

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **OCT 27 1983**

date entered **NOV 28 1983**

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

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Ann Street Historic District

2. Location Align Ann St. Church, Fisher and Pearl Sts.

street & number see continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hartford City and Town Clerk

street & number Municipal Building - 550 Main Street

city, town Hartford state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street

city, town Hartford state CT

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ann Street Historic District is a small group of buildings, twenty-two in all, situated in downtown Hartford, Connecticut. Most of the buildings are three-to six-story commercial or light industrial buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century. In addition, the district includes two churches, an 1899 apartment building, the 1890 City Missionary Building, and the Masonic Temple (1894). The buildings front directly on the sidewalk and are set close together or are actually joined, so that for the most part, the buildings form a continuous wall, with varied heights, colors and designs marking the individual buildings. One notable feature of the district is "The Russian Lady," a large and unusual piece of architectural sculpture at 191 Ann Street. (Photograph 11)

In addition to Ann Street, which forms the north-south axis, the district includes historic buildings on four intersecting east-west streets: Allyn Street, Asylum Street, Hicks Street, and Pearl Street. The boundaries of the district were determined on both visual and architectural criteria. To the north is I-84, with its entrance and exit ramps forming a strong visual terminus to the district. On the east is the large and imposing Hartford Civic Center, occupying nearly the entire eastern side of Ann Street north of its intersection with Asylum Street. To the west and south are vacant lots and buildings of recent construction: the district was extended as far down the intersecting streets as would include relevant historic building.

With three exceptions, the buildings were all judged to make a significant contribution to the district, either because of their architectural distinction, their historical associations, or both. Because of continuing demolition by business, government, and Church groups, the district necessarily includes some vacant lots. While these represent obvious holes in the streetscape, they do not prevent the perception that the buildings form an entity unified by form, materials, function and style.

The buildings in this district are closely related to the adjacent Goodwin Block National Register District. That district included only a portion of the buildings actually on that block. The Ann Street district described in this nomination complements the Goodwin Block (photograph 22) by including two buildings (photograph 12) which continue the line of buildings on the Goodwin Block's north side by including those buildings on Pearl Street and Ann Street which directly abut the south and west sides of the Goodwin Block District.

In the inventory which follows, the contributing buildings are numbered to correspond with the numbers in the property owner's list and the district sketch map.

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LOCATION

103-105, 109-121, 90-104, 108, 112 Allyn Street; 163-175, 181-185, 191, 199-203,
316-320 Ann Street; 275-281, 283-291, 297 Asylum Street; 265, 228-240 Church Street;
54 Hicks Street; 185, 215, 219, 233, 247-251, 275, 234, 252, 266 Pearl Street.

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Owners, from Hartford Assessor's Records, January, 1983:

Parcel #	Street Address	Owner	Inventory Number	Contributing Noncontributing
<u>ALLYN STREET</u>				
419-008-005	103-105 Allyn Street	Dorothy Horton 571 Mountain Rd West Hartford, CT 06117	7	C
419-008-004	109-121 Allyn Street	Marvin Lewton 30 High Street Hartford, CT 06103	6	C
419-009-010	90-104 Allyn Street	Community Rehab Investment Corporation 151 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105	4	C
419-009-001	108 Allyn Street	A. Richard Harris 108 Allyn Street Hartford, CT 06103	-	NC
419-009-012	112 Allyn Street	Joan B. Harris 112 Reverknolls Avon, CT 06001	5	C
<u>ANN STREET</u>				
419-008-009	163-175 Ann Street	Htfd. R.C. Diocese c/o John F. Scully, Atty. 80 Pheasant Hill Drive West Hartford, CT 06107	-	
419-008-008	181-185 Ann Street	John Rimscha et al 191 Ann Street Hartford, CT 06103	10	C
419-008-007	191 Ann Street	John Rimscha 1240 Asylum Avenue Hartford, CT 06112	9	C
419-008-006	199-203 Ann Street	Two-O-One Ann Street Limited Partnership 55 Airport Road Hartford, CT 06114	8	C
421-003-003	316-320 Ann Street	ORS Inc. Auto Paint Dist. 1 316-320 Ann Street Hartford, CT 06103		C

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ASYLUM STREET

419-007-009	275-281 Asylum Street	Michael Taub 273-281 Asylum Hartford, CT 06103	-	NC
419-007-008	283-291 Asylum Street	Two Hundred Eighty Nine Asylum Street Associates 289 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103	11	C
419-007-007	297 Asylum Street	Two Hundred Ninety Seven Asylum Street Company 297 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103	12	C

CHURCH STREET

419-009-009	265 Church Street	St. Patricks & St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church Corp. 265 Church Street Hartford, CT 06103	3	C
421-003-001	228-240 Church Street	Marcia Zola et al 240 Church Street Hartford, CT 06103	2	C

HICKS STREET

422-002-003	54 Hicks Street	Southern New England Telephone Company Attn: Supervisor of Taxes and Accounts Department 227 Church Street Room 618 New Haven, CT 06506	22	C
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PEARL STREET

422-003-004	185 Pearl Street	Southern New England Telephone Company Attn: Supervisor of taxes and Accounts Department 227 Church Street Room 618 New Haven, CT 06506	19	C
422-003-002	215 Pearl Street	Congregational Ados Israel 215 Pearl Street Hartford, CT 06103	18	C

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422-003-001	219 Pearl Street	John A. Cagianello c/o Deloeres C. Paganetti 32 Wind Road East Hartford, CT 06108		NC
422-002-002	233 Pearl Street	Art Deco Building Associates Limited Partnership 10 Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06103	17	C
422-002-001	247-251 Pearl Street	Stavros Manousos Inc. 111 Clovercrest Road Wethersfield, CT 06109	16	C
422-001-002	275 Pearl Street	City of Hartford Engine Co. #4 275 Pearl Street Hartford, CT 06103	15	C
421-001-008	234 Pearl Street	The Roman Corporation 234 Pearl Street Hartford, CT 06103	20	C
421-001-001	252 Pearl Street	Dora M. Bailey c/o Atty. Charles Gersten 266 Pearl Street Hartford, CT 06103	21	C
419-007-010	266 Pearl Street	Michael Schiavone & Sons, Inc. 234 Universal Drive North Haven, CT 06473	14,13	C

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Surveys (continued):

Hartford Architecture

Volume One: Downtown

Local - 1978

Hartford Architecture Conservancy
Hartford, CT

Survey Records deposited with the Stowe-Day Foundation, Hartford, CT

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INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

1. DALY ELECTRICAL ("Auto Paint Distributors") 316-320 Ann Street, 1926-7, Edward M. Stone, Hartford, architect, (photograph 2). Four-story, seven-bay brick commercial building; limestone sills lintels, and stringcourse above the third story. Soldier course above window openings. Oak leaf decoration on tablet within the peaked center section of the parapet. Modern storefront garage opening on the right. (City Directory, 1927, p. 1605).
2. HOTEL LENOX ("Hartford Hotel"), 280-294 Ann Street, 228-240 Church Street, Bayley and Goodrich, Hartford, architects, 1899, Beaux-Arts Eclectic. (photograph 3). Four-story brick apartment building, now a hotel, with a high basement story. Corner block with an irregular plan and main entrance at the corner. Limestone trim includes stringcourses above basement, first, third and fourth stories,; third-story window sills, banded arches above the fourth-floor windows, and entrance treatment. Brick effects include rustication on the basement and first floor; Flemish bond with burnt headers on the second, third and fourth stories; and a diaper pattern in dark brick above the fourth-floor windows. Except for a broken scroll pediment and cartouche above it, the main entrance has been modernized, but the side entrances are original, with composite pilasters supporting a denticulated pediment. The building's cornice appears to be a pressed metal band with a wave-like ornament, supported by cast-iron modillions.
3. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's Church), 265 Church Street, Patrick C. Keeley, New York, Architect, 1876, Gothic Revival, (photograph 4). Random ashlar of rough-textured brownstone blocks. Gable roof extends over both nave and aisle; square tower on the north end formerly surmounted by a steeple (Hartford Illustrated, c.1890), now finished with crenellation and a large Celtic cross. Gothic detailing includes prominent stringcourses at each level, simple buttresses between bays and at the corners, and pointed-arch window openings with simple tracery and stained glass. Main entrance is within the tower, with aisle entrances (photograph 5) smaller but similar. Within tabled porticoes, these have round medieval columns flanking the opening, panelled double doors, dripmolds with simple bosses on the ends, and ribbed tracery within the pointed arch opening above the doors.
4. HARTFORD WIRE WORKS, 90-104 Allyn Street, Isaac A. Allen, Jr., Hartford, architect, 1911, Second Renaissance Revival, (photograph 6). Four-story brick factory, corner block, six bays of four paired windows with six-over-six sash, separated by brick piers. Modern storefronts, but remains of rusticated ground floor visible on Ann Street. Brownstone stringcourses between the third and fourth floors. Piers on fourth story have rusticated effect in brick. Pressed metal cornice with widely-spaced dentils, large brackets over the piers.
5. POST & LESTER FACTORY ("Harris Design"), 112 Allyn Street, 1911 (photograph 6). Four-story brick building, three bays wide with wide, small-paned windows lighting the third and fourth floors. Modern storefront partially obscures second floor. Shallow-peaked parapet with a monogram cartouche centered in a long narrow panel. Side walls are of pilaster construction with segmental-arched windows and corbelling.

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6. GEORGE POMEROY CARRIAGES, 109-121 Allyn Street, c. 1885, Romanesque, (photograph 7). Although built at approximately the same time, always under single ownership, and presently combined into one facade, 109-111 Allyn Street was originally a separate building, with two-story projecting bays. Sometime after 1900, the bays were removed, and later, large windows were added to the second and third floors, similar to the band of windows on the second floor of 133-121. Both are four-story, brick buildings. Between the second and third stories there is a brownstone stringcourse, and both have a simple corbelled cornice. The third and fourth floors of 113-121 have three groups of tall, three-part windows with wide, splayed brick lintels. Chief feature of the building is the hipped-roof tower which projects slightly beyond the plane of the facade. Square in plan, and slightly higher than the main cornice, the tower forms the northeast corner of 113-121 but appears to be in the middle of the large facade. It has a round-headed opening on the second and third levels, some brick stringcourses, and above, three narrow slits.

7. HART MANUFACTURING COMPANY ("Acme Electric Supply"), 103-105 Allyn Street, 1903, Italianate, (photograph 7). Four-story brick, three bays of paired rectangular windows separated by pilasters. Modern storefront, pressed metal bracketted cornice.

8. MASONIC TEMPLE, 199-203 Ann Street, 1894, Brooks M. Lincoln, Hartford, architect, Venetian Gothic details, (photograph 8). Four-and-one-half stories, brick laid in common bond with Flemish variation, five-bay facade. Granite underpinning, first-floor of rough-hewn brownstone, central entranceway defined by medieval engaged columns, portico surmounted by fluted columns and globes. Second story has Gothic dripmolds in terra cotta, third-story windows are rectangular and now blocked up, but formerly were glazed with glass. Fourth story (photograph 9) features an arcade on ogee Gothic arches in terra cotta above five long round-headed openings. The central one has a panel with bas-relief Masonic symbols: the all-seeing eye of God, compass, trowel, square, Hebrew letters, and the date. Below the date are represented the classical orders. The other four are fitted with stained glass depicting other Masonic symbols, including the pillars of Solomon's Temple, and Jerusalem crosses. Also within the openings are tiled panels with five-sided stars. The fourth-floor bays, as well as the corners of the buildings, are marked by engaged polygonal columns. A gabled parapet conceals the building's hipped roof.

9. FOWLER-HUNTING FRUIT & PRODUCE ("Russian Lady Cafe"), 191 Ann Street, 1895, (photographs 10,11). Two-story, three-bay brick building, segmental-arched upper windows, flared brick lintels on the first story. Denticulated cornice has brownstone molding and simple parapet. Two original cast-iron fluted columns form storefront, small-pane windows as shown in early views, added filigree balconies on second floor. (Sutherland, City of Hartford and Vicinity, 1900, Masonic Hall view.)

Large bronze sculpture (photograph 11) mounted on roof was taken from the Rossia Insurance Building, 1914, which formerly stood on nearby Asylum Hill. A group of an enthroned female in a traditional Russian costume and headdress. Seated near her feet on her right is a partially-draped female with a child, and on her left, a gaunt bearded man. Next to the woman is a sheaf of wheat, next to the man an anchor. The sculptor is unknown. Approximately 12' long by 6' high.

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10. MORSE BUILDING, 1912, Russell F. Barker, Hartford, architect. Five-story tan and brown brick building with rusticated effect on the first story. Brick piers separate the three bays of large, three-part windows. Central entrance arch with grillwork. Top story windows only are segmental-arch-shaped. Spandrels decorated with strapwork and bosses. Ornamental cornice includes dentils, four long limestone brackets above piers and a parapet with blue tile inserts. Limestone stringcourse above ground floor. Built as a business college. (City Directory, 1912, p. 616) (Photograph 10)
11. GIONFRIDO'S, 283-291 Asylum Street, c1875, Italianate, (photograph 12). Five-story, seven-bay brick commercial building, modern brick restaurant front. Sandstone trim includes keyblocks over segmental-arched window openings, impost blocks and sills. Elaborate brickwork between stories. Fifth story windows are round-arched in shape. Paneled frieze, bracketed and denticulated cornice.
12. EMPIRE HOTEL "Adajian's," 1916, Burton Sellev, architect, Hartford. (photograph 12). Five-story, 4-bay commercial building, buff brick, with modern glass-brick storefront. Limestone or cast-stone sills, lintels Elaborate cornice of modillions, paired brackets, and triglyphs along the frieze. Middle windows are double-sized. The second story has been covered over. Murals, 1930s, of nudes and landscapes in interior.
13. HARTFORD STEAM PLANT, rear of 266 Pearl Street, fronting on Ann Street, 1880, (photograph 13). One-story brick building with shallow-pitched gable roof, corbelled cornice, four large segmental-arched openings.
14. HARTFORD ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, 266 Pearl Street, 1914, Clair Collens of Allen and Collens, Boston, architect, Charles B. Andrus, builder, Renaissance Revival. (photograph 14). Five-story buff brick office building. Seven-bay facade has paired windows except in the end bays. Large segmental-arched openings on the limestone sheathed ground floor. Windows openings are recessed between piers. Elaborate cornice with marble tablets and wreath-and-touch decorations along the frieze, dentils, mutules, and a copper cresting in an anthemion pattern.
15. HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT, 275 Pearl Street, 1927, Smith and Bassette, Hartford, architects, (photograph 15). First story concrete-faced, with five garage openings and smaller doors at the ends. Second floor has brick walls with round-arched openings with windows, quoins, a cartouche, festoons, and small-pane sash. Third floor brick also, with rectangular openings and decorative keyblocks. Plain parapet with denticulated cornice.
16. TELEPHONE BUILDING, 247-251 Pearl Street, 1890, Attr. to William P. Johnson, Hartford, architect, Romanesque, (photograph 16). Three-story building with six unequal round-arched openings on the second floor and an arcade of nine smaller openings on the third. First story piers have granite banding, terra-cotta tabled with building name and date above second level (deteriorated), corbelling and leaf-decorated brackets along the cornice.

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17. HARTFORD GAS COMPANY, 233 Pearl Street, 1927, Buck and Sheldon, Hartford, architects, Moorish Revival, (photograph 16). Three-story brick building with the third stepped far back from the facade. The corners have small square towers with filed roofs, with three large segmental-arched openings in between, a central entrance flanked by large display windows. The archways have banding in a light stone and are supported of richly decorated Moorish columns with rounded capitals (photograph 17). The interior features elaborate rib-vaulted ceilings with stenciling gilding, and plaster ornament. The stepped-back third story has lost its original parapet.

18. FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH (Congregation Ados Israel), 215 Pearl Street, 1924 Milton E. Hayman, Hartford, architect, Georgian Revival, (photograph 18). Two story brick church, one bay wide, with its gable end to the street. Rusticated limestone first story with a triangular pediment on engaged columns over the recessed central entry. On the second floor is a large round arched window with small-pane glazing. There is a partial return to the Classical cornice, which features modillions and a pulvinated frieze. Three urn finials are placed on the edge of the roof.

19. SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE BUILDING, 185 Pearl Street, 1911, Leoni W. Robinson, New Haven, architect, Second Renaissance Revival (photograph 13). Six stories high. Three-bay facade with paired window openings has granite facing on the first two stories. Pilasters with egg-and-dart molding and the capitals separate the bays, and there is a cornice with mutules and guttae above the second story. Upper stories have a rusticated effect in the yellowish-brown brick. Main cornice has dentil course, mutules, egg-and-dart molding, and huge paired scroll brackets with acanthus-leaf carving. Abuts modern Telephone Company Tower, 10-stories, to the east. Aerial walkway to 1930s Art-Deco-detailed tower on Jewell Street.

20. CITY MISSIONARY SOCIETY BUILDING, 234 Pearl Street, 1890, William D. Johnson, Hartford, architect, Romanesque (photograph 19). Four-story tower, southeast corner, with buttresses and stoup slate-covered hip roof. Copper weathervane marked "CM". Ground level has checkerband brick pattern over entrance, on right. Second and third stories composed of a series of round-arched openings with modern sash. Corbelled brick cornice with paneled parapet. Brownstone used for sills, impost of arches, and projecting cornice molding, terra-cotta panels inset between second and third stories.

21. PLIMPTON BUILDING, 250-252 Pearl Street, 1890 (Photograph 20). Four-story building of yellow textured brick. Twenty-two bays on Ann Street, three on Pearl Street. Windows have straight stone sills and lintels and modern one-over-one sash. Brick dentil course below stone cornice molding, above which is a plain brick parapet. Storefront altered by application of brick stucco layer. Pearl Street facade has marble, copper and glass storefront largely intact, with a wide surround and cornice of stone. Brick piers separate the three bays of three windows each.

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22. METROPOLITAN GARAGE, 64 Hicks Street (Photograph 21), c. 1930. Five-story reinforced concrete parking garage with brick outer walls. Yellow-brick seven-bay facade on Hicks Street with alternating narrow and wide openings glazed with small-pane glass. Stepped parapet.

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

275 Asylum Street, present Morse School, 5 story modernized commercial building, stucco exterior, modern windows. 1926

219 Pearl Street, one-story, modern, flat-roofed commercial building, glass storefront. c.1950

108 Allyn Street, one-story brick modern or completely modernized building, with a barred entrance and small rectangular windows. c.1950

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Criteria A,C

Specific dates (See Item 7, Inventory) Builder/Architect (See Item 7, Inventory)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hartford's Ann Street Historic District is both architecturally distinguished and historically significant. Six of the twenty-two buildings have been cited for their individual architectural merit in a recent survey of the city's historical architecture.¹ (Criteria C) These include buildings by several important Hartford architects as well as designs by well-known architects from Boston, New York and New Haven. Even the less noteworthy buildings are important, however, because taken together, they form a cohesive streetscape, a feature of urban architecture that goes beyond the merits of individual buildings. The predominance of brick construction, the multi-story form, and the repetition of details such as Italianate bracketed cornices are typical of urban downtowns of the period. Another part of the district's architectural importance is the major piece of sculpture atop one of the district's buildings. Historically, the district includes buildings which illustrate several chapters of Hartford history around the turn of the century (Criteria A). Among these are the development of the Ann Street area as a commercial and light industrial district, the growth of the white-collar sector in the city's work force, the development of public utilities, and the changing lifestyles brought with the 20th century.

Landmark Buildings ^A

The oldest of the district's landmark buildings is #3, St. Patrick's Church, known as St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's after merging with another downtown parish. St. Patrick's is directly descended from the oldest Catholic parish in Hartford and has been on this site since 1851. Although not directly located in the 19th-century Irish area, St. Patrick's was close by and served the residents of the city's largest Irish neighborhood. In addition to its religious functions, the church was a community institution for the immigrants, with a church school, various Irish societies, and even an immigration agency using its buildings.

The present edifice was built in 1876 from a design by Patrick C. Keeley of New York, himself an Irish immigrant. Keeley was one of the nations most important 19th-century church architects, designing hundreds of churches, mostly Catholic and most in a Gothic Revival style. Keeley also did the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, another brownstone, Gothic Revival building. Although his prodigious output alone should draw our attention to Keeley, his buildings show considerable skill as well. In St. Patrick's, Keeley has achieved a rugged simplicity free from both the academic historicism of Ecclesiological Gothic and the hackneyed use of pointed arches which marked later church architecture.

^A Numbers in text correlate to Item 7, Inventory and map.

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Nearby the church is another building with Gothic elements, but Venetian or Moorish in character, the 1894 Masonic Temple, #8. Fraternal orders like the Masons were key elements in the social structure of American cities. Businessmen and professionals were the core of the membership, and such organizations provided recreation and social contacts for members of the upper middle class. Their influence reached a peak around the turn of the century, and many cities have large halls built about this time by the Odd Fellows, Masons, Elks, and so forth. Hartford's Masonic Hall is a particularly good example of this peculiar form of architecture, which nearly always combined a large hall and offices for the organization with commercial space on the ground floor. The massive, fortress-like scale and the oriental flavor of the ogee arches create in the Masonic Hall a sense of secrecy and mystery appropriate to the order, while the many details of the facade are more specifically iconographic. Among the more obvious Masonic symbols are the all-seeing eye of God, the pillars of King Solomon's Temple, the five stars representing the five points of fellowship, the square and compass symbolizing reason, the Jerusalem crosses of the Knights Templar, and the Hebrew letters, a Masonic cypher acknowledging God's power. The importance of Masons as an organization and the richness of their building's facade make the Masonic Hall a Hartford landmark.

The Hotel Hartford, #2, was built in 1899 as Lenox Court, a middle-class apartment house. The apartment house appeared in the American city in the last years of the 19th century and thrived for at least two decades. Around the turn of the 20th century, the number of single, white collar people was growing rapidly in commercial cities like Hartford. At the same time, the former custom of boarding in other people's homes was increasingly under attack as socially undesirable, a violation of the middle-class ideal of the family as a refuge against strangers and the outside world in general. Apartment houses appeared as the solution and most were located in well-kept areas near the downtown, had distinctive names, and were usually built of brick in a neo-Colonial or Second Renaissance Revival style. Lenox Court residents were typical of the turn-of-the-century apartment building. Among its 25 or so residents in 1914 were doctors, nurses, teachers, insurance managers, and clerks. Its Church Street location was close to downtown offices yet isolated from the hubbub of Main and Asylum Streets.

The design by the Hartford firm of Bayley and Goodrich is eclectic and noteworthy for its unusual (for Hartford) exuberance. The rusticated first floor and bracketed cornice are most frequently associated with the Second Renaissance Revival, the broken pediment is neo-Georgian, and the side entrances are Classical. Yet the banded arches and extraordinary brick work give the building a unity that surpasses the several sources of inspiration.

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The Telephone Building at 247-251 Pearl Street #16, was opened in October of 1890. Its richly decorated facade and its arcaded openings reflect the details of the City Missionary building adjacent to the Goodwin Block across the street. Both buildings are attributed to William D. Johnson of Hartford. The building is the oldest of three on Pearl Street which mark the growth of Southern New England Telephone from a small company specializing in an interesting novelty to the major supplier of the states's communications.

Johnson's City Missionary Building, #20 (photograph 19) was also built in 1890 and shares the Telephone Building's rich brick brownstone, and terra Romanesque detailings. The building is also significant as the former home of one of Hartford's oldest charitable institutions. Founded in 1851 by a consortium of Congregational churches, the City Mission provided emergency funds, fuel and shelter to poor families and also ran Sunday schools, cooking and sewing classes, and summer camps. In addition to this, their main building, the Mission had another facility serving immigrant families in the East Side neighborhood.

The last of the six buildings cited for their architectural distinction is #4, the Hartford Wire-Works. It was designed by Isaac A. Allen, Jr., one of the Hartford's leading architects of the period. Allen also designed the pressed metal facade of Stackpole, Moore and Tryon on nearby Asylum Street and the Sage-Allen building on Main Street. The Wire Works is just a factory, but its strong and heavy cornice, its clearly demarcated bays, and its Renaissance Revival detailing make it one of the city's most vigorous industrial building. The Hartford Wire Works was established to make fences and window and door screens, typical of the light manufacturing which dominated Allyn Street at this time (see below). The company relocated in 1982 to a suburban location in Windsor, Connecticut.

The sculpture atop #9 was moved to Ann Street a few years ago, and its meaning is still somewhat obscure, but its age (1914), large size, and unusual theme make it a significant piece of architectural sculpture. It is probably the largest such work not on a public building in the city. Although not in its original context, the "Russian Lady" has nevertheless been preserved for Hartford's citizenry to observe, enjoy, and ponder upon. The symbolism of the sculpture is unknown.

Other buildings of architectural significance

The Hartford Electric Light Building #14, (photograph 14) was designed by the well-known Boston firm of Allen & Collens. The firm was a prominent Beaux-Arts proponent around 1900, and this is perhaps reflected in the large-scale, sculptural cornice decoration (photograph 14). In Hartford, Allen & Collens were responsible for the Webster Memorial Building, listed on the National Register, and they built churches and college buildings throughout the country. The HELCO Building, like the Telephone and Gas Company buildings, illustrates the growth of modern utilities. In the 20th century, the power company was experiencing exponential growth in the demand for electricity. In 1914 the company was compelled to expand its office space, and built this structure. As originally configured, it included a library and recreation facility for workers and a model (all-electric!) apartment.

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Until their recent move to new headquarters, the Hartford Gas Company (later, the Connecticut Gas Company) #17, (photograph 16) also had their offices on Pearl Street. In 1927, the local firm of Buck and Sheldon designed the unusual Moorish Revival building located adjacent to the Telephone building. Related more to the extravagant movie palaces of the 1920s than to the commercial architecture of the period, the Gas Company building has one of the most unusual and decorative interiors of any downtown building.

The second home of the Telephone Company, #21, (photograph 16) was built in 1911 from a design by Leoni W. Robinson (1852-1933) who had also designed the company's New Haven office, still standing but greatly altered in appearance. Robinson was a leading Connecticut architect in his day, a founder of both the Connecticut A.I.A chapter and the influential Architectural Club of New Haven. In addition to doing many large New Haven commissions, Robinson was the Rhode Island State Capitol architect for several years. The telephone building is his only known work in Hartford's downtown. Its rather plain and repetitive fenestration offers an interesting contrast to the richly detailed cornice. Renaissance Revival in inspiration, it mirrors the HELCO building at the opposite end of Pearl Street, both in its appearance and in its historical function as early 20th-century utility company offices.

The building now occupied by Congregation Ados Israel, #18, was built in 1924 by the First Unitarian Church from a design by local architect Milton Hayman. It is an interesting application of Georgian Revival architecture in an urban setting. Its gable-end-to-street, single-bay form allows it to fit onto a very small lot, with the possibility of other, larger buildings sandwiching it in. However, the single large arched window and the grand cornice treatment give this small building something of the monumentality usually found in the churches and civic buildings of the period. In style and some details, particularly the brick and the arched windows, the former church is related to the Hartford Fire Station at the other end of Pearl Street #15, completed three years later.

The building at 283-291 Asylum Street, #11, (photograph 12) is a good representative of the commercial architecture of the 1870s and 1880s. It has the Italianate cornice, elaborate brick paneling between stories, and contrasting stone trim above the window openings which are found in several of the large commercial blocks along Asylum Street. It was built about 1875 and had a plumbing shop and oyster market on the first floor, with tenements above. Later, it became a hotel, and in the 1930s it was known as the Hotel Avon. Its neighbor to the west was built much later, 1916, but it too has a cornice derived from Italianate sources; for many years it was occupied by the Empire Hotel.

Historical development of the area

Throughout the 19th century, Asylum Street was one of the major commercial areas of Hartford. Scores of wholesale and retail businesses were located there: grocers, dry goods merchants, stationers, musical instrument dealers, and numerous others. In addition, Asylum Street was the center of the publishing industry, and also had many of the city's hotels. As a consequence of the commercial vitality, the buildings along Asylum Street are some of the best remaining concentrations of Victorian-period commercial architecture in the city.

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The brick and cast-iron facades along the Goodwin Block have already been listed in the National Register. The two Asylum Street buildings in the proposed Ann Street district, #'s 11 and 12 continue the row of elaborate, five-story commercial blocks on the south side of the street.

In contrast, the areas to the north and south of Asylum Street developed as wholesale or light-industrial districts. Even today, the Wire Works, an electrical supply store, and an office furniture store on Allyn Street continue the historic economic function of this part of Hartford. The buildings in the district date from several periods, as the blocks were filled in by new structures and smaller buildings replaced by larger ones, but the overall land use remained much the same. In several cases, the buildings were built as a response to the development of new products such as automobiles or electrical equipment, products typical of the early 20th century.

One of the most significant industrial buildings in downtown Hartford is #13 the Hartford Steam Company generating plant. This low brick building was built in 1880 to house the ten boilers to make heating and processing steam which the company distributed through underground pipes. In 1881 the Steam Company stole a march on the Hartford Electric Light Company and installed an electric generator in the building, thus becoming the first electric utility to serve the city. The following year HELCO took over the electrical part of the plant, but moved out in 1887 when their competitor, the Hartford Light and Power Company, bought the Steam Company. Hartford's street cars were also powered from this plant, known as the Pearl Street station (South Ann Street and Ann Street were not connected until the 1920s). In 1896, HELCO bought out the Hartford Light and Power Company and returned to the Pearl Street plant. The first steam turbine built in America is said to have been installed there in 1901. The plant became a substation in 1905 when HELCO's Dutch Point plant was completed.

The Plimpton Building, #21, was built about 1890 to accommodate the enlarged paper products factory of one of the city's largest printers and stationary suppliers. The first story originally accommodated offices and stockrooms, the second story the printing presses, the third story envelope manufacture, and the fourth, a paper box factory. The building is typical of the light industrial enterprises which were located in close proximity to Hartford's Commercial Core, with only specialty brick and a small amount of cornice decoration on the main elevations to relieve the overall functionalism of the exterior.

The Hart Manufacturing Company #7, was built in 1903. Previous to that time, the company which made electric devices like switches, was small and rented space in another building. There was such a growth industry in the early years of this century, however, that they left Allyn Street in 1910 for a large factory outside downtown, where they became one of the leading employers. The building came into the hands of an electrical supply business which has continued there to this day. The Post & Lester building, #6, was also built as a factory. In the years before their new building went up in 1911, Post & Lester made bicycle accessories, but by the time they moved in, they were advertising themselves as manufacturers of automotive supplies. Although their factory was on Allyn Street, their retail outlet was on Asylum Street.

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Similar to the Post & Lester story is the transformation of #6 from a carriage business to an automobile dealership. The fortress-like building was put up about 1885 by George Pomeroy as a "carriage respository," part of his livery business. Pomeroy was succeeded by R.D. & C.O. Briton, who by 1910 supplemented their line of horse-drawn vehicles with Maxwell and Columbia autos, as well as manufacturing automobile tops. Eventually the carriages were dropped and only the autos and upholstery business continued.

Yet a third artifact of the early Automobile Age is the building at the north end of the district, 316-320 Ann Street, #2. It was built in 1926 as the John F. Daly Electrical Company, a firm specializing in electrical parts for automobiles. Daly was a dealer for Bosch and Delco as well as several lines which have not endured; the garage door on the right was for drive-in service, one of the company's selling points.

Finally, the Metropolitan Garage, #22, (photograph 21) built about 1930 on Hicks Street, is an early example of multi-story car parking facility. Its prosaic facade typifies the movement of industrially derived commercial architecture away from historical styles and details to plainer and more geometric facades.

The Morse Building, #10, was built in 1912 for the Morse School of Business, Hartford's oldest secretarial and business skills institution. A proprietary school, Morse Business College is descended from an institution started in 1860, but until building its permanent home, it was fairly small and operated out of rented rooms. A greatly increased need for secretaries, bookkeepers, office managers and other clerical workers resulted from the continual expansion of Hartford's insurance and financial corporations, and Morse Business College kept pace. When the new building was opened, it was proclaimed "the most modern commercial school structure in America."² The building originally had substantial space rented out for professional offices, allowing for the school's expansion, but in 1978 the Morse School of Business moved to new headquarters nearby.

In summary, the Ann Street Historic District mirrors the historical development of the city in the years of 1875-1930. The growth of public utilities can be traced in the Steam Company plant and office buildings built for the telephone, gas and power monopolies. Technology had created new products, and the buildings built for the electrical and automotive businesses symbolize the coming of the consumer economy of the 20th century. At the same time, the commercial buildings on Asylum Street and Ann Street show the continued viability of the area as a retail and wholesale district. A new urban lifestyle, that of the single professional living alone, was accommodated in apartments like Lenox Court, while the increased demand for white collar workers allowed expansion of Hartford's foremost business school. When the architectural merit of St. Patrick's Church and School, the Masonic Hall, Lenox Court, the Wire Works, the Telephone Building, the Gas Building and the Unitarian Church is added to the historical importance of the district's buildings, the Ann Street Historic District can be reckoned a significant historic resource.

¹Hartford Architecture, Volume I, Downtown (Hartford: Hartford Architecture)

²Hartford City Directory, 1913, p. 616.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of parcel 421-003-003 (316-320 Ann Street), the boundary runs south along the rear property lines of that lot and Parcel 421-003-001 (228-240 Church Street) to Church Street. It follows the north line of Church Street west ward to its intersection with Ann Street, then runs south along the west line of Ann Street. It turns eastward to follow the north line of Parcel 421-001-001 (250-252 Pearl Street), then runs south along the east lines of that lot and Parcel 421-001-001 (234 Pearl Street continuing across Pearl Street). It runs eastward along the south line of Pearl Street to the northeast corner of the 1911 Telephone Building 422-003-004 (185 Pearl Street) Then runs south in a straight line until it turns westward to run along that building rear wall continuing along the north line of Hicks Street to the southwest corner of the building at 54 Hicks Street. It runs north along the west wall of that building then runs westward along the rear property lines of Parcels 422-002-002 and 422-002-001, crossing ann Street and following west and north along the line of Parcel 422-001-002 (the Fire Station). From the northwest corner of that lot the boundary runs north across Pearl Street and then follows along the west property lines of Parcels 419-007-010 (266 Pearl Street) and 419-007-007 (297 Asylum Street). Crossing Asylum Street, it continues northward along the west line of Parcel 419-008-009, then turns westward to follow the rear property lines of Parcels 419-008-005 and 419-008-005 and 419-008-004 (103-105 and 109-121 Allyn Street). The boundary runs along west line of Parcel 419-008-004 to Allyn Street, crossing Allyn Street and continuing continuing along the west line of Parcel 009-012 (112 Allyn Street).

The boundary runs east along the north line of Parcels 419-009-012 and 419-069-001 (108 Allyn Street), north along the west line of Parcel 419-009-009 (265 Church Street) and east along the south line of Church Street. It crosses the intersection of Church and Ann Streets diagonally to the northeast corner and continues northward along the east side of Ann Street to the northwest corner of Parcel 421-003-003. It then runs eastward along the north line of that lot to the first point.

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Justification

Both visual and architectural criteria were used to determine the boundaries of the district. To the north, interstate highway I-84 and the large vacant parcel on Ann Street north of Church Street provide a strong visual terminus to the cluster of historic buildings on Ann Street. On the east, the district is bounded by the Hartford Civic Center complex. The Goodwin Block National Register historic district and the more modern Telephone Company office towers. Vacant land to the south and extensive modern construction on side streets to the west interrupt the streetscape of historic buildings which lie inside the district. Although recent demolition has resulted in a large vacant parcel in the middle of the district on the northwest corner of Asylum and Ann Streets, the district is still connected visually along a north-south axis, buildings from both clusters visible from the opposite end of the street.

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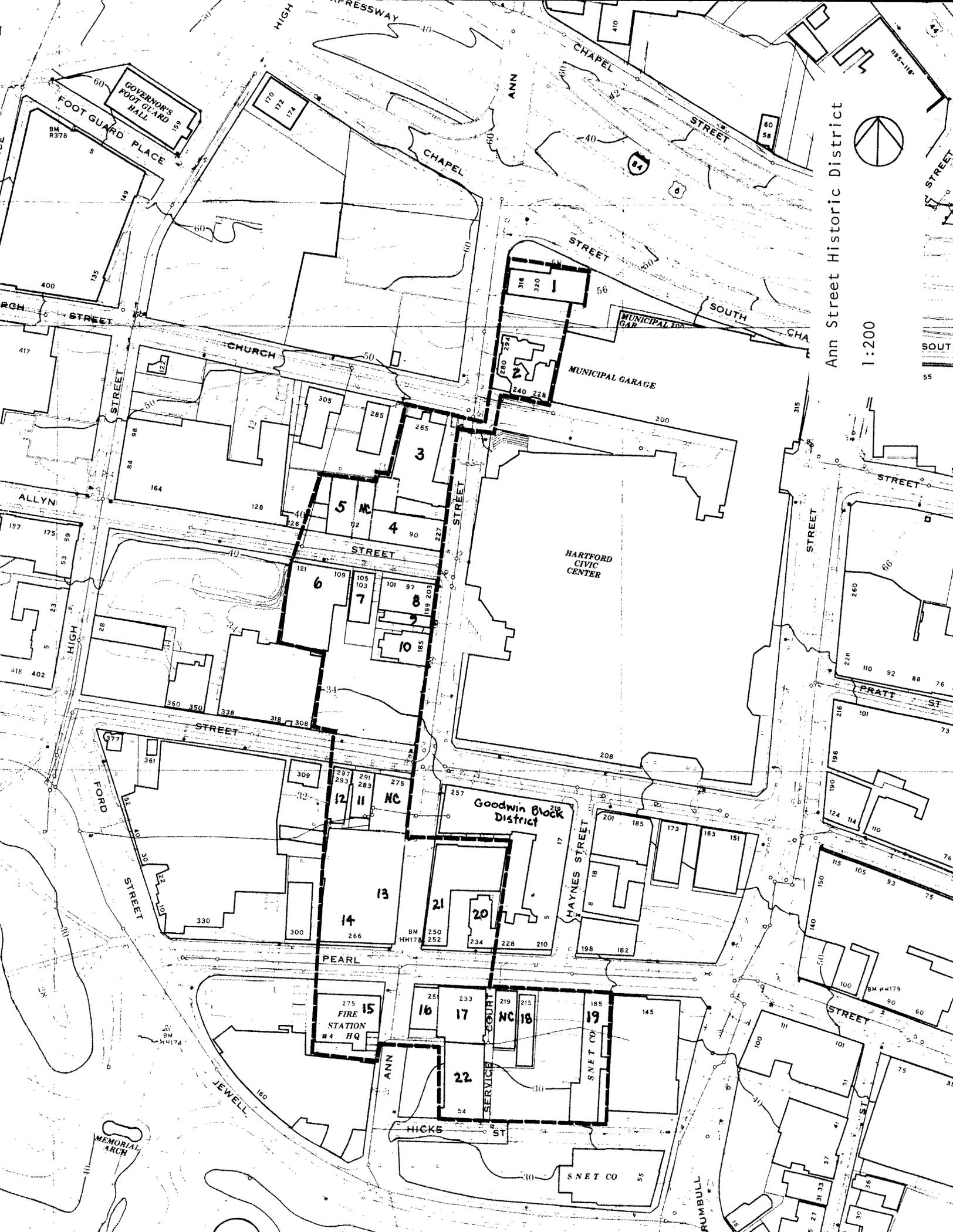
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UTM REFERENCES

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B:	693	050	4626	550
C:	693	010	4626	540
D:	692	990	4626	300
E:	693	040	4626	290
F:	693	030	4626	180
G:	693	080	4626	180
H:	693	080	4626	140
I:	693	000	4626	150
J:	693	000	4626	190
K:	692	920	4626	190
L:	692	940	4626	400
M:	692	900	4626	410
N:	692	910	4626	460
O:	692	920	4626	480
P:	692	950	4626	480
Q:	692	960	4626	540
R:	693	010	4626	540
S:	693	020	4626	620



Ann Street Historic District

1:200

SOUTH
55

GOVERNOR'S
FOOT GUARD
BALL

FOOT GUARD PLACE

CHAPEL

CHAPEL

STREET

ANN

STREET

SOUTH

CHA

CHURCH

MUNICIPAL GARAGE

3

5

4

6

7

8

2

10

HARTFORD
CIVIC
CENTER

STREET

Goodwin Block
District

12

11

14

13

21

20

15

FIRE
STATION
#4
HQ

16

17

18

19

22

COURT

SERVICE

SNET CO

55

PEARL

HAYNES STREET

FORD STREET

JEWELL

HICKES

FRUMBULL

MEMORIAL
ARCH

STREET

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PRATT ST

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