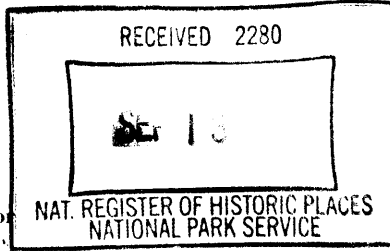


934



NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
Rev. 10/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

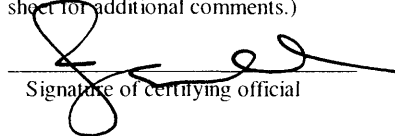
street & number 827 Whalley Avenue | not for publication

city or town New Haven | vicinity _____

state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06515-1716

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 9/12/02
Signature of certifying official Date

_____, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

| See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

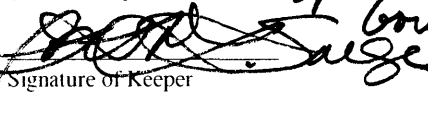
| See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other. (explain):

*accept additional documentation in area of
boundary increase*


Signature of Keeper

10/25/06
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) contributing		noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

 N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

 0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Theater	Cat: Commerce and Trade Sub: Specialty Store
Cat: Commerce and Trade Sub: Specialty Store	

7. Description

Architectural Classification	Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late Nineteenth and Early 20 th Century American Movements:	foundation: <u>Brick/Stone/Concrete</u>
Commercial Style	walls: <u>Weatherboard</u>
	roof: <u>Asphalt</u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Entertainment/ Recreation

1912

Commerce

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository:
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
New Haven Colony Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .09

UTM References

1 <u>18</u> <u>670881</u> <u>4576938</u>	3 <u>1</u> <u>11111</u> <u>111111</u>	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	
2 <u>1</u> <u>11111</u> <u>111111</u>	4 <u>1</u> <u>11111</u> <u>111111</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah S. Glaser, Historian
organization _____ date 11/25/2005
street & number 85 Mather Street telephone 203-288-1233
city or town Hamden state CT zip code 06517

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John Cavaliere

street & number 963 State Street telephone (203) 498-1223

city or town New Haven state CT zip code 06511

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)County and State New Haven, CTUnited States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 7 Page 1

The Westville Theater at 827 Whalley Avenue is a free-standing wood-frame building built c. 1915. The structure is typical of the local vernacular commercial-style of the turn-of-the-century. It is located at the edge of the Westville Village Historic District in New Haven, Connecticut, an area listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 2002. The symmetrical, one-story 2,800 square foot rectangular structure has original wood clapboard siding (additional siding added over original clapboard on east elevation, Photograph 3). Built as a theater, the floor plan is long and thin, extending deep into the lot about 100 feet and measuring only about 28-30 feet across. The first story has a glass storefront with wood paneled framing, surrounding a recessed central front entrance. The roof has a shallow pitch that slants slightly downward toward the facade (ending at a parapet roofline) and even slighter toward the rear of the building. This parapet on the front facade is symmetrical, rising in the center and sloping slightly downward on each side. A brick chimney rises on the east side toward the front. A double wooden door on the west side opens to an alley. The foundation is a combination of brick, stone, and concrete. (Photographs 1-6)

In 1947, the building suffered a minor fire, but according to building permits, repair costs were limited to \$100. While artificial siding has been applied on the exterior walls of the front facade, the original wood clapboard is evident on the sides. At some point, all the windows on the sides of the building were removed and boarded over. The wood-frame, pent roof on the storefront was added in 1973 (Photograph 1).

On the interior, the remains of a stage, a tin ceiling, ornate faux columns, and decorative molding along the interior walls attest to the building's roots as theater (Photographs 7-9). These features are largely obscured by a dropped ceiling, wood braces, cinderblocks, pieces of drywall, and debris. Several layers of interior walls obscure the original interior walls, but investigation has revealed original window openings, which have all been walled and sided over. There is a bathroom located in the northeast corner of the main floor. A back stairway located at the far east corner leads up to a second-floor landing where the tin ceiling and remains of the stage (proscenium) are visible. Wood slats and plywood constitute the flooring on this level, which is essentially one open space. A partition wall of wood partially sections off a back room where the stage once was located. An unfinished basement echoes the open space of the main floor. The integrity of the original interior space, therefore, has been ignored, but not destroyed. The former owners converted the structure to a café in 1981, but it would be difficult to determine, in the absence of historical photographs, whether or not the changes had an impact on the exterior.

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)County and State New Haven, CTUnited States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 8 Page 1**Statement of Significance**

The Westville Theater at 827 Whalley Avenue contributes to the Westville Village Historic District because it is associated with the industrial and commercial development of Westville Village and because it serves as a logical, visual edge to the existing district. The exterior and interior of the building retains the external appearance and architectural integrity. It reflects the period of significance of the district, 1850-1950. Likewise, its long-term use has maintained the commercial theme of the district's historic significance.

The building's addition to the district also embellishes the district's historical significance. Building records and extant architectural features indicate that the original structure was designed as a theater, common in working-class commercial districts in the early twentieth century. A deed in 1916 describes 827 Whalley as the Westville Theater, but city directories of that era list one theater in the area called the Marvel Photo Theater (it is not clear that it is located on the lot known as 827 Whalley).¹

By the early twentieth century, the technology to project moving images gave rise to the first movie theaters. Oftentimes, movie theaters evolved from existing storefronts, but others built at the time of the Westville Theater could accommodate both Vaudeville acts and moving pictures. Both of these types of entertainment were no doubt popular with the working class residents of Westville Village. Industrialization and urbanization restructured Americans' work and leisure time, eventually leading to class-specific commercialized entertainment of which movie theaters were a staple. Sometimes, new theaters like this one at Westville incorporated a commercial vernacular style into their facades.²

Following World War I, the popularity of motion pictures created a demand that overwhelmed the capacity for small community theaters like this one. Records indicate that the theater in Westville Village was short-lived, possibly due to increasing competition from chains and other larger movie houses. Over the years, but especially between 1916 and 1920, the property changed hands several times and entrepreneurs converted the space into an auto parts store, supply stores, a cleaners, furniture store, café, and lastly, an antique store. However, any remodeling to accommodate the different businesses has been minimal.³

¹ New Haven City Directories.

² Leon Fink, "Consumer Culture and Commercialized Leisure," *Major Problems in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001), 325; "Survey of Connecticut Theaters: Historical Background," pgs. 1-5.

³ *Ibid.*, New Haven City Directories: Building Permits, New Haven Building Department, City Records; Carl J. Jaspersohn to Richard C. Lowe, December 13, 1916, City of New Haven Land Records, Book of Deeds, v. 790, page 213.

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)

County and State New Haven, CT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographic Sources

“New Haven Building Department Records, 1906-present.” On file at the New Haven Building Department Office.

“New Haven Land Records, 1730-present.” On file at the New Haven Town Clerk’s Office.

Fink, Leon. *Major Problems in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. 2nd edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001, pg. 325.

New Haven City Directories, 1840-present. Copies at the New Haven Colony Historical Society and the New Haven Town Clerk’s Office.

“Survey of Connecticut Theaters,” Copy located at the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

Maps

Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of New Haven, Connecticut. Copies on File at New Haven Colony Historical Society.

Walker, O.W. and Streuli & Puckhafer. *Atlas of New Haven, Connecticut: from Maps in the office of the Bureau of Engineering*. Bridgeport, CT: Streuli and Puckhafer, 1911.

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)County and State New Haven, CTUnited States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 10 Page 1**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property is identified in the New Haven Assessor's Office on Map 372, Block 1159, as Parcel 026. It lies within that area recorded in the City of New Haven Land Records Book of Deeds, Volume 3076, page 306 located at 200 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut, 06510. The legal description describes it as "#827 Whalley Avenue bounded South by Whalley Avenue, 39 feet, more or less; West by land now or formerly of A.W. Minor, 120 feet, more or less; North by land now or formerly of Mary White, 30 feet, more or less; and East by land now or formerly of John W. Hine, 119 feet, more or less."

The addition of this property moves the district boundary easterly from 831-835 Whalley Avenue to 827 Whalley Avenue.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary reflects the present boundaries of the lot upon which the building is situated. It is added to the Westville Village Historic District because its historical and architectural significance is consistent with that of the district to which it is immediately adjacent and because it creates a more obvious historical and visual boundary to the district. A modern service station lies to the east of the property. Due to professional oversight, the Westville Theater was not originally included in the Westville Village Historic District. Closer examination of the structure, which revealed new information regarding the building, the integrity of its materials, and its history as a theater, initiated reconsideration.

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)

County and State New Haven, CT

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 1

All Photographs:

Westville Theater, 827 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT; November 2005
Photographer: Leah S. Glaser
Digital files at the New Haven Preservation Trust

Captions:

1. Front elevation
2. West elevation.
3. East elevation.
4. Streetscape looking West down Whalley Avenue.
5. Streetscape looking East down Whalley Avenue.
6. North elevation
7. Interior: Tin Ceiling and Stage
8. Interior: Ceiling detail depicting place for chandelier.
9. Interior: Side detail of interior.

Property Name Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)

County and State New Haven, CT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Figure Page 1

Figure 1
District Map
Westville Village Historic District (Boundary Increase)
New Haven County, CT

