

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Historic Resources of Asylum Hill
Hartford, Connecticut

Accompanying

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 29 1979

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Laurel and Marshall Streets District

Location:

Laurel Street, west side, 257 thru 377
Laurel Street, east side, 284 thru 370

Marshall Street, west side, 11, 15
Marshall Street, east side, 10 thru 28

South Marshall Street, west side, 251 thru 299
South Marshall Street, east side, 240- 292

Imlay Street, west side, 63, 65

Farmington Avenue, north side, 250 thru 286
Farmington Avenue, south side, 235 thru 301

Niles Street, south side, 43, 45, 47, 63

Case Street, north side, 16
Case Street, south side, 11, 15

Property Owners:

Laurel Street-		
	257	Francis M. Cosgrove
	261	Antoine Sorel
	271-273	Alman Co. and Paul Puzzo
	275-277	Joern Kornhuber and Henry Cote
	284	Jacob I Kalin
NC	352	Bertha Greenberg et al/ B/T Jacob Dunn
	354	George R. Levesque
	356	Fannie Tyskewicz Est/ Joseph F. Ryter
	358	Donald and Maryanne Domick
NC	360	John G. Meier
	362-364	Peter R. Blum
	366	Theresa A. McDougall
	368	Jack J. Dubin
	370	David C. McGuire, Jr. and Leslie Franks/ same
		44 Upland Drive, West Hartford, CT
		Same
		6 Walker Lane, Bloomfield, CT
		86 Skyline Drive, South Windsor, CT
		299 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
		36 Russ Street, Hartford, CT
		10 Englewood Avenue, West Hartford, CT
		99 Pratt Street, Hartford, CT
		Same
		34 Smallwood Road, West Hartford, CT
		242 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT
		Same
		1087 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT

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	Marshall Street-		
	11	Elinor P. Childs	same
	15	Greater Hartford Group Homes, Inc.	814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT
NC	10	Ten Marshall House Associates	282 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
	16	Regina M. Paolantonio	same
	18	James and Margaret Carini	797 Mott Hill Road, Glastonbury, CT
	20	Emily Bean	31 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT
	22	Emily N. Bean	31 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT
	24	Emily N. Bean Trustee	31 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT
	26	Michael P. Sarli	same
	28	Joseph N. and Lena G. Charbonneau	same
	South Marshall Street-		
	240	Fannie Tyskewicz, Est/ Joseph F. Ryter	99 Pratt Street, Hartford, CT
	251	Connecticut Bank and Trust	1 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT
NC	256	Anselmo J. Macchi	1580 Broad Street, Hartford, CT
	257-259	Thomas R. and Gertrud Putsche	same
	263-265	Gary M. and Ingrid A. Smith	same
	266-268	Frank and Angelina Garfi	268 South Marshall Street, Hartford, CT
	269-273	Simon and Muriel Bernstein	35 Gabb Road, Bloomfield, CT
NC	272-276	Aaron Dubitzky	2829 Indian Creek Drive, Miami, FL 33140
	280	Helen M. Namnoun	same
	292	Amer. Cancer Soc., Ct. Div, Inc.	670 Prospect Av., W. Hartford, CT
	Imlay Street-		
	63	Connecticut Association of Real Estate/ Boards, Inc.	same
	65	Karen Erickson	same
	Farmington Avenue-		
	235	Michael L. Widland/ Schatz and Schatz	1 Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT
	237	Katherine W. Scoville/ Hyman Wilensky, Esq.	281 Capitol Walk, New London, CT
	239	Michael Widland/Schatz and Schatz	1 Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT
	243-245	Mary R. Giuliano	23 Sky View Drive, West Hartford, CT
	250-260	Willoughby Associates	638 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT
NC	255	Gulf Oil Corporation	P.O. Box 8056, Philadelphia, PA 19101
	264-266	Rene P. Pisani and Arnaldo F. Espinosa, trustees, Retail Employees Union, Local 919	264 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
NC	267	Shipwreck Lounge Inc.	same
	270	Bella Echelson/Robert C. White	645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
	271-273	Shipwreck Lounge, Inc.	267 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
	274-276	Bella Echelson/Robert C. White	645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT

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275	Constantine Vlecidis and Peter Tragakis	509 South Main Street, West Hartford
277	" " " " " "	" " " " " "
278	Joseph V. Gaudiano	278 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
279	Helen M. Namnoun	280 South Marshall Street, Hartford, CT
282	Joseph V. Gaudiano	278 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT
286	James R. Cronin	same
293-301	The Forest Corporation/M.J. Neiditz	111 Pearl Street, Hartford, CT

Niles Street-

43	Irving B. and Mary Ann Watt	same
45	Charles W. and Rose A. Schuberth	same
47	Yip H. and Ngook Chung	same
63	Elizabeth N. Gore et al	9 Seymour Street, Windsor, Ct
95	Bernard W. Lepuk and Richard Shlomborg	69 Gillett Street, Hartford, CT
104	Marjorie K. Clifford	same
106	Eugene M. Clifford	104 Niles Street, Hartford, CT

Case Street-

16	Walter B. Schatz	750 Main Street, Hartford, CT
11	Frank and Lillian F. Leach	same
15	James F. Vera and Louise S. Vera	same

Laurel Street (con't.)-

285-287	Almanco and Paul Puzzo	6 Walker Lane, Bloomfield, CT
291-293	Shipwreck Lounge, Inc.	267 Farmington Avenue, Hartford
335	Antonio and Stella Zapulla	same
337	Anthony and Concetta GiOnfriddo	same
339	Samuel R. Jacobs	42 Montclair Drive, West Hartford, CT
341	Anne Menard and R. Guy Freeman	same
361	Robert and Susan Rockwell	6 East Lane, Bloomfield, CT
363	Emily N. Bean	31 Woodland Street, Hartford
365-367	Leszek P. and Edith Bulder	Scantic Road, East Windsor, CT
369	Peter R. Blum	242 Trumbull Street, Hartford
371	Tracey B. Joiner and Estelle M. Joiner	same
373	Lorraine M. and Harry G. Haines	same
375	Clinton A. Haley/Paul A. Hudon	1 Lewis Street, Hartford
377	Elizabeth N. Gore	9 Seymore Street, Windsor, CT
281	Leopold Poulin	same

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Description:

This district is based on two cross streets, Laurel and Marshall, that intersect Farmington Avenue and run north to Niles Street. On Laurel Street is a group of modest row houses, the only truly modest homes on the Hill. On the segment of Farmington Avenue included in the district are two turn-of-the-century multiple residence buildings, as well as newer apartment buildings and signs of 20th century deterioration in the form of empty lots and a gas station.

The district is best approached from Niles Street, where at the ends of Laurel and Marshall Streets are two houses, each with a three-story round tower and conical roof. Together, these two houses form a picturesque approach to the 19th century houses on Laurel and Marshall Streets. These houses, in smaller number and on a more modest scale, rival the Collins and Townley Streets District in the qualities of neighborhood ambience and urban density. 43, 45, and 47 Niles Street are typical cases in point. They are one-family houses of red brick with gable roofs decorated by sawn and turned wooden porches and bricks laid in saw tooth and diaper patterns.

On the west side of Marshall Street apartment buildings have replaced all but two of the houses. One of the two is 15 Marshall Street, a particularly fine Queen Anne single-family house that has shaped shingles at second floor level, a lattice work pattern in the gable, and colored glass in its bay windows. On the east side of Marshall Street are four shingled houses designed in imaginative variations of the Queen Anne style, now with asphalt or aluminum siding. They are followed by three brick houses with sawn and turned woodwork porches similar to those found at 43, 45, and 47 Niles Street.

The houses on Laurel Street retain more of their historic integrity and include the most modest of the 19th century residences of Asylum Hill. These are the four rowhouses on the west side, 369, 371, 373, 375 Laurel Street, now in process of renovation. Such renovation on the Hill is financed in part by employee loan programs newly established by insurance companies whose headquarters are located on the Hill. Similar modest two-family houses on the east side complement the four-house row, all built in brick and shingles with simple detail. In the middle of the block, on the east side, are three tall brick houses, 354, 356, 358, whose tall, narrow gables create a sharp rhythm. Their projecting silhouettes, sawn verge boards, saw tooth and diaper pattern brickwork, and colored glass windows form a distinctive and lively streetscape.

The two blocks of Farmington Avenue within the district typify the mixture of influences now prevalent on Asylum Hill. On the one hand, there are a gas station at the southeast corner of Laurel Street and Farmington Avenue, and an empty lot on the south side between Laurel and South Marshall Streets. Across from it are two 20th century apartment houses

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of dubious architectural quality at 264 and 274 Farmington Avenue. On the other hand, on the southeast corner of Marshall Street and Farmington Avenue is a 20th century apartment house with correct Georgian trim. And there are two turn-of-the-century multiple residences of quality. One of these is at the southwest corner of Imlay Street and Farmington Avenue, built of buff brick by Albert W. Scoville (1852-1941), an active contractor and developer of the period. Instead of a single entrance, it has a series of four entrances along Imlay Street and one fronting on Farmington Avenue in an early example of a town house-like approach to multiple residences. This building has central pavilion and projecting end pavilions, round-headed windows, and roof overhang similar to the contemporary school building still standing at West Middle School. Here, however, fanlights and quoins are used, reflecting the spreading popularity of the Colonial Revival during the ten years between the 1890 date of the schoolhouse and the 1900 date of the apartment house. Another turn-of-the-century apartment house at the southwest corner of South Marshall Street and Farmington Avenue is in the Shingle Style with an apsidal roof at the corner, broad expanses of shingle roofs to south and west, and recessed porches at the upper floor levels.

South of Farmington Avenue along South Marshall, Case, and Laurel Streets are less pretentious but roomy residences mixed with undistinguished apartment houses. There is a concentration of late Queen Anne/early 20th century frame houses here. They have eclectic elements ranging from Palladian gable windows to turrets and bays, but with an overall horizontal solidity far different from their earlier angular and vertical brick counterparts on the other side of the avenue.

Significance:

North of Farmington Avenue the district occupied land formerly owned by Marshall Jewell and James G. Niles. The dividing line between Jewell and Niles lands was Laurel Street, Jewell to the west and Niles to the east. Marshall Jewell was an industrialist (Jewell Belting Co.), diplomat (minister to St. Petersburg), and politician (governor of Connecticut and Postmaster General in President Grant's cabinet). After he died in 1883, Marshall Street was laid out and his land was developed. The house at 63 Niles Street was on his land, presumably a dependency for staff housing.

The houses that were built after 1883 fit in well with the overall Asylum Hill neighborhood. Those still standing are in a well-preserved setting and give a good sense of the quality of late 19th century life in Asylum Hill. The large estates, few in number, became the site of middle class homes, many in number. The cohesiveness and integrity and sense of order and conventional taste are all apparent in the present streetscape, damaged and altered, indeed, but not beyond recognition.

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The section of Farmington Avenue in the district displays the strengths and problems of the main artery. Large apartment houses have been built along the avenue since the turn of the century. The two early ones that remain are good examples of different types, one brick in the tradition of European revival architectural styles, the other shingle in the peculiarly American style of broad roofs and plastic forms. The quality of later apartment houses ranges from good to bad, and there is some land clearance and a gas station that further diminish, but do not demolish, the 19th century influence.

South of Farmington Avenue, the land was part of the Nook Farm real estate development which is discussed below in connection with the Nook Farm/Woodland Street district. In these blocks the influence of the early 20th century is as strong as that of the late 19th century. Frame houses with horizontal lines became the fashion, accepted as a progressive change from the angular, vertical brick homes that preceded them. The two types had in common roomy comfort, close urban spacing, and decorative trim that was different for each type, but in both cases was the product of craftsmanship on the part of joiners and carpenters now no longer generally available.

Case Street is the shortest street on Asylum Hill. In its way it is as much of an oddity as the row of four attached workers' houses on Laurel Street, each adding something out of the ordinary to the district. Case Street was opened in 1909, and is a reminder of the Newton Case estate that once ran from Forest Street to Laurel Street on the south side of Farmington Avenue.

Geographical Data:

Acreage of nominated property: 23

Quadrangle name: Hartford North

UTM References:

- A. 18/691710/4626600
- B. 18/691719/4626340
- C. 18/691780/4626340
- D. 18/691780/4626220
- E. 18/691600/4626160
- F. 18/691610/4626280
- G. 18/691460/4626350
- H. 18/691530/4626540

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Verbal Boundary Description: Starting from the northeast corner of 43 Niles Street, the line runs south and west along its borders to the east border of 362 Laurel Street, south along the rear borders of properties fronting on Laurel Street to Farmington Avenue, east along Farmington Avenue to Imlay Street, south along Imlay Street to the southeast corner of 63 Imlay Street, west and north along its borders to the southeast corner of 284-286 Laurel Street, west along its south border to Laurel Street, south along Laurel Street to the southeast corner of 257 Laurel Street, west and north along its borders to the south border of 11 Case Street, west along it and the south border of 240 South Marshall Street to South Marshall Street, north along South Marshall Street to the southeast corner of 251 South Marshall Street, west along its south border to its southwest corner, north along the rear borders of properties fronting on South Marshall Street to the south border of 293-301 Farmington Avenue, west and north along its borders to Farmington Avenue, east along Farmington Avenue to Marshall Street, north along Marshall Street to the southeast corner of 11 Marshall Street, west, north, and east along the borders of 11 and 15 Marshall Street to Marshall Street, north along Marshall Street to Niles Street, east along Niles Street to the point of beginning.