

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCNS use only  
received NOV 28 1986  
date entered

JAN 12 1987

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

**1. Name**

historic NA

and/or common Little Plain Historic District(Boundary Increase)

**2. Location**

street & number See continuation sheet

NA not for publication

city, town Norwich

NA vicinity of

congressional district NA

state Connecticut

code 09

county New London

code 011

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norwich City Clerk

street & number Room 214, Norwich City Hall, Union Square

city, town Norwich

state Connecticut

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street,

city, town Hartford

state Connecticut

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase is a continuation of the present Little Plain Historic District to the south along Union Street and Broadway in Norwich, Connecticut (Map 1). Union Street (Photograph 1) and Broadway (Photograph 2) intersect at Little Plain Park, within the existing district, and at Union Square, south of the district, forming a lens-shaped block. To the south, the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase is bounded by the Downtown Norwich Historic District, visually indicated by the massive French Second Empire city hall on Union Square (Photograph 3). To the west of Union Street, the steep, rocky slopes of Jail Hill rise abruptly. To the east is a valley dominated by a large industrial complex. To the north is the existing Little Plain Historic District, which extends partway down Union Street and Broadway towards Union Square (see Map 1). Like the existing district, the extension is primarily residential in character, although some former residences on Broadway have been converted to offices. Thirty nine of the 47 buildings extant are of frame construction, seven are of brick (of which two are noncontributing structures) and one is of stone. The Greek Revival style predominates, with 31 of the 45 contributing structures. Other styles represented include the Federal, with three examples, the Italianate and the Queen Anne, with two examples each, a single Gothic Revival building, a transitional house between Greek Revival and Italianate, and five early 19th Century folk houses. Houses are closely spaced, with the gable ends usually facing the street (Photographs 4 and 5). Similar scale, the presence of a large number of Greek Revival buildings, and the dense pattern of development form a compact streetscape. A variety of boundary markers, including hedges, retaining walls, picket fences and cast-iron fences, indicate property lines (Photograph 6).

The early 19th Century folk houses of the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase are simple in design and of small scale. The Charles F. Harris house at 122 Broadway, ca 1831, has only the open-bed pediment, a lozenge-shaped attic window, and a first floor bay window as distinguishing features (Photograph 7). In contrast, the Greek Revival houses in the extension have a greater variety and number of decorative features. Most have the gable end facing the street, corner pilasters, a door surround with pilasters supporting an entablature, and a semi-circular attic window. The Nathan S. Gilbert house at 131 Broadway, built about 1844, is an elaborate example (Photograph 8). Plain, wide corner pilasters with capitals support an entablature, above which is a full pediment in the gable end. The semi-circular attic window is split in two, reflecting the internal division of attic space. The molding between architrave and frieze has a continuous row of guttae underneath. Modillions embellish the cornice. The one-story entrance porch has a gable roof with full pediment supported by Roman Doric columns. This, the Ionic columns flanking the door, and the curved bay window with its balustrade, were added in 1895 by local architect James A. Hiscox. 44 Union Street, built ca 1833, is similar in general, but features narrower, rusticated corner pilasters and flanking the door, pilasters with raised panels (Photograph 9). 69 Union Street, ca 1843, has panelled pilasters at the corners and tongue-and-groove siding on the south side, with panels under the first floor windows on that side (Photograph 10).

The house at 152 Broadway, ca 1844, has the gable ends to the side, panelled corner pilasters, and a one-story porch across the front supported by simplified Corinthian columns (Photograph 11). Plain pilasters flank the first floor windows and doorway. At 61 Union Street, ca 1844, the panelled corner pilasters support a projecting entablature above which is an open-bed pediment (Photograph 12). Rectangular attic windows pierce both pediment and entablature. First and second floor windows have shouldered surrounds.



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Warren Hill Historic and Architectural Survey, Dale S. Plummer and John M. Plummer, consultants, January, 1985. Records filed at Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT.

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Item 7 (continued)

The Joshua W. Shepard house at 47 Union Street, ca 1831, has a typical Greek Revival configuration with elaborate detail (Photograph 13). The door surround has plaster capitals on the pilasters and a plaster molding between the architrave and the frieze, enriched with Greek Revival motifs (Photograph 14). The cornice features egg-and-dart bed molding (Photograph 15). Mutule blocks with guttae survive only on the north side of the house. Nearby, 43 Union Street has entrance pilasters with H-shaped molding applied to the panels (Photograph 16). Similar moldings are found on the corner pilasters at 3 Crossway, which is within the present district, and in the door panels of 69 Union Street, within the boundary increase. The frame Greek Revival houses at 125, 127 and 129 Broadway are the simplest in design (Photograph 4). These have narrow corner pilasters without capitals and full pediments in the gable ends, which face the street.

128 Broadway, a brick Greek Revival house ca 1842, has a shallow-pitched gable roof with stepped parapets at the sides (Photograph 17). A wooden entablature has an architrave with three fascia, a plain frieze, and dentils below the eaves. Attic windows pierce both the architrave and frieze. 120 Broadway, ca 1844, built of brick by James S. Hoyt, has brackets in the cornice with tongue-and-groove panelling between the brackets which match their curvature. This is transitional in style between the Greek Revival style and the Italianate style. The brick Italianate house at 121 Broadway, ca 1844, is similar to frame dwellings in the same style, with round-arched attic window and brackets under the eaves (Photograph 4). The frame Italianate house at 156 Broadway, ca 1857, has the gable end to the street, an open-bed pediment, and brackets under the eaves (Photograph 18). A one-story porch which wraps around the north side of the house has supporting open-work posts. Window surrounds are shouldered, and the attic has a Palladian window.

The only Gothic Revival building in the area of the boundary increase is the Unitarian Universalist church at 148 Broadway (Photograph 19). Constructed of random granite ashlar in 1910, the church has a large stained glass window in the gable end, which faces the street. This features Gothic tracery in a very shallow pointed arch. Battered stone buttresses support the walls.

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120 Broadway Leonard B. Berkman, James M. Kirker & Timothy R. Cummings 120 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Lewis Edwards house, ca 1844, three-story brick house with Greek Revival and Italianate features. Stone lintels, sills and water table; wooden cornice has curved brackets with tongue-and-groove panelling between. Entrance, porch and windows altered.
121 Broadway Konstant W. Morell Richard I. Rothstein & Stuart Einhorn 121 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Henry Allen house, ca 1844, 2½-story brick house, Italianate style with granite lintels and sills, round-arched attic window, overhanging eaves with scroll-cut brackets. Front porch removed.
122 Broadway Robert K. Butterfield 122 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Charles F. Harris house, ca 1832, two-story frame house with brick rear addition. Front first floor bay window, open-bed pediment in gable end, diamond-shaped attic window, side entrance. Aluminum siding added. Photograph 7.
124 Broadway Martin M. Rutchik 126 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Thomas J. Ridgeway house, ca 1842, 2½-story brick house, Greek Revival style. Gable ends at sides, brick entablature with dentils across front. Two-story Italianate bay added.
125 Broadway Josephine A. Rinella 125 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Justin Hinckley house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, panelled corner pilasters without capitals. Porch supports replaced.
126 Broadway Martin M. Rutchik 126 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Timothy Sullivan house, ca 1833, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, one-story entrance porch with Tuscan columns. Facade has had veneer of brick with rusticated corner quoins added.
127 Broadway Nancy M. Wendland Box 1, Reutemann Rd. North Stonington, CT 06359	C	Robert M. Havens house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, narrow panelled corner pilasters without capitals, round-arched entrance hood supported by brackets. The south side has a double first floor window with a pedimented hood.

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128 Broadway Charles F. & Bella J. Ternes 5 Walnut Street Pawcatuck, CT 06379	C	James A. Hovey house, ca 1842, 2½-story brick house, Greek Revival style. Low-pitched roof with stepped side parapets, granite water table, lintels and sills, wooden entablature with three fascia in the architrave. One-story porch enclosed. Photograph 17.
129 Broadway Lafayette Two Limited Partnership 32 Victoria Prof. Park, Box B-4 Mystic, CT 06355	C	Richard Goodwin house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, panelled corner pilasters without capitals, one-story porch extending beyond north side supported by Doric columns with balustrade above.
131 Broadway Joyce Thomas and Nancy Randall P.O. Box 583 Norwich, CT 06360	C	Nathan S. Gilbert house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, corner pilasters with capitals, split semi-circular attic window. Colonial Revival one-story entrance porch with pediment, curved bay window with balustrade added ca 1895 by architect James A. Hiscox. Photograph 8.
132 Broadway A. Craig Rowley 29 Reidy Hill Road Amston, CT 06231	C	Ebenezer Fuller house, ca 1842, two-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to George Hebard, builder. Gable end to street, full pediment, corner pilasters with capitals. One-story entrance porch is supported by Tuscan columns. Aluminum siding added.
133 Broadway Robert L. & Marilyn J. Preston 133 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Nancy Grace house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to George Hebard and James S. Hoyt, builders. Gable end to street, full pediment, corner pilasters with capitals, one-story entrance porch with Doric columns.
134 Broadway William & Patrice Champagne Northwest Corner Rd. Preston, CT 06360	C	John Coit house, ca 1832, 2½-story frame, Greek Revival style, attributed to Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment, one-story bay window in front; one-story side porch and entrance on south side.

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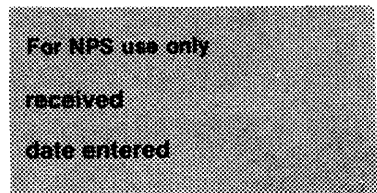
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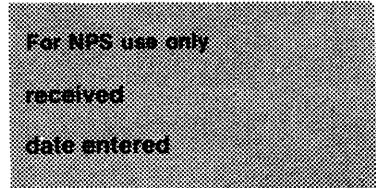


Street Address/ Owner	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Description
138 Broadway Kurt S. Nygren 138 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Theodore F. Albertson house, ca 1834, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment, semi-circular attic window, one-story bay window in front, ell to south side, entrance and porch on south side. Fence, Photograph 6.
141 Broadway Samas Corporation 141 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	NC	American Optical Company, ca 1960, one-story brick commercial structure.
148 Broadway Unitarian Universalist Church of Norwich, Inc. 148 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Church of the Good Shepherd, 1910, one-story stone church, Gothic Revival style. Gable end to street, features ground plan in form of a tau cross, battered buttresses, large windows with Gothic tracery. Photograph 19.
149 Broadway City of Norwich Union Square Norwich, CT 06360		Vacant lot.
152 Broadway Guy R. Baldwin 152 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Moses Pierce house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, Joseph Yerrington, builder. Gable ends at sides, full pediment, split semi-circular attic windows, corner pilasters, raised one-story porch across front with modified Corinthian columns. Pilasters flanking first floor front windows and door. Photograph 11.
156 Broadway James W. Montford, Jr. & Patricia P. Montford 156 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360	C	Ezra Stiles house and dentist office, ca 1857, 2½-story frame house, Italianate style. Gable end faces the street, open bed pediment with palladian window in attic. One-story porch around to north side has cut-out porch supports and brackets which match those in eaves. The front door and first floor windows have shouldered surrounds. Photograph 18.



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10-12 Union Street Joseph L. & Beverly A. LaPere 12 Case Street, Suite 305 Norwich, CT 06360	C	Rev. Minor G. Clarke house, 1842, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, built by James S. Hoyt and George Hebard. Gable ends to side, full pediment, raised brick basement story, hood with molded brackets over basement entrance. Chicago style windows in front. Attached to 14-16 Union Street, which is almost exactly similar.
14-16 Union Street Joseph L. & Beverly A. LaPere 12 Case St., Suite 305 Norwich, CT 06360	C	Mundator T. Richards house, 1842, see entry above.
18 Union Street George M. & Nadia S. Meseha 24 Lake Road Salem, CT 06415	C	Solomon Giddings house, ca 1789, 2½-story frame house, Federal style. Gable end to street, full pediment with triangular attic window with circular center section. Full basement story exposed on street side. Later two-story porch has been enclosed.
22 Union Street Edmund J. & Helen K. Burke 22 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Hamlin B. Buckingham house, ca 1839, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment with semi-circular attic window, raised brick basement, one-story entrance porch with Tuscan columns. Aluminum siding added.
26-28 Union Street Daniel K. & Meredith F. Johnson 26-28 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	John Young house, ca 1784, 2½-story frame house, Federal style. Gable ends to side, open-bed pediment, basement exposed in front, side entrances with hoods supported by scroll-cut brackets.
29 Union Street Frances Meader 29 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Jeremiah Wilber house, ca 1785, two-story brick house, Federal style. Hip roof with large center gable which has round-arched attic window within. Central entrance has six-panelled door, sidelights and transom, hood supported by large brackets with pendants. Window sills and lintels, water table are of stone.

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30 Union Street Irene Kirby 30 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Arnold house, ca 1833, 2½-story frame house, folk, attributed to George Hebard, builder. Low pitch gable roof, gable end to street, aluminum and asbestos sidings added.
33-39 Union Street Leonard B. Berkman, James M. Kirker, Timothy R. Cummings 120 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360		Parking lot.
34 Union Street Catharine Chenette 34 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Brewer house, ca 1811, 1½-story frame house, Federal style. Gable ends to side, shed dormers added to roof, vinyl siding added. Basement story exposed in front, has gable-roofed entrance hood with supporting brackets with a radiating design.
38 Union Street Kenneth J. Remondi 14 Hillcrest Ave. Ledyard, CT 06339	C	Abby Gavett house, ca 1830s, 2½-story frame house with raised basement, Greek Revival style. Gable ends to side, open-bed pediment, central entrance with flanking pilasters. Projecting cornice in front.
41 Union Street Arthur William Peck, Sr. and Cecelia Irene Peck 41 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Dixwell Lathrop house, ca 1833, two-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, two-story bay window in front, mansard-roofed rear addition. Aluminum siding added.
43 Union Street Michael G. & Catherine H. Yesenko 25 Friendship Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Caleb B. Rogers house, ca 1831, Greek Revival style, Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment, panelled pilasters with H-shaped motif flanking door. Photograph 16.
44 Union Street William A. Mentillo, Jr. Alvina Avenue Voluntown, CT 06384	C	George Sherman house, ca 1833, Greek Revival style, attributed to George Sherman, builder. 2½-story frame house, gable end to street, open-bed pediment possibly altered from full pediment. Rusticated corner pilasters, panelled entry pilasters. Photograph 9.

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45 Union Street Robert P. & Claudette F. Pisz 45 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Othniel Gager house, ca 1831, Greek Revival style, Joshua W. Shepard, architect. 2½ stories, projecting gable end forms front porch. Open-bed pediment.
46 Union Street Myron Lee Huntley, Jr. & Patricia E. Huntley 45 Rogers Avenue Norwich, CT 06360	C	George Hebard house, ca 1833, Greek Revival style. 2½ stories, gable end facing street, open-bed pediment, one-story porch across front.
47 Union Street Michael J. Batura 47 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Joshua W. Shepard house, ca 1831, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment with semi-circular attic window, door surround with plaster molding. Cornice features egg-and-dart molding, mutule blocks with <u>guttae</u> . Asbestos siding added. Photographs 13, 14, 15.
49 Union Street Samuel D. & Frances C. Nelkin 49 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Benjamin D. Starr house, ca 1832, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment, entrance hood supported by brackets with pendants. Asbestos siding added.
50 Union Street Dennis L. Reichenberger & James G. Csisar P.O. Box 73, Shewville Rd. Ledyard, CT 06339	C	George Hebard house, ca 1833, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to George Hebard, builder. Gable end to street, full pediment, entablature with dentils, two rectangular attic windows, door surround with pilasters, one-story entrance porch. Asbestos siding added.
51 Union Street Walter A. Dziengiel 17 Monroe Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Coddington Billings house, ca 1832, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to Joshua W. Shepard, architect. Gable end to street, full pediment, circular attic window, pilasters with <u>entasis</u> flanking door, entrance hood with supporting brackets and acorn-shaped pendants. Asbestos siding added.

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52-54 Union Street William T. & Phyllis S. Guy 52 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Lyman Roath house, ca 1829, two-story frame house, Federal/Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, open-bed pediment, Ionic columns supporting two-bay porch, extensively altered with brick facing on first floor.
53-55 Union Street Norbert J. Dabrowski 55 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Benjamin Snow house, ca 1832, two-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment, no attic window, entrance in one-bay extension to south, one-story porch supported by turned posts. Asbestos siding added.
59 Union Street Wayne D. & Sharon E. Peccini 59 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Edwin A. Clark house, ca 1844, two-story frame house, Greek Revival style, attributed to James S. Hoyt, builder. Hip roof, one-story porch across front supported by square posts with incised decoration, scroll-cut brackets, corner pilasters. Asbestos siding added.
61 Union Street Michael S. Walker 61 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Edward Y. Thomas house, ca 1844, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, open-bed pediment with projecting entablature below, panelled corner pilasters, shouldered window surrounds. Asbestos siding added. Photograph 12.
64-66 Union Street Charles Gilbert Kampf 66 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Joseph Burton house, 1890/1, 2½-story frame double house, Queen Anne style. Gable roof with gable ends to side, large gable peak in front, clapboard first and second floor siding, shingle attic.
65 Union Street Theodore & Alice Bonville Homer & Jeanette Bonville 65 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Hiram B. Crosby house, ca 1851, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, open-bed pediment with projecting entablature below, panelled corner pilasters, entrance porch with second floor covered balcony. Asbestos siding added.

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69 Union Street Raymond Grady 69 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	Denison P. Coon house, ca 1843, 2½-story frame house, Greek Revival style. Gable end to street, full pediment with split semi-circular attic window, panelled corner pilasters, one-story entrance porch with Tuscan columns, H-shaped molding in panelled door, vertical tongue-and-groove siding on south side with panels below first floor windows.
70 Union Street Jeffrey G. Morton 311 Fitch Hill Rd. Uncasville, CT 06382	C	George Sherman house, ca 1845, 2-3 story frame house, folk. L-shaped plan with gable ends at front and side, three-story porch between legs of ell. Asbestos siding added. George Sherman, builder.
72-74 Union Street City of Norwich City Hall, Union Square Norwich, CT 06360		Vacant lot.
76 Union Street Gilbert Burton 25 Rogers Street New London, CT 06320	C	George Sherman house, ca 1845, 2½-story frame folk house attributed to George Sherman, builder. Gable end to street, raised basement, two-story porch with enclosed basement.
80 Union Street Arthur Mansky 26 Sherwood Lane Norwich, CT 06360	NC	One-story garage.
88 Union Street Homer A. & Jeanette Bonville 88 Union Street Norwich, CT 06360	C	John Charlton house, ca 1840, 2½-story frame house, folk with Queen Anne addition. Gable end to street, round-arched attic window, two-story polygonal enclosed porch. Asbestos siding added.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** see Inventory, part 7 **Builder/Architect** See Inventory, part 7

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Criterion A) The Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase illustrates the theme of residential development related to the commercial and industrial growth which created downtown Norwich in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Business activity, population, and political power shifted from Norwichtown in this period. The Little Plain Historic District and the area of the boundary increase reflect the prosperity of the time and the demand for housing. (Criterion C) The Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase contains buildings of architectural merit constructed by local builders, relating well to the architecture within the existing historic district. A notable local builder/architect, Joshua W. Shepard, both worked and lived within the extension. Shepard was responsible for at least eight of the 31 Greek Revival houses extant within the Boundary Increase. The Greek Revival homes of the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase, while similar in general outline, differ in detail. This results in a general uniformity of appearance which is enlivened by variations in detail. High quality design and workmanship characterize the buildings in the district. Other styles represented in the district relate well in scale and design to the Greek Revival buildings. Good examples of the Italianate, Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles are also present.

## Residential Development

The original center of settlement of Norwich in 1659 was inland around the Norwichtown Green. The area now occupied by downtown Norwich was used as pasturage for sheep. Mercantile activity began in 1684 with the construction of a wharf at the site of the downtown. Coastal and West Indian trade flourished in the 18th century, and the area developed as the seaport of Chelsea or Chelsea Landing. At the Falls on the Yantic River, significant industrial development began in the 1760s. Capital from maritime ventures and other sources was reinvested in industry. In 1784, the Chelsea section was incorporated by the state legislature as the City of Norwich. The growth of the city soon necessitated the opening of Main Street in 1790. The newly incorporated city became a center for banking, for retail and wholesale trade, and for transportation. Steamboat service to New London, New Haven and New York began in 1816. The Norwich & Worcester Railroad, connecting the two cities, was begun in 1835. Manufacturing also began along "Swallowall brook" in the valley to the east of the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase.

The increasing population of the City of Norwich was anxious to wrest the seat of government in Norwich from Norwichtown, the original center, about two miles to the north. In 1828, they succeeded in moving the town-house to the city. This coup was further confirmed when the county courthouse was also moved to the city in 1833, occupying the second floor of the town-house. Downtown Norwich has remained the seat of local government ever since.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Caulkins, Francès Manwaring. History of Norwich. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1874.  
 Luyster, Constance, "Little Plain Historic District," National Register Nomination form, August 25, 1970. On file at Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT.  
 Plummer, Dale S. and Plummer, John M. Warren Hill Historic and Architectural Survey.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.8  
 Quadrangle name Norwich Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A	18	743800	4601370	B	18	743840	4601060
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	18	743890	4601070	D	18	743880	4601130
E	18	743920	4601120	F	18	743920	4601160
G	18	743900	4601160	H	18	744000	4601320

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries NA

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

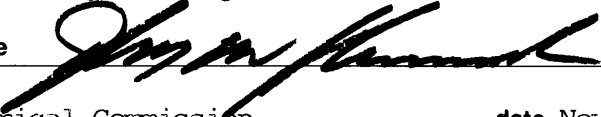
name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nominations Consultant, edited by John Herzan,  
National Register  
Coordinator  
 organization Norwich Heritage Trust date May 19, 1986  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 886-9468  
 city or town Norwich state Connecticut

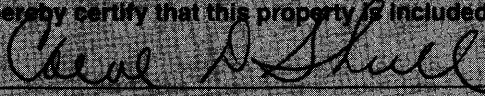

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date November 21, 1986

For HCERS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 date 1-12-87  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest:  date 1-12-87  
 Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase

Continuation sheet Norwich, CT

Item number 8

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Scattered residential development had taken place along Union Street and Broadway in the last quarter of the 18th century. With the growth of the downtown in the early 19th century, development took place rapidly along Union and Broadway, conveniently located within a short walking distance from the commercial quarter. Development on Union and Broadway was concentrated in the hands of relatively few individuals. Furniture manufacturer Henry Allen developed property on the east side of Broadway north of Willow Street, where his factory was located, in the mid-1840s (Photograph 4). Allen occupied the brick Italianate house at 121 Broadway, while his partner, Nathan S. Gilbert, lived in the development at 131 Broadway (Photograph 8). In the 1830s, the firm of Shepard, Rogers and Lathrop constructed at least eight houses within the area of the boundary increase. All three partners lived on Union Street (Photograph 5). Other developers included mason George Hebard and carpenter James S. Hoyt, who worked both individually and together on properties.

The area was primarily occupied by people employed in the downtown, either as self-employed merchants or as employees of downtown businesses. The pattern of ownership was complex, reflecting the mobility of an urban area. In many instances, houses were first occupied by renters and later sold to owner/occupants, sometimes the same individuals who had previously rented. In other cases, owner-occupied homes were later rented out.

Architecture

The houses of the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase relate to the Federal, Greek Revival, and late 19th century residential styles found in the Little Plain Historic District. The predominant style is the Greek Revival. Thirty one of the 45 contributing structures within the extension were built in the Greek Revival style. Most of these buildings are simple in design, with the gable end facing the street, a full pediment in the gable end, semi-circular or rectangular attic windows, corner pilasters, entablature, and a door surround consisting of pilasters and entablature (see Photographs 4, 8, 9, 10). The proportions of the houses, the integration of design elements, and the architectural details indicate a high quality of design. Executed of native materials by local craftsmen, the homes also display high standards of workmanship.

Joshua W. Shepard, in partnership with Dixwell Lathrop and Caleb B. Rogers, developed at least eight homes in the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase area in the early 1830s. All are in the Greek Revival style. Shepard was a builder/architect of ability, using pattern books for inspiration. The inventory of Shepard's estate in 1849 indicates that he possessed eight pattern books, including two by Lafever and the American Builder's Companion. Besides the extant houses in the boundary increase, he also designed the Otis Library of 1849, located on Union Square. Shepard and his partners were responsible for 41, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 51 Union Street, and 134 and 138 Broadway. These houses are small in scale, but display good proportion and design. The row of houses the firm built on Union Street make an important contribution to the streetscape (Photograph 5). Shepard's own house at 47 Union Street (Photograph 13) is well-proportioned and contains details of excellent design and workmanship. These include the



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entrance, with plaster moldings on pilasters and entablature (Photograph 14), and the egg-and-dart bed molding of the cornice. 43 Union Street, home of partner Caleb B. Rogers, has H-shaped molding in the panelling of the entrance pilasters (Photograph 16).

Other homes in the district are of distinction. The Nathan S. Gilbert house of ca 1844 has a Greek Revival design of merit which has been enhanced by alteration made in 1895 by architect James A. Hiscox (Photograph 8). The house at 152 Broadway, also built about 1844, has a porch with modified Corinthian columns of excellent design across the front (Photograph 11). The use of plain pilasters flanking the first floor windows and door unifies the facade, creating a rhythmical effect. James S. Hoyt was the subcontractor for the carpentry work. His other work also displays merit. Hoyt's occasional associate, mason George Hebard, was responsible for the James A. Hovey house, built of brick at 128 Broadway about 1842 (Photograph 17). The design is simple but effective, and the wooden entablature is appropriate in the context of the building.

It is probable that houses in both the present district and the district extension were built by the same individuals. Similar details are found in both areas. For example, the H-shaped molding found on the entry pilasters at 43 Union Street (Photograph 16) and on the door panels of 69 Union Street, both within the boundary increase, is repeated on the corner pilasters of 3 Crossway, which is within the existing district. The use of large dentils in the cornice is another feature found in both areas.

The other architectural styles found in the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase are represented by good examples. The Italianate house at 156 Broadway, built about 1857, has excellent proportions and finely crafted details such as the porch supports and brackets, door surround, window surrounds, and Palladian attic window (Photograph 18). 64-6 Union Street, not photographed, has a Queen Anne porch and other details, such as bargeboards and shingles, displaying good design and workmanship. The only Gothic Revival building, the Unitarian Universalist Church of 1910, relates well in scale and configuration to the surrounding residences (Photograph 19). Here the random-coursed granite ashlar with its light mortar joints, the battered buttresses, and the large stained glass windows with Gothic tracery lend the building considerable aesthetic quality.

Endnotes

1. Caulkins, Frances Manwaring, History of Norwich, Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1874, pages 302-308; 606-610; 533; 531-532..
2. Ibid, pages 570-572.
3. Rogers, C. B., and Dunham, John, "Appraisal of the Estate of Joshua W. Shepard," July 30, 1849, Estate of Joshua W. Shepard, Norwich Probate District, Town of Norwich, 1849, #9782. Original and microfilm at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

January 1985, manuscript on file at Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT  
Rogers, C..B., and Dunham, John, appraisers, "Appraisal of the Estate of Joshua W. Shepard,"  
July 30, 1849, in Estate of Joshua W. Shepard, Norwich Probate District, Town of Norwich  
1849. Original probate records on file at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT,  
document #9782.

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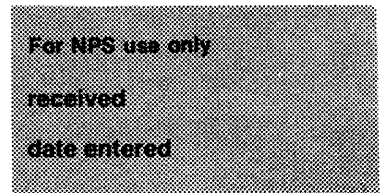
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10. Geographical Data (continued)

UTM References

- I 18/743910/4601320
- J 18/743900/4601310
- K 18/743850/4601310
- L 18/743840/4601380

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of the lot of 88 Union Street, the boundary continues in a southerly direction along the rear or western property lines of the lots on the west side of Union Street to the southwest corner of the lot of 10-12 Union Street. The boundary then continues along the southern border of this lot to Union Street, which it crosses to the east side of the street. The boundary then continues to the north along the east side of Union Street to the southwest corner of the lot at 29 Union Street. The boundary follows the southern and rear borders of this lot to the southwest corner of the lot at 120 Broadway, where it continues along the southern edge of this lot to Broadway. Crossing Broadway to the northwest corner of Willow Street, the boundary then follows the north side of Willow Street to the southeast corner of the lot at 121 Broadway. The boundary then follows the rear lines of the lots along the east side of Broadway to the northeast corner of the lot at 135 Broadway. The boundary then crosses the lot at 141 Broadway to the southeast corner of the lot at 149 Broadway, where it continues along the rear or eastern border of the lot to the northeast corner of the lot. (From this point to the point of origin, the boundary is contiguous with the southern boundary of the Little Plain Historic District). This boundary continues along the northern side of the lot at 149 Broadway to Broadway, where it goes to the center of the street and continues northerly to a point opposite the northeast corner of the lot at 156 Broadway. Here it turns westerly along the northern boundary of this lot. It then turns south along the rear or western boundary of 156 Broadway to the northeast corner of the lot at 69 Union Street, where it turns west along the northern property line of this lot. The boundary follows this line to Union Street, where it continues to the center of Union Street. Following Union Street north, the boundary continues to a point opposite the northeast corner of the lot at 88 Union Street, where it turns and continues west along the northern border of the lot to the point where it began.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Little Plain Historic District Boundary Increase are defined by natural features and by land use. The west side of the area is clearly defined by Jail Hill, the rocky slopes of which rise precipitously above Union Street. The east side of the area is clearly defined by a valley along which Chestnut Street runs. This area is industrial in character, with large-scale brick factory buildings dominating it. Thus, on the east side, the borders of the boundary increase are set both by topography and by the contrast between the residential nature of the extension and the industrial character of the adjoining area to the east. To the south, the large buildings clustered around

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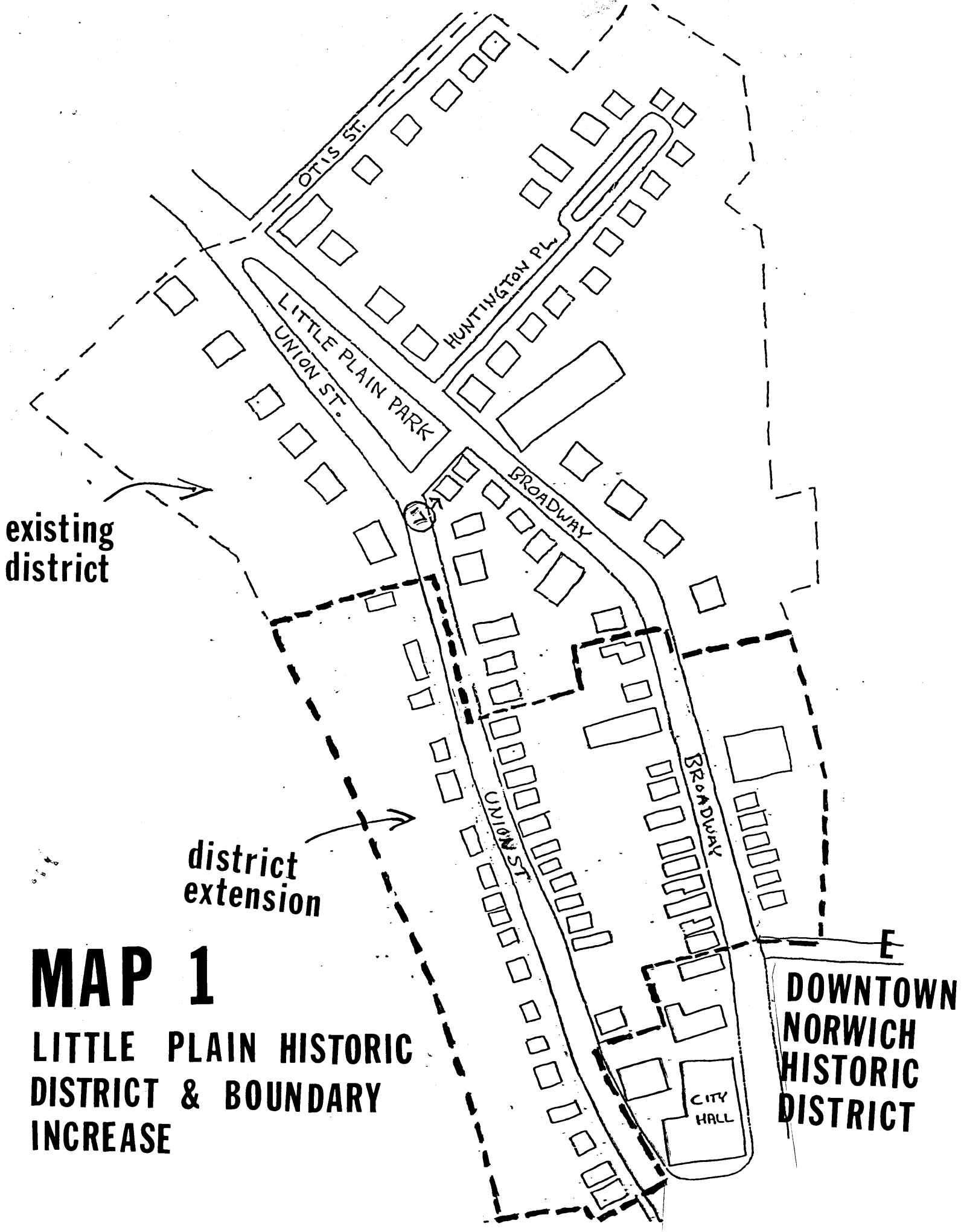
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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Justification (continued)

Union Square -- the city hall, two churches and a few commercial buildings -- distinguish between the district boundary increase and the Downtown Norwich Historic District. The northern boundary of the boundary increase, which is contiguous to the Little Plain Historic District, is defined by the existing district boundaries. The residential character of both areas and the continuity of architectural styles are clearly evident.



existing district

district extension

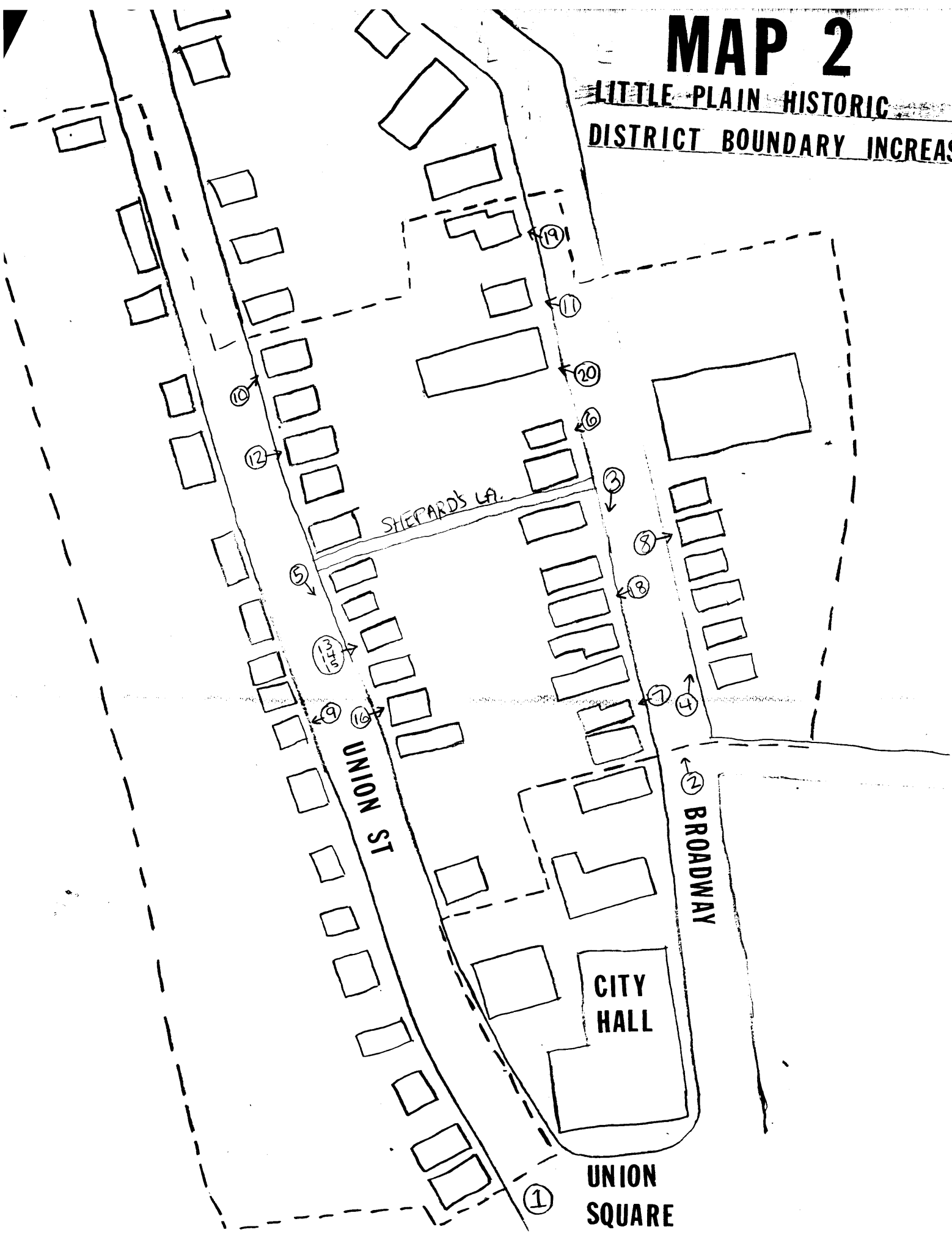
# MAP 1

## LITTLE PLAIN HISTORIC DISTRICT & BOUNDARY INCREASE

**DOWNTOWN NORWICH HISTORIC DISTRICT**

# MAP 2

## LITTLE PLAIN HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY INCREASE



UNION SQUARE

BROADWAY

UNION ST

SHEPARDS LN

CITY HALL

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