National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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7 1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	1e			
historic HENRY J. CRIPPEN, HOUSE				
and/or common	189 - 191	NORTH MAIN STREET	ר	
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	189-191 Ne	rth Main Street	<u>r</u>	n/a not for publication
city, town	Concord	n /a vicinity of		
state	N.H. c	ode 33 county	Merrimack	code 013
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X -N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: medical ofcs
4. Own	er of Prop	erty		
name	<u>Victorian</u>	Associates of Cor	ncord	
street & number	189 - 191	North Main Street	t	
city, town Concord		n/avicinity of	state	New Hampshire 03301
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descript	ion	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Merrimack Co	ounty Courthouse	/Registry of Deeds
street & number		163 North Ma	ain Street	
city, town		Concord	state	New Hampshire
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Existing	Surveys	
title	None	has this p	roperty been determined e	eligible? yes X_ no
date			federal sta	ate county local
depository for su	urvey records			
city town			state	

7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The structure occupying 189-191 North Main Street in Concord, New Hampshire, is a load bearing, brick masonry, French Second Empire townhouse, formerly containing two residential units. The property underwent Certified Rehabilitation in 1982-83, approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and was adaptively reused as offices and examining rooms for a physicians' professional group. Exterior and interior architectural details which contribute to the significance of the building remain intact.

The structure is notable for the quality of its integrated design and high state of overall preservation. The former dwelling occupies its original site on the corner of the junction of Pearl and North Main Streets. The site includes a paved, rear (west) parking area. Mature shade trees delineate the lot's northern boundary.

The architectural composition of the building can be divided into two components distinguished by scale, plan and architectural ornamentation. These divisions include a three-story, symmetrical, four by three bay, principal block which is adjoined to the west by a two-story, six by six bay extension. Both principal block and rear extension were constructed c. 1879.

The main block of the dwelling is supported by a raised cut granite foundation incorporating three courses of rock-faced ashlar. The flat, red brick wall planes of the building terminate in a black, slate-clad mansard roof punctuated by wall dormers which correspond to first and second story structural bay divitions. Three interior, brick chinneys with straight stacks and corbeled caps rise from the north and south roof planes. The principal elevation (east) is delineated by north and south bay windows rising the full height of the facade. The vertical emphasis established by these facade bays is relieved by an elaborate, double-bracketed, wooden, denticulated cornice which projects beyond the exterior wall plane. A less ornate, denticulated deck cornice, also in wood, accents the roof line. The double cornice design treatment is repeated on the remaining elevations of the principal block. A simplified double cornice of similar width bands the western building extention.

Principal entries to both former residential units are located on the east elevation. Access is gained through the second and third bays, which are articulated by segmental arches and covered by a two bay, flat-roofed wooden porch. Supported by a rock-faced ashlar foundation, this porch is divided into two adjoining bays and incorporates granite steps with granite consoles,

Wooden piers with recessed, paneled bases and bracketed capitals support the porch's denticulated cornice, which is similar in design to that accenting the main block roof line. The south entry bay, 189 North Main Street retains its original double-leaf doors. These doors include single light, half arch upper panels and wooden lower panels ornamated by Eastlake-inspired motifs. A new pair of duplicated doors, milled to match the orig-

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inals, were installed during Certified Rehabilitation in 1982-83.

First and second story windows are original, arched two-light over two-light wooden sash enframed by simple surrounds. Windows are set beneath segmental masonry arches which include pillowed cast iron keystones. sills are also cast iron. The third and fourth bay second-story windows of the principal facade terminate with arched, cast iron window hoods bearing corner brackets reminiscent of drip moldings. The third-story wall dormers in the second and third bays include segmental arched, one-light over one-light sash sheltered by arched window hoods similar in design to those found on the second and third bays, second story. Third-story bay dormers are further defined by brackets with scroll-work, which accent upper sash / hood junctions and lower sash / sill intersections. bay of the third story is occupied by an elaborate window unit containing double, one-light over one-light, round arched windows set in simple surrounds and enframed by a broken arch and pedimented hood. The pedimented hood is supported by engaged, bracketed piers with scroll-work frames. Windows on all elevations were originally flanked by three-panel blinds. 1 Window surrounds, cornices, and other wooden architectural elements were originally painted dark brown, harmonizing with exterior brick color.

The south elevation of the principal block includes a five-sided, two-story, flat-roofed, engaged tower which occupies the second and third bays to the east and rises to the building's bracketed cornice line. Though identical stylistically to the remainder of the structure, the engaged tower was added between 1879 and 1884, after the principal structure was completed. 2

The engaged tower is flanked by porches; the one to the west is attached to the (western) extension of the building. A single-story, flat-roofed wooden porch, with a low balustrade supported by square piers similar to those on the facade, spans the east bay of the elevation. The porch is raised, with the interstices between pier bases filled with lattice work. The squat, turned balusters support a deeply molded railing. The porch piers are connected by massive, ornate, arched wooden screens, which spring from the level of the pier capitals. The heavy, projecting cornice is adorned with drop pendants.

The north elevation of the principal block includes a two-story bay window. This bay, located near the facade, terminates at the building's cornice level.

Exterior detailing on the north elevation is similar to that found on the east and south elevations, except for the westerly wall dormer, which includes a double arch window similar in design to that of the center bay (east elevation). The hood of this window is designed in a half arch with an exaggerated keystone motif center. Undated historic photograph indicates this wall dormer once opened onto a balustrated balcony located on the projecting roof of the two-story bay window.

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The rear (west) extension of the structure is supported by a raised brick foundation and includes segmental arched windows. Two interior chimneys with straight stacks, one with corbeled cap, rise from the extension's mansard slate roof. The extension forms two interlocking rectangles in plan, resulting in an irregular massing of symmetrical elements. Exterior extension design is similar to that of the principal block on a reduced scale.

Southern elevations originally included two flat-roofed wooden porches with low balustrades and bracketed, paneled square piers. The porch located on the easterly element, adjacent to the engaged tower, survives. The porch affixed to the rear (westerly) portion of the extension was carefully dismantled during Certified Rehabilitation in 1982-83 and re-erected in conjunction with a small addition. The addition, a small, one-story structure, square in plan (16' x 21'), is constructed of matching red brick with a flat roof; it is used as a patient entrance / office receiving area. Original porch piers, balustrade and cornice elements were re-used in creating the sympathetic new addition.

The only other exterior alterations of the original structure include removal of a deteriorated brick basement bulkhead which stood on the west elevation of the extension; and placement of concrete emergency exit steps beneath a doorway on the south elevation (of the extension - north side).

The interior of the structure was originally divided into two residential units by a bearing wall oriented east-west and running the length of the building. Individual unit access corridors run the length of the building on either side of the party wall. The original floor plan, designed for living spaces, is arranged around parallel hall corridors in the center of the building, extending from front to rear. The interior finishes of the northernmost unit are more elaborate than those found in the southern unit. The divided parlors on the first and second stories are characterized by a broad, elliptically-arched opening between the rooms.

The intact, Eastlake-inspired woodwork includes doors, surrounds, baseboards, overmantels, and built-in breakfront units. Many of these elements retain their original graining. At least three types of hardwood are represented, including cherry, ash and birch. Also intact are original marble fireplace mantels and surrounds as well as original brass hardware.

Of particular note in 191 North Main Street is the intact, open side hall staircase, with ornate newel post, which rises uninterrupted three full stories. The third-story stair hall contains original wall stenciling with matching border stenciling.

Space within 191 North Main Street is less elaborate and bears evidence of renovation, c. 1950. Surviving interior finishes are of simple design and

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the majority are of Colonial Revival-style derivation. In the east chamber, there survives a white marble fireplace mantel surrounding a fireplace fitted with a coal grate. An intact staircase with massive newel post is located in the front stair hall. Enriched window and door moldings remain extant, but have been painted.

There is a full basement which is unfinished. The only details of interest are the built-in brick laundry stoves in each unit.

Principal interior changes associated with Certified Rehabilitation include reversible partitioning of space for offices and examining rooms, installation of dropped ceilings, and carpeting of floor surfaces. An elevator was installed in the center of the building adjacent to the party wall. To accommodate this, closets and a secondary service stair were removed. All significant architectural details, including windows and trim, door moldings and surrounds, plaster walls and stair units, were retained. The third floor remains vacant and undisturbed and is used for storage. A staff lounge/kitchenette was installed in one of the bedrooms of this level in 189 North Main Street.

The exterior color scheme of the wooden trim was restored to its original shade (dark brown) in 1982. Parking areas and natural landscaping also remain unchanged.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Historic photograph (191 North Main Street), Perry Scrapbooks, Vol. 12A (unpaged). [New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N. H.]
- 2. Map of Concord, N. H., 1879, Sanborn Parris Map Company, New York, New York.

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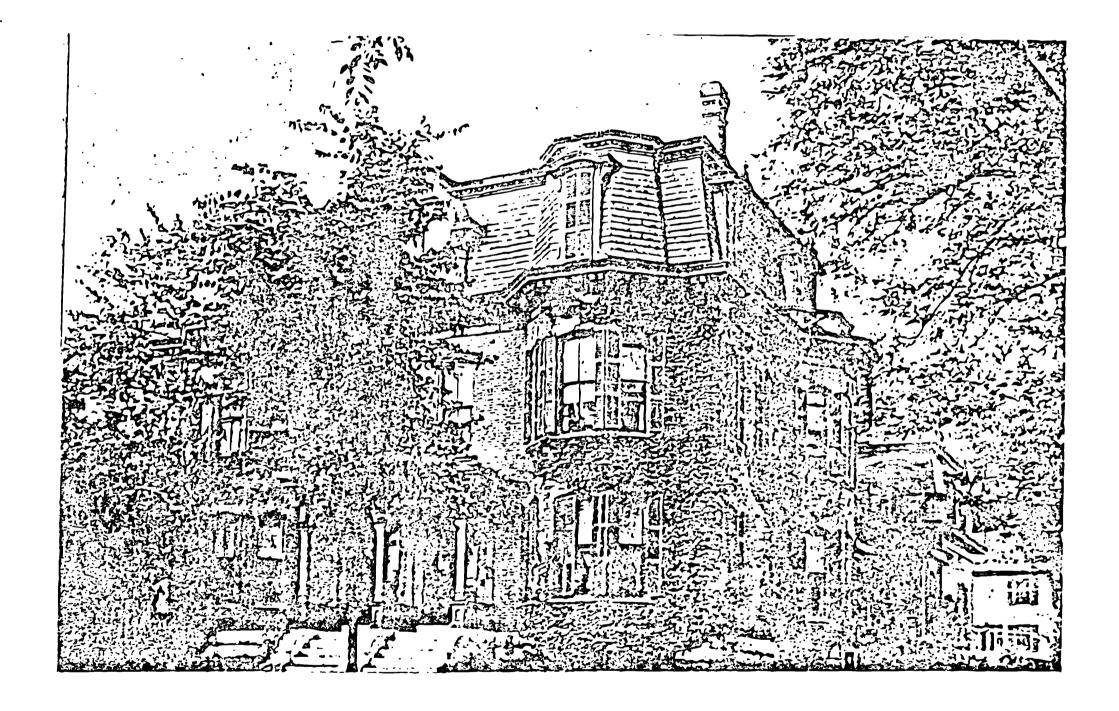
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Page ATTACHMENT

Three-quarter historic view of 189 - 191 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. (c. 1885)



Source: Perry Scrapbook Collection

Volume 12A (unpaged)

New Hampshire Historical Society

Concord, N.H.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	agriculture Xarchitecture art commerce communications	community plans conservation economics education engineering	ning landscape architecture law literature military music ement philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)
Specific dates	c.1879	Builder/Architect	Lorenzo R. Brown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henry J. Crippen House is significant for its arcitecture and for its association with a Concord community leader who was prominaent during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. The property at 189-191 North Main Street is of local architectural importance as Concord's finest surviving example of the French Second Empire style in masonry, as expressed in domestic form. The well-preserved building is notable for its integrated design, indicative of the era's high-style building, and for its craftsmanship, choice of materials, and ornate detail. The building is significant as the principal surviving physical manifestation associated with Henry J. Crippen, the prominent financier and community figure, who resided at 191 North Main Street from 1879 until his death in 1893. (Criteria C, B)

The French Second Empire style was a predominant style in Concord, particularly along South Main Street. Introduced as early as the 1850s, by the mid-1870s it had been generally adapted for public buildings (particularly schools), mercantile blocks and residences. Contemporary descriptions of Concord housing reveal that the Second Empire style was a fashionable, though expensive, choice for domestic design. The style, which was noted for its "...imposing elevations and utilization of almost every cubic foot of interiorspace...," I was a practical choice for townhouse design.

The Crippen House is the grandest extant statement of the style of brick. There are numerous varients in wood and brick which are similar, but none are identical. Comparison with surviving examples of the style in the Concord area indicates that the Crippen House is an unusually sophisticated example displaying a sensitive integration of scale, massing, and ornamentation.

The building's architectural significance rest not only with the cosmopolitan character of its exterior design but also wit its interior plan, finishes and craftmanship. The deep townhouse floor plan of the original dwelling units, with formal living and reception spaces placed at the front and domestic service quarters at the rear, remains evident. Three different types of hardwoods are represented in the ornate interior finishes, which includes a variety of machine made components including elaborate Eastlake-inspired woodwork, doors, mantels, overmantels, and built-in cupboard units. Also of note are the structure's exterior cast iron lintels and sills, and elaborate machine-stamped brass hardware. Fireplace mantels and surrounds are composed of both American and Italian marble.

Based on historical map data supplemented by deed research, the construction

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Ge	ographica	al Data					
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state		code	county	•		, . ċode	.)
11. For	m Prepai	ed By					
name/title	Christophe	er W. Closs	, MNRP		N 2		
organization	Closs Plan	ning Consu	ltants	date ^J	uly 20, 1	983	
street & number	4 Bicenter	nial Squar	'e	telephone	(603) 224	-6714	
city or town	Concord			state	New Hamps	hire 0330	1
12. Sta	te Histor	ic Pres	ervatio	n Offic	cer Cer	tificati	on
The evaluated sig	nificance of this pro	perty within the	state is:				
	_ national _	state	X local				
665), I hereby non according to the o	d State Historic Pres ninate this property criteria and procedu eservation Officer sig	for inclusion in the res set forth by the	ne National Reg	ister and cert	ervation Act of 1 ity that it has be	966 (Public Lav en evaluated	v 89–
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Keeper of the	National Register	1711 Ll			date 👉	100105	
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Attest: Chief of Regis	stration				date		

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of 189 - 191 North Main Street is dated between 1875-1879. The townhouse appears to have been built by Lorenzo R. Brown, who sold 189 North Main to Enoch Jackman, a needle manufacturer, in January, 1878, for the sum of \$1,200. The following year Brown sold 191 North Main to Henry Crippen for \$7,200. Sanborn Insurance Company maps for Concord, New Hampshire, dated 1879, record the structure in its present configuration, minus the engaged tower (south elevation). Subsequent city maps document the engaged tower as extant by 1884. This is confirmed by Concord historian George Perry, who dated some remodeling of the house "about 1883." 4

While there are other examples of the French Second Empire style extant in Concord, particularly along its main commercial corridor, all of these have been altered significantly for retail and office use. Several have been demolished or - most recently in the case of the Franklin Pierce home - lost by fire. West of Main Street, in the residential neighborhoods, several examples survive but have been converted for multi-family use.

The closest comparative example to 189 - 191 North Main Street is a brick dwelling located on the northwest corner of Warren and North Spring Streets; and from the history of this house, additional significance may be inferred for the Crippen residence.

In 1876-1877 Alvah C. Ferrin moved from a previous residence on Centre Street to a house on the northwest corner of Warren and North Spring. 5 had been occupied previously by a gable-end house with ell, where a "Mrs. Brown" lived. The Ferrin house shows on insurance maps as a larger structure with projecting bays - corresponding to the present appearance of the house. Because Ferrin was an established mason (and during this period was awarded contracts for public buildings, including several local schools in the mansard style), 6 it seems likely that it was he who built the house on Warren Street, c. 1876-1877. Strong similarities in massing, scale, and detail (particularly in the stacking of bays to achieve a tower effect) evidenced in the Ferrin residence and the double townhouse at 189 - 191 North Main Street make it possible that the latter was also built by Ferrin, probably c. 1877. If this is the case, these two structures document a borrowing between residential and commercial or public building practice that characterized the development of an urban aesthetic in Concord around the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

In contributing to a sense of local "style," the relationship between these two structures - and other variants in Concord - is significant, further reflecting a building tradition which was less likely defined by a professional architect or published plans as by what might be called a general intelligence of how things should be done, carried by masons and carpenters and contractors, and reinforced by prevailing taste and habit.

The established association of the property with one of Concord's leading

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business and civic figures in the final decades of the nineteenth century is important in providing additional historical insight for the period. Henry J. Crippen was born in Canterbury, England, on September 22, 1837; he emigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five. After early training as a shoemaker, Crippen continued his education at New London Academy and Dartmouth College, graduating from the former in 1853 and the latter in 1857. Crippen moved to Concord in March of 1861 to study law under the direction of Henry P. Rolfe and Anson S. Marshal. While reading law, he supplemented his income through teaching in Concord area schools. In March, 1862, Crippen accepted a position in the office of the State Treasurer, the Honorable Peter Sanborn. In 1869 he served as clerk of the Joint Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives and the Senate on Retrenchment. The following year, he was appointed clerk of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia.

In 1872 Crippen resigned from his Senate post to accept the position of cashier with the National Capital Bank in Concord, New Hampshire. While cashier, Crippen founded the investment firm of Crippen, Lawrence and Co., a concern specializing in western mortgages. Crippen, Lawrence and Co. maintained offices in Denver Colorado, and Salina, Kansas, in addition to the Concord home office. In 1881 Crippen resigned from the National Capital Bank to assume full-time control of his investment company. Crippen remained active in area education throughout his career, serving numerous terms on the Concord school board. He also served as a New Hampshire State Representative in 1890. 7

The Crippen family retained ownership of the property on North Main Street until 1955, at which time the building was converted to the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation headquarters. The Farm Bureau vacated the property in 1982.

189 - 191 North Main Street underwent approved Certified Rehabilitation in 1982-83 for use as professional medical offices. The structure is visually prominent along North Main Street, a corridor now composed primarily of commercial and government uses. The building continues to convey its original residential character among various historic and contemporary architectural styles, providing a cultural benchmark for the area.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Lyford, James O., ed., <u>History of Concord, New Hampshire</u> (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1896), Vol. I, page 57.
- 2. Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, New Hampshire, Deed Book 245, page 178, and Book 269. page 370.
- 3. Ibid., Deed Book 236, page 501.

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- 4. Perry Scrapbook Collection [New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.], Vol. 12a (unpaged).
- 5. Concord City Directory (Boston: Dean Dudley & Co., 1876-1877).
- 6. Lyford, History of Concord, New Hampshire, Vol. II, page 1257.
- 7. Bacon, George F., <u>The Leading Business Men of Concord and Vicinity</u> (Boston: Mercantile Publishing Co., 1890), page 141.

Obituary, Daily People and Patriot (Concord, N.H.), December 26, 1893 (Vol. XI, No. 199), page 8.

Obituary, Concord (N.H.) Evening Monitor, December 26, 1893 (Vol. LVII, No. 9014), page 8.

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- Concord City Directory (Boston: Dean Dudley & Co., 1876-1877).
- Lyford, James O., ed., <u>History of Concord</u>, <u>New Hampshire</u> (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1896), Vol. I, page 57, and Vol. II, page 1257.
- Perry Scrapbook Collection [New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.], Vol. 12a (unpaged).
- Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, N.H., Deed Book 236, page 501; Book 245, page 178; Book 269, page 370.
- Obituary, Concord (N.H.) Evening Monitor, December 26, 1893 (Vol. LVII, No. 9014), page 8.
- Obituary, Daily People and Patriot (Concord, N.H.), December 26, 1893 (Vol. XI, No. 199), page 8.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The description of the boundary of 189 - 191 North Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire, coincides with the legal description for the property, as recorded in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, New Hampshire (see Site Plan - Continuation Sheet).

The property is described as follows:

TRACT I: A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon located at 191 North Main Street in Concord, N.H., bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the house lot formerly of John H. Pearson on the Westerly line of Main Street, thence Southerly fifty one feet and three inches, more or less, along the Westerly line of said Main Street to the Northeast corner of land formerly of Enoch Jackman; thence Westerly one hundred and three feet along said Jackman land to his Northwest corner; thence Southerly parallet with Main Street along said Jackman land to the Northerly line of Pearl Street; thence Westerly along the Northerly line of said Pearl Street forty-seven feet to other land formerly of Layng; thence Northerly one hundred and two feet, more or less, to land formerly of John H. Pearson; thence Easterly by said Pearson land, one hundred and fifty feet to North Main Street and point of beginning.

The above premises are conveyed together with the rights and privileges reserved in deed of Lorenzo D. Brown et ux to Enoch Jackman dated January 18, 1878, and recorded at Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Book 245, Page 178, and Book 269, Page 370, to the extent that said rights and privileges may still exist.

Meaning and intending to describe and convey the same premises conveyed by Gertrude L. Layng and Josephine Layng to the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation by deed dated June 1, 1954, and recorded at Merrimack County Registry of Deeds at Book 752, Page 38.

TRACT II: A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Concord, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the corner of Morth Main and Pearl Streets in said Concord on the Northerly side of Pearl Street and on the Westerly side of North Main Street; thence Northerly by the West line of North Main Street fifty one (51) feet and three (3) inches; thence Westerly in a line at right angles with said North Main Street one hundred and three (103) feet; thence Southerly parallel with North Main Street to said Pearl Street; thence Easterly by said Pearl Street to the place of beginning.

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The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to include all of the property historically associated with the site since the erection of the buildings(s) c. 1879. With the exception of paving the parking lot at the rear (west), there have been no changes to the site configuration for more than a century.

The map and parcel numbers for the respective parcels are:

Tract I - Map 55, Parcel 1310A Tract II - Map 55. Parcel 1310

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown by the heavy dashed line on the attached sketch map.

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Page SITE PLAN

