

DATA SHEET

PH 0686409

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	OCT 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	13 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Downtown New London National Register District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See continuation sheet

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New London

VICINITY OF

Second - Christopher J. Dodd

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

New London

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership -- see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New London Land Records, Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

181 Captain's Walk

CITY, TOWN

New London

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Downtown New London District is an irregular U-shaped section of the southeastern Connecticut city. The district borders the west bank of the Thames River, three miles north of the river's mouth on Long Island Sound. The base of the U-shaped district is a section of Bank Street, which runs 1400 feet north and south along the river between Tilley Street and Captain's Walk. Tilley Street and Captain's Walk are the south and north arms of the U, which run east and west. Tilley Street extends 1,000 feet to Washington Street and Captain's Walk 2,000 feet to Huntington Street. There are approximately 215 sites and structures in the district, occupying approximately 60 acres. Twenty structures are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district.

Bank Street, the base of the U-shaped district, derives its name from its location next to the river. The configuration of the street follows the curve of the river. In 1852 railroad tracks were laid between the river and the structures on the east side of Bank Street. These tracks, formerly the main line of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, are now Amtrack/Conrail. The spaces between the buildings on the west side of Bank Street, now alleyways to the tracks, were, until 1852, passageways leading to the wharves.

Most of the buildings on Bank Street are three and four stories high. On both sides of the street the facades are continuous, except for cross streets, alleys, and occasional empty lots. The overall uniformity of the buildings' height and mass are a striking visual element in these three Bank Street blocks. The roadway is wide enough for one lane of automobile traffic in each direction, plus parallel parking at each curb. The streetscape is characterized by pedestrian traffic along the sidewalks. At street level most of the buildings are occupied by stores, restaurants, and other service establishments. During busy times of day a sense of activity prevails.

A variety of architectural styles is represented along Bank Street. The oldest structures are Federal. The Lawrence Hospital Building (c. 1790), so named because it was owned by the hospital for many years, at 60-64 Bank Street, is built of red brick with a hip roof. Its exterior has been cleaned and restored. Another of the post-Revolutionary War buildings is the Bulkeley House (c. 1790) at 109-115 Bank Street, which was built as a five-bay frame house with end chimneys, a central doorway, and upstairs windows placed directly under the eaves. In the 1880's it was altered to become a store. The Gurley House at 99-107 Bank Street dates from the same period as the Bulkeley House and has undergone greater alterations. Around the turn of the 19th century it was given a new mansard roof. The building was jacked up one story sometime after 1910 and a new first floor with two store fronts was slipped in underneath it.

The Smith House at 136-140 Bank Street built sometime after 1800 is an early example of the Greek Revival style, now obscured by a first floor cafe front. Next door is the granite U.S. Custom House (1833) designed by Robert Mills (National Register, October 15, 1970) with its imposing Greek Revival portico. The Brown House (c. 1817) at 258 Bank Street is an earlier building constructed with the same materials, mass, scale and roof as the Custom

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Location ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 1

Captain's Walk
Golden Street
Pearl Street
Starr Street
Tilley Street
Methodist Street (south side)
River front and railroad right of way, railroad station to Spar Yard, inclusive
2-280 Bank Street
11 Blinman Street and Firehouse (west side)
51-73 Eugene O'Neill Drive (east side)
Green Street
Union Street from Pearl Street through Union Street Mall, inclusive
40-74 Washington Street (east side)
49-53 Washington Street (west side)

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New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Those structures that are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district are designated with the letters NC in front of the street numbers.

Lot 28/108A, junction of Captain's Walk and river	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
1-3-5 Captain's Walk	"
7-9-15 "	"
23-27 "	"
47-55 "	"
59-61 "	"
69-73 "	"
79 "	"
Lot 28/202/3, corner Captain's Walk and Water Street	John Schnip et al, 107 Forest St., Norwich, CT 06360
Lot 28/202/3, corner Captain's Walk & Eugene O'Neill Dr.	"
107-113 Captain's Walk	Helmar Realty, 107-113 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
115 "	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
117-119 "	"
123-131 "	Stanley A. Goldsmith et al, 218 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06032
133-137 "	"
145-149 "	Chatham Realty Co., P.O. Box 1736, New London, CT 06360
153-165 "	Gorra Realty, 239 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
181 "	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
209 "	First Church of Christ, New London, CT 06320
223-239 "	Gorra Realty, 239 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
243-247 "	Stanley A. Goldsmith et al, 281 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
253-257 "	Theressa A. Anello, 59 Gallup Lane, Waterford, CT 06320
281 "	Hotel Mohican Management Corp, 281 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
309-313 "	Alesandro Secchiaroli, 57 Faire Harbour Place, New London, CT 06320
325-329 "	RKO-Stanley Warner Theatres, Inc., 1585 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036
345 "	Richard H. Pugh et al, 345 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
Municipal Pier	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
Lot 28/108/2, land south of Municipal Pier adjoining river	Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Lot 28/108/1, land at Central Wharf	Central Vermont Railways, Inc., W.M. Pelland, Box 8100, Montreal 3, Quebec
Lot 28/108/1, parking area at Municipal Pier	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
2-8 Captain's Walk	Richard E. Rudolph, 6-8 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
16-18 "	Richard E. Rudolph, 73 Vauxhall St., New London, CT 06320
20-24 "	Alexander Benois, 113 Blackhall St., New London, CT 06320
38-46 Captain's Walk	Waldo K. Clarke et al, 289 State St., New London CT 06320
48-50 "	George E. Kientzy, Jr., et al, 174 Ledyard St., New London, CT 06320
52-56 "	F. Jerome Silverstein, 1068 Ocean Ave., New London 06320
58-60 "	"
68-70 "	Joseph A. Copp et al, 154 Thames St., Groton, CT 06340
74-76 "	Mallove Realty Co., 74 State St., New London, CT 06320
78-88 "	Donald M. Waesche, Sr., et al, Queen Ann Rd., Teaneck, N.J.
94-100 "	William and Evelyn S. Mehlman, 70 Admiral Dr., New London, CT 06320
104-106 "	Emeline W. Corbiere et al, c/o F. S. Wadelton, 548 Ridge Rd., Fair Haven, N. J. 07201
108-110 "	City of New London, 189 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
112-114 "	"
118-124 "	Edward N. Perry, Perry Jewelers, 143 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
128-138 "	The Bacon Memorial Home, c/o P. M. Alling, 154 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
140-142 "	Louis Kaplan, 140 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
152-154 "	Mildred C. Greene et al, c/o Alling Rubber Co., 154 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
156-162 "	W. S. Alling Rubber Co., 154 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
182 "	Charles R. Razewski, 140 Canterbury Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360
NC208 "	Southern New England Telephone Co., 227 Church St., New Haven, CT
224-226 "	F. Jerome Silverstein, 1065 Ocean Ave., New London 06320
234-240 "	Lewis S. Jaivin, 234-240 Captain's Walk, New London 06320

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New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

250	Captain's Walk	Hartford National Bank, Financial Division, 777 Main St., Hartford, CT 06115
	Church	First Baptist Church, New London, CT 06320
	290 Captain's Walk	Thames Club, 290 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
	296-308 "	State Street Realty Corp., 21 Thames St., Groton, CT 06340
NC	312 "	"
	316-318-320 "	David E. Elfenbein et al, 326 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
	330 "	Public Library of New London, c/o Union Bank and Trust Co., 61 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
	11-13 "	Joseph Lawrence Free Public Hospital, c/o Christopher Miner, P. O. Box 1110, New London, CT 06320
	15-23 "	"
	27-29 "	Reuben Levin, 281 Gardner Ave., D-6, New London 06320
	35-41 Bank Street	Connecticut Theatres Operating Co., Inc., 35 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	43-47 "	Connecticut Bank and Trust Co., trustee, Mary E. Shea Estate Trust, c/o Paul D. Console, 1 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06115
	53-57 "	Robert G. Hodges, 53-57 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	61-65 "	First New London Savings and Loan Association, Inc., 61 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	79-83 "	James Sigros et al, 79-83 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	87-93 "	Demetrius Louziotis, Parkway South Realty, Inc., 194 Lower Blvd., New London, CT 06320
NC	97 "	"
	99-107 "	"
	109-115 "	Waldo K. Clark et al, 302 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
	123-131 "	Kaplan and Agranovitch, c/o Yantic Grain Co., Cove Street, Norwich, CT 06360
	133-137 "	P and W Realty, 133 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
NC	143-145 "	"
	147-149 "	Modern Electric Co., Inc. (DeBiasi), 153-155 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	153-159 "	Carl DeBiasi et al, 153 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	165-167 "	Sara O. Edwards, 29 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
	169 "	F. Paul Siracusa et al, 169 Bank St., New London 06320

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181-185 Bank Street	Edward M. James, James Drug Co., 181 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
187-197 "	Elizabeth E. James et al, 29 Bellevue Place, New London, CT 06320
205 "	James Drug Co., 181 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
207-211 "	Waldo K. Clarke et al, 302 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
219 "	"
233 "	"
237-241 "	Ruth L. Hendel estate, c/o Burton S. Hendel, Exec., 24 Gardner Circle, New London, CT 06320
NC 237-241 rear "	"
243 "	Estate of Ruth L. Hendel, 237-243 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
NC 245-251 "	Hendel's, Inc., 35 Great Neck Road, Waterford, CT 06385
NC 267 "	Lawrence R. Wilson, 15 Huntley Ct., Niantic, CT 06357
Shaw Mansion	New London Historical Society, 11 Blinman St., New London, CT 06320
3-5 Railroad Avenue	Janice M. Gruskin, 56 Huntington St., New London 06320
2-4 Bank Street	Stephanie Copsinis, 2 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
8-10 "	The Skylark Restaurant, Inc., 8-10 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
12-16 "	Janice Gruskin Rolfe, 42 Vauxhall St., New London, CT 06320
18-20 "	Connecticut Bank & Trust Co., Trustee, Mary E. Shea, Estate Trust, 1 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06115
24-36 "	Waldo E. Clarke et al, 302 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
40-42 "	Ephraim L. Naistat, 188 Parkway, New London, CT 06320
46 "	Isadore Rogovin, 27 Strosberg Rd., Waterford, CT 06385
52-54 "	"
56 "	"
NC 58 "	"
60-64 "	Joseph Lawrence Free Public Hospital, c/o Christopher Miner, P.O. Box 1110, New London, CT 06320
74-78 "	"
84 "	Mary Kavarnos et al, 121 Riverview Ave., New London 06320
86-88 "	Sylvia Levin, 39 Broad St., Ext A-311, New London, CT 06320
90-92 "	S. Tyba Levinson et al, 11 Washburn Rd., New London 06320

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Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

	94-98 Bank Street	S. Tyba Levinson et al, 11 Washburn Rd., New London 06320
	96 " rear	Conrail, Meadow Street, New Haven, CT
	106 "	Adam and Andrew Frink Estates, 106 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
	108-110 "	Arthur Barrows, 302 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
	112-114 "	"
	116 "	Albert Kupfer et al, 326 Willetts Ave., New London, CT 06320
NC	128 "	"
	130 "	Arthur Barrows, 302 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
	136-140 "	Waldo K. Clarke et al, 302 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
	150 "	Town of Southhold, Suffolk County, New York
	Custom House, Bank Street	Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.
NC	166-172 Bank Street	170 Bank St., Inc., 892 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119
	174-194 "	Kaplan Realty of New London, Inc., 176 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
NC	174 rear "	"
NC	200 "	Samuel Seltzer, 86 School St., New London, CT 06320
NC	204-206 "	"
NC	208-218 "	Murray Gruskin et al, 615 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
NC	224-238 "	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
	240-280 "	"
	13-23 Golden Street	Peter W. Bachner et al, 41 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
	29-33 "	Louis Atherton, 876 Vauxhall Street Extension, Quaker Hill, CT 06375
	35-41 "	Hyman Siff et al, 41 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
	53-61 "	City of New London, 181 Captain's Walk, New London 06320
	71 "	"
	16-26 "	Mattis, Nicholas, Gaetano and Mountzoures, 55 Grand St., Niantic, CT 06357
NC	30-34-36 "	Soltz Meat Market, Inc., 36 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
	86 "	Louis Yacovou, 205 Niantic River Road, Waterford, CT 06395
	92-94 "	Rae G. Lusa, 93-94 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
	102-108 "	Frederic A. Hillyer, 102-108 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
	112-124 "	Charles J. Rajewski, 140 Canterbury Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360

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Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 6

11 Starr Street	Leo E. Jackson, 261 Jefferson St., New London, CT 06320
15 "	Clara Mainheimer, 115 Green St., New London, CT 06320
17 "	Billie R. Mitchell, 17 Starr St., New London, CT 06320
19 "	Donato and Agueda Penafior, 121 Elm St., New London 06320
23 "	Genious Holmes, Jr., 223 Montauk Ave., New London 06320
25 "	"
29 "	"
31 "	Clara Manheimer, 115 Green St., New London, CT 06320
33 "	Genious Holmes, Jr., 223 Montauk Ave., New London 06320
6 "	Michael E. Frudman, 6 Starr St., New London, CT 06320
8 "	George E. Clark, c/o Alfred E. Clark, 602 Vauxhall Street Extension, Waterford, CT 06385
10 "	Julio Valentin, 10 Starr St., New London, CT 06310
16 "	Genious Holmes, 223 Montauk Ave., New London, CT 06320
18 "	Susie Battle Estate, Admx. CTA Mattie Tilman, 18 Starr St., New London, CT 06320
20 "	Arthur and Minna Land, 95 Glenwood Ave., New London 06320
26 "	Genious Holmes, 223 Montauk Ave., New London, CT 06320
28 "	Clara Manheimer, 115 Green St., New London, CT 06320
32 "	Dale S. and Sharon G. Plummer, P.O. Box 206, New London, CT 06320
34 "	Anne M. Smith, 34 Starr St., New London, CT 06320
40 Washington Street	Angelo G. Santaniello et al, 40 Washington St., New London, CT 06320
44 Washington Street	Connecticut College for Woman, New London, CT 06320
50 "	Clara Barger, P.O. Box 582, New London, CT 06320
56 "	Genious Holmes, 223 Montauk Ave., New London, CT 06320
62 "	Timothy K. Burke, 62 Washington St., New London, CT 06320
68 "	Joseph Cushner, 2 Hayes St., Waterford, CT 06395
70 "	"
74 "	Lionel L. Perrino, 74 Washington St., New London, CT 06320
44-53 "	Henry Cabral, c/o Dorothy Protzuk, 8 Springfield Road, Waterford, CT 06395
NC 2 Union Street	Donald G. Judge, 205 Moxley Rd., Uncasville, CT 06382
6 "	Erich P. Bendfeldt et al, 6 Union St., New London, CT 06310
8-12 "	Robert Williams, 239 Nautilus Dr., New London, CT 06320
7 "	Laura C. Nadeau et al, 7 Cross St., New London, CT 06320

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 7

9-13	Union Street	Union Lodge #31, F. & A. M., c/o John MacDougall, 99 Huntington St., New London, CT 06320
15-25	"	Sidney Beller et al, 302 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
12	Methodist Street	Robert Williams, 239 Nautilus Dr., New London, CT 06320
18	"	Southern New England Telephone Co., 227 Church St., New Haven, CT
20-24	"	Mildred W. Gruskin et al, 325 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
9	Tilley Street	Frank de Angelus, 9 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
23-25	rear "	Herman Dembroff et al, 193 Boston Post Rd., Waterford, CT 06385
23-25	"	"
27	"	"
29	"	Sara O. Edwards, 29 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
33	"	Hayward Poole, 29 Sari Ave., Waterford, CT 06385
37-39	"	Joseph Cushner, 2 Hayes St., Waterford, CT 06385
41	"	Kenneth Kornegay et al, 125 Vauxhall St., New London 06320
45	"	William J. Shontell et al, 15 Acord Dr., Niantic, CT 06357
16	"	Nicholas Mattis, 16 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
20	"	Gregory P. Ballassi et al, 91 Colman St., New London 06320
26	"	Phyllis C. Hylton, 148 Huntington St., New London, CT 06320
28	"	George T. Andrews et al, 28 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
32	"	John J. Vecchio, 32 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
36	"	Mary Popham, c/o Camella Cornish, 240 Vauxhall St., New London, CT 06320
38	"	Frank de Angelus, 9 Tilley St., New London, CT 06320
42	"	Joseph Cushner, 2 Hayes St., Waterford, CT 06385
38-40	Green Street	Arthur Barrows, 302 Captain's Walk, New London, CT 06320
72-80A	"	Victory Lodge of Elks #1096, 72-80 Green St., New London, CT 06320
96	"	Harry Birenbaum et al, 17 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
77-79	"	Frederic A. Hillyer et al, 102-108 Golden St., New London, CT 06320
87	"	Seymour Manheimer, 115 Green St., New London, CT 06320
97	"	Richard E. Rudolph, 73 Vauxhall St., New London, CT 06320
107	"	"
NC 115-119	"	Seymour Manheimer, 115 Green St., New London, CT 06320

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 8

133 Green Street	Evanthea Zingus, 28 Pearl St., New London, CT 06320
145 "	Peter W. Bachnor, custodian, 57 Braman Rd., Waterford, CT 06385
Lot 28/140/2 Pearl Street	P. and W. Realty, 133 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
9 Pearl Street	Constance M. Afuli, 9 Pearl St., New London, CT 06320
11 "	Modern Electric Co., Inc., 11 Pearl St., New London 06320
Land, corner Union Street	Samuel Rogovin, 762 Ocean Ave., New London, CT 06320
10-12 Pearl Street	James Drug Co., 187 Bank St., New London, CT 06320
NC 36 "	Sidney Kurtz, 31 Glenwood Place, New London, CT 06320
NC 40-42 "	Donald G. Judge et al, 205 Moxley Rd., Uncasville, CT 06382
47-51 Eugene O'Neill Drive	The Day Publishing Co., 47 Eugene O'Neill Dr., New London, CT 06320
63-73 "	Savings Bank of New London, 63 Eugene O'Neill Dr., New London, CT 06320
Pier south of Municipal Pier	Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York
Pier near Bank Street	Conrail, Meadow St., New Haven, CT
Pier near Custom House	Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.
Pier, end of Sparyard Street	Kellems Realty Corp., Sparyard St., New London, CT 06320
Pier, foot of Tilley Street	Vito De Noia et al, 90 Lucas Park Rd., Norwich, CT 06360
5 Cross Street	Maria Nesterowicz, 5 Cross St., New London, CT 06320
8 "	Katherine Tyska, 8 Cross St., New London, CT 06320

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

House. The building at 40-42 Bank Street, built in 1833, with high end gables and deep dormers that are retardataire for its date, was constructed with a view to being designated the Custom House. It was not, and for many years served as the Whaling Bank. The Jonathan Starr Mansion at 181-185 Bank Street, built early in the 19th century, is another example of the Greek Revival mode, now covered with fake brick. A drug store has been located in this house since before 1900. Also altered from its Greek Revival appearance is the Winthrop Hotel just off Bank Street at 8 Captain's Walk which was built in 1844 as a warehouse for a whaling firm, and remodelled in the 1860's with its present mansard roof. The Harris Building at 79-83 Bank Street, distinctive for its pedimented facade and plain stone lintels, was constructed of brick in 1844. It is on the southwest corner of Golden Street. The corner of the building at the street intersection is round, not square.

The Second Empire architectural influence in the Bank Street area is not limited to the new roofs of the Bulkeley House and Winthrop Hotel. The Tate Block as originally constructed in 1890 at 181-185 Bank Street has a mansard roof. Late 19th century architectural eclecticism is also evident at the north end of the street where the buildings have Queen Anne two-story oriels and Romanesque round-headed masonry windows. At 90-92 Bank Street is a rough field stone building of medieval inspiration, dating from 1866-1867.

After the turn of the century the Italian Renaissance Revival bank building at 61-65 Bank Street was constructed; a bank has operated on this corner since 1807. Another example of elaborate design is the Capitol Theater at 35-41 Bank Street with its bigger-than-life Palladian windows and, under false cornice and pediment, giant pilasters that appear to be glued onto the facade. The Capitol Theater was built in 1921 on the site of an earlier theater and meeting place called Aborn Hall (1851). The Greek Revival facade of Aborn Hall served as the inspiration for the facade of the Capitol Theater.

At the south end of the district, just beyond Tilley Street, there is a Y in the road. Bank Street is one arm of the Y and Blinman Street the other. At 11 Blinman Street is the Shaw Mansion (National Register, December 29, 1970).

Tilley Street is the south arm of the U-shaped district. Starr Street, only one block long, runs parallel with Tilley Street. These streets are primarily residential. Their residential development occurred concurrently with and was related to the 19th century commercial development of Bank Street. The structures on Starr Street have a remarkable uniformity of shape, style, and mass, with the exception of a church at the east end and a house with an elaborate Greek Revival entrance at the west end. The church, at 157 Green Street, is located on the northwest corner of Green and Starr Streets. It was built of granite in 1881-1882 as a Universalist Church, on the site of a former marble yard. In 1896 it became the Brainard Masonic Temple, and continues in that function. Its round-headed

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

windows and the rough finish of its granite are characteristics of the Romanesque Revival architectural style that was fashionable during this period. The house at the west end of the block, the other structure that is exceptional for the street, is 36 Starr Street at the south-eastern corner of Washington Street. Its portico is made up of fluted columns, Ionic capitals, architrave and cornice in front of a panelled door with sidelights.

The other twenty houses on the street have a high degree of homogeneity, are built of wood except for one brick house, and all but one have their long axis perpendicular to the street. The majority were built in the mid-19th century not long after the street was laid out in 1835. Typically, the gable ends facing the street are treated as pediments and contain decorative fanlights. The facades are three bays wide with the doorway in one bay at right or left. Doorway and window surrounds of plain moldings and a plain frieze under the cornice complete the simple Greek Revival detailing. Italianate door hoods were added to many of the houses later in the 19th century. In the 20th century inappropriate asbestos siding, and in one case stucco, were applied over the original clapboard siding that covered vertical boarding.

The street and its sidewalks are narrow and the houses are built close together. This spacing, the similarity of the houses, and the lack of any major alterations combine to give the street an air of urbanity and intimacy. The mid-19th century ambience is intact. The physical condition of the houses ranges from poor to fair. Several are vacant. Several are in the process of being rehabilitated.

One block south of Starr Street is Tilley Street. The houses on Tilley Street are of a later period, larger, and spaced wider apart. The Greek Revival mode is continued on a larger scale. In addition, later 19th century styles such as Italianate with bracketed cornices and Queen Anne with porches and bays are also represented.

The origins of Captain's Walk, the north arm of the U-shaped district, derive from the westward commercial growth of New London from the river. During the late 19th century the street, known for most of its history as State Street, became the main thoroughfare of downtown New London. In 1977 State Street was renamed Captain's Walk as part of a general effort to give the street a new image after years of typical center city decline. The middle two-block section of the street has been converted to a cobblestone pedestrian mall, as indicated on the attached map, with raised islands containing appropriate plantings.

At the top of Captain's Walk on Huntington Street is the New London County Court House (1784-1786) attributed to Isaac Fitch (National Register, October 15, 1970; not included in the district). Five blocks away at the foot of Captain's Walk is the New London Railroad Station (1887) designed by H. H. Richardson (National Register, June 28, 1971). Across Huntington Street from the Court House the first building on the south side of Captain's Walk

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

is the Richardsonian New London Public Library (1889) designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge (National Register, October 15, 1970).

Coming down the south side of Captain's Walk from the library is an assortment of buildings of various ages. At 326 Captain's Walk is a two-story structure with a glazed peach-colored facade from the second quarter of the 20th century. Almost next door at 302-310 Captain's Walk is the Plant Building (1914), a five-story office building with a facade of buff brick and marble trim with its decorative terra cotta picked out in blue and red. At the southwest corner of Captain's Walk and Washington Street stands the Thames Club, a substantial buff brick building reminiscent of a Venetian doge's palace.

Across Washington Street is the First Baptist Church (1856). It is an Italianate design dominated by two square towers, one tall, one short, executed in red brick and brownstone. Continuing the variety of architectural styles its neighbor, a bank, is a 1922 version of a Greek temple constructed of red brick with marble trim. On the southwest corner of Union Street and Captain's Walk the telephone company has erected a one-story, modern, brick building. It has round, arched windows in an apparent effort to be sympathetic with the 19th century Romanesque style of some of the buildings on the street. Its low height of only one story, however, makes it conspicuously out of place with its neighbors.

On the southeast corner of Union Street and Captain's Walk is the Crocker House, a massive five-story, red brick structure. It was built as a hotel in 1873, and was operated as a hotel until the 1960's. The cast-iron columns and lintels of those of its store fronts that remain unaltered and the granite lintels and sills of its upper windows are notable features. Continuing the diversity of design, the next building has a peaked gable with a round-headed window and two truncated dormers in a gambrel roof, followed at 128-138 Captain's Walk by a four-story ashlar building known as Bacon's Marble Block (1868) that has a mansard roof with alternating pedimented and segmental dormers.

The rich panorama of bold and exuberant 19th century eclectic architecture continues on the south side of Captain's Walk from Green Street to Bank Street, the base of the U. This final block is a solid phalanx of imaginative commercial design, interrupted only by demolition recently accomplished, after a fire, for the purpose of extending Eugene O'Neill Drive to the south. Two Art Deco buildings, constructed as variety stores, are present on the south side of Captain's Walk. Their 20th century Art Deco style seems at home with the street's predominantly 19th century architectural eclecticism.

An overview of the north side of Captain's Walk shows the presence of buildings of similar idiom at the west end of the street. Notable among these are the Mohican Hotel, the First Church of Christ, the Municipal Building, and the Lena Building. At the east end of the street is the New London Railroad Station. Near it are a newspaper building and a bank building from the 19th century. Some of the land on the north side of this end of Captain's

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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RECEIVED	APR 13 1979
DATE ENTERED	

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Walk has been cleared in an urban renewal program, and new buildings have been constructed. Discussion of the north side of Captain's Walk follows.

The Mohican Hotel at the northeast corner of Captain's Walk and Meridian Street is a ten-story, 250-room hostelry dating from 1896-1897. Cream colored sandstone ashlar faces the exterior of the first two stories and surrounds the round arch entrance with its iron marquise. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals support a stone cornice at this level. The upper eight stories are constructed of buff and orange brick. The lobby has marble walls and floors. Veined marble columns with capitals of gilded egg and dart moldings, and a panelled ceiling. Initially the guest rooms were fitted out in French Provincial decor. The building continues to function in part as a hotel, and in part is not used.

At the east end of this block, the northwest corner of Captain's Walk and the Union Street Mall, is Leopold Eidlitz's massive German Gothic First Church of Christ, built in 1851. Approached by a long flight of steps, it looks down on the street traffic from its high site with heavy granite dignity. The pointed arch of its central entrance contrasts with the round-headed windows in the three towers. The tall, square central tower which rises in three stages is flanked by shorter towers with pitched roofs.

Now in place in the Union Street Mall is a schoolhouse in which Nathan Hale taught from March, 1774, to July, 1775. It is a frame structure, painted red. The schoolhouse has been moved several times over the years, but when Nathan Hale was the school master it was located at the southeastern corner of (then) State Street and Union Street, only a few feet from its present location.

East of the Union Street Mall is the Beaux Arts New London Municipal Building of 1912, constructed of light grey granite. It has a high rusticated basement above which rises a shallow, two-story portico of four columns with Corinthian capitals. The columns support a full entablature that is surmounted by a balustrade. Next door in the same block at 159 Captain's Walk is the five-story, red brick Lena Building (originally J. N. Harris Building) of 1884-1885. Its first story is sheathed in granite, and it has a corner tower with high pyramidal roof.

On Eugene O'Neill Drive, just north of Captain's Walk, are buildings for a bank and a newspaper, the Savings Bank of New London and The New London Day. The facades of both structures are slightly curved to conform with the curve of the street. The center section of the bank was constructed in 1870, the two wings in 1890, and the entire facade brought to its present elaborate appearance in 1905. The festoons on either side of the carved keystones of the round arch arcade and the cartouche and foliate carving in the pediment are rococo. The simple design of the Day's building (1906) serves as a foil to the bank. An element of interest in the newspaper's building is the group of three recessed, vertical sections for the three central bays of the top three stories. The metal spandrels

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RECEIVED	OCT 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

have a raised pattern of swags that does echo the decoration over the bank's windows.

At the northeast corner of Eugene O'Neill Drive and Captain's Walk two new connected buildings have been built as part of urban renewal. They house a bank and offices. To their east is an open paved area called the Parade, in which is located a Civil War monument. The bottom of this arm of the U is reached across the street from the east end of the Parade in the New London Railroad Station.

The center section of the U remains to be described. West of Bank Street are two large parking lots that run from Golden Street to Pearl Street and from Pearl Street to Tilley Street. West of the parking lots are several short streets including Green, Cross, Union, and Methodist Streets, that form interesting urban angles and spaces, on a small scale. The buildings along these streets are an assortment of small 19th century houses, commercial buildings, apartment houses, and one 20th century garage.

In summary, the U-shaped Downtown New London District is based on Bank Street, close to the river, with its 18th and 19th century commercial and residential buildings. The 19th and 20th century commercial structures of Captain's Walk form the north arm of the U, and the 19th century houses of Starr and Tilley Streets the south arm. Most of the area can be characterized as a downtown business district that has suffered the economic decay and decline common to many city centers during the mid-20th century. A substantial program of revitalization has been carried forward for Captain's Walk in the past ten years. Similar efforts are now in late planning stages for Bank Street and Starr Street.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

New London was founded in 1646 by John Winthrop, Jr. The good harbor provided by the Thames estuary was attractive for a new settlement, and maritime activities were important to New London from its beginning. Bank Street, the street that ran along the river and its wharves, was a convenient location for warehouses near the wharves and for homes near the warehouses. Ship building plus coastal and West Indies trade were important activities until the time of the American Revolution, when New London's good port facilities made it a center for action by the state navy and by privateers.

The British recognized the importance of New London's war effort by sending a raiding party under the command of Benedict Arnold to attack and burn the city on September 6, 1781. Bank Street was substantially destroyed by the British raid. Thus, the oldest structures now extant on the street, such as the Bulkeley House, the Gurley House, and the Lawrence Hospital Building, date from the 1780's and 1790's. These late-18th century buildings are important for their architectural interest and for their portrayal of living conditions in a post-Revolutionary Connecticut seaport town.

Coastal and West Indies trade flourished again after the Revolution, but was brought to a halt by the War of 1812. Thereafter it was the era of whaling that brought to New London its next wave of maritime prosperity. In the second quarter of the 19th century New London was the country's second largest whaling port, after New Bedford. Sealing was also important. These were the years of the Greek Revival fashion in architecture, and buildings required by whaling-related activities were built in that mode. The Winthrop Hotel and the Harris Building, both structures constructed in response to needs associated with whaling, were built in the Greek Revival style. The Harris Building, which survives without major alterations, is an important Greek Revival commercial building, relatively rare compared with the greater number of Greek Revival houses and public buildings that now exist. The Whaling Bank and Custom House both date from this era and owe their existence to maritime prosperity.

Part of the maritime-related activity on Bank Street was the entertainment and night life that catered to sailors, and still does. Local bars and cafes have always been part of the scene. The Flamingo Cafe now welcomes guests in the Smith House at 136-140 Bank Street, a pleasant hip roof structure built early in the 19th century. Today the sailors come from submarines rather than sailing ships.

A nearby residential neighborhood was situated along Starr Street. For years the space occupied by Starr Street had been a rope walk. When the rope walk burned down in the 1830's, Starr Street was developed on its site. The houses were built in the Greek Revival mode that was reaching its height of popularity throughout the country at that time. Whereas the names

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60

QUADRANGLE NAME New London, Conn. - N.Y.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

March 25, 1978

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

October 4, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



DATE

4/17/79

DATE

April 10, 1979

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

associated with Bank Street buildings are those of their early owners rather than architects or builders, the name of the architect/builder for five of the modest houses along Starr Street is known. He was John Bishop. In 1839 Bishop built identical frame Greek Revival houses at 15, 17, 19, 23, and 25 Bank Street. At that time a marble yard was located on the corner of Green Street east of the five new houses, and a soap factory occupied the rest of the block west to Washington Street.

Houses on the south side of Starr Street were constructed in the 1830's and 1840's by several different builders. The houses generally are similar in style to the five built by John Bishop. One brick Queen Anne style house was built in 1862 at 20 Starr Street, and when the soap factory on the north side of the street was replaced in 1895 by four houses, two of them were built of wood in the Queen Anne style, then still in fashion. In 1869 the marble yard was replaced with the Universalist Church, built by John Bishop 30 years after he put up the adjoining five-house row.

This compact block has a well-defined history. The chain of title on each property has been traced through the land records. The occupations of the owners and residents give depth to the history of these modest homes. A whaling agent, whaling captain, doctor, tavern keeper, marble polisher, soap factory worker, plumber, blacksmith and, later in the century, a railroad clerk and engineer lived there. A neighborhood grocery store existed for many years in the house at the southeast corner of Starr and Washington Streets. Other residents conducted businesses from their homes, adding an element of diversification to a primarily residential street. Starr Street is an example of a modest 19th century neighborhood that owed its existence to and functioned in support of the maritime prosperity of Bank Street. The Starr Street buildings fortunately remain free of major alterations.

As the century progressed, residents of Starr Street and of all New London depended less on whaling for economic well-being and more on the burgeoning railroad. A stop on the main line from Boston to New York, New London also was a transfer point for freight and passengers from rail to steamboat. The city's importance in these respects is memorialized by H. H. Richardson's famous railroad station. The steamboat dock reached out into the river in front of the station, conveniently located for railroad and steamboat connections. Stretching to the west behind the station was State Street, now Captain's Walk, on which were located banks, offices, department stores, and other needed services for city life during the late 19th century and 20th century.

The work of several good architects who are known, and of others who are anonymous, is represented on Captain's Walk. Isaac Fitch's Court House stands at one end, and H. H. Richardson's railroad station at the other. In the middle is Leopold Eidlitz's church. Near the Court House is Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge's Richardsonian library. The Mohical Hotel,

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	OCT 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Lena Building, Thames Club, Baptist Church, and Municipal Building, among others, all appear to be the work of talented professional architects, although their names are not currently known. It should be noted that Eidlitz, a New Yorker, did other work in New London including Bulkley High School.

The variety of 19th century eclectic styles of the buildings along Captain's Walk is an unusual demonstration of architectural history, well worth study and care. The sense of "downtown" that still prevails despite the malls and urban renewal land clearance derives, in large part, from these buildings and their setting along the street. Perhaps the principal element of significance along Bank and Starr Streets and on Captain's Walk is the continuity of scale and functional interrelationship. The buildings' cohesive affinity to one another is more important than are the buildings individually.

Bank Street tells the story of early maritime activity. Starr Street illustrates a modest mid-19th century residential neighborhood that grew up with the maritime commerce. The Bank and Starr Streets neighborhood preserves with considerable fidelity the spatial configuration typical of 19th century seaport towns--a dense cluster of buildings with principal thoroughfares along the water and at right angles to it. Access to the wharves and water's edge is preserved in the alleyways of Bank Street. Behind the commercial waterfront are the residential streets such as Starr and Tilley, where the merchants and artisans of Bank Street lived. In many seaport towns this arrangement has been obscured by various influences such as highway construction, often found along water's edge, fires, and land clearance.

In New London this 19th century arrangement continues in place adjoining the 20th century downtown ambience of Captain's Walk. Together they constitute a district of outstanding historic quality and integrity.

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Bank Street Rehabilitation Study, Hermann & Joncus, Mystic, CT, nd.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

UTM References:

- A 18/743320/4581890
- B 18/743230/4581880
- C 18/743030/4581700
- D 18/743080/4581600
- E 18/743000/4581600
- F 18/742880/4581560
- G 18/742900/4581500
- H 18/742820/4581480
- I 18/742780/4581580
- J 18/742730/4581590
- K 18/742655/4581710 ⁷³⁰
- L 18/742690/4581880 ⁸⁶⁰
- M 18/742810/4581890
- N 18/742820/4581930
- O 18/742580/4582000
- P 18/742580/4582060
- Q 18/742720/4582100
- R 18/742740/4582020
- S 18/742940/4582050
- T 18/743040/4582080
- U 18/743050/4581950
- V ¹²⁶18/743040/4581940
- W 18/743220/4582000
- X 18/743210/4581900

Verbal Boundary Description:

Starting from a point at the intersection of Huntington Street and Governor Winthrop Boulevard, which is the northwest corner of 345 Captain's Walk, east along the rear boundaries of properties fronting on Captain's Walk to Eugene O'Neill Drive, northwest along Eugene O'Neill Drive to John Street, northeast along John Street to North Bank Street, southeast along North Bank Street to Atlantic Street, northeast along Atlantic Street to the boundary of the Railroad Station property, north along this boundary to the northwest corner of the Railroad Station property, northeast along the northern boundary of the Railroad Station Property and continuing on this line to the edge of the river, south and southwest along the

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

edge of the river and piers and wharves extending into the river to a line extending to Spar Yard, northwest along Spar Yard to the northwest corner on Spar Yard of 240-280 Bank Street, north and northwest along the boundary of this property to Bank Street, southwest along Bank Street to the southwest corner of the Shaw Mansion property on Blinman Street, northwest along the boundary of this property and the rear boundaries of properties fronting on Tilley Street and the southwest boundary of 74 Washington Street to Washington Street, north along Washington Street and the boundaries of 49-53 Washington Street to Methodist Street, northeast along Methodist Street to Union Street, north along Union Street to the southeast corner of 208 Captain's Walk, west along rear boundaries of properties fronting on Captain's Walk to Huntington Street, north along Huntington Street to point of beginning.

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DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1979

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Addendum

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

February 13, 1979

The purpose of this addendum is to deal with questions raised by the staff of the National Register of Historic Places.

1. The district embraces an area of diversified land use developed over a long period of time. Tie together the incongruous elements in an explicit statement of unification.

The theme of the nomination is to address the commercial development of downtown New London. The late 18th- and early 19th-century structures along Bank Street were the center of the commercial, maritime-oriented activity of their era. Starr and Tilley streets provided essential, residential support for Bank Street. Several of the Bank Street merchants had their homes on Starr and Tilley streets. Captain's Walk carries the commercial development into the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Bank Street and Captain's Walk now form a unit as the city's downtown shopping area.

2. Discuss the sculpture in front of the Historical Society.

There is no sculpture visible in front of the Shaw Mansion at this time. In the side yard (north) there is an iron try-pot of the type used aboard ship to convert blubber into whale oil. It is suspended from a tripod and carries a brass plate reading DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE WHALEMEN OF THE PORT OF NEW LONDON.

3. As 174-233 Bank Street are non contributing, could they be omitted from the district?

Behind these buildings is the railroad right-of-way, that is included in the district. On the other side of the tracks are delapidated piers and slips along the river's edge, that are included in the district. To omit the buildings at 174-233 Bank Street from the district would be to create an island surrounded by the district.

4. What is the basis for determining "non-contributing" in this district?

Structures using materials, design, or scale not sensitive to the 18th- and 19th-century development of the district are considered non-contributing. Examples are corrugated metal construction, solid planes of porcelain or plywood above shop windows, one-story buildings.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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	APR 13 1979
DATE ENTERED	

Downtown New London District
New London, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Addendum

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

5. Evaluate the outbuildings at 240-280 Bank Street.

Behind the stone house there is a brick, one-story warehouse, with buttresses, c. 1910; contributing. The gas station south of the stone house is a nondescript frame structure without architectural merit; non-contributing. Behind the gas station there is a concrete block, semi-open shed; non-contributing. Behind this shed there is a corrugated metal shed; non-contributing.