

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name NA
other names/site number Congress Street Historic District Boundary Increase

2. Location

street & number 54-56-58 Maple Avenue NA not for publication
city, town Hartford NA vicinity
state CT code 06 county Hartford code 003 zip code 06114

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: 1
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date 6/17/92
State or Federal agency and bureau Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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:
[checked] 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.
[] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 7/24/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls BRICK

roof STONE/slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The purpose of this amendment is to correct an initial error, dating from the time the nomination was prepared, by adjusting the boundary of the Congress Street Historic District to include an additional contiguous structure, 54-56-58 Maple Avenue.

The Congress Street Historic District consists of buildings on Congress Street, which is one block long, and of buildings at the beginning of Maple Avenue. The district was developed in mid-19th century as a satellite to Wethersfield Avenue. A great boost to the development of this portion of south Hartford came in 1856-1857 when Colonel Sam Colt built his estate, Armsmead, at 80 Wethersfield Avenue. The James Ashmead House, 65 Wethersfield Avenue, and the Day-Taylor House, 81 Wethersfield Avenue, promptly followed. The area was established as a fashionable residential neighborhood.

The back yards of the large houses on the west side of Wethersfield Avenue extended through to Congress Street. Congress Street benefitted from the establishment of gracious homes on Wethersfield Avenue with construction of smaller houses. In the late 1850s, a row of single and double Italianate homes was constructed on the west side of Congress Street.

The east side of Congress Street was built up later as the land, formerly the back yards of Wethersfield Avenue properties, became available. Several small apartment houses were built at the south end of the block toward the end of the century, while early-20th-century apartment houses were constructed at the north end of the block.

Commercial buildings form a part of the district at the southern point where Congress Street and Maple Avenue intersect. The commercial buildings extend south through 24 Maple Avenue. Next after 24 Maple Avenue comes the building which is the subject of this amendment, 54-56-58 Maple Avenue.

All the buildings in the district are similar in size (modest), setting (close to the street and to one another), materials (red brick, usually with brownstone foundation and trim), style (Italianate, in most cases), and age (late 19th century/early 20th century).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Congress Street Historic District
Boundary Increase
Hartford, CT

Section number 7 Page 1

Constructed in 1861, 54-56-58 Maple Avenue is an enlarged version of the typical Italianate double house such as those on the west side of Congress Street. Instead of one family on each side of a common wall, it has a tier of three apartments on each side of a common stairway. The central wooden porch, still with its slate roof, is elaborated with turned posts and sawn brackets, while the roof-line cornice of dentil course, modillions, and crown molding is sheet metal.

South of 54-56-58 Maple Avenue is an empty lot, then a new apartment building.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1861

1861

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The building at 54-56-58 Maple Avenue contributes to the significance of the amended Congress Street Historic District because it is contiguous to the established district and is compatible in age, materials, mass, and architectural style to other buildings in the district.

Constructed of red brick with brownstone foundation and dressing, 54-56-58 Maple Street exhibits the same building materials as the comparable row of double houses on the west side of Congress Street. The roof overhang with prominent modillion course and cornice molding is characteristic of the Italianate style, while the turned posts and sawn brackets of the front porch are details in the Queen Anne style which was gaining in popularity at the time the house was built.

The owner for 35 years in the 19th century, Augustus Fiege, lived at 27 Congress Street, the property directly abutting 54-56-58 Maple Avenue.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hartford City Directory, 1896.

Hartford Land Records, volume 106, page 529, 9 April 1861.

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
- 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Four

UTM References

A

1	8
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6	9	3	1	1	0
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4	6	2	5	0	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

1	8
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6	9	3	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	2	5	0	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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6	9	3	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	4	7	0	0
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D

1	8
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6	9	3	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	2	4	7	0	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is shown on the attached maps labled "Congress Street Historic District, Hartford, CT, Addition, Original Boundary" and "Detail, Congress Street Historic District, Hartford, CT."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The addition to the district includes land that has gone with the building since it was constructed in 1861.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, Reviewer

name/title David F. Ransom
 organization Architectural Historian date 28 January 1992
 street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive telephone 203 521-2518
 city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

Congress Street Historic District
Hartford, CT

Addition

Original boundary



- 1 - "Historical" building, integral element of aesthetic character, contributing to degree of original architectural integrity.
- 2 - "Contributory" building, enhances character of neighborhood, but not important in defining aesthetic character which have been compromised architecturally.
- 3 - Not appropriate to maintain aesthetic/architectural character of neighborhood building that are out of scale and architecturally incompatible.