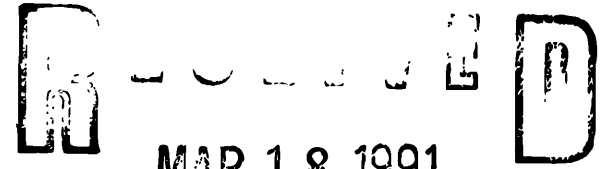


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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Main Street Historic District

other name/site number: None

2. Location

street & number: Multiple

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Woonsocket vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Providence code: 007 zip code: 02895

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Multiple

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Woonsocket, Rhode Island: Partial Inventory, Historic and Architectural Resources, 1636-present

Property name Main Street Historic District

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Frederick C. Williams
Signature of certifying official

12 March 1991
Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Melanie Sykes 4/18/91

___ other (explain): _____

Ju Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic:	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub:	<u>office/financial/store</u>
	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>		<u>city hall</u>
	<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>		<u>rail-related</u>
Current:	<u>INDUSTRY</u>	Sub:	<u>manufacturing facility</u>
	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>		<u>office/financial/store</u>
	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>		<u>city hall</u>
	<u>VACANT LOT</u>		

Property name Main Street Historic District

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Italianate
Queen Anne
Classical Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials:	foundation	<u>STONE/CONCRETE</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
	walls	<u>BRICK</u>	other	<u>METAL, STONE</u>
		<u>CONCRETE</u>		<u>TERRA COTTA, trim</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): none

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
ECONOMICS
INDUSTRY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION

Period(s) of Significance: c.1847-c.1930

Significant Dates: 1853

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Bullder: A James, Thomas M., & Co. (Boston)
A Harkness & Geddes (Providence)
A Spaulding, George W. (Woonsocket)
A Ellis, John W.
A Wescott & Mapes (New Haven)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Main Street Historic District

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register (3 individual properties)

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 8 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>19</u>	<u>291970</u>	<u>4652990</u>	B	<u>19</u>	<u>291680</u>	<u>4652760</u>
C	<u>19</u>	<u>291560</u>	<u>4652860</u>	D	<u>19</u>	<u>291810</u>	<u>4653060</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Virginia A. Fitch (with Hetty Startup)

Organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Date: December 1990

Street & Number: 387 Lonsdale Avenue Telephone: (401) 728-8780

City or Town: Pawtucket State: R.I. ZIP: 02860

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Description

The Main Street Historic District is a one-half-mile-long, gently curved section of the most prominent thoroughfare in the city of Woonsocket's central business district. Main Street evolved beginning in the early nineteenth century along a high terrace northwest of the Blackstone River, overlooking Clinton Pond (now Truman Drive). The district itself encompasses roughly one-third of the entire length of Main Street. It extends from the east edge of the Ballou-Harris-Lippitt Mill (NR) and Lyman-Arnold Trench (NR), which are immediately east of Market Square, eastward to the Providence & Worcester Railroad in Depot Square. At Depot Square, Main Street intersects with Clinton Street, High Street, and Court Street at the end of Court Street Bridge (DOE). Short sections of these streets are included in the district. The sixteen buildings that contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the Main Street Historic District date from the city's most prosperous era -- the second half of the nineteenth and the first third of the twentieth century -- when the local manufacturing and industrial base both expanded and diversified, commensurate with immigration to the city and rapid population growth. The downtown area's early one- and two-story, wood-frame buildings were replaced in this period by masonry blocks of two to six stories, arranged in a linear, tightly-spaced fashion, abutting the back-of-sidewalk line along both sides of the street. Elsewhere along Main Street, loss of buildings has weakened the street's capacity to convey an historic downtown ambiance. This fragment, however, speaks clearly of the themes and patterns of growth which propelled Woonsocket to regional prominence and sustained the city during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also contains a number of fine commercial and institutional blocks, including examples of designs by both locally and regionally important architects. The district includes seventeen contributing buildings and one contributing structure, along with three non-contributing buildings less than 50 years old, one park on two city lots, three small vacant lots, and two parking lots comprised of four city lots.

Three properties within the district are already individually listed in the National Register, Harris Block/City Hall, 169 Main Street (1856, 1891), and Honan's Block and connected commercial block, 106-108 and 112-114 Main Street (1879 and c. 1895 - c. 1911). In addition, the setting of the immediate environs of the district includes a number of individually listed properties and districts whose physical assets and historical associations are related to those qualities within the district.

Main Street Historic District's economic vitality, exuberant growth, and civic importance in northern Rhode Island coincided with the period of

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stylistic pluralism in architecture and design which began at mid-century with the classically and romantically-inspired Victorian styles and ended with Colonial and Georgian Revival in the 1920s and 1930s. Main Street buildings were constructed to provide local residents and visitors with a wide range of services, and specialized stores and professional offices sat alongside financial institutions. The great variety of architectural styles, most of a revival idiom, used on both the sparsely and richly decorated facades and storefronts, projected a corporate and community image and helped attract potential customers.

Although the individual buildings in the district have been subject over time to the minor alterations typical in historic commercial areas -- modifications to storefronts and first floors in general -- the district, as a fragment, has overall internal integrity. The generally distinguished caliber of architectural design, the use of predominantly high quality masonry and metal construction materials, and the craftsmanship of execution which characterize most of the buildings is evident, particularly on the upper floors. The district also continues to possess the visual attributes of a narrow commercial corridor and to convey the associative aspects of its history as an important local cultural resource. Densely-built and dominated by sidewalk-abutting buildings, the district contains the city's major historic commercial buildings and its main governmental and financial institutions, reflecting the retailing and banking focus of this area of the city. There is now growing interest in the redevelopment of Main Street, and this has spurred a concern for sympathetic rehabilitation of existing structures and harmonious design of any new infill structures.

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INVENTORY

Following is a complete inventory of the buildings and properties within the Main Street Historic District. All buildings constructed between c. 1870 and c. 1930 are designated as contributing to the historic and architectural significance of the district unless subsequent changes have been so substantial as to destroy architectural integrity. Buildings which have lost their architectural integrity or which are less than fifty years old are defined as non-contributing, and are listed separately, followed by vacant lots, parking lots, and park(s). Three properties already listed in the National Register are indicated by (NR).

Contributing Buildings

CLINTON STREET

- 1 Unity Building (c. 1886), George W. Spaulding (Woonsocket), architect: This is a fairly restrained three-story Late Victorian red brick commercial block with granite sills and lintels. It has a flat roof and a flush, pressed-metal parapet with a central pediment. The first floor is composed of four well-preserved cast-iron storefronts and a smaller fifth bay at the west end leading to the upper stories. Above a continuous granite stringcourse, both the upper two stories consist of three identical bays with groups of three, new one-over-one double-hung sash windows set in plain openings with granite sills and lintels. Narrow brick stringcourses accentuate the division between floors and between the third floor and the roof cornice. The roof parapet frieze retains its pressed-metal sheathing with sunburst designs, and historic photographs show that the central pediment, now sheathed in aluminum siding, contains a decorative panel with the building's name.

- 23 Hotel Blackstone, now Dreyfus Block/Blackstone Apartments (1927): This three-story, flat-roof, red brick hotel with cast-stone trim is the most northeasterly building in the district. It occupies a lot adjacent to the Providence & Worcester Railroad formed when a section of Hamlet Avenue, which led to a bridge across the Blackstone, was abandoned after the new Court Street Bridge was constructed in 1894. The building has tall blind arcades containing rectangular window openings on the second floor of each elevation, cast-stone keys and stringcourses, and a simple roof parapet. All windows have been replaced and openings have been blocked down. The present treatment of the five-bay

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storefront appears to date from the 1950s or 1960s, although the rusticated cast-stone piers and sheet metal cornice remain. The hotel had 50 rooms, including a large second-floor ballroom. Four storefront spaces and a barber shop were located on the first floor, and a bowling alley in the basement. The project was financed by former Woonsocket Police Commissioner John F. Letendre, at an estimated cost of \$350,000 and construction was done by Lamoureux Brothers.

COURT STREET

- 8 Globe Building (c. 1880): Occupying a corner lot at Main, Clinton, and Court Streets in Depot Square, this two-story, red brick and wood-trimmed commercial building has multiple storefronts and groups of three windows on the second story separated by narrow, tapered pilasters and flanked by 3/4-round composite columns. An elaborately-detailed wood entablature which includes beading, a drop-tracery-and-lozenge band, and modillions. The storefronts were altered in the 1970s with modern sheathing and replacement windows, although original elements may remain beneath the covering. The entrance to the second floor, located on the narrow Clinton Street elevation, is surmounted by an oval window and flanked by two-story composite pilasters. The building derived its name from the Globe Mills, one of the city's largest nineteenth-century textile mills and the center of Globe Village.

DEPOT SQUARE

- 1 Providence & Worcester Railroad Station (1882), John W. Ellis, architect: The original 1847 railroad depot burned and was replaced in 1882 with what was considered the most impressive depot on the P & W line. The new station is a rectangular, one-and-one-half-story, red brick Queen Anne building housing the main waiting room with a similarly designed baggage handling and service extension at the north end. The jerkin-head gable roofline is oriented parallel to the railroad tracks, and the building faces onto Depot Square with one end abutting Main Street. Prominent features include a protective overhang integrated into the roof slope and supported on large, curved brackets, which runs around three sides of the main building and extension. The central entrances on both sides are located below a large cross gable with elaborate decorative brickwork and terra cotta ornamentation, stained-glass and ocular windows, and terra

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cotta finials. A square clock tower with a tall, pyramidal hip roof topped with a distinctive locomotive weathervane rises from the roof ridge between the gables. The narrow Main Street elevation has now-altered storefronts on the first floor and brickwork, stained-glass windows, and a large central oriel window on the upper floor. The east end of the Depot Square elevation is sheathed in modern vertical wood siding and has no openings, reflecting the fact that this was originally a party wall shared with the Edwards Block, a Second Empire building that was demolished in the 1960s. The former building site is neatly landscaped with terraces and evergreen and deciduous plants.

MAIN STREET

55-69 Harris Mill #4 (rear) (c. 1846, 1861, 1876) and the Buckland and Clark Building, now Kornstein's (front) (c. 1897, 1930s): The Harris Mill #4 is a six-story, flat-roofed, rubblestone-walled, early Victorian mill building, with a brick cornice and quoined corners. It is all that remains of the historic Harris Woolen Company Mills, built in 1846 by the local industrialist and philanthropist Edward Harris. In the 1860s and 1870s additions were constructed, including a southern ell in 1861 and a five-story mill (#3) in 1876. The additional mill #3 on the north side of Main Street was linked to Mill #4 by a framed wooden bridge and was demolished by the turn of the century. Woonsocket (Electric) Machine and Power Company bought the site in the 1890s, at a time when most of the buildings on the south side of Main Street, with the exception of the Harris Block/City Hall, were of an industrial/manufacturing type.

Attached to Harris Mill #4 is the Buckland and Clark Building; a two-story, flat-roofed brick building, with a storefront facade of yellow brick. Built c. 1897, the building was constructed adjoining the north wall of Mill #4 over the Lyman-Arnold Trench, the water canal that had powered the Harris Mill complex. The mills at this time were owned by Woonsocket Electric Machine and Power Company who, in 1896, deeded a portion of their property to Alphonzo W. Buckland and Dexter B. Clark. Buckland, a local dentist who had his dental surgery in the now-demolished Edwards Block in Depot Square (see Providence & Worcester Railroad Station, above (City Directory, 1900), and Clark were given strict instructions to preserve rights of access from Clinton Pond, past Harris Mill #4 to Main Street, and to preserve the integrity of the mill building that they were to add

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to. The new building was commercial rather than industrial and had a richly decorated yellow brick facade with copper trim. The first floor was altered in the 1930s to provide more storefront entrances. On the second floor, there are copper-faced oriel and Palladian windows topped with a deep cornice with dentils and brackets. The building's earliest tenants were a varied set of retailers, ranging from a home furnishing and domestic furniture store owner, Austin S. Cook, to Charles O. Arnold, who specialized in hardware, harnesses, agricultural implements, and plumbing appliances, (City Directories, 1898 and 1900). By the 1910s, when the building was known as the Buckland Building, it contained several professional offices, including a real estate and insurance agent and a civil engineer. The Kornstein family leased space for a dry goods store beginning in 1930, thereby moving up in the world from their modest beginnings as peddlers and bookkeepers. Their long association with the building caused it to be known as "Kornstein's" from 1948 onwards.

73-75

Buell Building (c. 1922-3), Westcott & Mapes (New Haven), architects: Built and still used as headquarters of the local newspaper, the Woonsocket Call (founded in 1892), the building is an early twentieth-century, four-story, red brick commercial block with a flat roof and cast-stone trim. It was designed in 1922-3 by Westcott & Mapes, a New Haven architectural firm, to house both a printing plant and editorial and administrative offices. The first and second floor windows on the Main Street elevation have been altered since construction. Those on the first floor are now replaced by three-part plate glass windows. Despite these changes, the building is very little altered and displays an interesting, nominally Gothic Revival facade with a massive cast-stone central entrance surround with a segmental arch and label moulding. This city newspaper was originally founded as the Evening Call to give Democrats a voice in the city and had its offices at 77 Main Street. In 1908, the Call purchased its rival, the Evening Reporter, effectively eliminating all further competition, and moved to 143 Main Street. The business manager was Charles W. Palmer, and the publisher, Samuel E. Hudson. The new "flagship" building later erected at 73-75 Main Street was named after Thomas A. Buell, a relative of one of the Call's founders and, according to City Directories, a coal merchant by trade.

93-119

The Commercial Block (1902): This three-story, eight-bay-long, flat-roofed commercial building, constructed of yellow brick with

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wood and cast-stone trim, straddles one channel of the Lyman-Arnold Trench along Main Street. The pier and spandrel frame system is reflected in the arrangement of the storefront bays and the fenestration of the upper floors. An Art Deco style cast-stone entrance with fluted side panels, a zigzag frieze band, and central panel incised with "Woonsocket Trust Company", likely added sometime after the original construction, remains in the easternmost endbay of the block. Two entrances to the upper floors, symmetrically located between the second and third storefront bays from either end, have rusticated brick round-arch openings. They are surmounted by two-story brick pilasters, flanking segmental-arch windows on the third floor. Double-hung windows, grouped in sixes, between the other brick piers marking each bay, remain unaltered on the third floor, but the second floor original sash windows have been removed and smaller windows installed. The Commercial building was built on the site of the Woonsocket Furnace Company, founded in 1851. In the 1870s, the property was taken over by the American Worsted Company until the firm went bankrupt in 1901. From 1902 until the late 1930s, The Commercial Block was occupied by a series of over 60 different tenants, including clothing, jewelry and variety stores, professional service-based companies, and/or individual proprietors.

108-110 Honan's Block (1879) (NR) and
112-114 Unnamed Commercial Block (c. 1895 - c. 1911) (NR): Honan's Block and the unnamed building at 112-114 Main Street, originally erected as separate structures, were joined internally during renovations made in 1938-39. Honan's Block proper is a three-story, flat-roof, cast-iron-fronted brick building which follows the standard configuration of a two-part commercial block, with a molded stringcourse separating the first story from the upper floors. Above the stringcourse, the three-bay, cast-iron Eastlake style facade is well preserved and pierced by three large, segmental-arch windows on each floor. At the top, a frieze contains the ghost of lettering which reads "18 HONAN'S BLOCK 79," surmounted by a deep cornice with console brackets at the ends and panels containing stylized floral designs. Although little paint remains on the ironwork, traces indicate that it was originally treated with a polychrome paint scheme.

The original appearance of the first-floor storefront is not known, although it was undoubtedly of cast iron and typical of late nineteenth-century commercial treatments. The present

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appearance of the storefront dates from 1938-9. Windows throughout Honan's Block are mostly original, with two-over-two, segmental-arched, double-hung windows on the southeast elevation. The rear ell has two-over-one, double-hung, rectangular windows set in segmental openings.

112-114 Main Street is a two-story, L-plan building which retains its original second story treatment consisting of two wide bay windows, surrounded by simple wood and pressed-metal trim. The simple cornice treatment includes plain rectangular panels below a molded overhang, with sawtooth projections at either end. The appearance of the original storefront is unknown. It has been altered with addition of modern siding materials and new entrance treatments. Elements suggest that it was modified at approximately the same time as Honan's Block, circa 1938-39: fluted aluminum panels and aluminum-and-plate-glass doors and storefronts. The central entrance is in its original location on the facade; the southwest entrance is a later addition, also likely dating from 1938-39. Both buildings housed commercial stores, and Honan's Block contained a photographer's studio. An immense floor-to-ceiling window to the south creates an extremely well-lit work space for photographic work on the third floor of Honan's Block.

116-120 S. S. Kresge Company (1923): "Kresge's" is a two-story, flat-roof, yellow-brick commercial building with Classical Revival details and two pairs of storefronts with shared central recessed entrances. While the storefront to numbers 118-120 has its original entrance and facade, there has been moderate remodelling to the storefront of numbers 116-118. The building's flat roof has a low cast-stone parapet with a "K" insignia mounted in the center of the block and cast-stone urns and roundels along the parapet. Five sets of paired double-hung windows with pediments above the set at either end of the facade are located on the second floor. An earlier building on this site contained a dry goods and then a boot and shoe store. The new building was erected as the first Kresge's in Woonsocket and opened its doors on November 17, 1923. Kresge's, a five-and-dime-and-twenty-five-cent national chain store, soon expanded with a second building next door at 122-136 Main Street (see below).

122-136 The Kresge Building (1925): This two-story, flat-roofed, steel-framed, yellow brick commercial building has a five-bay storefront of polished granite. The storefront entrances of

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glass and aluminum have been altered since construction, but the lamps to illuminate a sign are still attached to the storefront cornice. On the second floor, modern windows have replaced the original fenestration, although the sills and Art Deco style pilasters and cornice remain. The east elevation, on Cooks Hill Lane, is of red brick with a cast-stone foundation. Until 1902, this site was associated with the Woonsocket Furnace Company/American Worsted Company and housed a cutting room in a now demolished building. Kresge's was the forerunner of today's K-Mart discount store chain and began to expand from its base in Detroit in the 1920s. The first Kresge Store at 116-120 Main Street enlarged its selection of goods by 1926 (City Directory), but further expansion was heralded by the opening of the Kresge Building at 122-136 Main Street.

138-148 Woonsocket Institution for Savings (1926), Thomas M. James & Co. (Boston), architects: This is an elegant and well-preserved two-story, flat-roof Renaissance Revival bank rising from a polished granite foundation and sheathed in cast-stone cladding. The facade is composed of three monumental round-arch windows with fanlights and decorative metal grillwork that light the banking floor and mezzanine. Flanking the windows are monumental pilasters with composite capitals, on which rest an ornate cornice, surmounted by a stepped parapet bearing the institution's name. Other classical detailing included swags and medallions motifs and elaborate mouldings. The central entrance, located in the center arch is slightly recessed under a trabeated lintel. Two recesses in the facade at each outside corner of the first floor contain ornate clocks. The Woonsocket Institute for Savings was founded and incorporated in 1845 and was housed for a time in the Harris Block/City Hall (NR). In 1926, the bank moved to its own handsome new premises, on the site of the demolished Union Block, historically associated with Smithfield Union Bank.

141 Old Colony Bank (1937), Harkness & Geddes (Providence), architects: This Neo-Federal, two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, brick building is in excellent -- if not original -- condition, with minor remodelling of the facade. The low foundation is polished granite on the facade and concrete elsewhere. The main cornice, which forms a gable pediment on the facade and rear elevations, and the belt course between the first and second levels are also concrete. The symmetrical three-bay facade has an arcaded first floor formed by three round-arch recesses. The central entrance is surmounted with a fanlight, a

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motif repeated in the roof gable end, and surrounded with carved wood moulding painted white. The flanking blind arches contain six-over-six double hung sash windows, the building's typical fenestration. Old Colony Bank was chartered in 1895 and set up its first Woonsocket branch about 1917 at 166 Main Street, locally known as Cook's Block. In its early years it focussed on lending to prospective homeowners (City Directory, 1922).

162-168 Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co. Bank (1929), Thomas M. James & Co. (Boston), architects: This is a six-story, flat-roofed, steel-frame Classical Revival bank and office building with a polished granite foundation, and a cast-stone and white brick facade. The design of the first floor, a glazed arcade separated by colossal Corinthian pilasters, reflects that of the Providence headquarters for the Hospital Trust Bank, designed in 1919 by the New York architectural firm of York and Sawyer, as well as Thomas M. James & Co.'s earlier work nearby for the Woonsocket Institute for Savings in 1926 (see above). In 1955, fire-proofing was undertaken at the Woonsocket premises, but the building's exterior remains well-preserved. It has elaborate Classical detailing on the second floor and roof cornices and friezes. The intervening four office levels, sheathed in brick, have few decorative elements. On the interior, public spaces remain largely as built and include a handsome lobby, hallways and a grand, double-height banking hall, all executed in the classical style. The Woonsocket branch of Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank had offices on this site in Cook's Block until 1928. While the new premises were being constructed, the bank temporarily moved its offices to 45 Main Street.

169 City Hall/Harris Block (1856, 1891) (NR): The oldest part of City Hall is the Italianate style Harris Block completed in 1856, a three-story, hip-roof, stucco-on-brick building. The five-bay facade has a central, three-bay, projecting pedimented partition with a date stone. An 1891 remodelling included the removal of the original first-floor cast-iron storefronts and the addition of new, projecting first-floor front running across the length of the original building. The renovations also included construction of a four-story Romanesque north wing of rugged quarry-faced granite, which originally abutted the neighboring Patriots and Slocum buildings. The Patriots and Slocum buildings were demolished in the 1950s, and the side elevation, (looking southeast), of the 1891 section of City Hall now has a trompe l'oeil mural depicting those demolished structures. The building

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is essentially unchanged since 1891, with the exception of the first floor, which has modern aluminum sheathing and plateglass windows. The central section, however, of newer 1891 first-story elevation survives intact, containing an elegant recessed entrance within a rusticated surround with carved mouldings, consol brackets, and round-arch window. Behind this facade is the 1856 block and to the north side, the Richardsonian Romanesque wing with its tower. Elaborate entranceways to the 1891 addition are made of cast-stone and cast-iron.

The Harris Block/City Hall was originally constructed with funds from the local industrialist Edward Harris. It was built on the site of an earlier wood-framed building called Waterman's Block. By 1870, the elegant Italianate structure had been designated as the Harris Institute, housing a range of commercial stores on the first floor, the Harris Hall, a Library, a police station, and professional offices. President Abraham Lincoln spoke in the Harris Hall in March 1860. With the 1891 Romanesque additions and side wing, the Harris Institute became associated with some of the locally-based and statewide banking institutions whose offices had been located in Cook's Block and were now moved to the first and second floors of the Harris Institute. By World War I, the building had become the Woonsocket City Hall. The Harris Hall remained on the third floor of the Harris Block until the 1950s.

194-202 Longley Building (1890): Constructed for Charles E. Longely of Pawtucket and located on a prominent corner site in Depot Square previously occupied by the Woonsocket Baptist Society Church, this is a four-story commercial block with its longer elevation along High Street. It has a flat roof and is built of red brick with elaborate detailing executed in pale grey granite, dark slate, brownstone, cast-iron, and pressed-metal. The ground floor storefronts have mostly been remodelled, although original materials are likely to exist beneath modern sheathing. Along High Street, simple, narrow cast-iron columns and black marble window bases on two central storefronts and piers of alternating bands of granite and slate at the northern end bay are original. The upper floors are defined by an iron balustrade below the second floor windows (Main Street and angled corner elevations only) and by brownstone stringcourses serving as sills for the second floor and lintels for the third floor windows. A classically detailed and heavy, overhanging roof cornice of pressed-metal rises from a brick frieze with the building's name

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and applied metal wreaths. Two, three-story round bays marking the angled corner elevation, and three, two-story angled bays on the High Street elevation are alternated with bays of paired vertical windows on each upper story. All windows have been replaced in blocked-down openings. An ornamented and paneled pressed-metal band with floral and torch motifs separates the second and third stories, and a simpler band separates the third and fourth stories. The main entrance, located at the extreme west end of the building on Main Street, is relatively unobtrusive, consisting of a recessed entrance under a small, balustraded, semicircular hood.

237-245 Hope Building (c. 1876), George W. Spaulding (Woonsocket), architect: This triangular, three-story, red brick commercial building occupies the lot formed by the intersection of Main Street and Clinton Street (west) and the Providence & Worcester Railroad trestle (east). With the exception of the removal of the bracketed roof cornice appearing in historic photographs, and its replacement with modern aluminum sheathing, the building is essentially unaltered. Simple wood and cast-iron-columned storefronts on both street fronts have plateglass windows with upper two-light transoms. The upper two floors are composed of a flat plane punctuated by rows of single one-over-one and one-over-two double hung sash windows. Window surrounds consist of cast-stone sills and low, segmental, almost pedimented, brick arches with cast-stone corner blocks and keys with anchor motifs in relief. The wooden arch panels have incised floral motif decoration typical of the Eastlake style. The Hope Building was one of the earliest works by the local architect George W. Spaulding. The Woonsocket branch of the YMCA, established April 12, 1902, was housed on the top floor. Facilities included reading and pool rooms, along with a gym and shower/bath. In 1911, the YMCA relocated to larger facilities in a newly constructed building on Federal Street which it still occupies.

Providence & Worcester Railroad Trestle (c. 1847, after 1924): Massive mortared stone block piers erected in c. 1847 when the railroad was constructed support a later steel frame structure carrying the tracks over Main and Clinton Streets. The spanning structure was constructed of wood until at least 1924.

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Non-Contributing Buildings

MAIN STREET

- 83-91 Auger's/Thom McCann's/Bob's (mid-twentieth century): This is a one-story, mid-twentieth-century commercial block in good condition with little remodelling. The building has a flat roof with a deep stepped continuous cornice over a row of four storefronts. Historically, the site is associated with the American Worsted Company who erected a stone building here in c. 1895. The company manufactured worsted braids, yarns, and knitted goods until c. 1902. After the company's demise, the site was occupied by the Washington Bowling Alleys until the 1950s, located in the rear of the American Block (listed in Directories as 129-143 Main Street).
- 129-137 Robert's (mid-twentieth century): This is a little-altered, nondescript commercial building, built in the mid-twentieth century. The building is one story high with a flat roof and a high storefront parapet covered with tiles. Three entrances and large plate glass windows define the storefront elevation.
- 154-160 Formerly Woolworth's (1930s), now Woonsocket Institution for Savings Annex (c. 1965): This is a two-story late twentieth-century commercial building with a flat roof, and austere cast-stone facade. The foundation is faced with polished granite. Three groups of vertical, single-pane windows and a central, glass-and-metal entrance define the first floor level. Originally constructed in the 1930s as a Woolworth's store, this building was extensively reconstructed and remodelled between 1965 and 1974 as an addition for the Woonsocket Institution for Savings which occupied the adjoining block. There has been minor remodelling since 1974.

VACANT LOTS

(All City of Woonsocket Assessor's Plat 14)

- Lot 405 A small lot located behind 55-69 Main Street.
- Lot 125 A small lot associated with, and behind, 106-108 and 112-114 Main Street.
- Lot 397 A narrow lot, comprising the alley historically known as Cooks Hill Lane, between 122-136 and 138-148 Main Street.

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- Lot 290 A lot, now used as part of a municipal parking lot, located between 162-168 and 194-202 Main Street.
- Lot 136 Same as above.
- Lot 138 Same as above.
- Lot 167 City Park (1960s), corner of Main Street and Court Street adjacent to City Hall/Harris Block. This small landscaped park, the only such open space in downtown Woonsocket, was created in the 1960s following demolition of the Patriots and Slocum Buildings, home of the locally-owned McCarthy's Department Store.
- Lot 292 Same as above.
- Lot 330 A lot, now used as a parking lot, located between 1 and 23 Clinton Street.

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MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographers: Matthew Footer,
Ithaca, New York

Hetty Startup and Virginia A. Fitch
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
387 Lonsdale Avenue
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Dates: July 1989 (MF), October 1989 (HS), and December 1990 (VF)

Negatives on file: Matthew Footer, Ithaca, New York, and
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

1. (HS) Looking northeast at side elevation of 55-69 Main Street, showing the Buckland and Clark Building (Kornstein's), the Lyman-Arnold Trench, and the Harris Mill #4.
2. (MF) Looking northeast towards the Buckland and Clark Building and the Buell Building, 55-69 and 73-75 Main Street.
3. (HS) Looking northeast to Commercial Block, 93-119 Main Street, Old Colony Bank, 141 Main Street, and City Hall/Harris Block, 169 Main Street.
4. (MF) Looking north, corner of Main and Ascension Streets, at Honan's Block, 108-110 Main Street, Unnamed Block, 112-114 Main Street, and S.S. Kresge, 116-120 Main Street.
5. (MF) Looking southwest at Kresge Building, 122-136 Main Street.
6. (MF) Looking southwest at Woonsocket Institute for Savings, 138-148 Main Street, and 122-136, and 116-120 Main Street on the right. The Old Colony Bank, 141 Main Street, and the Commercial Block, 93-119 Main Street are on the left.

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7. (HS) Looking south at corner of City Hall/Harris Block, 169 Main Street, Old Colony Bank, 141 Main Street, Auger' Store, 129-137 Main Street, and the Commercial Block, 92-119 Main Street.
 8. (HS) Looking southwest down Main Street from Depot Square. City Hall/Harris Block, 169 Main Street, on left and Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank Building, 162-168 Main Street, on right.
 9. (VF) Looking north from Depot Square at Providence & Worcester Railroad Depot, 1 Depot Square.
 10. (VF) Looking northeast from Depot Square up Main Street (left) and Clinton Street (right) to Providence & Worcester Railroad Trestle. Buildings (left to right) are: Hope Building, 237-245 Main Street, Hotel Blackstone, 23 Clinton Street, Unity Block, 1 Clinton Street, and Globe Building, 8 Court Street.
 11. (VF) Looking west from Court Street across Depot Square to Main and High Streets and Longely Building, 194-202 Main Street. Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank Building, 162-168 Main Street is to left.

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Significance

The Main Street Historic District, located in the heart of the city of Woonsocket, is significant as a vital, if fragmentary, physical record of the city's commercial, industrial, and civic core as it evolved during Woonsocket's greatest period of growth in the second half of the nineteenth century and the first third of the twentieth century. Beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century, and particularly in the period between c. 1870 and c. 1930, due largely to Woonsocket's prominence as a textile manufacturing center in Rhode Island and the Blackstone River Valley, Main Street experienced several overlapping phases of economic growth as a regional commercial center, all of which are represented in the district. The city's mid-nineteenth-century industrial economic base and railroad transportation linkage, reflected by two buildings in the district, generated substantial new civic, commercial, and financial institution development during this era. The district encompasses ten commercial blocks which housed independent small businesses, national chains, and the city's newspaper. Within its bounds are one of the finest of the Providence & Worcester Railroad depots and the only remaining historic hotel building in the downtown. It includes the city hall and three bank buildings which housed locally-based and statewide financial institutions that played a prominent role in the Blackstone Valley's economy. The buildings that stand as a physical record of this exceptional period are a coherent group of solid, well-designed and well-constructed blocks. They are architecturally significant for their diverse representation of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century stylistic eclecticism, and many are the work of notable architects. Urban renewal programs, spurred by economic downturn in the mid- and late twentieth century, have eroded much of the fabric of Main Street, yet this tightly knit group preserves much of the image of Woonsocket's illustrious heritage.

The early European settlement history of the Main Street area was essentially industrial. In the eighteenth century, newcomers, drawn by the immense water power opportunities offered by Woonsocket Falls, established what would become, by the mid-nineteenth century, the largest of the seven industrial villages comprising Woonsocket. The lands within the district have strong and early connections with two of the initial settlement families, the Lymans and the Arnolds. A law suit settled by the Providence Courts in 1827 divided lands around Depot Square and along Main Street south of the square into lots assigned to either family (Cumberland Town Records). While the Lyman family appears to have sold most of its land by the late nineteenth century, properties around Depot Square were owned by the Arnold family heirs, and developed through lease agreements, well into the twentieth century.

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Mid-nineteenth-century industrial and manufacturing expansion in the district is represented by one industrial building and one structure. A portion of the Lyman-Arnold Trench (NR) runs under Edward Harris' Mill #4 (c. 1846), the Buckland and Clark Building (c. 1897), and the Commercial Block (c. 1902). The trench supplied waterpower and processing water to the mills and factories which lined the southeastern side of Main Street until the turn of the century. The open segment of the Lyman-Arnold Trench previously listed in the National Register lies just outside the Historic District. While other, more pristine industrial structures of this type exist in the city, the rubblestone Harris Mill #4, at the rear of the Buckland and Clark building is a good example of mid-nineteenth-century mill design and a visible reminder in the district that Woonsocket's most prominent commercial thoroughfare was once an industrial streetscape.

The completion of the Blackstone Canal, south and east of Main Street, in 1826 and the opening of the Providence & Worcester Railroad in 1847, with a depot in the district where the later replacement structure stands, enhanced the development of commerce and trade. These transportation improvements served an expanding local population as well as the burgeoning industries and connected the community to outside markets. No buildings remain to document the initial shift from manufacturing to commerce along Main Street. All were replaced beginning in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, one, if not the earliest, of the monumental masonry blocks which would come to characterize Main Street, a building which exemplifies the link between manufacturing and civic and commercial pursuits, stands within the district. It is notable for its handsome Italianate design, but also for its association with Edward Harris and the early growth of community character and later with political and civic pride in the city. Locally prominent industrialist, Edward Harris, made important financial contributions to the city, helping to foster its growing sense of civic identity as one of the largest communities in northern Rhode Island. Between 1853-6, he financed the construction of the Harris Block/City Hall (NR) for mixed-use development. By the early 1860s, the Harris Block/City Hall housed a range of commercial stores on the first floor, the Harris Hall, a library, and professional offices. President Abraham Lincoln spoke in the Harris Hall in March 1860. The Harris Block/City Hall contained the town's council chamber from the 1870s and many of the banking and savings institutions by the 1880s. In 1891, a Romanesque side wing was added, and by World War I the building had become the Woonsocket City Hall.

By the late nineteenth century, the district had evolved into a diverse set of specialized commercial and retailing stores, professional

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offices, and financial institutions. The earlier industrial complexes and wooden frame buildings had mostly been demolished to make way for more ornate, durable, and fire-proof masonry-clad and steel-frame structures. Facades were faced with cast-iron, rock-faced granite, or brick cladding and ornamented with rich decorative detailing, such as copper or cast-stone trim, moulded stringcourses, tiles, and insignia.

Depot Square, the physical and symbolic center of the downtown, was developed mostly in the 1880s and 1890s in this mode. The Hope Building, Unity Building, Globe Building, and Patriots and Slocumb Buildings (demolished, now the site of a city park) were all constructed under sublease agreements. Cornelia Elizabeth (Arnold) Green, grandmother of Theodore Francis Green, Governor of Rhode Island from 1933 to 1937, owned these properties from 1827 until her death in 1898. The lands were leased to the Groton Manufacturing Company, later Eagle Mills, and in turn subleased to various individuals, including William H. Teston and Daniel M. Edwards (Hope Building), L'Union Saint Jean Baptiste D'Amérique (Unity Building), Joseph L. Brown (Globe Building), and James M. McCarthy and Caroline E. Slocumb (Patriots and Slocumb Buildings). Following Cornelia Arnold's death, in 1917, her heirs terminated the preexisting leases and set up a new system of 15-year lease agreements.

Of similar height, materials, and massing, this group of commercial buildings created a tight and harmonious arrangement around this important intersection. Two of the buildings, the Hope and Unity Buildings were the design of a Woonsocket engineer turned architect, George W. Spaulding. A native of Pascoag (Burrillville) trained in mechanical drafting and engineering, Spaulding came to Woonsocket in 1869. He laid out the original machinery in the Nourse Mill, and others. His architectural design projects included the Colchis and Taft-Pierce Mills, the Foss Memorial Building, Odd Fellows Block, and numerous residences, public buildings, and factories. At the turn of the century, much of the business had been turned over to his son, E.L. Spaulding (Burgess 1907, pp. 22-23). These buildings at Depot Square were joined by the elegant new Queen Anne style Providence & Worcester Railroad Depot of 1882 designed by John W. Ellis and the impressive Classical Revival style Longely Building of 1890, erected as an investment by a Pawtucket businessman. In 1894, the construction of a new stone-and-steel Court Street Bridge (NRDOE) created a direct connection between Depot Square and the Courthouse across the Blackstone River. At this time, the old crossing at Hamlet Avenue was abandoned, thus forming a new building lot where the Hotel Blackstone now stands.

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As the twentieth century emerged, the Main Street Historic District began to exemplify commercial and retailing turn-of-the-century downtown urban development. The use of a great variety of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century revivalist architectural styles, including Classical Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, Late Victorian "Eastlake," Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival, along with the visual effects of pressed brick, copper, or terra cotta detailing, slate roofs, bay windows, towers, datestones, and insignia, created a variegated streetscape. Eye-catching cornice mouldings, awnings, and other window treatments, and storefront signs contributed to this diversity.

These changes, creating the core of buildings existing today, continued to occur into the 1930s as Main Street became a bustling social center and was at its most economically viable. The first of the long commercial buildings with numerous storefront bays extending along the street was the Commercial Block of 1902. With the final phase of substantial new construction in the 1920s and 1930s, Main Street reached its peak of development and was without question the most important commercial and civic area of the city. Specialized services in the district included milliners and tailoring establishments, shoe- and boot-making, photographic services, and both locally-based and statewide banks. Potential investors and visitors were provided with these trade stores and financial services along with drugstores, grocers, and dry goods stores. By the 1910s, five-, ten-, and twenty-five-cent variety stores, like Alfred J. Carrigan's in the Buckland and Clark Building (City Directory, 1917) had been established. National variety chains such as Kresge's, which constructed two extended-bay blocks, and Woolworth's were also a significant part of the retailing profile of the district by the early 1920s. Offices on the upper floors provided downtown space for professional services.

Intense commercial development was supplemented by the construction in the 1920s and early 1930s of purpose-built financial institutions. Savings banks which suited a variety of large and small investors and offered loans and other services to local businesses had been located in the district since the 1860s. The Woonsocket Institute for Savings, located before 1926 in Cook's Block (demolished), originally housed four separate financial concerns under one roof. By the inter-war period the functional demands of banking establishments had grown and required their own multi-story structures, yet design preferences still followed a traditional revivalist decorative vocabulary. The architects represented here include the Providence firm of Harkness & Geddes, whose austere Neo-Federal concept for the Old Colony Bank of 1937, stands in contrast to the more monumental Woonsocket Institution for Savings (1926) and Rhode Island Hospital Trust

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Co. Bank Building (1929), both by Thomas M. James & Co.. This was a Boston firm, headed by Thomas M. James (1875-1942), specialized in designing bank buildings (Withey 1956, pp. 320-321). Complementing these classically-inspired designs, was the somewhat more modernist and less self-consciously Neo-Gothic decorated flagship building constructed in 1922-23 for the Woonsocket Call, the city's major newspaper.

These modes of construction and patterns of development reflect Main Street's evolution into a purely central business district in the twentieth century, extending beyond the bounds of the Main Street Historic District from Market Square through Depot Square to Monument Square. The city's Post Office (NR) which had been located in the district at 159 Main Street in the Harris Block, moved to a new location, east of the railroad station and Depot Square, where a new building was erected in c. 1910-12 in the 'City Beautiful' idiom. Construction of the Hotel Blackstone in 1927 added a new hotel to the handful of existing establishments, all of which have since been demolished. The district was lined primarily with commercial buildings whose chief function was to attract patrons and customers. Storefronts and first floors were given particular attention to attract passersby, on foot, or increasingly, in motor cars. Large plateglass display windows and new storefronts were added to earlier buildings, such as Honan's Block, 118-120 Main Street, and the Longely Building, and were integral to the design of new buildings such as the two former Kresge variety stores.

By the mid-twentieth century, Main Street had begun to lose its commercial viability. The decline of the city's textile industrial base, which had begun several decades earlier, combined with national economic trends resulted in numerous changes to the Main Street area. Vacancy, neglect, and demolition of historic structures took place in the late 1950s and 1960s as businesses failed or moved to the newer, fashionable shopping malls to the northwest and to the "New Downtown" created by urban renewal programs in the Social Flatlands to the east. The topography of Main Street, defined by steep slopes to the north and especially to the south, also limited further development. Viability and aesthetic cohesion were also hampered by economic interests and a shift in planning and community development ideas. As a clearly legible if fragmentary record, therefore, the Main Street Historic District reflects an era of highly significant growth and rapid economic and social transformation when Woonsocket was a major industrial and regional commercial center.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Main Street Historic District includes all or portions of City of Woonsocket Plat 14, Lots #336, 405, 383, 370, 163, 165, 180, 166, 167, 292, 296, 297, 330, 362, 220, 221, 141 (partial), 158 (partial), 139, 138 (partial), 136 (partial), 290 (partial), 400 (partial), 289, 129, 397 (Cooks Hill Lane), 420, 128, 126, 127, and 125. Starting at a point at the south-easternmost corner of Lot 336 (Harris Mill #4/Buckland and Clark Building, 55-69 Main Street), the boundary runs northeastward along the back (southeast) lot lines of properties on the southeast side of Main Street, including Lots #336, 405, 383, 370, 163, 165, 180, 166, 167, and 292, then across Court Street, continuing northeast on the back lot lines of properties facing on Clinton Street, Lots #296, 297, 330, and 362. At the northeast corner of Lot 362, the boundary turns and heads northwest along the north boundary of Lot 362 to the intersection with Clinton Street. Here, it turns north and extends to include Lots 221 and across Main Street to Lot 141, running along the north side of the Providence & Worcester Railroad trestle.

At a point just northwest of the Providence & Worcester Railroad Depot building, the boundary turns and heads southwest to include buildings facing on the northwest side of Main Street. It crosses Lots #141 and 158 and then crosses High Street, to the northwest corner of Lot #139. The boundary then continues on a line southeastward across Lots #138, 136, and 290 to the northwest corner of Lot #400. It follows the lotlines of Lots #400, 129, 397, 420, and 128 to Ascension Street. There it turns and heads southeast along the southern lot lines of Lots #128, 125, 126, and 127. At the southeast corner of Lot 127, at the intersection of Ascension and Main Streets, the boundary crosses Main Street and turns southwest again, continuing on the front lotlines of Lots #163, 370, 383, and 336. It then turns southeast to follow the south lotline of Lot #336 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Downtown Woonsocket Historic District have been drawn to comprise the most visually intact sections of Main Street's commercial, civic, and industrial buildings and to define its most significant era of development. The boundaries are determined by the buildings whose lots border the northwest and southeast sides of Main Street and Clinton Street from Depot Square to the northeast, and the Harris Mill #4/Buckland and Clark Building to the southwest. Insofar as

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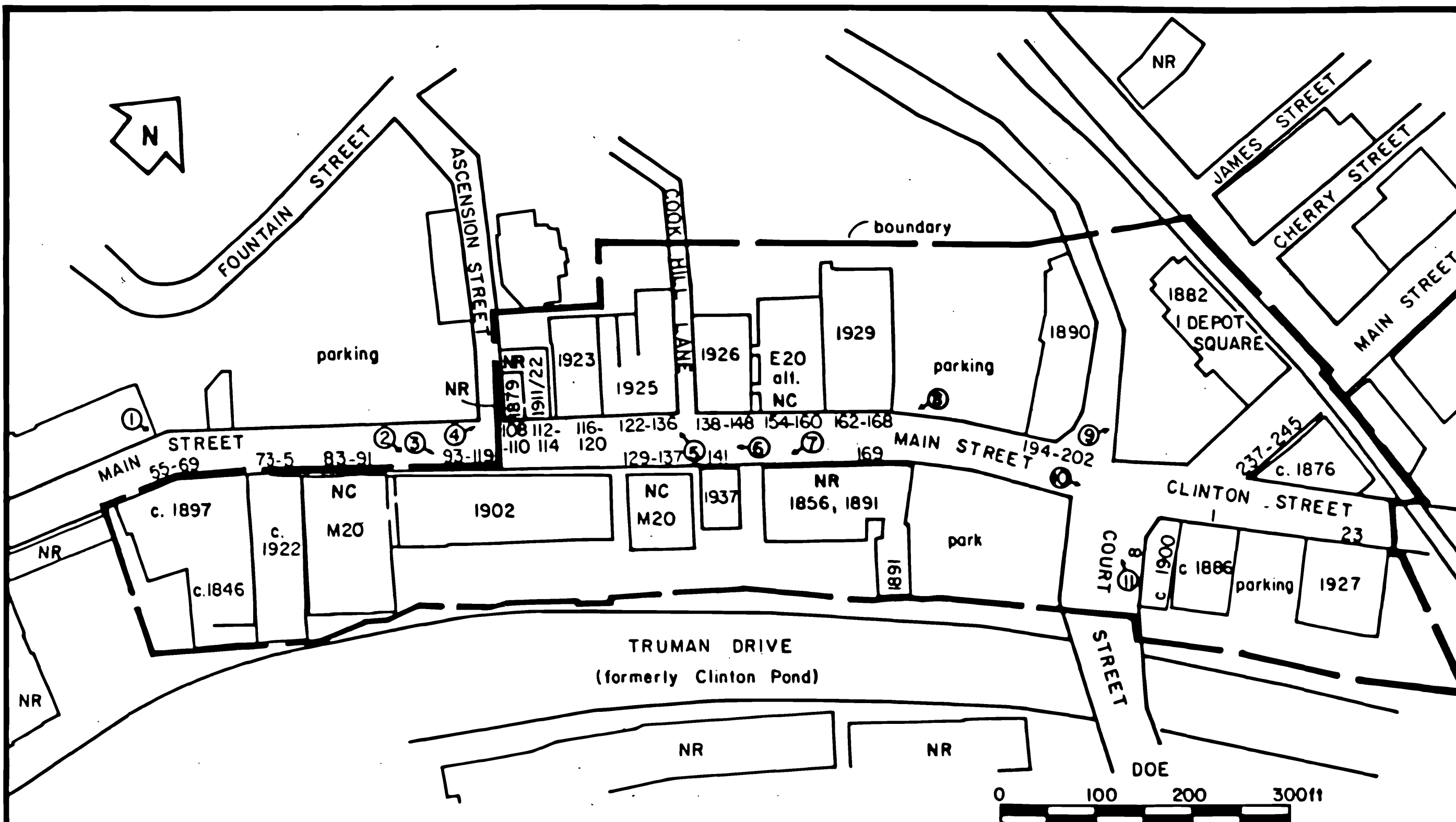
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possible, the boundary has been drawn to exclude vacant lots and parking lots. Thus, the boundary of the District includes only those properties which exemplify an historic and architecturally significant period in the history of Main Street and the city as a whole.



- NR Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- DOE Formally determined eligible
- NC Non-contributing
- M20 Mid-twentieth century
- E20 Early twentieth century
- ② Photo number and direction

Source: Sanborn Map Co. 1955

**MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT 1991
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION MAP
WOONSOCKET (PROVIDENCE COUNTY), RHODE ISLAND**