

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 028 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 1 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

**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 Goodwin Building, Gustave Fischer Building, Watkins Brothers Building, and Mourneault - Cacase Building

AND/OR COMMON

Goodwin Block

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER #219 to 257 Asylum Street; #5 to 17 Haynes Street; #210 to 228 Pearl Street.

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st-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 type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 Charles Rubinstein, et al. Goodwin Building see continuation  
STREET & NUMBER 55 Mohawk Drive sheet  
CITY, TOWN West Hartford VICINITY OF Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall  
STREET & NUMBER 550 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources  
DATE 1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Goodwin Building in downtown Hartford dominates the block bounded by Asylum, Haynes, Pearl and Ann Streets. On the east it is bounded by Haynes St. and the north and south sides extend approximately 105 feet along Asylum and Pearl Streets, respectively.

Built of brick in three interconnecting sections, the front section dates from 1881 and is the design of Kimball and Wisedell of New York. Brick piers separating doublet and triplet bays on the first floor are echoed in pilasters surrounding the windows on the second and third floors. A projecting cornice over the first and fourth floors, as well as the deeply set windows and pilasters, create a striking interplay of light and shadow. The fifth floor windows are crowned by tall empire-style pediments, which extend like miniature cross gables from a mansard roof. Decorative friezes above these fifth floor bays add to the sense of movement and crispness of the entire facade. The second and third sections, five and four stories, respectively, are more simplified in style, using bands of molded bricks to articulate each floor.

A fine example of nineteenth century commercial-residential architecture, the Goodwin Building is adjoined by three other handsome nineteenth century buildings to the west on Asylum Street. All three buildings are five stories tall and are of mixed residential commercial use. Both structures west of the Goodwin Building were built in 1871 and are noteworthy examples of the cast-iron architecture being constructed at that time in Hartford. The first and second stories of the stone-faced Gustave Fischer building immediately west of the Goodwin Building form a large stylized keystone arch, while the top three stories are four bays in width separated by engaged columns. A projecting cornice distinguishes each floor and the top floor is embellished with a frieze of sculptured nymphs and swags and a modillion cornice. The Watkins Brothers building (#241-243 Asylum) is of similar design, though is only 3 bays wide. Ashlar scoring decorates the edges of the top four floors giving the narrow stone facade a greater sense of height. The last building on the block (#247, 251, 253, 255 Asylum and 130 Ann St.) is a relatively plain five story pressed brick structure also built in 1871. Its nine windows on each floor are crowned with brick arches and above the fifth story is an elaborate modillion cornice broken by three arches. Being of similar scale, these buildings together with the Goodwin Building form an impressive streetscape.

This harmonious cluster of four buildings is located two blocks west of the main city intersection, directly across from the modern Hartford Civic Center. Though the Civic Center is a more massive, geometric structure, it is set back from the street and does not dwarf the Goodwin block. Indeed, the verticality of

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PRÉHISTORIC	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) architectural technology
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881,1871,1870-1890,1872 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Kimball and Wisedell - Goodwin Bldg.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a group, the buildings on the Goodwin block form a most handsome urban streetscape. In the midst of downtown Hartford they blend harmoniously with more modern buildings, while at the same time they preserve the character and spirit of nineteenth century urban life.

Most impressive is the integrity not only of design but of function. All four buildings were originally built to serve both commercial and residential needs, which they still do today. This foresight can be attributed to the Hartford citizens who designed them.

The Goodwin Building is named after two brothers, James J. (1835-1915) and Francis Goodwin (1839-1923) who contributed immensely to the civic and cultural life in Hartford in the late nineteenth century. James was a highly regarded financier, connected with the Morgan banking enterprises through his cousin, J.P. Morgan. Francis Goodwin, a minister, was responsible for many major city improvements, including the building and endowment of the Morgan Memorial and the creation of Hartford's circle of six beautiful parks. One of his abiding interests was architecture and it was he who determined the style of the Goodwin Building. The solid red brick facade typifies an eclecticism of taste, then prevalent in America, as many notable architects borrowed heavily from earlier English and European styles.

The two adjoining buildings are thought to have been built in 1871 by John Harrison, and are among the rare examples of cast-iron architecture remaining in Hartford. As technological fore-runners of the modern skyscraper, these buildings are of historical importance both to Hartford and other eastern cities.

The fourth Goodwin block building is also thought to have been built by John Harrison in 1871. Though a much plainer structure, it is an integral part of this nineteenth century scape and being of yet another type of construction (pressed brick) it adds a diversity both to the block as well as the entire Asylum Street area.

In summary, the buildings on the Goodwin block present fine examples of viable nineteenth century architecture. Though they serve as reminders of a past era, these buildings still enhance the modern city of Hartford.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goodwin, James J., Goodwins of Hartford, Brown and Gross, Hartford, 1891.

Goodwin, Phillip L., Rooftrees, J.B. Lippincott, Co., Philadelphia 1933.

see continuation sheet

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 (one)

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 693 694040 4626270  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

March 15, 1975.

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

(203) 566-3005

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*John W. Shoups*

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 7/29/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert B. Ketting*

DATE 7/26/76

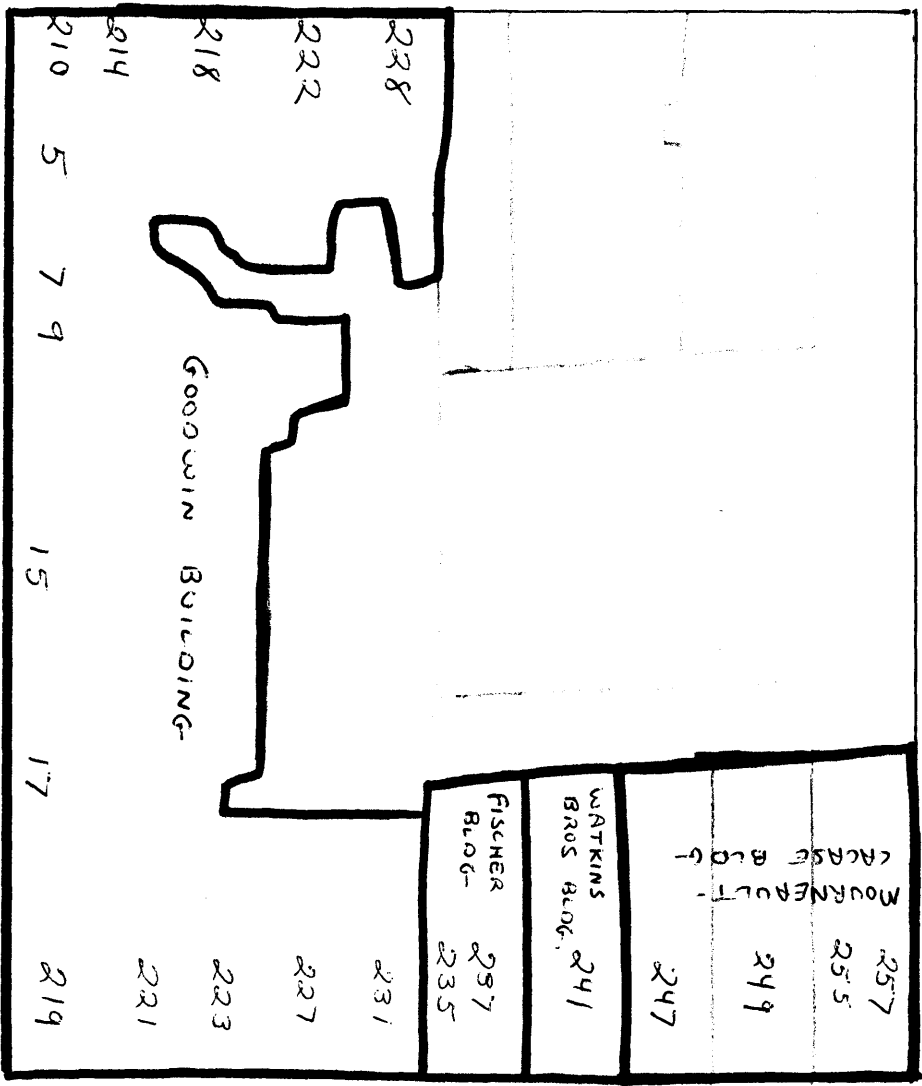
DATE 3-21-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Goodwin Block - Site Plan

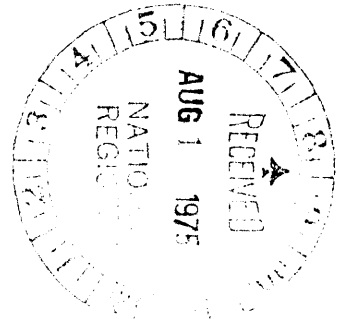
ANN ST.



PEARL ST.

HAYNES ST.

ASYLUM ST.



REO (HEAVY) LINE INDICATES LIMIT OF NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

