leaded sidelights.

Further west at 138-140 Washington Street lies the Jarvis-Hotchkiss House (Inventory #11; Photo #13). Built around 1838 the brick, two-story, cube-shaped building illustrates the late Greek Revival style in its form and detail, particularly the colonnaded porch executed in the Ionic order. The house is currently being rehabilitated (a modern storefront has been removed), and the cast-iron railing above the porch, added in the late nineteenth century, will be replaced.

Only one of the two churches in the district is architecturally and historically significant. It was built in 1931 by Middletown's Italian-American masons. Called St. Sebastian, it is similar in design to the Church of St. Sebastian in Melilli , Sicily.<sup>1</sup> With its fluted parapet and two-story design, it is heavily influenced by the Renaissance Revival style (Inventory #13).

<sup>1</sup>See "53rd Anniversary St. Sebastian Feast" (pamphlet, 1974). Report on St. Sebastian Church by the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust (unpub., 1974).

3

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For MPS use only received date entered

Page

Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number 7

At 190 Washington Street, on the northwest corner of its intersection with High Street, is the Briggs-Stueck House, a recently restored masonry building in the Queen Anne style (Inventory #20; Photo #4). Two-and-one-half stories in height, with an asymmetrical and irregular plan, it has a highly decorative exterior which features terra cotta tiles, corbeled and patterned brickwork, and wooden stickwork. Perhaps its unusual treatment is the universal use of floral motifs. They can be found in the tiles, the exterior wooden trim on the gable ends, pediments, and porches, as well as on the fireplace surrounds and the balustrade of the triple-run staircase. The interior also features original doors, wainscotting, and window and door casings of oak.

Differing in style from the other historic buildings in the district is a Georgian-style residence (200-202 Washington Street), built about 1789 and extensively remodeled with Gothic Revival-style detailing about 1840. Known as the Alsop-Weeks House, this clapboarded, gable- and hip-roofed house was originally a central-hall mansion (Inventory#21; Photo #5). Today it features carved vergeboards, dormers, and two gambrel-roofed wings which may have been taken from another dwelling. Further changes took place by the twentieth century. Before the property changed hands in 1911 the interior was remodeled with neo-Federal-style detail, creating a building with a most unusual architectural history.

At the extreme western boundary of the historic district lies the Reverend E. Campion Acheson House (356 Washington Street) built in 1916 (Inventory #30; Photo #3). This stucco building, constructed in the Neo-Classical Revival style, has generous proportions. More massive in appearance than other buildings in the district because of its broad facade, it is composed of a central section flanked by two projecting wings. Its pedimented gables feature oculus windows and denticulated cornices. Quoins accentuate the building's corners, and a recessed portico features a fanlight and broken pediment flanked by Tuscan pilasters.

The Fowler-MacDonald House (Inventory #35; Photo #9) lies on the corner of Washington Terrace between Vine and Mt. Vernon streets. Its high-pitched roof, gables, half-turrets, and expansive front porch display the texture, form, and horizontal lines of the Shingle style.

Further east on Washington Terrace is a two-and-one-half story, clapboarded, Greek Revival-style residence (Inventory #34). It features four bays, gable-to-street orientation, and a plain entablature. The existing building was probably built between 1825 and 1850 and is unique to the district because it sits on the foundation of an earlier dwelling; the latter's Colonial-period windows were salvaged and incorporated into the existing building.

Washington Terrace Park, the five-acre open green, is centrally located within the district (Inventory #37). The western half of the park features a 1901 marble monument which commemorates Connecticut and Middletown citizens who died during the Civil War. A 1919 granite obelisk at the east end of the park and mature memorial trees commemorate the dead who were killed in World War I. The park serves as the buffer zone between the traffic on Route 66 and the Washington Terrace residences.

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

Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number 7

The other historic site in the district is the West Burying Ground. Protected by an iron fence and located at the southwestern corner of the district, it was laid out in 1739 and enlarged in 1839 (Inventory #36).



Page 4

## **Significance**

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1600-1799 1800-1899 1900- Criteria A a	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications and C		_x_ landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy _x_ politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1752-1931	Builder/Architect Se	ee #7	

Specific dates 1752-1931 Builder/Architect

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington Street Historic District is a well-preserved, cohesive residential area possessing architectural and historical significance. A distinguishable entity, the district contains a high concentration of contributing historic buildings (94%) which represent most of the major American architectural styles, including Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival (Criterion C). Nowhere else in the city can be found such a variety of historic residential architecture that so closely parallels the history of the community. Because many of Middletown's prominent citizens who were active in civic and commercial affairs lived in the district, these buildings are directly associated with the social and economic development of the city from 1752 to 1931 (Criterion A).

#### History

The streets bordering Washington Park have been a favored residential area since the eighteenth century. In contrast to the smaller houses in adjacent neighborhoods to the north and south of Washington Street and Washington Terrace, the houses built in the district reflected the status of their owners both in their size and in their degree of arghitectural style. Prominent and successful citizens, leaders of the community, chose build their homes here for over 180 years. Among these were founders or officers of ddletown's industries, three former mayors, a former governor, a lieutenant governor of the state, the Episcopal bishop of Connecticut, a retired commodore of the United States Navy, and a former United States Secretary of State.

During the eighteenth century Middletown evolved from a colonial farming village on the Connecticut River to a major mercantile center. A brisk trade with ports on the East Coast had begun by 1750, but it was not until after the Revolution that shipbuilding and the maritime trade with the West Indies established the city as the largest port between New York and Boston, and the largest city in Connecticut. With the decline of trade following the War of 1812, Middletown's economy suffered and her population drastically declined. Entrepreneurial merchants began to invest in small factories and textile mills to bolster the economy, and by the end of the nineteenth century Middletown was well established as a successful manufacturing center. It specialized in textiles, hardware and rubber products, industries which continued to flourish well into the twentieth century.

Houses in the Washington Street Historic District, built by merchants and sea captains active in the West Indies trade, include the Georgian Colonial-style house built by merchant George Phillips (Inventory #14) and the Greek Revival-style houses built by Captain John Wetmore and Elijah Roberts, a ship's chandler (Inventory #34,11). Early factory owners and businessmen also made their homes in the district, such as Jehosophat Starr, Jr. Starr lived in the Jeremiah Wetmore House (108-110 Washington Street) at the eastern end of the district (Inventory #4). He, like several other members of his family, experimented with manufacturing pistols, swords, paper, and nails. Aaron Pease, a successful grocer and member of the City Council, lived next door in a Federal-

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number 8



Page 2

style house (Inventory #5). Henry Aston, who built a Greek Revival-style house in a prime location on Washington Street facing the park, was another munitions manufacturer (Inventory #27).

Established local industrialists, such as Frank Fowler and Robert Merriman, also built houses there in the early twentieth century. Fowler's house on Washington Terrace is the finest example of the Shingle style in Middletown (Inventory #35; Photo #9). He was an officer in the Arrawana Mills Company. Merriman, the treasurer of the Rockfall Woolen Company, built his house nearby in the Colonial Revival style (Inventory #31).

Some of the architecturally distinguished houses in the district occupy visually prominent locations which reflect the high social status of their owners. The Alsop-Weeks House (200-202 Washington Street) is a prime example. Not only did it have a series of notable owners, it also demonstrates through its ca. 1840 remodeling the changing architectural taste of the nineteenth century. It was built about 1780 as a Georgianstyle, center-hall plan mansion by Chauncey Whittlesley, a successful merchant and a major financial supporter of the Revolution. Charles Alsop, who was a mayor of Middletown and a state senator, made extensive alterations and transformed the house into the Gothic Revival style. The Alsop family has been associated with Middletown for over two centuries. Another remodeling took place near the end of the nineteenth century when the Atwaters completely redid the interior in a neo-Federal style before selling the house to Frank Weeks, a former governor of Connecticut. Across High Street on the southwest corner of the same intersection is the finest brick Queen Anne-style house in the city, built by Luther Briggs, a former mayor of Middletown, and one of the first wholesale merchants to import western beef to the state (Inventory #20). Several owners of the house at 138-140 Washington Street, located at the head of Broad Street, were also professionally distinguished. They include the Reverend Jarvis, pastor of Christ Church in Middletown, and later Julius Hotchkiss, lieutenant governor of the state in 1870 and a representative to Congress. Another outstanding house was built in the early twentieth century on the corner of Washington and Jackson streets by the Episcopal bishop of Connecticut. His large, formal mansion in the Neo-Classical Revival style establishes the western boundary of the district (Inventory #30; Photo #8). This was also the boyhood home of Dean Acheson, Secretary of State under President Truman. Architectural Significance

The Washington Street Historic District contains one of Middletown's most distinguished collections of well-preserved, historic residential architecture. Its variety of major American architectural styles, ranging from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, conveys a special sense of place and time. A distinguishable entity, the district's buildings retain their original materials, functions, and proportions, a few of which are architecturally outstanding. Modern intrusions have been limited to only three non-contributing buildings. Similarly, minor alterations, such as aluminum or asphalt siding and storefront additions, exist on just eight buildings. The district, through its uniform setback and scale, has retained its late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries' qualities.

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District
Continuation sheetMiddletown, Connecticut Item number 8 Page 3

Although the majority of the district's buildings date from the nineteenth century, it contains several examples of late eighteenth-century domestic architecture. Perhaps the best unaltered example is the oldest house in the district, the Jeremiah Wetmore House (108-110 Washington Street; Photo #1). Built between 1752 and 1756, this Colonial-Georgian-style house, although somewhat deteriorated, has retained its exterior materials and design, a feature not often found in buildings of its age. Of further interest is the high quality of interior craftsmanship. The original three-bay section with a center chimney and center hall and its nearby identical three-bay addition (ca. 1787) retain the original fielded and paneled dado, and a corner cupboard. A triplerun staircase, highlighted with a newel post, gives the interior of this eighteenthcentury house an exceptional level of decorative distinctiveness when compared to other buildings of its style.

The Alsop-Weeks House (200-202 Washington Street; Photo #5) originally was a Georgian house remodeled ca. 1840 in the Gothic Revival style. Although the application of two styles on the same building over decades is not highly unusual, this building is significant due to the skill with which it was accomplished. By adding gabled dormers and a projecting gabled center section, highlighted by carved bargeboards, pinnacles, and window hoods, the building truly exemplifies the characteristics of the Gothic Revival style. Of further note is the second remodeling of the Georgian and Gothic Revival interior to the Colonial Revival style. Its staircases, fireplace surrounds, and paneling present primarily Adamesque ornamentation. All of these features effectively obscure the building's original appearance, making it an important statement to Middletown's changing architectural tastes.

The district includes two good examples of Federal/Greek Revival-style domestic architecture. Both the Aaron Pease House (116 Washington Street; Photo #7) and the Henry Aston House (324 Washington Street; Photo #7) incorporate the style's traditional three bay, side-hall plan, and gable roof. Both feature leaded decorative sidelights and fanlights and in addition, leaded fanlights accentuate the gables of each house. The Aaron Pease House, a more sophisticated example, contains a denticulated cornice and full-height corner pilasters. The Henry Aston House, although less distinguished, is significant for its unaltered condition.

The Briggs-Stueck House (190 Washington Street; Photo #4) is the most outstanding example of the Queen Anne style executed in brick in Middletown; it occupies a prominent position in the center of the district. Relatively restrained in its massing of forms, this house achieves an unusual degree of sophistication and unity by employing floral patterns as a consistent decorative theme. Used in the carved bargeboards, repeated again in the bands of terra cotta tiles, they are also used again in the house's well-preserved interior. Each repetition of the floral motif is quite different. On the marble fireplace surrounds, they are delicately incised while on the paneled balustrade of the handsome triple-run staircase, they are more boldly cut. The Briggs-Stueck House makes a unique and decorative contribution to the district's nineteenth century quality.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87



## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic District Continuation sheet Middletown, Connecticut Item number 8 er HPS sale outr

Page 4

Among the notable early twentieth-century houses is the Acheson House (356 Washington Street; Photo #8), built in 1916. It is an outstanding example of Neo-Classical Revivalstyle domestic architecture, the finest in Middletown. Of particular architectural interest are the carefully executed quoins, arched window flanked by slender pilasters, and an elaborate denticulated cornice all of which complement the building's most prominent feature: the recessed entranceway framed by delicate columns and a broken pediment. The sophistications of these exterior decorative features make the Acheson House an important example of early twentieth—century domestic architecture.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic DistrictContinuation sheetMiddletown, ConnecticutItem number 9

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- Middletown Land Records
- Middletown Probate Records

Middletown Vital Records

Maps

1825 Barnum Map1851 Clark Map1859 Walling Map1877 Bailey Map

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Page 1

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Washington Street Historic DistrictContinuation sheetMiddletown, ConnecticutItem number 10

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 13, Block 23-12 (West Burying Ground), as shown on the Middletown Tax Assessor's Map 23, the district boundary extends to the north along the western property line, crossing Washington Terrace and Washington Street, to the southwest corner of Lot 3, Block 17-39. Here the boundary turns at ninety degrees and continues to the west along the front (south) property lines of Lots 6 and 7, stopping at the southwest corner of Lot 8. At this point the boundary turns in a northerly direction until it meets with the rear (north) property line of Lot 8. Here it extends to the east, running along the rear (north) property lines of Lots 8, 7, and 6, crosses Route 72, and continues along the rear property lines of Lots 3 and 2 where it joins the rear (north) property line of Lot E, Map 22. Crossing Berlin Street and Park Place and continuing in an easterly direction, the boundary runs along the rear (north) property lines of Lots 17, 18, 19, 20, and 1, Block 17-43. At the northeast point of Lot 1 the boundary turns in a southerly direction to a point opposite to the rear (north) property line of Lot 11, Block 17-45. Crossing High Street, it continues to the east until it meets the northeast corner of Lot 12-13 where it turns in a northerly direction to the northwest corner of the rear (north) property line of Lot 1. Moving from this point to the east, the boundary extends in a southerly direction from the northeast corner of the said lot to a point opposite to the rear (north) property line of Lot 22, Block 17-46. Crossing Pearl Street, it continues to run to the east along the rear (north) property lines of Lots 23, 33, and 34. At the northeast corner of Lot 34 the boundary turns to the north to the rear (north) property line of Lot 35. Here it extends to the east along the rear property line of Lots 35, 36, 37, and 38. Continuing across Wetmore Place, the boundary turns in an easterly direction along the rear (north) property line of Lot 54 to its northeast corner. Here it turns to the north to meet the northwest point of the rear (north) property line of Lot 56. Heading south from this point, it then turns east, then south, following the outline of the property's eastern boundary. From the southeastern corner of the said lot the boundary extends to the west along the front (south) property lines of Lots 56, 55, and 54. At the southeast point of Lot 38 it turns ninety degrees to the south, crossing Washington Street, and runs along the eastern property lines of Lots 13 and 11, Block 17-51, until it reaches the southeast corner of Lot 10. Here it extends in a westerly direction along the south property lines of Lot 10, crossing Broad Street, to the southern corner of Lots 13-14, Block 17-50. At this point the boundary turns to the north and continues until it intersects with the rear (south) property lines of Lots 11, 11A, and 12. Extending west to the lots' western property lines and then turning to the north, the boundary crosses Washington Street where it meets the southwest corner of Lot 22, Block 17-46. Here it turns ninety degrees in a westerly direction, crossing Pearl Street, then High Street, to meet the southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 17-43. Next it turns ninety degrees to continue south to the southeast corner of Lot A, Block 23-16, Map 22 (Washington Terrace Park). From this point the boundary extends west along the rear (south) property line of the said lot until it intersects with the eastern property line of Lot 30, Block 23-16, Map 24. Here it turns to the south, then to the west, along the rear (south) property line of the said lot, to its southwest cor-At this point it extends to the south, then west, then north, along the property ner. line of Lot 29. From here the boundary joins the rear property line of Lot 27 and bontinues in a westerly direction, crossing Mount Vernon Street, until it intersects with



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

For NPS use only received date entered Page 2

Washington Street Historic DistrictContinuation sheetMiddletown, ConnecticutItem number10

the eastern property line of Lot 13, Block 23-12, Map 23. Moving in a southerly direction, the boundary extends to the rear (south) property line of the said lot where it turns west to meet with the first point.

#### Boundary Justification:

The Washington Terrace Park Historic District comprises buildings and sites that line both sides of Washington Street and Washington Terrace. Bound to the extreme west by Jackson Street, a dividing line between historic residential and modern encroaching commercial properties, the district's western boundary continues south of Washington Terrace to the West Burying Ground, excluding the twentieth-century cemetery on the west side of Vine Street and south side of Washington Street. It continues east for three blocks to include two blocks of Washington Terrace Park and 1½ blocks of residential properties on Washington Terrace. The district excludes academic buildings at Wesleyan University lying between High and Pearl streets. Additional public, residential, and commercial historic properties are included in the easternmost 1½ block span which marks the eastern boundary of the district. It terminates here to exclude a parking lot and commercial buildings included in the Main Street Historic District. Heading west without interruption, six blocks of historic properties along the north side of Washington Street complete its perimeter. The north-south boundaries run along rear property lines and include all outbuildings within those properties.

#### UTM References

· A 18	695020	4602910	М	18	695610	4603680	Y	18	695410	4603590
· B 18	695010	4603240	Ν	18	695600	4603690	Z	18	695470	4603550
C 18	694860	4603190	0	18	695700	4603610	AA	18	695410	4603420
» D 18	694880	4603210	Р	18	695700	4603620	BB	18	695420	4603380
E 18	695410	4992460	Q	18	695720	4603630	CC	18	695240	4603270
F 18	695410	4603450	R	18	695740	4603600	DD	18	695270	4603270
G 18	695480	4693460	· S	18	695770	4603610	EE	18	695210	4603200
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I 18	695520	4603510	U	18	695530	4603700	∽ GG	18	695210	4603130
J 18	695540	4603510	- V	18	695480	4603720	HH	18	695190	4603170
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### STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 20, 2002

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NOV 22

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief of Registration National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is documentation for keeping 307 Washington Terrace on the National Register of Historic Places during its move within the Washington Street Historic District in Middletown, Connecticut. For your information, this property was listed on May 9, 1985. On October 31, 2002, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 60, the State Historic Preservation Board for Connecticut approved the proposed relocation of this property based on the enclosed information.

The Connecticut Historical Commission and Wesleyan University request that the review of 307 Washington Terrace proposed move be expedited. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely, John W. Shannahan

State Historic Preservation Officer

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- TO: Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places
- FROM: John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
- SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this  $20^{40}$  day of <u>Movember</u> 2002,

for nomination of the <u>proposed move of 307 Washington Terrau</u> to the Washington Street H.D.; Middle town, CT National Register of Historic Places:

/						
	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form					
	Multiple Property Nomination form					
	Photographs					
	Original USGS maps					
	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)					
	Pieces of correspondence					
<u></u>	Other					
COMMENTS	S:					
	Please insure that this nomination is reviewed					
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67					

The enclosed owner objections do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ constitute a majority of property owners.

Other: <u>please expedite review - Note that</u> <u>property is already listed</u>

TEL: (860) 566-3005 e-mail: cthist@neca.com FAX: (860) 566-5078 59 SOUTH PROSPECT ST. - HARTFORD, CONN 06106 - 1901 AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

### 307 Washington Terrace, Middletown, CT Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, CT

Section: Move Page 1

The building to be moved is the c. 1870 vernacular Italianate-style house at 307 Washington Terrace, which is listed as a contributing resource in the Washington Street Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, 11/02/79). The proposed relocation site on Washington Street is also within the district boundaries. This documentation is submitted in order to have the move approved in conformance with federal regulations (36 CFR 60.14).

The subject property is located in the southeastern part of the district, one of five contributing historic houses that face Washington Park and are now part of the Wesleyan University campus (see Exhibit A for district map). They include the Power-Sage House, a 1783 Colonial at #319; and the Captain Wetmore House at #329, which was built in the Greek Revival period. The immediate neighbor to the east, the Robert Merriman House, a 1901 Colonial Revival, now serves as the Cinema Archives Building for the Film Studies Department at Wesleyan.

### **Reason for the Move**

At the present time, the Film Studies Department at Wesleyan University is dispersed in several campus buildings. In order to consolidate and expand the program, a new building with state-of-the-art production and projection facilities has been designed. Incorporating the present Cinema Archives Building at 301 Washington Terrace, the new complex will extend to the south and west, which will require the demolition or removal of the house at 307 Washington Terrace (see Exhibit B). After due consideration of all the historic preservation issues involved, the decision was made to relocate the building to a new site within the district boundary, a vacant lot presently identified as 172 Washington Street, also the property of the university.

### **District Overview**

Primarily a historic residential neighborhood that developed along Washington Street between 1752 and 1931, the district extends from Jackson Street on the west to Middletown's Main Street Historic District on the east (NR: 1983). Oriented north to south, Main Street was laid out along the terraces of the relatively narrow Connecticut River floodplain. Because of the steeply sloping terrain above Main Street, Washington Street runs uphill to the west, rising about 180 feet above the river before cresting near Washington Park (formerly the West Green). Although Washington Street today is a four-lane highway and the major western access route to the downtown, wide grass verges planted with trees along its length, as well as the five-acre park, first landscaped in 1878, help maintain the historic residential character of the district.

The majority of the 32 contributing principal buildings in the district date from the nineteenth century, with 75 percent erected between 1830 and 1900, reflecting the industrial prosperity of Middletown in that period. While several older houses were remodeled in the latest Victorian styles, new houses were often built on speculation on narrow residential lots carved out of earlier colonial holdings. Although district residents included prominent civic leaders and even a former state governor, some of the new homeowners in the district were small business owners or tradesmen.

Such was the case for the subject property, a 60' by 102' lot that was purchased in 1866 and resold with a house in 1873 to Charles W. Burr (1848-1881).<sup>1</sup> Burr, a partner in Read & Burr, coal dealers, had married Martha Crowell in 1870 and their first and only child, Carrie Louise, was born the following year. The house remained in the family after Burr's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Middletown Land Records, 96:529, 106:258. The estimated construction date of c. 1890 given for this property in the district nomination inventory is incorrect.

Page 2

Section: Move

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

### 307 Washington Terrace, Middletown, CT Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, CT

untimely death from consumption, becoming a rental property until it was sold by his daughter in 1893. The new owner, Henry Eidenbenz, was a German-American shoemaker. By 1920 the house was also occupied by the Whitneys, and remained in their possession until the property was purchased by Wesleyan University in the 1960s.

### **Description of Present Site and Building**

307 Washington Terrace is a level narrow lot, bordered by trees and shrubbery on three sides, with picket and chain link fencing along the west property line (see Exhibit C for site plan). Set back about 30 feet from the sidewalk, with a concrete path to the front door, the house presents its gabled façade to the north. There also is a flagstone path from the sidewalk, which runs along the left side of the house, and a curb cut on the right provides access to a graveled parking area in the lawn.

The house at 307 Washington Terrace is a wood-frame, two-story vernacular structure influenced by the Italianate style (see Exhibit D for floor plan). Rectangular in plan with a projecting two-story bay on the west elevation and a one-story angled bay window on the east, the house is sheathed with clapboard and rests on a rubblestone foundation, with pecked brownstone blocks above grade. Like most vernacular domestic architecture of the period, the house displays a limited amount of stylistic detail. Here, the Italianate style is expressed by the characteristic bay window, the segmental-arched window in the gable, and the chamfered posts and pilasters of the portico or porch, which is further elaborated by turned spindles and balusters and simple sawn brackets. Other original features include six-over-six sash, projecting window sills supported by consoles at the first floor, and louvered moveable blinds, which have iron holdbacks and pintel hinges. Similar blinds frame the front door, which has the typical pair of frosted glazed panels. There were two additions to the house: a small screened porch near the rear of the east elevation, possibly dating from about 1900; and an attached c. 1935 garage, which extends about 25 feet beyond the rear elevation.

### Effects of the Move on Property Integrity

Although some loss of association and character is unavoidable when a historic building is moved, the impact on historical and architectural integrity can be mitigated by careful planning. After a thorough analysis of all the architectural, technical, financial, and historic preservation issues involved, it was determined that the property at 172 Washington Street was a suitable relocation site. Not only does this site provide a compatible historic and physical setting, the building can be moved intact to this nearby location with minimal impact upon its structural or architectural integrity. In addition, because the house will revert to private ownership after the move, retrofitting for ADA compliance or fire and safety codes is not required, so the historic exterior appearance will remain virtually changed and, together with its historic neighbors there, continue to contribute to the significance of the Washington Street Historic District.

As described by Konover Construction Corporation, the moving contractor, the move was designed to have a minimal impact upon the historic architectural integrity of the building. The planned procedure, which is fully consistent with the recommendations in *Moving Historic Buildings* by John O. Curtis, a National Park Service publication, includes the following steps:

Preparation includes the demolition of the modern garage attached to the rear and the small side porch. The front porch will be removed from the roof down. That roof will be shored up for the move and the rest of the porch salvaged for reinstallation at the new site. Some excavation around the existing foundation is required to facilitate the separation of the main block of the building from its foundation and the installation of steel shoring beams. A temporary shoring framework incorporating the beams will serve as a trailer for the move after the building has been jacked up and slid off

Page 3

Section: Move

#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

### 307 Washington Terrace, Middletown, CT Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, CT

its foundation. A few trees on the north (street) side of the building will be removed to facilitate the installation of the support system, and some along the move path at the edge of the park may need to be trimmed (see Exhibit E for move path).

At the new site, the building will be positioned above previously installed foundation footings, while the new concrete foundation is installed with openings for the shoring beams. The historic height of the foundation above grade will be maintained. After the house is lowered onto the new foundation, the beams will be removed and pockets filled. Façade masonry above grade will be faced with brownstone veneer, utilizing stones in good condition salvaged from the old foundation, or new material, and the historic front porch will be reconstructed. Also to be salvaged are the bluestone pavers, which will be reused in the landscaping of the new lot.

### New Setting and General Environment of Proposed Site (172 Washington Street)

The proposed new location for 307 Washington Terrace is a vacant lot on the north side of Washington Street in the block between High and Pearl streets (see Exhibit F for site plan). It will replace a comparable historic house that stood there from about 1840 to 1975. The new site, which is topographically quite similar to the original location, will provide a comparable physical setting. While the house will face south instead of north on the new site, it will occupy a similar level narrow lot, also bordered with trees. As was the case on Washington Terrace, the setback will be line with the adjoining buildings to maintain the historic rhythm of the streetscape. Since the district developed over time, the surviving historic houses in this block represent several styles and periods. While the house at the corner of High Street to the west is a brick Queen Anne erected in 1891, the immediate neighbors, a c. 1890 Queen Anne to the east at the corner of Pearl Street, and a c.1880 Second Empire on the west, are both wood framed.

The site history can be documented from historic maps, including the Sanborn fire insurance map of 1924, land records, and city directories. Maps show that the earlier house there, which was similar in form, scale, and orientation to 307 Washington Terrace, also had a gabled façade and a front porch. It was built on speculation by Charles H. Jackson, who had purchased the then 60' x 360' lot in 1838. Although the lot was much deeper than it is today, the house setback was in line with other properties on the north side of the street. Attorney Charles C. Taylor, the developer of Pearl Street, bought the property in 1842 and lived here until his death in 1882. Among the later owners was Doctor John Mountain, who occupied the house into the 1930s. It became a rental property sometime after 1941, and later was owned by Wesleyan University. In April 1975 a boiler explosion partially destroyed the building, which had to be demolished. The old foundation was filled in, and the site regraded and planted with grass.

#### **Archaeological Considerations**

An analysis of the history of 172 Washington Street suggests that this site has limited archaeological potential. While undoubtedly there was prehistoric Native American settlement on the river terraces of the floodplain to the east, because of its location well above the Connecticut River, this hillside site had low to moderate sensitivity. In the colonial period, the site was part of a larger farming acreage. Again, because of the slope, it is likely that it was used for pasturage, a low impact function, rather than cultivation. Since that time, however, there has been considerable site disturbance, starting with the excavation for the foundation and cellar of the earlier nineteenth-century house. In the twentieth century, sewer and other utility lines were installed underground, which required trenching, followed by the regrading and filling that accompanied demolition in 1975. With this level of disturbance, the stratigraphy is compromised, so it is unlikely that the excavation for the new foundation for the relocated house will have any further impact.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

### 307 Washington Terrace, Middletown, CT Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, CT

#### List of Photographs

Photographer: Jan Cunningham Negatives on file: Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC Date: 7/2002

- 1. Washington Terrace streetscape with #s 301 and 307 (L-R), camera facing SE
- 2. 307 Washington Terrace, house and site, camera facing SW
- 3. 307 Washington Terrace, house and site, camera facing SE
- 4. 307 Washington Terrace, facade and east elevation, camera facing SW
- 5. 307 Washington Terrace, west elevation, camera facing SE
- 6. 307 Washington Terrace, portico, camera facing S
- 7. 307 Washington Terrace, rear elevations, camera facing N
- 8. Streetscape with new site on Washington Street, camera facing N
- 9. Streetscape with new site on Washington Street, camera facing NE
- 10. New site from street, camera facing NW
- 11. New site from rear of lot, camera facing SW

Section: Move Page 4



EXHIBIT A: District Map (reproduced from nomination)





EXHIBIT C: Site plan - 307 Washington Terrace









STATE OF CONNECTICUT



# **COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1201 I Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20005

Subject: Documentation of relocation of:

- 1) 307 Washington Terrace (now 172 Washington Street, Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, Middletown, Connecticut
- 2) 285 Prospect Street (now 380 Edwards Street) Prospect Hill Historic District, New Haven County, New Haven, Connecticut

August 17, 2004

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find documentation for the completed moves of the subject properties.

These structural relocations were undertaken by Wesleyan University and Yale University respectively. Both have been successfully preserved on their new sites and continue to contribute to the architectural character of the National Register Historic Districts in which they exist.

Please call or write John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Alu Herzan for

J. Paul Loether, Division Director/ Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

cc: Cunningham Associates

Historic Preservation and Museum Division Amos Bull House, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 860-566-3005 860-566-5078 fax

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

307 Washington Terrace, Middletown, CT Washington Street Historic District, Middlesex County, CT



The house previously located at 307 Washington Terrace was moved to its new site at 172 Washington Street within the Washington Street Historic District on October 26, 2002.

The move was carried out in conformance with the documentation previously submitted to keep the building on the National Register of Historic Places during the move, which was approved by State Historic Preservation Board on October 31, 2002 and by the Chief of Registration for the National Park Service on January 2, 2003.

### Documentation for the completed move includes the following:

- 1. Revised District Map with Photograph Key Plan.
- 2. Photographs (listed below).

#### **Geographical Data:**

No revisions to the geographical data are required by the move. The new site for the house (172 Washington Street) is entirely within the original boundaries of the Washington Street Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 5/9/85), as defined by the district map, the verbal boundary description, and the UTM references.

### List of Photographs of Moved Building on New Site @ 172 Washington Street

Photographer: Jan Cunningham Negatives on file: State Historic Preservation Office Date: May 1, 2004

- 1. 172 Washington Street, house and site, camera facing N
- 2. 172 Washington Street, house and site (166 Washington Street on R), camera facing NE
- 3. 172 Washington Street, house and site, camera facing NW
- 4. Streetscape (from across street): 184-86, 172, & 166 Washington Street (L-R), camera facing NW
- 5. 172 Washington Street, façade & west elevation, camera facing NE
- 6. 172 Washington Street, rear and west elevations, camera facing SE
- 7. 172 Washington Street, rear elevation, camera facing S



PHOTOGRAPH KEY PLAN 172 Washington Street

Scale: 1" = 300'

Cunningham Preservation Associates 5/24/04

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