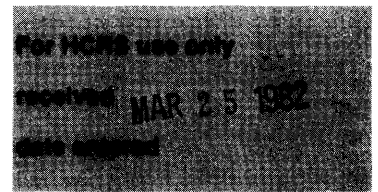


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Carroll Building

and/or common Flat Iron Building

2. Location

street & number 9-15 Main Street, 14-20 Water Street N/A not for publication

city, town Norwich N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut code 09 county New London code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph A. Rabitaille, Jr. and Theresa M. Rabitaille

street & number 14 Park Avenue

city, town Groton N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Norwich City Hall, Room 214

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 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carroll Building, constructed in 1887, is a Romanesque Revival structure situated at the western intersection of Main and Water Streets in Norwich, Connecticut. Located in a densely built urban environment, the Carroll Building is part of a lens-shaped block formed by the two streets, which intersect at two points. Because of its position, the building is a critical element in the street-scape of downtown Norwich. (Photograph 1). The lot, which slopes upwards from North to South, downwards from East to West on Main Street, and upwards in the same direction on Water Street, is occupied fully by the building. Varying from 4-5 stories in height, the Carroll Building is triangular in plan, and terminates in a semicircular turret at the western end. Construction is of brick in the stretcher bond. The eastern end of the building, which forms the base of the triangular plan, is 60 feet in length. The Main Street facade is 85 feet in length, the Water Street facade, 77.5 feet. The diameter of the turret is approximately 18 feet.

The Main Street facade is divided into three sections by brick pilasters corbelled to support triangular brownstone caps at both the storefront level and the cornice. A brownstone course unites the lintels and round arches of the upper story windows. Each section has a separate storefront corresponding to it. The easternmost storefront, No. 15 Main Street, has cast-iron columns framing a recessed entry. The columns support a steel girder above which is a molded brownstone course. This feature continues the length of the Main Street facade to the turret. (Photograph 2). Both columns bear casting marks with the name of the foundry, "A. H. Vaughn & Sons. Norwich, Conn." (Photograph 3). The door has six recessed lower panels and a large central pane with twelve panes of "crown glass" above and below. (Photograph 4). Plate glass windows on either side have been replaced with smaller fixed windows. Hyatt glass, round pieces of colored glass set into a cast-iron framework, is set into the sidewalk to admit light to the level below. The second floor has three windows with 2-over-2, double-hung sash, as used throughout the building. Brownstone lintels and sills are joined by courses of the same material. Spandrels between the second and third floor windows have diamond-shaped, terracotta insets. Third floor windows are round-headed with brownstone arches. Above these, a rectangular panel with the inscription "18C87" is set. The parapet is gabled with a brick corbel table. (Photograph 5).

The next section of the Carroll Building, Nos. 11-13 Main Street, has an entrance to the upper floors separated from the storefront proper by a 1-story brick pilaster with corbel and brownstone cap. A double door offset at an angle is of similar design to that at 15 Main Street, and has brick columns with undecorated capitals on either side. The storefront, originally similar to that at No. 15, has had its central door removed together with the plate glass to the west. These have been replaced with smaller, 6-over-1 double-hung sash. A small door of recent construction has replaced the other plate glass window. The second and third floors have 4 windows each. Only the upper sash is present in the third floor window above the side door, No. 13. Brick with a terracotta ornament is substituted here for the lower sash. Lintels¹ of the upper windows are joined by the brownstone course previously mentioned. Above this, a brick frieze with a chequered pattern and a corbel table support a brownstone cornice. This feature is in common with the next segment of the building, No. 9 Main Street, and provides a unifying effect. (Photograph 1).

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 25 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet Carroll Building

Item number 7

Page 2

The third portion of the Main Street facade, No. 9 Main Street, has its entry on the east side of the storefront. Display windows and transoms are still present, although an opaque paint has been applied. Second and third floors have three windows each and share a common cornice with Nos. 11-13 Main Street.

The turret has no separate access to the street. Cast-iron columns divide the street level front into four large panels originally occupied by fixed plate glass and transoms. These have been framed in and sash of differing sizes placed in the reduced openings. Transoms have been boarded over. Fixed panes below admit light to the lower level. (Photograph 6). The second floor has three windows. A terracotta frieze with a foliate design and brick dentils are located above these. The conical roof of the turret is attached to the end of the building, on which the brownstone course from the Main Street facade is continued. A parapet with gable and corbel table bears the date 1887. Brick pilasters on either corner are corbelled to support brownstone caps which frame the parapet gable. (Photograph 7).

The Water Street facade is similar to that of Main Street. Because of the configuration of the lot, the storefronts on Water Street are in the basement story of the building. All entryways have double doors with four lower panels and narrow, rectangular windows. As on Main Street, brick pilasters divide the facade into distinct sections with a common brick frieze and cornice. The first segment, No. 14 Water Street, has a door opening with a round arch of gauged bricks above it. The archway is filled in with brick. A large plate glass window and transom between pilasters has been altered to accept a smaller window. Only one window is located on the second floor level, while the third and fourth floors have two windows each. The cornice line is broken by a brick chimney. (Photographs 6 and 8).

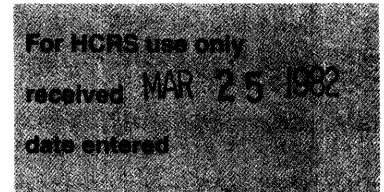
No. 16-18 Water Street features a storefront very similar to its Main Street counterpart, No. 11-13, even to the subsequent treatment of window openings. Display windows have been framed in and smaller windows inserted. The doorway leading to the stairway to the upper floors is set between pilasters and has a large transom of rectangular glass panes. Each of the three floors above this section had three windows. The windows above the door at 18 Water Street have been altered to accept doors. These provide access to a metal fire escape. (Photograph 8).

No. 20 Water Street has a two-story storefront of cast-iron and sheet metal. This reflects the insertion of an additional floor in this section, compensating for the lower level of the lot. (Photograph 9). Each of the floors above has three windows, the lintels of which are connected horizontally by brownstone courses. Spandrels between the fourth and fifth floors bear terracotta ornament similar to the Main Street facade of the same section. (Photograph 8).

The division of the building into storefronts on both Water and Main Streets is duplicated by the division of the interior. Each storefront provides access to a large one-room store. Doors at 13 Main Street and 18 Water Street allow access to a stairway leading to the upper floors. The turret's interior space is incorporated into the store at 9 Main Street. A spiral staircase once provided passage from the lower level

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

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



Continuation sheet Carroll Building

Item number 7

Page 3

at 14 Water Street to the first floor level at 9 Main Street. This has been removed, although the remains of a riser and tread can still be observed at the base of the turret.

Above the Main Street ground floor, the identity of the westernmost sections of the building are less distinct. 9 Main Street and 14 Water Street, and 11-13 Main Street and 16-18 Water Street have common floor levels, and are united on the interior of the two upper floors by a corridor leading from the stairway. The section corresponding to No. 20 Water Street and No. 15 Main Street, which is at a different level, is accessible through the same stairs by short flights at each landing. The second floor, as viewed from Main Street, contains offices, while the third floor has a hall at either end of the building. The hall at the west end of the building features an arched opening connected to the conical space formed by the roof of the turret.

Interior woodwork is stained and varnished throughout. Doors are panelled. Partitions were added in the 20th-century to create efficiency apartments. These have been removed and the original room outline revealed. Plaster and lath have also been removed, but the woodwork and doors have been retained by the present owner. Fireplaces with cast-iron backs decorated with fleurs-de-lis are located on the second floor of 15 Main Street. Staircases feature heavy newel posts, stained and varnished as the rest of the woodwork.

Although alterations have been made to the Carroll Building, the essential integrity of the structure remains intact. Few changes to the actual fabric of the building have taken place. Rather, the tendency has been to frame in existing openings to accommodate smaller, standardized window stock. In several instances, the original framework has been left in place. The existence of detailed plans by the architect, Stephen C. Earle, together with the physical evidence of the structure, are sufficient to enable restoration of the building.

Footnotes.

1. Earle, Stephen C. Plans of a Building for L.W. Carroll, Norwich, Conn. Manuscript dated 1886, Worcester, Massachusetts. In possession of Joseph A. Rabbitaille, Jr., 14 Park Avenue, Groton, Connecticut. The evidence of these plans is somewhat contradictory in the case of the replaced lower sash. Two elevations of the Main Street facade exist, one showing a normal, double-hung sash, the other indicating the present arrangement, with substitution of the brick and terra-cotta for the lower sash. This writer believes this to be a change made during the construction process.
2. Ibid. Again, the arch is shown as filled in with glass panes in one drawing, and with brick in a second. It is significant that a notation in the second drawing states that "First floor level—Main Street section now built." This appears to indicate that the change was made during construction with the approval of the architect.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Stephen C. Earle

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carroll Building is an excellent example of the Romanesque style of architecture. Designed by Stephen C. Earle, a Worcester architect responsible for several buildings in Norwich, the Carroll Building displays evidence of influence by the designs of H. M. Richardson. The adaptation of the building to a site of complex nature has been successful. Its position at the junction of two principal streets in downtown Norwich is crucial for the streetscape of that section. (Criterion C). The association of the building with L. W. Carroll, a local businessman active in the Norwich area, is important. The Carroll Building is representative of real estate practices in the late 19th-century where profits derived from manufacturing and commercial operations were reinvested in the local real estate market. Norwich, a large manufacturing center, benefited greatly from this type of investment. The present appearance of the downtown is due largely to such activity. (Criterion A).

The Carroll Building exhibits many characteristics of the Richardsonian Romanesque style adapted to commercial use. As in Richardsonian Romanesque, arched and rectangular window openings are utilized, although the windows are not grouped as in Richardson's work. Elaborate cornices and friezes of cut brickwork are another Richardsonian characteristic. The use of brownstone and brick in the building is reminiscent of the use of differing materials in buildings designed by Richardson such as the Union Station in New London. The turret, which is faired into the western end of the building, is yet another reminder of Richardson's pervasive influence. The storefronts, however, are of a more conventional style: cast iron columns and large plate glass windows similar to those of many other late 19th-century storefronts. Only in the entrance at 14 Water Street, with its rounded arch of gauged brick, is any concession to Richardsonian Romanesque apparent.

Stephen C. Earle, the architect of the Carroll Building, was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and spent most of his active career in Worcester, Massachusetts. From 1872–1875, however, Earle pursued his practice in Boston. 1. This period corresponded with Richardson's design of Trinity Church and his rise to national prominence. Richardson's influence on Earle has been remarked upon by Henry-Russell Hitchcock in The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times. Hitchcock states that the Park Congregational Church of Norwich, designed by Earle in 1873, is in imitation of Richardson's North Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. 2. The Slater Memorial, designed by Earle in 1886, a museum for the Norwich Free Academy, also exhibits Richardsonian Romanesque qualities.

Differing in scale and function from either the Park Congregational Church or the Slater Memorial, the Carroll Building bears a close resemblance to the Salisbury Building on Lincoln Square in Worcester, Massachusetts, designed by Earle in 1876. The storefronts of both buildings are virtually identical, featuring cast iron columns and plate glass display windows. Brick pilasters with similar caps to those on the Carroll Building divide the storefronts, although they do not extend above the first floor level. Terracotta diamond-shaped insets and an elaborate brick cornice reinforce

9. Major Bibliographical References

Earle, Stephen C. Plans of a Building for L. W. Carroll, Norwich, Conn.
 Mss. dated 1886, Worcester, Ma. In possession of Joseph A. Rabbitaille, Jr.,
 14 Park Avenue, Groton, CT.

Earle, Stephen C. "The Salisbury Building for Stephen Salisbury, Jr.,
 Worcester, Mass." American Architect and Building News, Vol. 4, p. 213. (Dec.) 28, 1878.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.06
 Quadrangle name Norwich Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

A verbal description of the boundary may be found in the Norwich Land Records, Book 225, page 236, Norwich City Clerk, City Hall, Norwich, CT. *Note: dimensions of bld. are described in section 7.* The building occupies the entire site.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nominations Consultant

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date August 13, 1980

street & number 32 Starr Street telephone (203) 443-4751

city or town New London 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 *[Signature]*
 title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date March 8, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 11/19/82
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *[Signature]* date *[Signature]*
 Chief of Registration

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

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

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date entered		

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

the similarity of the two buildings. Chimneys are carried down to a point just above the storefronts, but are disassociated with any of the design features of the first floor. The Carroll Building, however, defines its separate components by means of vertical pilasters extending to the cornice. Unity is provided horizontally through the cornice and brownstone courses. The turret serves to establish continuity between the Water and Main Street facades of the Carroll Building. The building displays a mastery of the Romanesque Revival style, which, while clearly related to earlier works such as the Salisbury building, is more unified in conception. The use of a personal idiom by the architect is also worthy of note.

While a good example of the Romanesque Revival style, the Carroll Building is also a tribute to the technical skill of the designer. A very constricted site with a variety of inclining planes has been utilized to the maximum. To accomplish this, Earle created what is essentially two buildings with different levels connected by a common staircase. The difference in grade between Water and Main Streets allows utilization of the basement level as well as the first floor of the building for storefront use, a considerable advantage.

The location of the building is of importance, too. From the intersection of Main and Water Streets, West Main Street leads westwards to outlying sections of Norwich. Washington Street leads northwards to a largely residential district. Commercially, the location was well chosen to exploit traffic from both of these areas. Visually, its situation at the edge of the Central Business District is important through providing an introduction to the that area and forming the leading edge of its block. Approached from the west, the Carroll Building dominates West Main Street, which rises steeply towards the building.

The Carroll Building is the best example of commercial Romanesque Revival style structures within Norwich. Numerous examples are to be found in the downtown, several of which are attributable to Earle. The most noteworthy is the Rockwell Building, an early Romanesque Revival structure built in 1861 at 97-105 Main Street and 3-9 Market Street. This is distinguished by granite first floor storefronts with brick upper stories featuring a two to three story arcade within which the windows are set. The building was substantially altered in 1895 with the addition of a cast iron turret and other detailing. While possessing considerable architectural merit, the Rockwell Building does not retain the integrity of its original design which the Carroll Building does. The Lee and Osgood Building of 1883 at 148-152 Water Street was strikingly similar to the Carroll Building in its use of vertical pilasters and horizontal belt courses of brownstone. Other details, such as the brownstone caps at the storefront level and the cast iron storefront dividers, were clearly related to those of the Carroll building. Although undoubtedly the product of Earle, the building was demolished recently. The A.H.Vaughn & Sons Office at 11 Ferry Street shares many design features in common with both the Carroll Building and the Lee and Osgood Building, but lacks the sophistication of design associated with the Carroll Building. Built in 1884, probably by Earle, the Vaughn Office again features vertical pilasters with horizontal brownstone courses and the same distinctive storefront design. The Carroll Building, however, stands out for the imaginative manner in which the architect has integrated the triangular segment of the building with its end turret with the more conventional portion of the structure at the east end. In its use of the turret with a terracotta frieze inspired by Richardsonian tradition, the Carroll Building is an interesting link between the more mundane commercial architecture of the period and the polished styl-

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

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

For HCARS use only

received OCT 1 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 3

more urbane architecture associated with churches and public buildings.

Lucius W. Carroll, the original owner of the Carroll Building, was one of the most prominent of Norwich's 19th-century business leaders. A commission merchant selling wool, cotton, manufacturer's supplies, dye stuffs, paints, oils, glass, etc., he was one of the founders of the Occum Water Power Company, the owner of a cotton mill, and influential in Norwich banking circles. His role in the industrialization of Norwich through development of water power resources and capital was important. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, Carroll played no role in local politics. By 1890, his business is described as occupying one of the largest warehouses in Norwich, on Water Street opposite the location of the Carroll Building. 4. This building is no longer extant, but may have been designed by Earle. Notations on the plans of the Carroll Building indicate that the design of the cornice was the same as a building already constructed on Water Street. 5. Unfortunately, this building was demolished several years ago for parking.

Carroll never occupied the building named for him, his offices being located instead in his large warehouse. Rather, the building was rented to a variety of local businesses, including the main office of the Southern New England Telephone from 1894-1902. 6. Like many wealthy entrepreneurs in the late 19th-century, Carroll chose to reinvest the profits from his varied enterprises in real estate. Similar examples can be found in the area, including the Perry-Armstrong Building on Bank Street in New London, built by a local silk manufacturer. Downtown Norwich, consisting of a significant concentration of late-nineteenth century structures, was developed in this manner. This phenomenon as well as the prestige and wealth of Carroll are reflected in the Carroll Building.

was transferred to the
Footnotes.

1. Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc, 1970, pages 186-187.
2. Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and His Times. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press, 1970, page 150. Also page 295.
3. Earle, Stephen C. The "Salisbury Building " for Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Worcester, Mass.," American Architect and Building News, Vol. 4, Page 213, December 28, 1878.
4. The Leading Businessmen of Norwich and Vicinity. Boston: Mercantile Publishing Company, 1890, page 35.
5. Earle, Stephen C. Plans of a Building for L.W.Carroll, Norwich, Conn. Notation on plans beneath cornice reads: "Same as on building now up on Water Street."
6. Stedman's Norwich Directory, Vols. 26-46 (1886-1902). Norwich: Press of the Bulletin, 1886-1902 inclusive.

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Carroll Building

Item number 9

Page 2

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Stedman's Norwich Directory. Vols. 26-46 (1886-1906). Norwich: Press of the Bulletin, 1886-1902 inclusive.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.