

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 12 1982
DATE ENTERED FEB 25 1982

**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

Yarn at
HISTORIC
140 and 144 Retreat Avenue

AND/OR COMMON
140 and 144 Retreat Avenue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
140 and 144 Retreat Avenue

CITY, TOWN _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Hartford _____ VICINITY OF First

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Connecticut 09 Hartford 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input 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 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
Essex Office Center

STREET & NUMBER
c/o Larry Cianciolo, 10 Hunting Ridge Road

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Simsbury _____ VICINITY OF CT 06070

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER
550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Hartford _____ CT 06103

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
State Register of Historic Places

DATE
1980 _____ FEDERAL STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Hartford _____ CT 06106

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Retreat Avenue, running southwest-northeast in south central Hartford, Connecticut, is an old street. Formerly known as the Ancient Highway, it was part of the south road to Farmington that existed in the 17th century. The street took its present name from an early psychiatric hospital, the Retreat for the Insane, founded in 1823 just west of the location of 140 and 144 Retreat Avenue. This hospital, now known as the Institute of Living, is one of two hospitals that dominate the neighborhood. The other, Hartford Hospital, is across Retreat Avenue and to the northeast from numbers 140 and 144. One hundred forty and 144 Retreat Avenue are two mid-19th-century Greek Revival houses that survive, alone, between the two institutions. (Photo 1). Other houses that once lined the street are no longer standing.

Directly across Retreat Avenue from 140 and 144 is a parking lot, recently created by Hartford Hospital through demolition of two apartment houses. Next door to the east of 140 is a brick building constructed in 1972 for use as doctors' offices whose plans were drawn by Design Group One, of Hartford, in mass and scale sympathetic to 140 and 144, but beyond it are a high rise glass box building and a high rise garage (Photo 2) that provide hospital-related offices and parking. While 140 and 144 Retreat Avenue are the only mid-19th-century buildings left in the institutional environment, they are joined by two turn-of-the-century elements, the Church Home and a row of Perfect Sixes. The Church Home (Episcopal) is across Retreat Avenue to the northeast, a 2½-story brick building designed in the Classic Revival style in 1898 by George Keller, with a 3-story wing to the west in the Georgian Revival style, 1927, by Smith and Bassette. Behind 140 and 144 Retreat Avenue, along the east side of Essex Street, are five brick, six-family, bowed-front apartment houses of the standard design known in Hartford as a Perfect Six. They were built in the two years after Essex Street was opened in 1912. One hundred forty and 144 Retreat Avenue, now vacant, are the only structures still standing in the neighborhood that are one-family houses.

Both 140 (City Lot 9380) and 144 (City Lot 9381) Retreat Avenue are Greek Revival, 2½-story, three-bay, clapboard houses, each consisting of a square block in the front and a wing to the rear. The main block of 140 has a standing seam, metal, pyramidal roof covered with bitumen, as does the lower rear wing. The wing has a small, square, two-story projection to the rear and a one-story, flat-roofed section to the east (Photo 3). The facade of the house has, in its east bay, a flat-roofed Doric entrance portico with fluted columns standing on square plinths and topped by square abaci. Corresponding Doric pilasters flank the doorway which has sidelights and transom lights. The lower side elements are panelled, not glazed. The upper half, or perhaps 60%, of the door is a large, single pane of glass over two vertical raised panels (Photo 4). The other two bays of the facade have windows with 6-over-6 sash over rectangular wood panels, giving the effect of floor-to-ceiling openings. The upper three windows are 6-over-6 sash in normal configuration. The portico entablature, window caps, and eaves cornice are all simple in profile. The portico entablature has cavetto moldings at the top of the architrave and frieze and a cyma recta in its cornice crown

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molding but nothing more -- no further moldings, no dentil course, no triglyphs, no metopes. The window caps are sections of plank with no moldings whatsoever, and the eaves cornice has a crown molding only with simple flat boards for fascia and narrow soffit.

The west elevation of 140 has two windows in each floor of the main block, placed toward the front rather than centered, two oblong attic windows above them in the fascia under the eaves, and a brick chimney rising above the roofline. The rear block has a door and four windows at the first floor, a window at the second floor over the door and three more toward the rear. The east elevation of the main block, on the other hand, has three windows at both first and second floors, not evenly spaced, and two oblong attic openings. The first part of the one-story section of the rear wing has a recessed porch with floor-to-ceiling window in its north wall leading to the main block and a door and window in its west wall. There is a further window to the rear and two windows upstairs not aligned vertically over those on the first floor. The rear elevation has two windows, one over the other, in the projection, a door and window at first floor in the two-story section under the pyramidal roof, and one second story window, not aligned. A chimney rises from the roof apex (Photo 3).

The house has a full basement, except under the final rear projection and one story section. Both the interior and exterior surfaces of the foundations have been covered with smooth cement, preventing visual examination of the foundation walls material. There are three square brick posts in the cellar.

The first floor has a hall running along the east wall, inside the front door. There is a window in this wall and then a flight of stairs rises against it to the second floor. The balustrade has two turned balusters per tread, a thick, turned newel post, and a round handrail (Photo 4). A doorway with eared architrave and four-panel door opens to the west from the hall to the front room. There is a fireplace in the west wall there flanked by plain pilasters. The fireplace opening has an obtuse (four-centered) arched opening and narrow mantel shelf. Other than the doorway and fireplace surrounds there is little decorative trim in the house.

A room of almost equal size to the rear is reached through a door from the front room and from the hall. It has a fireplace against the east wall between two windows. A second room to the west at this depth from the front has now been cut up into a bathroom and cupboard space; its original function is not clear. Next toward the rear, behind this area, a stairway rises across the width of the house, just inside the side door. Upon entering through the door, one turns left, toward the front of the house, to start up

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140 and 144 Retreat Avenue
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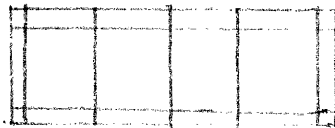
the stairs. After one straight riser, there are two winders, then nine risers to the second floor, ascending eastward to about the middle of the house. The room behind the stairs has a fireplace (now closed up) in its north wall, back to back with another fireplace in the final rear room, both flues encased in the chimney that rises from the center of the pyramidal roof of the rear wing.

A decorative element on the second floor is the curved wall at the top of the front stairs (see floor plans). It is not a matter of there being winders at the top of the flight; rather, the wall beyond the top of the stairs curves. The principal bedroom is in the northwest corner. It has a fireplace on the west wall, now blocked up. There are two more rooms in the main block on this floor. The east chimney at this level shows no signs of ever having had a fireplace. Toward the rear, the floor and ceiling heights change, become lower, at the transition from the main, front block of the house to the rear wing, where there are two more rooms.

Only the main, front block has an attic. It shows the hipped roof framing. The east chimney stops at the level of the attic floor, where it appears as an open brick shaft. The place in the roof above it where it once penetrated has been framed in.

The house is sited perhaps 15 feet back of the sidewalk. There is a two-foot stone retaining wall at the sidewalk. Granite blocks form a walk to the front portico and around to the east rear door. The land to the east and to the rear of the house has been paved.

One hundred forty-four Retreat Avenue, on the corner of Essex Street, is similar in plan and mass to 140, but is simpler both inside and out. The rear wing is one story, has no basement, and is positioned offset to the west rather than on a direct axis behind the main block. The main block has a gable roof, with the front gable serving as a pediment in the middle of which there is an oblong window. On the exterior, this window is protected by two louvered blinds. The window is glazed with four vertical panes with the muntins extended so that the four are surrounded by 14 smaller panes:



The three first-floor windows of the facade are floor-to-ceiling, the entire height being glazed with 1-over-1 sash. The individual pieces of glass therefore are of unusually large size. Formerly there was a porch in front of these windows, across the width of the house, approached by steps

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from the east. The second floor windows are 1-over-1 of more normal size. As at 140, the windows have plank sills and lintels without moldings. The cornice of the pediment is plain, and has an unembellished fascia board. Only the raking cornices have quarter-round moldings.

The east elevation of the main block has four windows at each floor in an unevenly spaced 1-2-1 rhythm. The main entrance is in the first space. It has a portico of square posts and low, gabled roof of recent construction; the front of the gable is plywood. This portico replaces an earlier side porch that was a companion to the front porch. In the rear wing the east elevation has a door and a window.

The fenestration of the west elevation of the main block is two pairs of openings at both levels (Photo 5). Upstairs all four are windows, but at the first floor the third to the rear is a side door. There is a single window in the wing. The rear elevation of the main block has two windows one over the other, to the east, and in the attic gable a small vertical window of four panes. The rear of the wing has one window and a door (Photo 6).

The main block and the wing have central brick chimneys. The foundations appear from the outside also to be brick, but on the inside it is apparent that the brick changes to stone about at the frost line. The cellar floor is paved with stone.

The main door on the east side leads to a small entranceway (Photo 7) from which one turns right into the front room that runs across the full width of the house. The front room has a fireplace on its south wall, back-to-back with a fireplace (Photo 9) in the second room. These fireplaces have low, obtuse arches similar to those in 140. The second room also can be entered from the side door on the west elevation (Essex Street). Just inside this door a stairway runs in a straight flight north along the wall, ascending to the second floor. This is the only stairway between the first and second floors. A full partition separates it from the second room; i.e., the stairway is completely closed in. At the bottom of the stairs there is a door to the second room, the top half of which is glazed. A similar door exists at the top of the stairs. The rear wing is the kitchen area.

There are three bedrooms on the second floor, reached by a hall that runs across the middle of the house and by a hall that runs back parallel with the stairs. There is a false fireplace on the west wall of the northwest room. Floors throughout are wide boards, not hardwood. In the attic the roof framing consists of 14 principal rafters and ridgepole with no collar beams, purlins, or lateral braces. Wide boards are laid longitudinally on the rafters, to which the shingles, now asphalt, are nailed.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The house is sited perhaps 15 feet from the Retreat Avenue sidewalk, and even closer to the Essex Street sidewalk. The side and back yards are dirt and grass; i.e., have not been paved. There are no outbuildings for either 140 or 144 Retreat Avenue.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

140-144 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, CT

Continuation sheet Addendum

Item number 7

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Since preparation of the nomination, 140 and 144 Retreat Avenue have been rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. The work included construction of a link joining the two buildings and of a picket fence across the fronts of the lot lines, as shown by Photograph 9. The purpose of the link was to permit operation of the two structures as a unit.

February 7, 1981

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 1845 - 144 Retreat Avenue BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A
1851 - 140 Retreat Avenue

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One hundred forty and 144 Retreat Avenue embody the distinctive characteristics of the type, period, and method of construction associated with the Greek Revival style of frame domestic architecture (Criterion A). They have been altered very little since they were built, and, by their integrity, together provide an historic sense of time and place in a neighborhood otherwise dominated by the presence of two large institutions.

The story of the origins of the two houses and of the people who lived in them emerges from a study of the Hartford Land Records and the city directories. On March 21, 1845, John Goodrich of the State of New York deeded a "lot of land" (144 Retreat Avenue) to Eliada Barnes for \$184 (Hartford Land Records, Volume 72, Page 51). Barnes is listed in the 1844 directory as a painter. Apparently, the house at 144 was constructed by November 26, 1845, for on that date (72/374) David L. Camp quit claimed the "premises with building thereon" to Barnes, saying "my interest in and to the same being by virtue of a statute law of this State entitled 'an Act securing to Mechanics a Lien on land and Buildings.'" David L. Camp is not listed in the 1844 directory, but Daniel Camp, joiner, is, and so is Joseph Camp, architect, and William Camp, cabinet maker. Presumably, David was a member of this family of artisans and was employed by Barnes in building the house. The Camp association is strengthened by the record (81/445) of Daniel S. Camp in 1852 releasing Barnes of a mortgage on the property.

Sale of the house by Barnes in 1852 (82/280) to a new owner who did not live there marked the beginning of a period when the house apparently was owned as an investment and rented. Further sales followed in 1854 (92/51), 1855 (91/458), and 1860 (126/128) before a sale in 1868 (127/168) to Henry D. Didier, a stenographer, who lived there, as did his successors. Didier's heirs sold in 1879 (179/109) to John M. Farnham who operated a musical instrument repair shop on Asylum Street. His widow owned the house to 1902 when it was purchased (296/2) by William E. O'Brien, a builder. The O'Briens had a boarder in 1914, the Rev. H. M. Thompson, Pastor of the Memorial Methodist Church at the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets (no longer standing). The next owners, the Johnson family, lived in the house from 1919 (474/714) to 1978 (1623/239). Frederick W. Johnson was a foreman at Case, Lockwood, and Brainard, printers.

The first transaction for 140 Retreat Avenue occurred May 13, 1851 (82/207) when Virgil Cornish sold the land for \$325 to Bogardus Beardslee. Cornish was a "stewart (sic) at Insane Retreat," while Beardslee was a

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

Approved for Release
 CIA-RDP80-01000A000100010001-9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 692870 4624680

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated properties are described in the Hartford Land Records, volume 1569, page 85 and volume 1623, page 239.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Historian

DATE

August 11, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

33 Sunrise Hill Drive

TELEPHONE

203 521-2518

CITY OR TOWN

West Hartford

STATE

CT 06107

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



TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE January 4, 1982

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



DATE 2/25/82

ATTEST:
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

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clothier on Asylum Street. Apparently they both engaged in real estate transactions on the side. Beardslee sold the land and buildings for \$2,300 in 1856 to Elizabeth C. (Mrs. Chauncey) Wright (95/120), the widow of a joiner. Whether Beardslee built the house in 1851 and rented it, or whether he owned the empty lot for several years until building the house and selling it to Mrs. Wright does not show in the record. On an 1850 map the house shows as the center of three at about this location, giving mild support to the notion that Mrs. Wright was not the first to live there.

Mrs. Wright and her descendants owned the house from 1856 to 1954, almost 100 years. In 1878, William L. Wright, a machinist and presumably a son, is listed as residing at this address. In 1914, William L. Wright's occupation is given as "inspector 1 Flower Street" (the address of Pratt and Whitney). In 1923, Mrs. Ellen Wright (widow of William L.) is listed as the householder, with a boarder, George H. Spearin, a metallurgist at Colt's.

Study of the maps and atlases shows something about the development of the houses and the neighborhood. The 1855 map and 1880 atlas do not show building silhouettes, but the 1869 atlas shows the kitchen wing of 144 already in place, indicating that if it was not original, at least it was early. At 140 the recessed side porch does not show in 1869, but it does in 1896; perhaps the one story section including the recessed porch was added before 1896. In 1896, 144 had a porch across the front and on the east side.

The 1850 map and later atlases show that the Institute of Living has owned substantially all its present real estate from the beginning. By 1850 a good sized range of buildings (still in use) was in place running parallel to Washington Street. The grounds behind the buildings, between Retreat and Maple Avenues and extending to 144, was parklike in character. There was no basic change in this arrangement during the 19th century. It was the 1920's before two buildings were constructed at the Essex Street and Maple Avenue corner of the grounds, while the nurses residence visible at the far right in Photo 1 dates from 1937.

Hartford Hospital, founded in the mid 1850's, shows in the 1869 atlas in the triangular space at the point where Jefferson Street and Retreat Avenue come together. While a few additional buildings were added from time to time, again, as in the case of the Institute of Living, it was after World War I before significant changes occurred. For Hartford Hospital the changes took the form of acquisition of additional land to the west and a continuing building program whereby it overtook its older neighbor in size.

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During the years from mid-19th century to after World War I, the south side of Retreat Avenue starting with 144 at the edge of the Institute of Living's grounds, at the west end, to the intersection of Retreat and Maple Avenues, at the east end, was a solid row of houses. By 1880 the row consisted of 18 structures, 10 of them frame on relatively small lots. Across the street, west of Hartford Hospital, there were three large residential properties. One of them gave way to the Church Home in 1898. Soon after Essex Street was put through in 1912, the five Perfect Sixes were built. Most of the row of 18 structures survived until after World War II when the great growth of the institutions, especially Hartford Hospital, encouraged their demolition and replacement by commercial structures that support functions related to the hospital. Only 140 and 144 Retreat Avenue remain in place.

As might be expected from the difference in design and from the more elaborate trim of 140, the two houses were constructed by different builders. The continuous ownership of 140 by one family contrasted with the frequent changes in ownership of 144 is consistent with the greater number of physical changes that have taken place at 144.

The changes in some ways make 144 the more interesting structure, even though 140 is more elaborate. The great tall 1-over-1 windows on the front, and, in fact, the 1-over-1 windows throughout, probably are not original as glass pieces of these sizes were unknown in the mid-19th century. Probably the two attic windows, front and back, are the only original glazing. Then the absence of proper stairs is a puzzle. The one set of stairs, inside the side door and partitioned off, suggests boarders as a regular thing, if not a two-family arrangement, but there is no indication of kitchen facilities on the second floor. Moreover, a study of the 1900 census and the 1914 and 1919 city directories, that list residents by street and number, fails to reveal any more boarders than those already mentioned. The 1900 census records that at 144 the tenant was Patrick Darcy, health inspector, whose household included his wife and mother-in-law. Wright, the machinist, owned 140 and lived there with his wife, daughter, sister (a bookbinder), and mother-in-law. Similarly, other households in the row did not have boarders. In an era when boarders and boarding houses proliferated, Retreat Avenue was not a boarding house neighborhood.

Both houses have three regular, conventional, evenly-spaced bays on the front, but in the other three elevations of both the fenestration is irregular, doors and windows apparently being positioned on a basis of utility rather than design or pattern. Other oddities include some question as to the original use of the first floor rooms in both houses. Presumably, the front room was the best room, but what about the next room to the rear? Was

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it a second parlor, or was it the dining room? Both houses have fireplaces in the kitchen, 140 with a back-to-back fireplace in a room that normally would serve as a pantry or small storage area, but it is odd that a room of such function would have a fireplace.

One hundred forty four Retreat Avenue is the conventional Greek Revival house with three-bay facade under gable roof forming pediment toward the street. Houses of this general description were built in the second quarter of the 19th century in great number throughout America and were represented in Hartford not only by these on Retreat Avenue but also by others on Grand, Chestnut, and Fairmont streets, and Wethersfield, New Britain, and Flatbush avenues. Then the Greek Revival style dropped out of fashion. The design at 140, however, has a different history. The three-bay block with pyramidal roof and columned portico did continue very much in vogue during the third quarter of the 19th century, but it was executed in brick, the roof was given an overhang at the eaves, and the style was called Italianate. Brick Italianate houses of essentially the same design as 140 Retreat Avenue are found throughout Hartford, notably in the Lewis Street and Congress Street Historic Districts (Photo 8).

Apparently, the two houses never had any outbuildings, a curious circumstance as the middle class position of the owners and the comfortable size of the houses would suggest ownership of horses and later automobiles for which storage must have been found elsewhere.

One hundred forty and 144 Retreat Avenue survive as a clear record of the Greek Revival style and mid-19th-century room layout and floor plans. With their integrity essentially unimpaired, they today provide a reminder of what Retreat Avenue was like a century ago when they were two in a row of 18 residential structures that survived until overwhelmed by changes related to the Post-World War II rapid growth of neighboring institutions.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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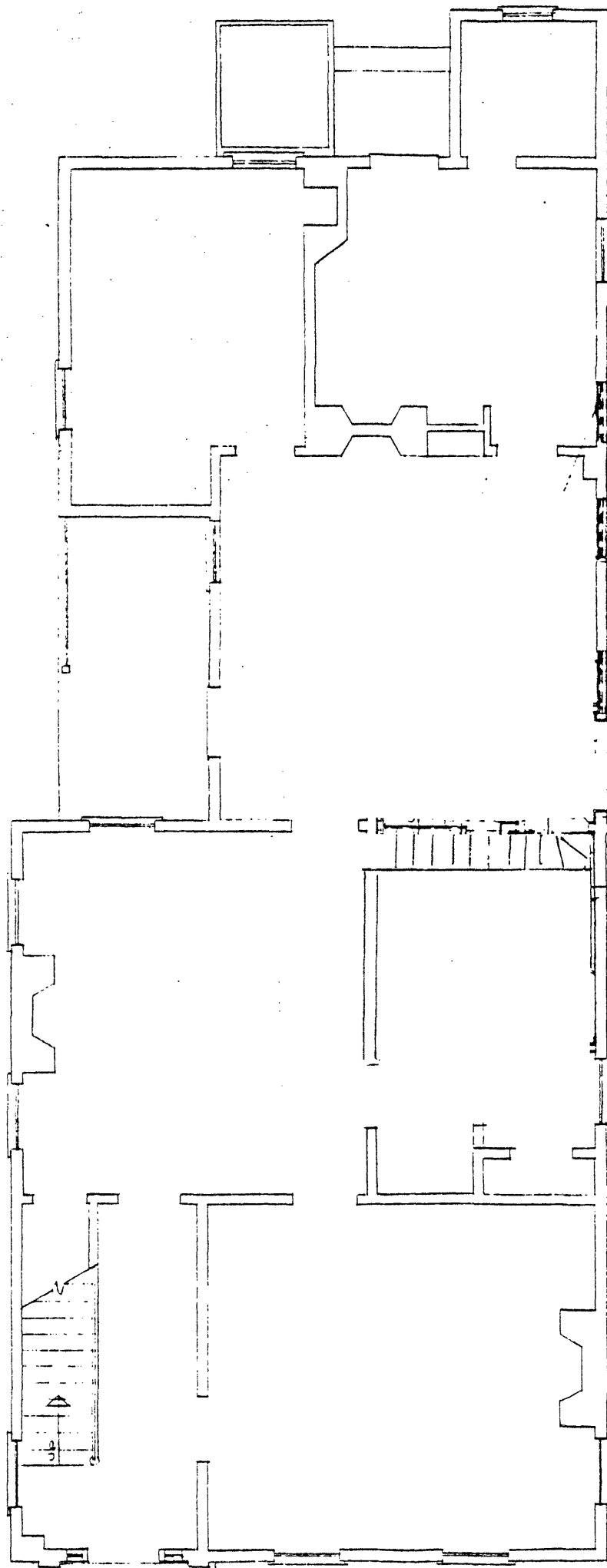
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140 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT
First Floor

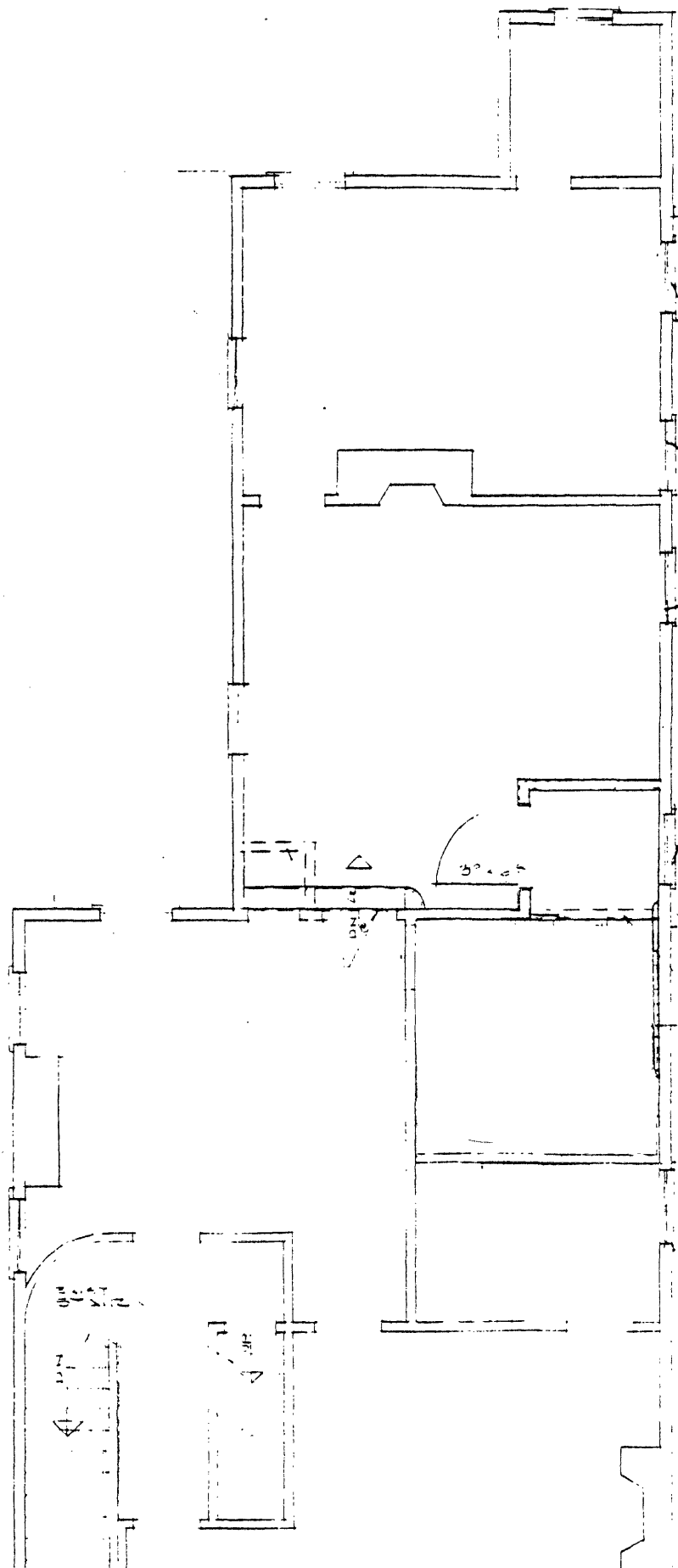
Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = \frac{2}{3}'$



140 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT
Second floor

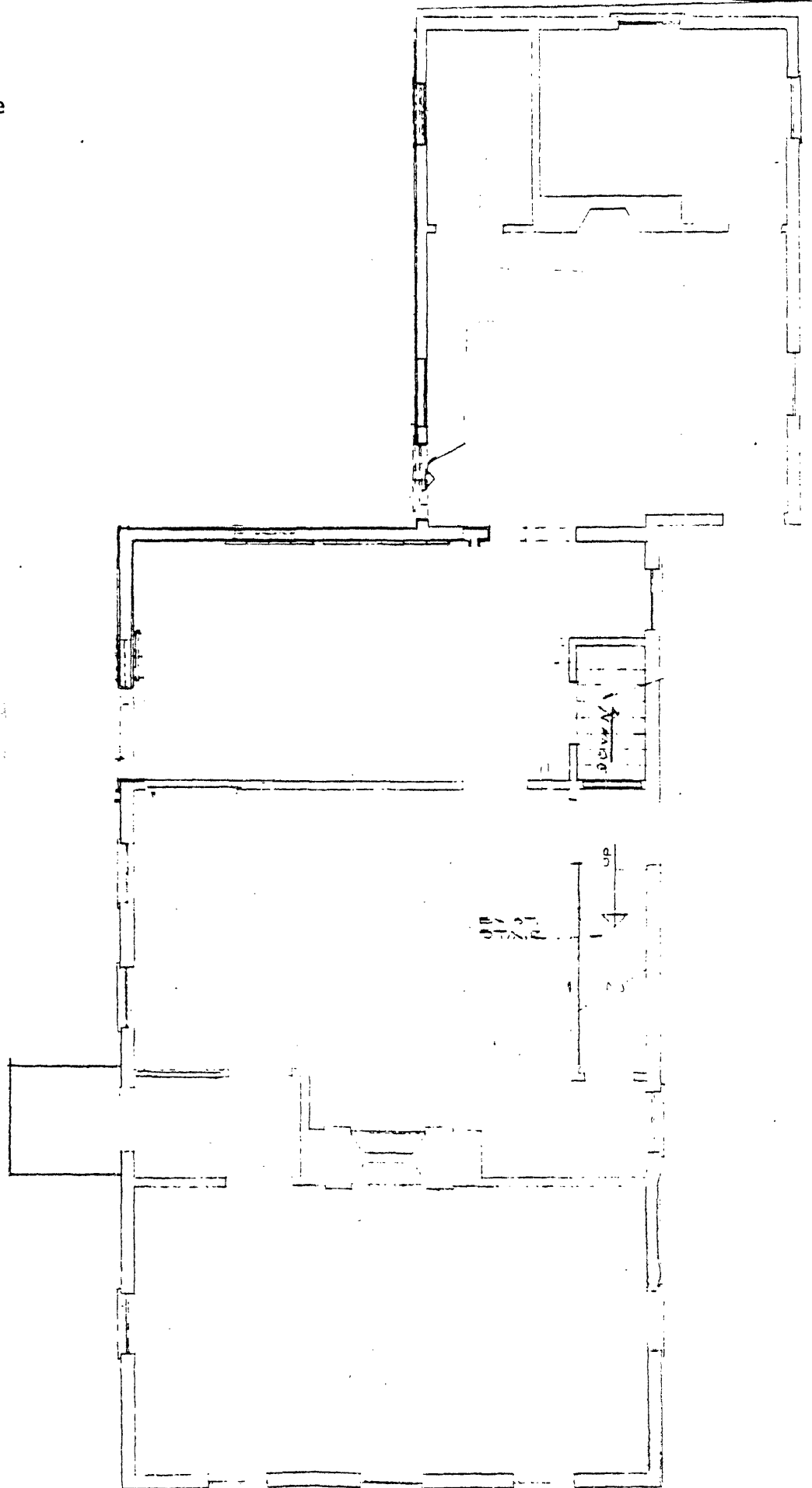
Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = \frac{1}{3}'$

REVISIONS
NO. 1
DATE 12 10 64
BY [illegible]



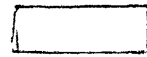
144 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT
First floor

Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = \frac{2}{3}'$

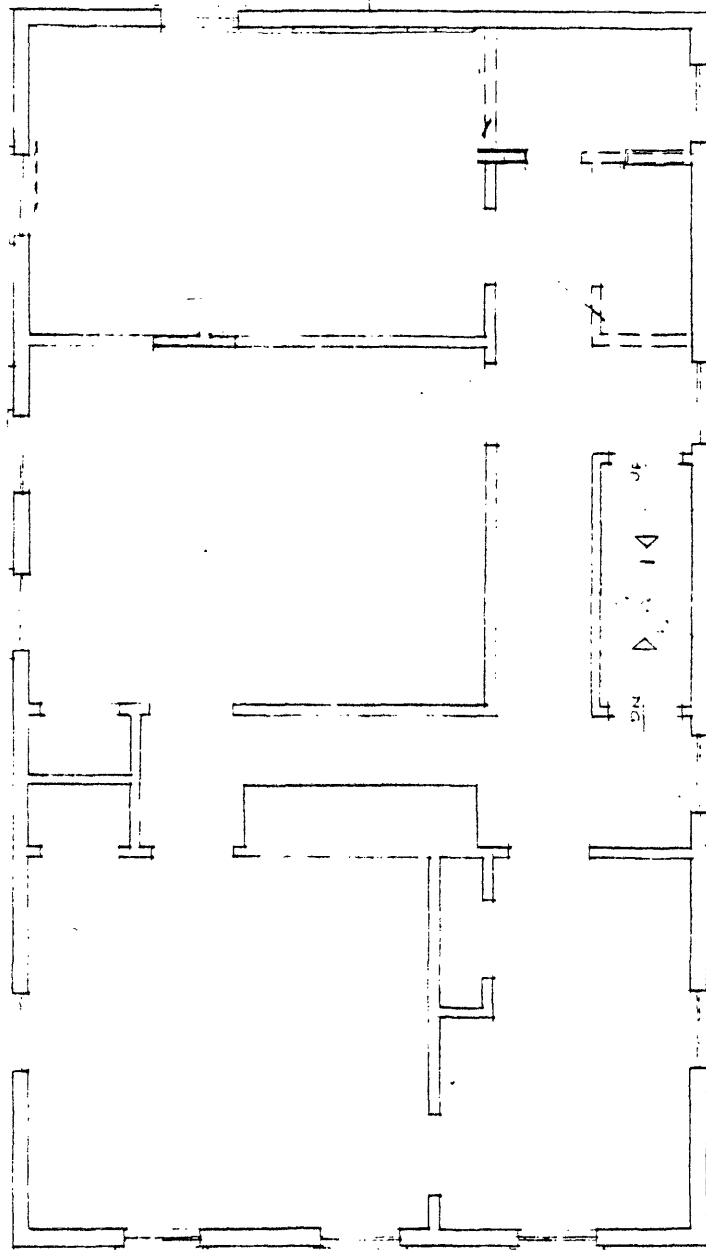


144 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT
Second floor

Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = \frac{2}{3}'$



EXIT
DOOR



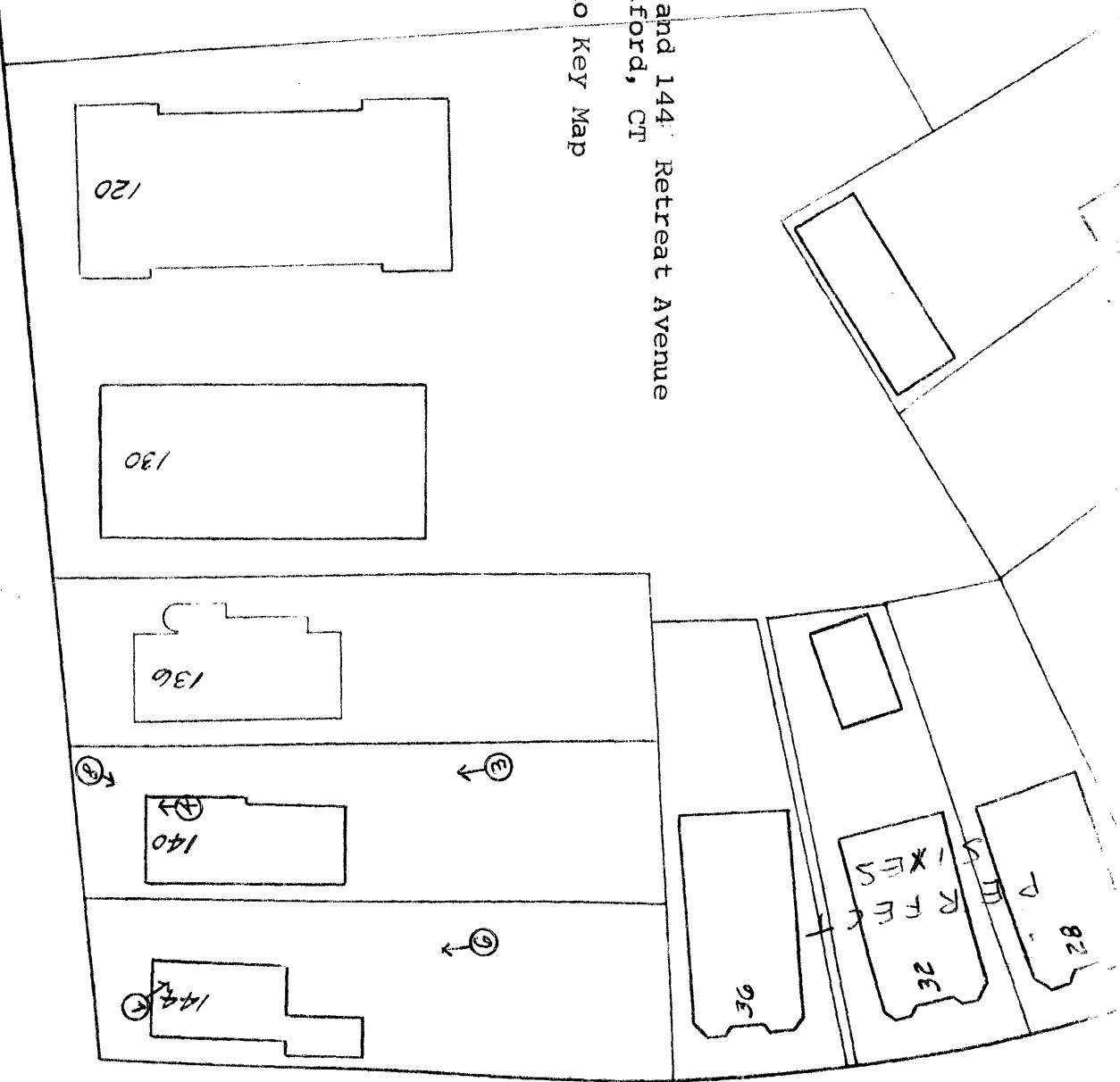
2
X
1
0



140 and 144 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT
Photo Key Map

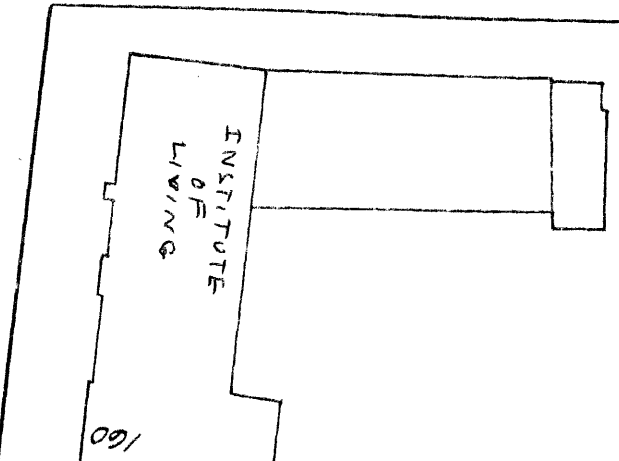
RETREAT AVENUE

CHURCH HOME



ESSEX STREET

⑤ ←



" = 50'