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Nov 17, 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES VENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

RECEIVED 2280

SEP 16 1986

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1 NAME

HISTORIC

South Green Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

19-60 Alden St.
8-50 Dean St. (east side)
1-21 1/2 Main St.
12-71 Morris St.

8 Stonington St.
2-139 Wethersfield Ave.
9-11, 38 Wyllys St.

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First - William R. Cotter

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hartford Land Records, Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

550 Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey of Hartford

DATE

1976-77

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Stowe-Day Memorial Library

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Green Historic District is an area of approximately 26-acres centered on five blocks of Hartford's principal north-south traffic artery known as Main St./Wethersfield Ave. The District runs from South Green on the north (the original southern edge of the seventeenth century town plat) through an array of Victorian mansions to a modest nineteenth century residential area on the south.

South Green itself is a small triangular park dating back to the town's earliest years. Apex of the triangle points north; its eastern and western legs are bordered by Main St. which splits into two sections for the purpose, and its base is Wyllys St. The park has some planting and many benches. Along its western edge runs a section of the heavy nineteenth century cast iron fence which once surrounded the entire park.

Included in the South Green District are two buildings which have been designated National Historic Landmarks (the Col. Samuel Colt house and the Henry Barnard house) and one which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (the Day-Taylor house). Seven houses along the west side of Wethersfield Ave. have already been determined by the Secretary of the Interior in the course of redevelopment proceedings to be eligible for the National Register. Three other National Register districts border on the South Green District; these are Charter Oak Place at the northeast, Colt Industrial District at the southeast, and Congress Street on the west.

In drawing the border line of the district one determining factor has been depth of property fronting on the street. The intent is to be one lot deep.

Mass and scale of buildings in the district are remarkably uniform. The tallest structures are the spires of the churches; otherwise maximum height is four stories. The commercial and apartment blocks are modest in size; indeed, difference in cube between the nineteenth century double houses and twentieth century six family apartment blocks is minimal.

Construction throughout is almost universally masonry. Brick was by far the favored building material, with occasional use of stone and stucco. An exception is one block on Alden St. which has a group of turn-of-the-century frame houses.

The district is almost wholly residential in character, only exceptions being several retail shops bordering on South Green, three neighborhood gas stations, three funeral homes, two structures devoted to light industrial shops (not street frontage), and three buildings used for studios and professional offices.

There is strong ecclesiastical presence in the area through significant church owned properties. These are St. Peter's Catholic Church and associated rectory, school, and convent; South Park Methodist Church; the Episcopal residence for retirees (Col. Samuel Colt's Armswear); and St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church and school. Physical maintenance of these properties over the years has been excellent.

Several of the mansions along the district's central Wethersfield Ave. block have been converted to adaptive use. First was Armswear, No. 80, which became a retirement residence early in the twentieth century. Up the street its neighbor at No. 2 several years ago became broadcast studios for a radio station. Across the street No. 65 is occupied as offices, in part by Hartford Architecture Conservancy and Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, while next door No. 81 is being rehabilitated by Hartford Architecture Conservancy as professional offices, the initial project of

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1800-1952

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Green District summarizes emphasis on prominent citizens, including and important examples of Victorian architecture of the nineteenth century, but also encompasses the understanding of the city as the and apartment houses, so essential to the tion of a complete neighborhood of the on a resurgence of vitality.

The roots of the South Green District when in the seventeenth century the South companion to the South Green itself in London present in the name of a street which Wyllys was in office in 1642; about a Wyllys, senior justice of the peace, of Hartford newly incorporated in 1784 the city made by one Solomon Porter was led the development push which brought standing in the district.

Well into the nineteenth century surrounding area was pastoral. Two hundred birth place and life time residence of east side of the Green. A contemporary rank as a reformer of the educational in establishment of Hartford Public High on to become the first state commissioner States Commissioner of Education. He in this district is important in the

Nearby, perhaps next door at the Revival house of Ellery Hills. Said to thoroughness with which the Ionic detail been Chester Hills, author of The Guide the book. This pattern-book, published in Halifax as being of quality equal to other Ionic portico easily could have come from have furnished design for the pilaster of building. A neighborhood footnote is that which were published in the second edition of the Hills house are substantially a period treasure not duplicated in Hartford.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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South Green Historic District, Hartford, CT
CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

the Concervancy's new Revolving Fund.

Majority of the properties in the southwest quarter of the district along Morris, Alden, and Dean Sts. are now owned by the city and are unoccupied. Negotiations are being finalized at the present time with a developer who will rehabilitate this area along with Congress St.

Block by block description of the district follows.

East side of Main St./Wethersfield Ave.:

Starting from the north, first building is large red brick Greek Revival house built c. 1840 for Ellery Hills at No. 214 Main St. Both inside and out the Greek Revival design is carried out thoroughly and professionally. First to greet the eye is the colossal, elliptical Ionic portico with ceiling radially coffered to match the curve. Over the doorway is a fine Greek fret supporting a wrought iron railing having an anthemion pattern which is repeated in the pilaster capitals behind it. Inside, the high-ceilinged central hall leads to square rooms on either side which are embellished with tapered door and window frames. In each room is a low black marble fireplace.

At No. 180 is St. Peter's Church, the most prominent building in the substantial Roman Catholic complex of which it is a part. Built in 1864-66, it is a hall church measuring 80x180 feet faced in Portland brownstone. The center of the facade with its rose window is French Gothic in design but the square tower added in 1926 with crocketed pinnacles is English Gothic. In 1866-67 the interior was re-done by John LaFarge in a manner maintained to the present time. The piers which separate nave from aisles are painted ivory with gilt capitals under a vaulted ceiling of sky blue with gilt bosses, and the walls are painted rose.

To the rear of the church at No. 170 is a substantial brownstone school built in 1913.

In front of the school at Nos. 130-140 is a row of four sophisticated brick bow front town houses put up in 1888 on land purchased from Henry Barnard next door. The row has "steamboat Gothic" detail of turned wood.

Henry Barnard's house at No. 118 was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966.

Henry Barnard sold off the lot on the south side of his house in 1890 to Elizur S. Goodrich who erected the brick house with Queen Anne gables and dormers which today is No. 104. It is in good repair and is used as a funeral home.

Next at No. 96-98 is one of the twentieth century apartment blocks which have replaced individual houses in several instances throughout the district. This one, constructed in 1920, has glazed buff and yellow brick with fine etched and leaded glass recessed entrance way. Built to house 24 families, it is 54x116 feet in size.

No. 76 is another light yellow glazed brick apartment whose facade is embellished with pseudo Greek Corinthian pilasters, fascia rosettes, and pronounced quoins. At No. 60 Main St. and around the corner at No. 38 Wyllys St. are two workmanlike tan

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NATIONAL REGISTER
INVENTORY

South Green Historic District, Hartford, CT
CONTINUATION SHEET

brick and granite

On the corner of the street level by the artery changes from

No. 2 Wethersfield from Richardsonian house, it was built yet intricately and lions, stained and composition. The ings, and exciting in design and

Next door is built three years ornamental tiled it makes a fancy

The balance No. 24, a gas apartments at ton St. a small

South of St. since soon after clergy. This property grounds are three 1960's and one, mented central part

On this (east) formed by the div. West side of

Starting at buildings which NO. 99-113, a long 1870." In age the poraries and they 99-105, they are and heavy cornice

Erected in It is a good exact foundation walls. colored slate shing

Next door No. serves as a funeral

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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South Green Historic District, Hartford, CT

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brick and granite apartment facades.

On the corner at No. 48 Main St. is a brick Italianate house much altered at street level by store front addition. At this corner (Wyllys St.) name of the main artery changes from Main St. to Wethersfield Ave.

No. 2 Wethersfield Ave. is an elaborately designed mansion in a style derived from Richardsonian Romanesque. Known both as the Borden mansion and Mrs. Munsill's house, it was built for Mary Borden Munsill in the early 1890's of massive appearing yet intricately detailed brick, stone, and terra cotta. Rusticated arches with putti and lions, stained glass arcaded windows, and rinceau panels are features of the composition. The interior is equally magnificent with parquet floors, gilded ceilings, and exotic fireplace surrounds. The accompanying coach house is complementary in design and is a worthy adjunct to the main house.

Next door at No. 14 is a companion home of cream colored brick and limestone built three years later by the same lady for her son, Gail Borden Munsill. With its ornamental tiled front porch, prominent dormers, and then fashionable curved windows, it makes a fanciful impression almost equal to that of the Borden mansion.

The balance of this block to Stonington St. is occupied by a box factory at No. 24, a gas station in front of it at No. 26, and three uninspired but inoffensive apartments at No. 20, No. 32-34, and No. 36-38, and on the corner at No. 8 Stonington St. a small, modern, one story brick office building.

South of Stonington St. is Armsmear, Col. Samuel Colt's house, which has served since soon after Mrs. Colt's death in 1909 as a residence for widows of Episcopal clergy. This property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966. On its grounds are three additional residential buildings, two of them constructed in the 1960's and one, Jarvis Hall, in 1928. Jarvis is a yellow brick building with pedimented central pavilion in restrained Palladian design.

On this (east) side of the main artery the southern border of the district is formed by the dividing line between Armsmear and Colt Park, here at hand.

West side of Main St./Wethersfield Ave.:

Starting at Park St. is a group of three four story brick commercial/residential buildings which form a solid street facade. On the front of the first of the three, No. 99-115, a long building of 15 bays, is displayed the lettering "South Park Block 1870." In age the other two in the group, No. 95-97 and No. 89-91, are near contemporaries and they continue the solid street facade. Narrower and deeper than No. 99-105, they are built of a similar combination of brick, brownstone lintels and sills, and heavy cornices.

Erected in the same decade at No. 75 is the South Park United Methodist Church. It is a good example of fancy Gothic brick work with sturdy brownstone front steps and foundation walls. Its 100 foot spire rises from the pyramidal roof (covered with colored slate shingles) of a square tower.

Next door No. 53, a well preserved small residence in the Greek Revival style, serves as a funeral home.

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The next property, No. 33-37, is devoted to auto repair shops which are located to the rear of this deep lot leaving the space adjoining the street vacant and available for new construction along the existing building line.

At No. 19-21 and No. 11-15 are two small apartment buildings; No. 11-15 is only two bays wide. Both are faced in brick in the color family of yellows and browns which was so popular after the turn of the century.

A brick Italianate house, No. 1-9, on the corner of Jefferson St., completes this block. It is much altered by a store front addition at first floor level and has a detached one story cinder block store at its rear.

From this point the district line follows Wyllys St. across the southern edge of South Green to the largest apartment block in the area known both as No. 9-11 Wyllys St. and No. 1-9 Wethersfield Ave. The most ambitious architecturally of the several apartment blocks in the district, the design here is executed in various shades of tan and brown bricks in conformance with neighborhood practice. The overall theme is Tudor/Jacobean revival with rectangular drip stones, gargoyles, owl finials, and castellated roof line.

Next on the avenue is a gas station at No. 11 followed by two typical twentieth century apartments, No. 19-21 and No. 25-27.

The rest of the block to Morris St. is largely given over to the seven structures which were determined to be eligible for the National Register. The majority of these houses were constructed during the neighborhood's building boom of the 1850's. First is the substantial double brick house at No. 31-33. With its elaborate Corinthian-columned porch it is typical of a building type widely popular throughout Hartford in the era and particularly so in this block and along Congress St. which is the next street to the west.

The house at No. 39 is the only one on the street with a side entrance. Its front facade is graced with cast iron window caps and with a long ornate iron balcony which runs under the three tall first floor windows. No. 41-43 is a somewhat later Queen Anne design with tower and gables, now used as a funeral home. No. 49-51 is another of the typical porticoed brick double houses. Initially it formed a pair with its mate at No. 55-57 which has now been replaced with a modern brick apartment house.

The juxtaposition of Italianate and Second Empire elements of design at No. 65 makes this house one of the show places of the avenue. Its added tower with Mansard roof over porte cochere is unequalled in the district. A former wide wooden front porch added to the rampant eclecticism of the design.

Beyond the gas station at No. 73 is No. 81 which is the Day-Taylor House, already on the National Register. Completing the block to Morris St. are two Queen Anne structures put up at the same time about 1890 using brick, shaped shingles, and ornamental wood trim with Greek wreaths and festoons. One of this pair, No. 91, is a single family house with front and side two story bays and an asymmetrical front gable balanced by a dormer. The other, No. 97-99, is a double house each half of the facade having an entrance porch of the same arrangement but different design under second floor bay surmounted by gable. The gable of No. 97 has a tripartite

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window balanced at the street corner of No. 99 by round tower with conical roof.

Beyond Morris St. are two six family apartment dwellings, The Elite at No. 109 and the Eldon at No. 113. They are near twins of brick with heavy applied cornices, shallow bow windows, deep rusticated stone trim, and fine cast iron and glass entrance canopies. A rare frame house at No. 117 with its flat roof, delicate dentil course under the eaves, and small third floor windows is from the Greek Revival era.

St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church and school at No. 125 constitute the only significant post World War II construction in the district. Consistent with the cream colored brick tradition, the church has triple round arch entrance under center gable, which is flanked on either side by panelled square towers capped by domed lanterns.

The much altered Italianate brick at No. 135 is interesting for the asymmetrical grouping of round headed windows whose placement was dictated by considerations of interior space and light. On the south side of the house is a unique Moorish window. The last structure on the west side of the avenue in the district is No. 139, a flower shop of routine twentieth century construction on the corner of Alden St. Alden St. is the southern boundary of the district on Wethersfield Ave.

The southwest quarter of the district runs along the side streets called Morris and Alden Sts., and along Dean St. which connects them one block west. These streets were built up in large part during the same post-1850's building boom that occurred along the avenue, and in the same spirit of fashionable design but on a more modest scale; these houses are the secondary part of the same development. Briefly described from east to west these properties, all from the second half of the nineteenth century unless otherwise noted, are the following.

North side of Morris St.:

No. 12-20. Tan brick apartment house with stucco top floor. Green tile pent roofs over the top floor tripartite windows. Hollywood Spanish style, c. 1920.

No. 22-24. Italianate double brick with heavy cast iron lintels.

No. 30. Transitional Italianate/stick style having roof overhang with heavy cornice but also having turned wood porch and, in three story front bay, fancy brick work.

South side of Morris St.:

No. 19. Italianate brick.

No. 23. Smaller Italianate brick.

No. 29. Italianate brick with Queen Anne porch.

No. 33. Three bay frame with pediment toward street, stick style porch.

No. 37-43. Brick light industrial building, c. 1925. Was soft drink bottling works.

No. 47. Another three bay frame house with turned wood porch, but this time with triple window in pediment toward street.

No. 55-57. Modern brick apartment house.

No. 65-71. Vacant land to corner of Dean St.

North side of Alden St.:

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No. 24. Three-decker brick with tier of three wooden front porches. Doric columns under dentil course at each porch level.

No. 28. Low, small, frame Greek revival house. On the porch all the columns, balusters, and finials are attenuated.

No. 30-32. Double brick. Notable feature is entrance porch with massive roof overhang supported by thick curved brackets of wood having drop finials.

No. 36. Delightful frame carpenter Gothic with front bow window.

No. 40, 42, 44. Rare triple brick Italianate with, like its neighbor at No. 30-32, broad flat roofs on heavy consoles over the entrances. Incised ornament in brownstone lintels.

No. 48. Panelled wood columns on entrance porch of typical square brick having modest roof overhang.

No. 50. Small one-floor twentieth century store attached to No. 48.

No. 52-54. Double brick Italianate.

No. 58-60. Vacant land to corner of Dean St.

South side of Alden St.:

No. 19-21. A prize three-story frame with gambrel gable toward street. One doorway has two story porch with year date 1894 prominent in porch pediment. Over second door is an oval window. First floor construction is clapboard; second and third are shingle; the whole in an excellent state of repair.

No. 23-25. Queen Anne frame with two story porch and two story board and batten bay.

No. 27-29. Three-story frame with Greek wreath in pediment toward street.

No. 31-33. Three bay three-story brick Italianate with pedimented front porch.

No. 37-39. Double frame house with two porches decorated with wood turnings. Attic pediment contains Palladian-inspired triple window.

No. 43 Bracketed brick Italianate.

No. 47-49 and No. 51-53. Twin "perfect sixes" in brick with heavy stone trim.

No. 57-59. A near duplicate of No. 47-49 and No. 51-53 for a total of three in a row nearly identical.

East side of Dean St. (north to south):

No. 8-22. Vacant land from Morris to Alden Sts.

No. 42. Brick with wide front porch.

No. 46-48. Double brick with scroll saw brackets and turned posts on porch.

No. 50. Brick with bracketed cornice.

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List of Properties with names and addresses of property owners, and indication of whether the property is critical (C) or not critical (NC) to the integrity of district. Where the owner is City of Hartford Redevelopment Agency this fact is indicated by use of the word City.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| C | 19-21 Alden St.
John J. Winiarski et al
21 Alden St.
Hartford, CT 06114 | C | 51-53 Alden St.
City |
| C | 23-25 Alden St.
Free H. Lew
80 Town Line
Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | C | 52-54 Alden St.
City |
| C | 24 Alden St.
City | C | 57-59 Alden St.
City |
| C | 27-29 Alden St.
Free H. Lew
80 Town Line
Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | C | 58-60 Alden St.
City |
| C | 28 Alden St.
Ukranian Catholic Church
of St. Michael, Inc.
125 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06114 | C | 8-22 Dean St.
City |
| C | 30-32 Alden St.
Teofila Liss et al
30 Alden St.
Hartford, CT 06114 | C | 42 Dean St.
City |
| C | 31-33 Alden St.
City | C | 46-48 Dean St.
City |
| C | 36 Alden St.
City | C | 50 Dean St.
City |
| C | 37-39 Alden St.
City | C | 1-9 Main St.
Millstone Corp.
c/o Building Service Corp.
of America
217 Walnut St.
Hartford, CT 06103 |
| C | 40-42-44 Alden St.
City | C | 11-15 Main St.
Millstone Corp.
c/o Building Service Corp.
of America
217 Walnut St.
Hartford, CT 06103 |
| C | 43 Alden St.
City | C | 19-29 Main St.
Harry Lapen
25 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06114 |
| C | 47-49 Alden St.
City | NC | 33-37 Main St.
Millstone Corp. |
| C | 48 Alden St.
City | | |
| NC | 50 Alden St.
City | | |

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	c/o Building Service Corp. of America 217 Walnut St. Hartford, CT 06103	C	109-115 Main St. Richard S. Levin 57 Pratt St. Hartford, CT 06103		
C	48-54 Main St. Rose L. Fanelli 48 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114	C	118 Main St. Daughters of the Holy Ghost of Hartford, Inc. 118 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114		
C	53 Main St. Dillon Funeral Home, Inc. 53 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114	C	130-140 Main St. City		
C	60-66 Main St. City	C	170 Main St. St. Peter's Church Corp. 180 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114		
C	72-82 Main St. Zane P. Wernick et al c/o Lester Wernick Box 346 Agawam, MA 01001	C	180 Main St. St. Peter's Church Corp. 180 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114		
C	75 Main St. South Park Methodist Episcopal Church 75 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114	C	214 Main St. St. Peter's Church Corp. 180 Main St. Hartford, Ct. 06114		
C	89-91 Main St. Richard S. Levin 57 Pratt St. Hartford, CT 06103	C	12-20 Morris St. City		
C	95-97 Main St. Richard S. Levin 57 Pratt St. Hartford, CT 06103	C	19 Morris St. City		
C	96-98 Main St. Marilla R. Herbst 98 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114	C	22-24 Morris St. City		
C	99-105 Main St. Charles T. Marquis 34 Wilbert Terrace Agawam, MA 01001	C	23 Morris St. City		
C	104 Main St. Margaret M. Hock 104 Main St. Hartford, CT 06114	C	29 Morris St. City		
		C	30 Morris St. Claude J. St. Cyr & Juliette Cyr 30 Morris St. Hartford, CT 06114		
		C	33 Morris St. City		
		NC	37-43 Morris St. Walter J. & Joseph J. Talarski 4 Bermuda Rd. Wethersfield, CT 06109		

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- C 91 Wethersfield Ave.
City
- C 97-99 Wethersfield Ave.
City
- C 109 Wethersfield Ave.
Peter G. Shelta et al
109 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06114
- C 113 Wethersfield Ave.
Michael P. Pane et al
63 Quaic Drive
Wethersfield, CT 06109
- C 117 Wethersfield Ave.
Louette & Bennie Garran
117 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06114
- C 125 Wethersfield Ave
Ukranian Catholic Church
of St. Michael, Inc.
125 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06114
- C 135 Wethersfield Ave.
City
- NC 139 Wethersfield Ave.
City
- C 9-11 Wyllys St.
Charles Podnetsky et al
203 Westbourne Parkway
Hartford, CT 06112
- C 38 Wyllys St.
City

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1800-1952

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Multiple

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Green District summarizes three centuries of Hartford history with emphasis on prominent citizens, including Col. Samuel Colt and educator Henry Barnard, and important examples of Victorian architectural styles of the second half of the nineteenth century, but also encompassing a modest neighborhood that is as important to the understanding of the city as the mansions along the avenue. With its churches and apartment houses, so essential to urban living, the district is a remarkable definition of a complete neighborhood of the past, standing in good condition and now taking on a resurgence of vitality.

The roots of the South Green District go back to the earliest days of Hartford when in the seventeenth century the South Green was laid out as common pasture. Companion to the South Green itself in longevity has been the Wyllys family name, still present in the name of a street which borders South Green today. Governor George W. Wyllys was in office in 1642; about a century and a half later his descendant, George Wyllys, senior justice of the peace, presided over the first election held by the City of Hartford newly incorporated in 1784 with population of 5,500. At this time map of the city made by one Solomon Porter was duly approved. In 1850 another Solomon Porter led the development push which brought the construction of most of the buildings now standing in the district.

Well into the nineteenth century South Green was pastureland and life in the surrounding area was pastoral. Two houses remain from this era, the earlier being the birth place and life time residence of Henry Barnard (1811-1900) at 118 Main St. on the east side of the Green. A contemporary of Horace Mann, Barnard is widely given equal rank as a reformer of the educational system. After a long campaign that culminated in establishment of Hartford Public High School (the first in Connecticut), Barnard went on to become the first state commissioner of education, and in 1867-70 first United States Commissioner of Education. He left his mark on the nation, and the home he left in this district is important in the history of American education.

Nearby, perhaps next door at the time it was built c. 1840, is the great Greek Revival house of Ellery Hills. Said to have been built by his brother, the professional thoroughness with which the Ionic detail is executed suggests that this brother may have been Chester Hills, author of The Builders Guide, or one who at least was familiar with the book. This pattern book, published in Hartford in 1834, has been credited by Talbot Hamlin as being of quality equal to others of the era. General plan for the colossal Ionic portico easily could have come from plate 13 of the book, and plate 32 could well have furnished design for the pilaster capitals' anthemion ornament under egg and dart molding. A neighborhood footnote is that Henry Barnard prepared plans for school houses which were published in the second edition of Hills' Guide. Both the exterior and interior of the Hills house are substantially in prime original condition, the whole forming a period treasure not duplicated in Hartford, and perhaps not in Connecticut.

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Before discussing the district's growth and development in the second half of the nineteenth century, it is important to note that during the first half South Green was the southern boundary of Hartford. Traffic was heavy along the "Ancient Road to Wethersfield" as the avenue was known and pressures for expansion were building up in this period. Among the first to take action was Colonel Solomon Porter, West Indies trader, wholesale grocer, and president of the State Bank who built his imposing, square, Italianate mansion (now demolished) on property at the corner of Wyllys St. and Wethersfield Ave. c. 1850. The appearance of the house is permanently recorded in a cameo-like sculpture in a marble bench of the children's park near the district given to the city by his granddaughter in 1942. Shortly after Porter's house went up Col. Samuel Colt, in 1857, completed Armsmear next door and the magnificence of the east side of Wethersfield Ave. thereupon was difficult to match elsewhere in the city.

In response to the need for more city land the southern boundary of Hartford was moved further south in 1854. In the same year Congress St. was accepted as a city street; so were Morris, Alden, and Dean Sts. The building boom was on.

The firm of H. & S. Bissell, masonry contractors and developers, was active in this energetic development. They built the two big brick Italianates at No. 81 and No. 65 Wethersfield Ave. No. 81 was pure speculation. Bissell put up the house, then advertised it for sale in the newspapers. They found a buyer in Albert Day, merchant, land owner, and lieutenant governor. This house, now known as the Day-Taylor House, is on the National Register and currently is in process of rehabilitation by Hartford Architecture Conservancy.

For No. 65 H. & S. Bissell had a client before completion in James H. Ashmead who took title from the Bissells on 5 November 1859. Ashmead had a partner named Edmund Hurlbut with whom he conducted a gold beating business which has survived in a successor firm in Hartford, now the only gold beating shop in America. A peripheral activity of the partners was buying and selling real estate together in adjoining Congress St. Hurlbut built the house on the southeast corner of Congress and Wyllys Sts., the finest on the block. A few years after Col. Samuel Colt died in 1862, his widow as executrix of his estate bought No. 65 for Sam C. Colt, the Colonel's "nephew" or illegitimate son. Thus the handsome house at No. 65 has architectural and historic significance as an important part of the 1850's building boom with ties to a unique Hartford industry, to the development of the adjoining street, and to the tangled affairs of the Colt family headquartered across the street at Armsmear.

Elsewhere in this row along the west side of Wethersfield Ave. several double brick houses were erected. These square, substantial homes, standing today, had front porches with impressive Corinthian capitals and were examples of a type of house of which a large number were to be found in the Hartford of that day. They are of significance as prime specimens of an important Hartford house design. On Morris, Alden and Dean Sts. smaller, simplified versions of the same thing have survived. On

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the avenue they were bigger, fancier, and more expensive while on the side streets they were less so but still adequate to provide quite comfortable living. The relationship can be seen today as it existed a century and a quarter ago, and adds strength to the district as a sociological demonstration of what living in Hartford was and is like.

Another family of architectural styles, the Queen Anne, got its start in the district in 1890 when Henry Barnard sold the lot on the south side of his house to Elizur S. Goodrich, president of the Hartford Street Railway Co. (one of the first in the country to electrify, in 1894). Goodrich put up the neighborhood's first house in the Queen Anne style, brick, with clapboards in the gables, dormers, and classic ornament. Three other fine examples of this style followed in the 1890's further south at Nos. 43, 91, and 97-99 Wethersfield Ave.

In this decade two of the most elaborate and highly decorated houses in the district were built by Mrs. Mills S. Munsill, née Mary Jane Borden, daughter of the man who made a fortune in condensed milk. The estate of Solomon Porter sold off a front lot to her on the southeast corner of Wyllys St. and Wethersfield Ave. where in 1892 she built the expensive, ornate mansion which is historic for having Hartford's first private elevator, among other reasons, and which is now constructively re-used as studios for a radio station.

Three years later she built a house next door at No. 14 Wethersfield Ave. for her son. This house is one of the few in the district for which the architect is known. He was William H. Allen of New Haven. After both Mrs. Munsill and her son died in 1912 the two houses came into the hands of prominent Hartford families in whose honor two nearby schools (Naylor and Kinsella) were named.

In addition to one and two family buildings the district has nineteen apartment buildings constructed between 1870 and 1930 which are an integral part of the streetscape. These apartment houses are sturdy buildings representative of their times, in varying qualities of design but all with some degree of architectural pretension ranging from heavy applied cornices through exaggerated rustication to quality materials and restrained classic detail.

While the quality of these apartment houses is uneven, as a group they "belong" and they provide a catalog of city apartments when they were a spacious and economical solution to housing city families. The point is illustrated by citing construction history of three of the buildings. No. 20 Wethersfield Ave. was one of the first of the type; it went up in 1912 size 37x86 feet at cost of \$26,000. Initially two families lived on each of the four floors but in 1944 this number was doubled, increasing the total number of tenants from eight to 16. At No. 96-98 Main St. architect W.E. Becker in 1920 designed a 54x114 foot building for 24 families at cost of \$70,000. The most elaborate such building in the district is No. 7-9 Wyllys St. by Dunkelberger and Gelman in 1925. It cost \$135,000 for a building approximately 80x134 feet containing 72 apartments. The Dunkelberger in this partnership was George F. Dunkelberger who is better known for having designed the Merritt Parkway; Parkway bridges and this building have in common the same characteristic whimsical approach to design.

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The burst of building activity which occurred in the 1850's generated a need for churches which was met on South Green with construction of two new edifices. On the east side of the Green architect John Murphy designed St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, which upon its completion in 1868 was the first large Catholic church in Hartford and at the time was the largest in Connecticut. The interior, designed by John LaFarge in 1887 and meticulously maintained for 90 years, is distinguished by its grace and colors, its quatrefoil medallions by Adolph Khuen, stained glass windows by F. Mayer, and paintings by Louis Lamprecht.

Across the Green, in 1875 the Methodists put up their substantial brick and brownstone church with black walnut and chestnut pulpit and Tiffany stained glass window. In the post World War II era a third church, the Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Michael's (1952), came into the district at 125 Wethersfield Ave. The strong ecclesiastical influence of this trio of churches has been an important stabilizing force in the district.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry Barnard, ed., Armswear: the home, the arm, the armory of Samuel Colt, A Memorial, New York, 1886.
 Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America, New York: Oxford University Press, 1914.
 Chester Hills, The Builders Guide, revised edition, Hartford: Case, Tiffany and Burnham, 1846.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 26

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE David F. Ransom, Secretary, and
Ms. Merle Kummer, Architectural Historian.

ORGANIZATION Hartford Architecture Conservancy DATE 23 April 1977
 STREET & NUMBER 65 Wethersfield Ave. TELEPHONE 203 525-0279
 CITY OR TOWN 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 89-655), 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, DATE 7/29/77
Connecticut Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Robert B. Rottig DATE 11/17/77
Charles H. ... DATE 11-18-77
 RECEIVED BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SECTION 100
 August 1977

TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)
Clark Strickland
of SHPO staff

2. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.
Physical Reindeer
Historic

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

[Handwritten notes and signatures in the discussion section]

NAME OF PERSON PLACING RECEIVING

Thomas

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Starting at northeast corner of property known as 214 Main St., boundary line of the district runs south along the back lot lines of properties fronting on Main St. to northeast corner of 38 Wyllys St., thence south along eastern line of 38 Wyllys St. to Wyllys St., thence southeast across Wyllys St. on a straight line to northeast corner of 2 Wethersfield Ave. (also known as 45 Wyllys St.), thence south along back lot lines of properties fronting on Wethersfield Ave. to Colt Park, thence west along south line of Colt Park to Wethersfield Ave., thence south along Wethersfield Ave. to Alden St., thence west along Alden St. to northeast corner of 19-21 Alden St., thence south along east border of 19-21 Alden St. to southeast corner of 19-21 Alden St., thence west along back lot lines of properties fronting on Alden St. to northeast corner of 46-48 Dean St., thence south along back lot lines of properties fronting on Dean St. to southeast corner of 50 Dean St., thence west along south line of 50 Dean St. to Dean St., thence north along Dean St. to Morris St., thence east along Morris St. to southwest corner of 30 Morris St., thence north along west border of 30 Morris St. to northwest corner of 30 Morris St., thence east along back lot lines of properties fronting on Morris St. to southwest corner of 81 Wethersfield Ave., thence north along back lot lines of properties fronting on Wethersfield Ave. to Wyllys St., thence west along a straight line across intersection of Wyllys and Main Sts. to southeast corner 1-9 Main St., thence west along south line of 1-9 Main St. to southwest corner of 1-9 Main St., thence north along back lot lines of properties fronting on Main St. to Park St., thence east along Park St. to Main St., thence north along straight line to northwest corner of 214 Main St., thence east along north line of 214 Main St. to point of beginning.

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- A 18/693310/4625370
- B 18/693360/4625300
- C 18/693340/4625150
- D 18/693340/4624920
- E 18/693400/4624910
- F 18/693420/4624800
- G 18/693310/4624760
- H 18/693340/4624610
- I 18/693220/4624530
- J 18/693120/4624470
- K 18/693080/4624670
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- P 18/693080/4625180
- Q 18/693160/4625210
- R 18/693230/4625380