

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Item number 7

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NAME: Fuller Houses
LOCATION: 339-341 and 343-345 Broadway
OWNERS: (339-341) Mrs. Mary J. Cronin
341 Broadway
Pawtucket, RI 02860

(343-345) Pleasant Realty Company
1165 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02904

CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The two late nineteenth-century Fuller Houses, a matched pair of delightfully ornamented Queen Anne two-family houses, stand on adjacent lots on the easterly side of Broadway (U.S. Route 1), a busy commercial strip cutting through the late nineteenth-century neighborhood of Pleasant View. Just to the south, across Kossuth Street, the depressed trench of Interstate 95 slices through this neighborhood, passing under Broadway and prominently displaying the Fuller Houses to northbound traffic on the Interstate.

On the outside, the Fuller Houses appear to have originally been identical. Each is a two-and-a-half-story wooden, two-family house set gable end to the street. A two-story bay window with gabled peak interrupts each building's long southern flank; a semi-octagonal bay at the northern corner of each street facade marks the position of the front staircase in each while a corresponding but broader window bay at the opposite corner of the street facade helps to balance the composition. A single-story shed-roofed porch prefaces the pair of front doorways opening into each building; a dramatic two-story circular porch with a conical roof stands almost free of each building's southwestern corner. Matching rectangular porches stretch backward from the projecting bay windows along each buildings' southern wall. All of these porches are heavily ornamented with Queen Anne-style turned spindles. Exterior wall surfaces are clapboarded, and cornerboards are conspicuously absent. A small section of modest Queen Anne-style paneling sandwiched between the two attic windows ornaments each of the overshot front gable ends. Roofs are covered with gray slate; the conical roofs of the two front porches culminate in simple knob finials of metal.

The interior of one of the four original units has been viewed (341-- the second floor of the southern building); the interior of the other three units are presumed to be similar if not identical. For 341: a spiral front staircase with cherry (?) newels and balusters of Queen Anne design rises

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from the first floor to the attic; a metal gas fixture with frosted glass globe adorns the first-floor newel. From the second-floor landing a short entry foyer leads to a spacious double parlor, the front room of which is said to have once been focused upon a small circular water fountain, the plumbing for which reportedly still exists in the floor. The back parlor more typically features a rather heavily proportioned Queen Anne mantel. Behind the back parlor on the same southern flank of the house lies the dining room, with a pair of matched floor-to-ceiling china closets built catty-corner across its northern corners. The kitchen, pantry and rear staircase fill the eastern end of the apartment; a small bath and two bedrooms occupy the remaining space along its northern side. The floors throughout are done in handsome, simple parquetry; standing trim is of the ubiquitous, molded architrave and circle-within-a-square-corner-block variety. Alterations to this unit have been minimal; the same is apparently true for the identical unit below. More serious modifications have been made, however, in 343-345 Broadway, as that building is currently divided into four units.

The only outbuilding on either lot is a one-story, three-bay stuccoed garage probably dating from the 1920s or 30s, on the southwestern corner of the lot occupied by 339-341.

PERIOD: 1800-1899
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
DATE: 1896-97
ARCHITECT: Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Fuller Houses possess architectural significance as an identical pair of well-preserved, unusually well-detailed, and highly visible examples of a once-common but now generally neglected residential building type--the two-family "flat" house. The Fuller Houses' outstanding spindle-work porches, moreover, are the most impressive examples of this type of open, Queen Anne-style porch remaining in Pawtucket.

These two Broadway tenements were erected in 1896-97 for Mrs. Susan E. Fuller whose husband, Charles H., operated the successful Pawtucket jewelry findings firm of George H. Fuller & Son, Company. Mrs. Fuller, her husband, and her mother-in-law owned the property until 1915, but only one member of the Fuller clan, Charles H. & Susan E.'s daughter, Alice G. Fuller, who married H. Warland Davenport in 1909 and moved into 341 Broadway in 1911 or 12, is ever known to have occupied any of the four apartments. The members of the Fuller family who actually owned the Broadway houses are all known to have resided elsewhere, and it seems clear that these identical two-

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family houses were intended as income-producing rental properties.

Multiple-family rental housing is known to have been built in Pawtucket as early as the opening years of the nineteenth century, and a variety of multiple-family dwelling-house types have flourished in the city in the years since. The vertically divided double house seems to have been popular early on, but the horizontally divided "flat" house had risen to dominance by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Whole rows and even streets of these two-story flat houses were put up to house Pawtucket's burgeoning late nineteenth and early twentieth-century work-force. Although these modest flat houses have long been virtually ignored, they mark an important step in Pawtucket's architectural development, and make a significant contribution to the city's overall visual character. The Fuller Houses on Broadway are two of the best examples of the type surviving today.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 20B, lots 561 and 492, and includes the Fuller Houses, their garage, and their immediate surroundings.

ACREAGE: less than one
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local
UTM: A 19 302760 4639460

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