

PH0665614

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 27 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sigourney Square National Register District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER See continuation sheet

CITY, TOWN *Hartford, Ashley & May Sts.*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First - William R. Cotter

STATE Connecticut

CODE 09

COUNTY Hartford

CODE 003 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

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

1976-1978

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"/> RUINS	<input 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

Sigourney Square District is a residential area of approximately 45 acres built in the 1890's. It is centered around Sigourney Square Park, one mile west of the center of downtown Hartford (Old State House). The district is in the shape of a narrow oblong, five blocks west from Garden Street to Woodland Street and two blocks from Ashley Street north to the railroad tracks behind Sargeant Street.

Within the residential district are 169 structures -- 156 built as middle-class, one- and two-family homes, two stores, one church, and ten apartment houses. The buildings appear to be structurally sound. They are presently fairly well maintained; a strong neighborhood civic association is encouraging upgrading of the area.

Sigourney Square Park, the center of the district, is a full square block, each side about 340 feet long, bordered by Sargeant, Sigourney, Ashley, and May Streets. A circular walk around its four sides, shown in a turn of the century photograph, is gone and the entire area is now open space used for recreational purposes by neighborhood residents.

Most of the building lots in the district are 40 to 50 feet wide and 150 to 160 feet deep, a size typically used for middle-class housing in Hartford at the turn of the century. The houses are usually placed about 25 feet from the street, and occupy most of the width of the lots, thus establishing a unified neighborhood streetscape.

A variety of materials are used in the exterior surface treatment of the houses. Many are brick or wood, while some have a combination of brick or stone first story with shingles above. But whatever the material, fanciful Queen Anne design prevails throughout the district. The eclectic use of elements from a variety of architectural styles for which the 1890's is noted, is expressed here with exceptional density. Among these architectural features are picturesque roof lines, jagged gables, two-story bays, pseudo Palladian windows, dentil courses, Ionic columns, appliqué plaster decorations, colored glass, shaped shingles, and sawn and turned woodwork. Turrets and towers are common. Yet all of this variety is executed within a neighborhood standard of modest scale and picturesque massing, insuring a remarkable cohesiveness and unity.

The four houses on May Street facing the west side of the square have many characteristics typical of the district. One such typical circumstance is the fact that the house on the corner of Ashley Street, No. 43-45 May Street, and its neighbor, No. 47-49, are an identical pair. "Two of the same" often were constructed at one time. These two are of frame construction, two stories plus an attic, on brownstone foundations. The dominant design feature is a three-story octagonal tower having an eight-sided pyramidal roof with flared eaves, topped by a finial. The tower is balanced on the other side of the facade at third floor level by an overhanging pedimented gable, supported by brackets, in which is a row of three windows. Under the gable is a broad front porch. In the middle of both sides of the two houses is a two-story polygonal bay capped with a cross gable which overhangs the wall of the house to the extent that the gable wall is flush with the central section of the bay. Thus, the gable is partly projecting over the bay.

Next door to the north is another frame double house, No. 51-53 May Street, with clapboards at first floor level and shingles above. At both front corners are entrance porches. These two porches are similar in size, location and function, but quite different in design, providing a perfect example of the prevalence of variations on a theme. In this instance the porch to the south projects from the corner, is canted, and has its own small triangular pedimented roof. Above it in the body of the house is a recessed second-story porch. On the north corner the entrance porch itself is recessed and over it is an oval window having eight lights separated by radial muntins surrounded

continued

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Location

ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE 1

25-163 Ashley Street (south side)
8-212 Ashley Street (north side)
7-307 Sergeant Street (south side)
96-316 Sergeant Street (north side)
225 Garden Street
103-126 Huntington Street
237-308 Sigourney Street
15-63 May Street (west side)
26-28 May Street (east side)
87-101 Atwood Street

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Sigourney Square Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

by a molded frame with four keystones. The two porch designs are tied together by use of identical open work "valences" consisting of an array of ball and stick elements whose balls are arranged to form festoons. Such imaginative use of turned and sawn woodwork abounds throughout the district.

The fourth and largest house in this row is No. 55-57 May Street. At its north-east corner, encircled by a broad front porch, is a massive round three-story tower with a conical roof. The porch has Tuscan columns and a turned balustrade. Three Palladian-inspired windows give special interest to the design; one large tripartite window at first floor level has its transom sections divided into many small square lights. Another in a front gable has its central section divided by curved muntins into seven pointed lights, while a third in the top of the tower has many small diamond shaped panes.

The imaginative planning that went into these four houses on the west side of the square extends in general throughout the district, but there are three categories of exceptions to be mentioned: first, the houses which predate 1890; second, the apartment houses; and, third, the church.

The oldest houses in the district, Nos. 8, 18, and 22 Ashley Street, were built about 1850 while the area was still the Town Farm. These houses form a striking contrast to others in the district, being simple Italianate in design, and built of brick with brownstone lintels and sills with flat surfaces and overhanging roofs.

The apartment houses are of several different types. Brick "perfect sixes" such as Nos. 27-29, 310-312, and 314-316 Sargeant Street, built perhaps ten years after the majority of the single and double houses, blend well with the neighborhood scale and proportions. Larger, drab apartment houses, built in the last 50 years clearly are intrusions. In a middle position on the scale of design acceptability, between the "perfect sixes" on the one hand and the modern apartment houses on the other, is one 1916 four-story apartment block at No. 270 Sigourney Street whose dominant architectural feature is a heavy cornice made up of modillions, moldings, and antifixes. Adding a bit of charm are four tiers of wooden porches adorned with "Chinese Chipendale" balustrades between columns supported on high plinths. This building is not considered an intrusion.

The district's only church is at No. 19 May Street, constructed in 1929 by the Advent Christian Church of Hartford which continues to occupy it. While the date is late compared with other buildings in the district, the modest, red brick church has a simple gable front with pointed arch windows which adds merit to the district.

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A list of property owners shown by the City of Hartford assessor's records as of June 1977 follows. This list is also used for the purpose of designating intrusions by showing the letters NC (not critical) in the margin where appropriate.

227 Garden St.

7 Sargeant St.

11 Sargeant St.

Johnny E. Wimberly

11 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

19 Sargeant St.

Leo M. Lemay

c/o Htfd. Fed. Sav.

Hartford, CT 06103

23-25 Sargeant St.

Bernice R. Moske

23 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

27-29 Sargeant St.

Arthur R. Margolis

47 Avonwood Rd

Avon, CT 06001

33 Sargeant St.

(Brick commercial garage
in rear NC)

Trinity Ambulance Service

33 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

38-41 Sargeant St.

Peter S. Topa

38-41 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

43 Sargeant St.

Thomas McGann

43 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

49 Sargeant St.

Leo A. Girard

15 Fox Chase Rd.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

53 Sargeant St.

Edward Drydol

52 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

57 Sargeant St.

Jean P. Dage1

264 Autumn St.

Manchester, CT 06040

59 Sargeant St.

Jean P. Dage1

264 Autumn St.

Manchester, CT 06040

65 Sargeant St.

J. Parent

65 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

69 Sargeant St.

Henry L. Golden

69 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

75 Sargeant St.

Joseph B. DesJardins

75 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

NC 77-79 Sargeant St.

Samuel Cohen

57 Pratt St.

Hartford, CT 06103

83-85 Sargeant St.

Walter Lashuk

83-85 Sargeant St.

Hartford, CT 06105

89 Sargeant St.

Juan Moreno

2387 Main St.

Hartford, CT 06120

129-131 Sargeant St.

Laura R. Bettencourt

49 Richard

W. Hartford, CT 06119

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199-201 Sargeant St.
Htfd. Fed. Sav.
50 State St.
Hartford, CT 06103
203-205 Sargeant St.
Michael S. Bivens
76 Grand Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095
211-213 Sargeant St.
Daniel Andrews
211-213 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
215-217 Sargeant St.
George M. Barrette
215-217 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
221-223 Sargeant St.
Anna M. Stack
221-223 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
227-229 Sargeant St.
George M. Barrette
102 Rood Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095
231-233 Sargeant St.
Carmelo Mateo
231-233 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
235-237 Sargeant St.
Henry Hester
235-237 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
241-243 Sargeant St.
United Mortgage Co.
241-243 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
267-269 Sargeant St.
Fernando Leonardo
23 Kastlewood Rd.
Simsbury, CT 06070
271-273 Sargeant St.
James L. O'Brien
275 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105

275-277 Sargeant St.
James L. O'Brien
275-277 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
279-281 Sargeant St.
Alfred C. Dayton Estate
106 Soundview
Bronx, N.Y.
283-285 Sargeant St.
George E. Young
283-285 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
287-289 Sargeant St.
Olive V. Meany
287-289 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
291-293 Sargeant St.
Alexander Hart
129 Kirkwood Rd.
W. Hartford, CT 06117
295-297 Sargeant St.
Lester A. Limoges
295-297 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
301-303 Sargeant St.
William B. Keefe
7 Walbridge Rd.
W. Hartford, CT 06119
305-307 Sargeant St.
David P. Ward
7 Palmer Dr.
W. Hartford, CT 06109
96-98 Sargeant St.
Carlos H. Toledo
96-98 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105
100-102 Sargeant St.
Dennis Huggins
91 Salisbury St.
Hartford, CT 06112
104-106 Sargeant St.
Sidat Balgobin
104-106 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105

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108-110 Sargeant St. Ruth Dahl 108-110 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	7	4
112-114 Sargeant St. Henry Hurst 428 Hillstown Rd. Manchester, CT 06040		
116-118 Sargeant St. Jane Wright 116-118 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
120-122 Sargeant St. HUD Washington, D.C.		
124-126 Sargeant St. Faith Tabernacle of Glastonbury 124-126 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
128-130 Sargeant St. Domingo Camacho 128-130 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
140 Sargeant St. Help Inc. Trustee 140 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
144-146 Sargeant St. Hyman I. Katz 74 Farmstead Lane W. Hartford, CT 06117		
156-158 Sargeant St. Charles C. Strouch 28 Vardon Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
160-162 Sargeant St. Roy F. Russell 50 Adams St. Hartford, CT 06112		
164 Sargeant St. Robert C. Vater 164 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
170 Sargeant St. Horacio Rodriguez 170 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
176 Sargeant St. Alexander R. Hart 12A Kirkwood Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
180 Sargeant St. Gerald N. Smith 815 Mountain Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
186-188 Sargeant St. Willie J. McNeil 186 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
190-192 Sargeant St. Willie J. McNeil 186 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
196-198 Sargeant St. Rubin Long 196-198 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
200-202 Sargeant St. Administrator of Veterans Affairs 450 Main St. Hartford, CT 06103		
204-206 Sargeant St. Ida C. Strouch 28 Vardon Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
208-210 Sargeant St. Mavis T. Kennedy 208-210 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
216-218 Sargeant St. Robert A. Clark 216-218 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		
220-222 Sargeant St. Fernand Perron 220-222 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		

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	224-226 Sargeant St. John J. Gurchin 224-226 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	286-288 Sargeant St. Manuel Medina 164 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	7 5
	228-230 Sargeant St. Doris E. Dale 504 W. 143 St. New York, N.Y.	290-292 Sargeant St. Albert J. Montano 1872 Main St. Newington, CT 06111	
	232-234 Sargeant St. Angel Rodriguez 232-234 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	294-296 Sargeant St. Robert W. McAllister 294-296 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	
	240-242 Sargeant St. Walter Ruzsak 99 Lincoln St. Hartford, CT 06106	298-300 Sargeant St. Ismael Quirones 298-300 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	
	252-254 Sargeant St.	310-312 Sargeant St. Lee G. Jackson 1264 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002	
NC	256-258 Sargeant St. Harry S. Melnick/ 160 Steele Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06119	314-316 Sargeant St. Samuel Cohen 57 Pratt St. Hartford, CT 06103	
	262-264 Sargeant St. Harry S. Melnick 160 Steele Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06119	25 Ashley St. Mary C. Sweeney 25 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	
	266-268 Sargeant St. Louis S. Goldsthmidt 1600 Silas Deane Hwy Rocky Hill, CT 06067	29 Ashley St. Walter J. Traskos Owen Lane Glastonbury, CT 06033	
	272-274 Sargeant St. Betty Prince 15 Woodland St. Hartford, CT 06105	31 Ashley St. Steven M. Simcic 31 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	
	280 Sargeant St. Natalija Agirs 280 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105	35 Ashley St. Moses Lenhoff 35 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	
	282-284 Sargeant St. Angel L. Marrero 44 Midian Ave. Windsor, CT 06095	39 Ashley St. Rosaire D. Lapointe 2424 Main St. Hartford, CT 06120	

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 43 Ashley St.
Peter W. Beaucar
22B Stevens St.
W. Hartford, CT 06110 | 141-143 Ashley St.
Greta Thomas
141-143 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 47 Ashley St.
John J. Ferguson
47 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 145-147 Ashley St.
Sadie M. Lyons
145-147 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 51 Ashley St.
Louis J. Cochener
51 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 153-155 Ashley St.
Michael S. Bivans
76 Grande Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095 |
| 55 Ashley St.
John H. Officer
55 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 157-159 Ashley St.
Robert T. Collins
157-159 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 59 Ashley St.
Leonard Ogren
59 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 163 Ashley St.
John T. O'Neill
163 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 61-63 Ashley St.
Adrien Lemire
61-63 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 8 Ashley St.
John A. Karaliunas
219 Garden St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 65-67 Ashley St.
Salvatore Carrabba
21 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 18 Ashley St.
John A. Karaliunas
219 Garden St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 97-99 Ashley St.
Ashley Market Inc.
178 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 22 Ashley St.
Bessie A. Weinstein
22 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 103 Ashley St.
Leo L. Silberman
3 Nolan Dr.
Bloomfield, CT 06002 | 26 Ashley St.
Louis J. Dolinsky
26 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 107 Ashley St.
Reginald M. Walker
107 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 | 30-32 Ashley St.
Dorothy G. Lagier
30-32 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |
| 135 Ashley St.
Louise Bonvicini
Box 174
Torrington, CT 06790 | 34-36 Ashley St.
Winifred O. Massaro
34-36 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105 |

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38 Ashley St. Bruce Kreisberg 38 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	94-96 Ashley St. HUD Washington, D.C.
40 Ashley St. Rose Rivera 40 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	98-100 Ashley St. Mary E. Ahern 98-100 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
44 Ashley St. John A. Karaliunas 219 Garden St. Hartford, CT 06105	104-106 Ashley St. Sarah C. Wood 103 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
48 Ashley St. Martin Mendes 48 Garden St. Hartford, CT 06105	108-110-112 Ashley St. Leo L. Silberman 3 Nolan Dr. Bloomfield, CT 06002
50 Ashley St. John A. Karaliunas 219 Garden St. Hartford, CT 06105	164 Ashley St. Paul M. O'Mara 164 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
54 Ashley St. Helen Breton 54 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	166 Ashley St. Josephine R. Bemis 166 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
58-60 Ashley St. Avco Fin. Serv. of New Haven Inc. 39 College St. New Haven, CT	172 Ashley St. Agostin Solivan 172 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
64 Ashley St. Jean A. Trahan 64 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	174 Ashley St. Samuel Cohen 57 Pratt St. Hartford, CT 06103
66-68 Ashley St. Vladislav R. Nyklicek 66-68 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105	178-180 Ashley St. Roland Sirois 178-180 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
88 Ashley St. Joseph Jacques 56 Lincoln St. Hartford, CT 06106	184 Ashley St. George M. Barrette 215 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105
90-92 Ashley St. Willie C. Tiggett 40 Walnut St. Hartford, CT 06120	190 Ashley St. Vincent Hinson 190 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105

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	192-194 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	196-198 Ashley St. Alma Vantasell		
	196-198 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	206 Ashley St. 206 Ashley St. Inc. Hartford, CT 06105		
	210 Ashley St. Brendan M. Fox		
	210 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	103-105 Huntington St. Ashley Market Inc. 178 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	121 Huntington St. George S. Heilpern		
	40 Lexington Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06119		
NC	125 Huntington St. George S. Heilpern		
	40 Lexington Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06119		
	129 Huntington St. Leszek P. Bulder		
	Scantic Rd. E. Windsor, CT		
NC	133 (garage in rear; lot otherwise empty) George H. Dean		
	120 Huntington St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	104 Huntington St. Salvatore Carrabba		
	90 Ferncliff Dr. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
	112-114 Huntington St. Genra Normand		
	621 Kennedy Rd. Windsor, CT 06095		
	116-118 Huntington St. Vidore Lindo		
	30 Kent St. Hartford, CT 06112		
	122 Huntington St. Samuel H. Cohen		
	6 Miamis Rd. W. Hartford, CT. 06117		
	124 Huntington St. Ruth K. Friedman		
	P.O. Box 344A Warehouse Pt., CT 06088		
NC	126 Huntington St. George B. Sulkowski		
	967 Farmington Ave. W. Hartford, CT 06107		
	245-247 Sigourney St. Richard S. Bromberg		
	40 Sharon Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002		
	242 Sigourney St. Robert P. Venora		
	240 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	270 Sigourney St. Armand S. Gagne		
	97 Brace Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06107		
NC	280-282 Sigourney St. Shirley Apter		
	51 Northbrook Dr. W. Hartford, CT 06117		
	286-288 Sigourney St. Joseph W. Bailey		
	120 Vine St. Hartford, CT 06112		
	290-292 Sigourney St. Joseph P. Berry		
	290-292 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06105		
	306-308 Sigourney St. Jose A. Rodriguez		
	306-308 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06105		

8 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 1890-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sigourney Square is unique because it was all built as a middle-class neighborhood during less than ten years in the 1890's, and remains today very much in its original condition without damaging intrusions. Its picturesque Queen Anne architecture with asymmetrical massing of towers and turrets, gables and bays embellished with classic revival detail and sawn and turned woodwork comprise an important example of nineteenth century urban design which was practical yet inventive and modest yet comfortable.

The high degree of neighborhood stability is indicated by the longevity of two neighborhood retail stores which have been in their present locations since the turn of the century: a drug store at 245-247 Sigourney Street has been maintained at the south-east corner of the square in what was built as a double house; and half a block away, at No. 99 Ashley Street, Sigourney Market has been in business since 1901 in a building apparently built for the purpose.

In the mid-nineteenth century the area now occupied by Sigourney Square District was the Alms House and Town Farm. The Alms House buildings, no longer standing, were located just east of what is now the park, and the Town Farm ran from Garden Street to Woodland Street and from the rear lot lines of estates on Asylum Avenue to the rear lot lines of estates on Albany Avenue with little interruption. A section of what is now the park was used as the Alms House burying ground; 49 smallpox casualties were buried there.

The three Italianate bricks at Nos. 8, 18, and 22 Ashley Street are thought to be the oldest houses in the district. The street, then a deadend less than one block long, was named Alms House Road on an 1869 map, so possibly these houses were built for farm workers.

The chronology of the district's development is recited by the dates of the streets and the railroad. The Connecticut Western Railroad laid down its tracks by 1880, effectively establishing the northern boundary of the district. Ashley Street was accepted by the city in 1892; Sargeant Street was laid out on the map in 1885 and constructed by 1892. The cross streets were laid out in the 1880's and early 1890's; three were named after prominent local citizens, Lydia Huntley Sigourney, John M. Atwood, and Samuel H. Huntington.

The Alms House and Town Farm were abolished during the transition when the town government was consolidated with the city government, a process completed in April 1896. It was this change that made the area available for development. As part of the change, the city set off the square for park purposes on 9 December 1895. Landscape designer for the park was J. Alex McClunie, who advertised an office at 177 Asylum Street for preparation of plans for parks, cemeteries, and private grounds.

One of the developers who was active in the district was Fred Mahl (1846-1897). In 1891 he bought land from the town for the ten modest Queen Anne brick houses on Ashley Street, six (Nos. 31-51) on the south side and four (Nos. 38-48) on the north side. He arranged construction mortgage money in the amount of \$3,000 each with Mechanics Savings Bank, constructed the houses, and sold them to families who lived in them until the late

continued

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- American Victorian Architecture, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1975 (reprint of 1886 Paris publication).
- The Art Interchange, p. 104 (volume unknown).
- Ben Karp, Wood Motifs in American Domestic Architecture, New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1966.
- The Picturesque Parks of Hartford, Hartford: American Book Exchange, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	18	69,20,0,0	46,27,19,5	B	18	69,19,80	46,27,1,60
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	69,22,0,0	46,27,10,0	D	18	69,21,90	46,27,9,9,7
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION 46 26
 See continuatun 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 Merle Kummer, Architectural Historian
 ORGANIZATION Hartford Architecture Conservancy DATE 30 June 1977
 STREET & NUMBER 65 Wethersfield Avenue 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 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *John W. Blumenthal*
 TITLE DIRECTOR, CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION DATE MARCH 21, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles W. ... DATE 1-16-79
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *...* DATE 1/15/79
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REGISTERED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAR 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 16 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

1930's and early 1940's. The question of who drew the plans for Mahl's house is unresolved as, indeed, it is for almost all the houses in the district. Presumably, he followed a pattern book, or, perhaps, simply duplicated houses he had already built elsewhere.

Fred Mahl himself was a product of the times. An immigrant, he arrived in this country from Germany at age four and grew up the eldest in a family of six brothers, several of whom worked in the building trades. At age 51, after constructing and selling a number of buildings in various parts of the city, he fell overboard and drowned while bringing his yacht up the Connecticut River from Essex, leaving an estate inventoried at \$115,228, a sum to which his Ashley Street houses made some contribution.

On Mahl's houses and most others in the district the sawn and turned woodwork for porches, gables, verge boards, valences, finials, brackets, and balusters constitutes a remarkable collection fully equal to what is found in a book published on the subject. Ben Karp in Wood Motifs in American Domestic Architecture has collected 250 photographs from two dozen towns which are no more spectacular than what can be seen by walking the streets of Sigourney Square. The district provides a living museum of outstanding importance for the craft of sawn and turned woodworking.

While it is doubtful that Fred Mahl and his peers employed architects for the houses they constructed, some of the larger homes have the look of professional design. Little information is at hand regarding individual architects who may have contributed to the neighborhood, but Hartford architect Melvin H. Hapgood (1859-1899) is known to have worked in the district. He wrote about his work in The Art Interchange, a nineteenth century periodical published in New York City, and while his words deal with interiors they nevertheless epitomize the thinking behind the creation of many of the district's houses. Hapgood had under way two houses (not identified) on the "sunny side" of Ashley Street. He wrote:

"The problem of designing these houses was rather difficult, for considerable accommodation was needed, and the appropriations were small...The westerly house was nine rooms and an attic, and the easterly one ten rooms and an attic...The cost of the two houses will be under \$4,000 each...

"A careful color-scheme is made for both houses, so as to not only furnish agreeable tones in each room, but to make the effect of vistas as pleasing as possible. In the westerly house the hall is deep saffron, the parlor olive, and the dining-room strong golden buff. The ceiling is pale buff in each case. These walls are in tempera, but the kitchen and pantries are painted pale canary, except between the shelves of the latter, where the wall is colored Indian red to throw out the china. In the second story the child's room is sage-grey, with a paler ceiling; the parlor chamber, café au lait; ceiling, salmon-pink; dining room chamber, café au lait; ceiling, pale blue; guest room, yellow brown; ceiling, pale buff; and the bathroom...pale flesh tint; ceiling, a little paler...One of the two attic rooms is in dull warm pink, and the other in medium buff."

Hapgood's eloquent discussion of interiors suggests the notion that these houses were designed from the inside out, certainly an important trend in the development of nineteenth century domestic architecture. This fair point was noted by a French

continued

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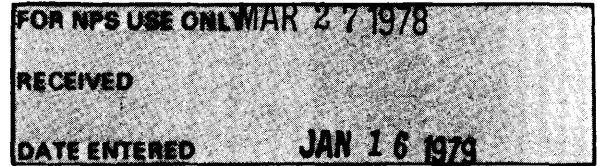
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

architectural critic of the American scene quoted by Arnold Lewis in his introduction to American Victorian Architecture, "These houses expressed 'an art truly individual which does not find its equivalent with us,' he wrote. Picturesque, comfortable...they appeared to be poetic solutions to domestic architecture. The shape, size and placement of the rooms, determined by the habits of the family and not by the empty rules of symmetry, resulted in irregular plan, while the exterior, naively conceived, showed off the ingenuity of its designer."

These remarks by Hapgood and his French contemporary give a good insight into the objectives of the care and planning which went into the building of Sigourney Square.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET UTM References ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E.	18	692 160	4627 000	F.	18	692 150	4626 940
G.	18	692 055	4626 965	H.	18	692 045	4626 940
I.	18	691 965	4626 960	J.	18	691 960	4626 990
K.	18	691 745	4627 060	L.	18	691 740	4627 040
M.	18	691 620	4627 060	N.	18	691 615	4627 005
O.	18	691 540	4627 025	P.	18	691 580	4627 140
Q.	18	691 420	4627 180	R.	18	691 445	4627 250
S.	18	691 280	4627 300	T.	18	691 280	4627 375

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	JAN 16 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Boundary

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Starting at northeast corner of property known as 225 Garden Street the boundary line of the district runs west on Sergeant Street to southeast corner of 96 Sergeant Street, thence north on east border of 96 Sergeant Street to back lot line, thence west on back lot lines of properties fronting on Sergeant Street to northwest corner of 316 Sergeant Street, thence south on west border of 316 Sergeant Street to Sergeant Street, thence east to northwest corner 307 Sergeant Street, thence south on west border of 307 Sergeant Street to back lot line, thence east on back lot lines of properties fronting on Sergeant Street to northwest corner of 210 Ashley Street, thence south on west border of 210 Ashley Street to Ashley Street, thence east to northwest corner of 163 Ashley Street, thence south on west border of 163 Ashley Street to north line of 23 May Street, thence south on back lot lines of properties fronting on May Street to southwest corner of 15 May Street, thence east on south lot line of 15 May Street to May Street, thence north on May Street to southwest corner of 26 May Street, thence east on south border of 26 May Street to southwest corner of 135 Ashley Street, thence east on back lot lines of properties fronting on Ashley Street to southwest corner of 237 Sigourney Street, thence east on south lot line of 237 Sigourney Street to Sigourney Street, thence north on Sigourney Street to southwest corner of 242 Sigourney Street, thence east on back lot lines of properties fronting on Ashley Street to southeast corner of 25 Ashley Street, thence north on east border of 25 Ashley Street to Ashley Street, thence east on Ashley Street to southeast corner of 8 Ashley Street, thence north on east border of 8 Ashley Street to southwest corner of 11 Sergeant Street, thence east along back lot lines of properties fronting on Sergeant Street to southeast corner of 225 Garden Street, thence north on Garden Street to point of beginning.

LIST OF UPDATED ADDRESSES OF PROPERTY OWNERS
WITHIN THE
SIGOURNEY SQUARE NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

<u>Old Owner and/or Address</u>	<u>Property Address Within District</u>	<u>Corrected Owner and/or Address</u>
Moses Lenhoff 35 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Mark Saur et al 35 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
Alfred C. Dayton Estate 106 Soundview Bronx, NY	279-281 Sargeant St.	Charles E. Lee et al 279 Sargeant St. ✓ Hartford, CT
Louis S. Goldschmidt 1600 Silas Deane Hwy. Rocky Hill, CT 06067	266-268 Sargeant St.	✓ Louis S. Goldschmidt 1800 Silas Deane Hwy. Rocky Hill, CT 06067
United Mortgage Co. 241-43 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Edna Cooper 241-43 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105
Robert A. Clark 216-218 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Susan C. Brumbaugh et al 216-218 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105
George M. Barrette 215-217 Sargeant St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ George M. Barrette 102 Rood Avenue Windsor, CT 06095
Glanford L. Pierce 26-28 May St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Administrator of Veterans Affairs Washington, DC
Gemma Normand et al 621 Kennedy Rd. Windsor, CT 06095	112-114 Huntington Street	✓ Gemma Normand et al 36 Red Coat Lane Unionville, CT 06085
Robert T. Collins 157-159 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Charter Oak Bank & Trust Co. 90 Pearl St. Hartford, CT 06103
Rose Rivera 40 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Michael T. McGarry et al 40 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
Louis J. Cochener et al 51 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105		✓ Louise J. Cochener et al 51 Ashley St. Hartford, CT 06105
Doris E. Dale 504 W. 143 St. New York, NY	228-230 Sargeant St.	✓ Doris E. Dale 504 W. 143 St. New York, NY 10031
Rosaire D. Lapointe et al 2424 Main St. Hartford, CT 06103		✓ Charter Oak Bank & Trust Co. 90 Park Street Hartford, CT 06103

Old Owner and/or Address

Vidore Lindo
30 Kent St.
Hartford, CT 06112

Juan Moreno
2387 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06120

Agostin Solivan
172 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Faith Tabernacle of Glastonbury
124-126 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Salvatore Carrabba
21 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Corrected Owner and/or Address

✓ Vidore Lindo et al
30 Kent St.
Hartford, CT 06106

✓ Juan Moreno et al
2387 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06120

✓ Leon Katz
74 Farmstead
West Hartford, CT 06117

✓ Stephen P. Matson
124-126 Sargeant St.
Hartford, CT 06105

✓ Paul L. Littman
194 Vine St.
Hartford, CT 06112

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

6/29/90

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Sigourney Square Historic District

Hartford County, CT

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

for Keeper Arlene Byers 7/12/90

JUN 29 1990

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sigourney Square Historic
District
Hartford, CT

Section number Amend. Page _____

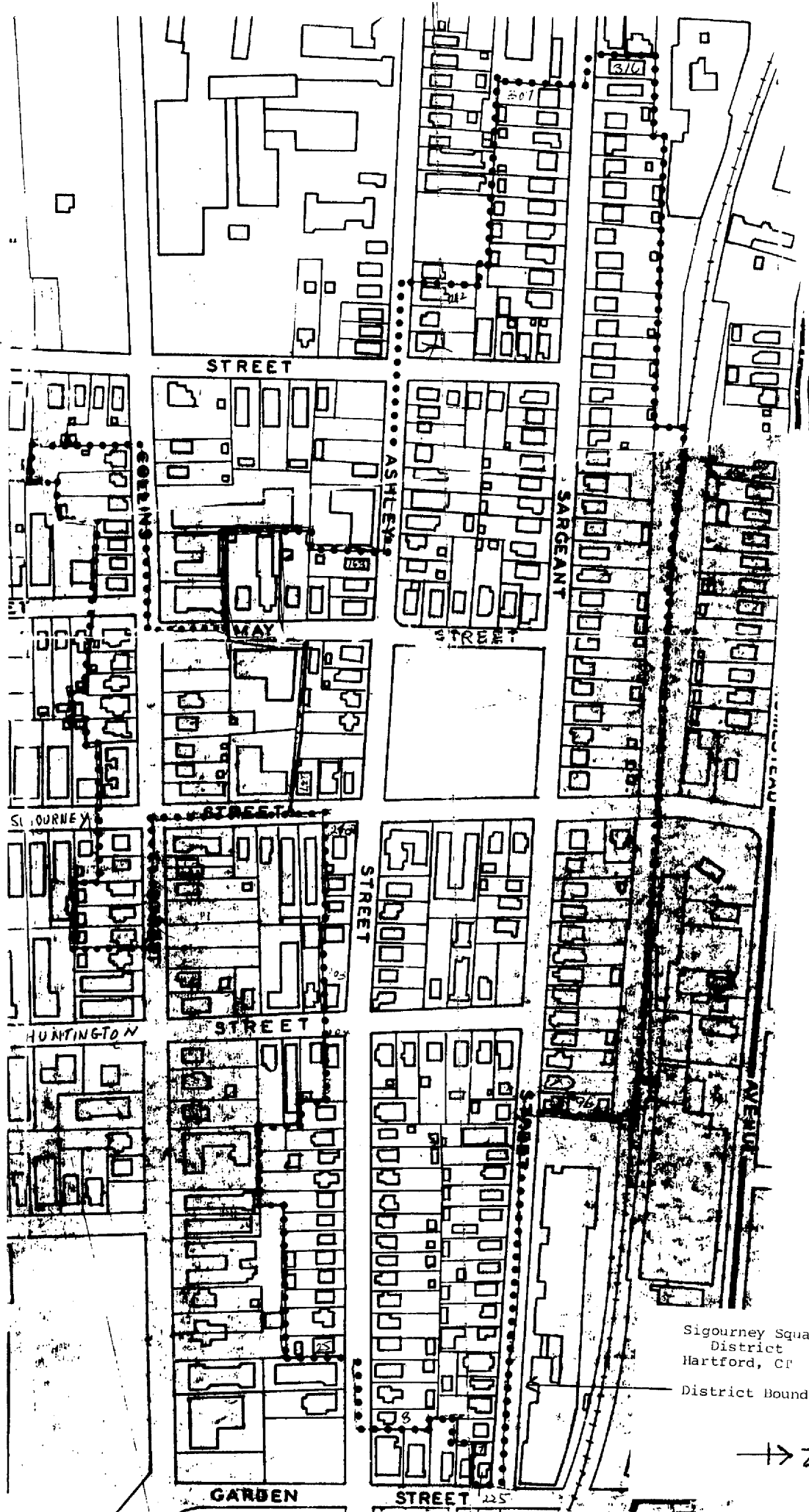
Amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to add to the inventory two buildings which clearly show on the map as being within the district boundary, but which were inadvertently omitted from the inventory listing at Item 7, page 8.

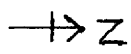
These two buildings are 237-239 Sigourney Street and 241-243 Sigourney Street.

Prepared by:

David F. Ransom
June 15, 1990



Sigourney Square Historic District
Hartford, CT
District Boundary



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

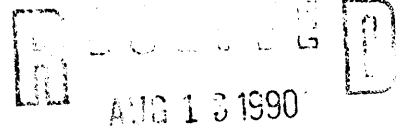
Sigourney Square District

Hartford County, CONNECTICUT

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT APPROVAL
(Rec. 8/13/90)

for Keeper *Helene Byrum* 8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Sigourney Square Historic District
Hartford, CT

Section number _____ Page _____

AMENDMENT

The purpose of this amendment is to correct a discrepancy in the nomination regarding significant dates. The nomination, item 8, cover page, gives "Specific Dates" of 1890-1900, which were the years of the height of the period of development for the district. The wording suggests that the period of significance may also be 1890-1900, which is not the case. The single decade of 1890-1900 is far too short a time span properly to reflect the period of significance of the district. The matter is dealt with in some detail in the nomination at item 7, page 1, as follows:

The oldest houses in the district, Nos. 8, 18, and 22 Ashley Street, were built about 1850 while the area was still the Town Farm. These houses form a striking contrast to others in the district, being simple Italianate in design, and built of brick with brownstone lintels and sills with flat surfaces and overhanging roofs.

The apartment houses are of several different types. Brick "perfect sixes" such as Nos. 27-29, 310-312, and 314-316 Sargeant Street, built perhaps ten years after the majority of the single and double houses, blend well with the neighborhood scale and proportions. Larger, drab apartment houses, built in the last 50 years clearly are intrusions. In a middle position on the scale of design acceptability, between the "perfect sixes" on the one hand and the modern apartment houses on the other, is one 1916 four-story apartment block at No. 270 Sigourney Street whose dominant architectural feature is a heavy cornice made up of modillions, moldings, and antifixa. Adding a bit of charm are four tiers of wooden porches adorned with "Chinese Chippendale" balustrades between columns supported on high plinths. This building is not considered an intrusion.

The district's only church is at No. 19 May Street, constructed in 1929 by the Advent Christian Church of Hartford which continues to occupy it. While the date is late compared with other buildings in the district, the modest, red brick church has a simple gable front with pointed arch windows which adds merit to the district.

By this amendment, the discussion quoted above is deemed to be relevant and to override any interpretation that "Specific Dates" may signify period of significance. The period of significance is found to be 1850-1929.

Prepared by:

David F. Ransom
August 7, 1990