

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

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

For HCPS use only
received MAR 10 1982
date entered APR 29 1982

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

1. Name

historic Little Hollywood Historic District
and/or common Frederick/Denison/Owen

2. Location

Farmington Ave., Owen, Frederick and Denison Sts.
North side: 402-422 Farmington Ave.; South side: 419-445
street & number Farmington Ave.; 13-35 Owen St.; 1-34 Frederick spot for publication
17-29 Denison St.
city, town Hartford NA vicinity of congressional district 1st
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name see continuation sheets
street & number " " "
city, town " NA vicinity of state "

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hartford Municipal Building
street & number 550 Main Street
city, town Hartford state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title see continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date " " " federal state county local
depository for survey records "
city, town " " " state "

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Over View

The Little Hollywood National Register Historic District consists of 39 brick apartment houses, most of them three stories high, built between 1907 and 1923 on approximately eight acres of land in the West End of Hartford. Ten of the buildings face Farmington Avenue, Hartford's leading east-west traffic artery; 11 are on Frederick Street, one block to the south, and 16 front on Denison and Owen streets that run north-south from Farmington Avenue to Frederick Street. (see sketch map)

All buildings in the district are apartment houses. There are no infill structures, no stores, houses, or churches. The single function of all the buildings is a chief, distinctive characteristic of the district. All the buildings are considered to contribute to the historic character of the district.

This section of Hartford's West End, with Farmington Avenue as its focal point, was developed largely during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its architectural milieu is one of multi-story brick apartment houses and small commercial buildings along Farmington Avenue with brick, three-family residences, multi-story brick apartment buildings and modest single-family frame houses on the streets south of Farmington Avenue. A small number of apartment buildings, two- and three-family frame residences and large, single-family frame houses are found on the streets north of Farmington Avenue. Reflecting the eclectic architectural tastes of the main period of its development, the West End contains buildings in the Queen Anne, Shingle, Second Renaissance Revival, Georgian Revival, Jacobethan Revival and Modernistic styles.

Boundary Justification

The northern boundary of the district is Farmington Avenue, (or the rear lot lines of properties facing Farmington Avenue), the main east-west street of the West End. Structures on the north side of Farmington Avenue west of Owen Street are not included in the district because they are houses, not apartment houses.

The eastern boundary is the rear lot lines of buildings on the east side of Owen Street. To the east of this boundary there is open land leading to the North Branch of the Park River. The building at the southeast corner of Frederick and Owen streets, 40 Owen Street, and another at the west end of Frederick Street, 35 Frederick Street, are omitted from the district because they are post-World War II structures.

The south boundary of the district is the rear lot lines of properties facing Frederick Street. To the south of this boundary is a single parcel of 14 acres that for most of the 20th century has been a religious institution known as the House of the Good Shepherd. The west boundary of the

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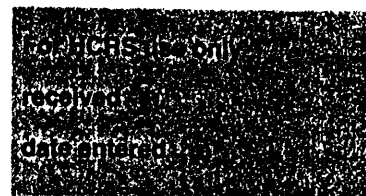
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LOCATION/OWNER

DESCRIPTION

402-404 Farmington Avenue
(A9) (Photograph No. 1)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Parcel: 322-001-018

Contributing

Date: 1912 "The Lorraine Apartments"
Architect: Burton A. Sellew, Hartford

This three-story Renaissance Revival structure has a rusticated stone base with round, Florentine arched windows. The entrances are flanked by Doric pilasters supporting wide entablatures. Flat arched windows with raised keystones span the quoined second and third story windows. A belt course is carried between the third story openings and the projecting, modillioned cornice.

408 Farmington Avenue
(A10) (Photograph No. 1)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Parcel: 322-001-017

Contributing

Date: 1920
Architect: George Zunner, Hartford

This three-story Chicago School apartment building has a stepped and gabled parapet with stone coping, belt course and geometric insets. Its projecting, central stairhall bay has double-hung windows with partial sidelights and a gabled tile porch roof supported by brackets. The end bays have tripartite windows with rowlock brick lintels and stone sills. Decorative brick panels enliven the sides of the building.

412 Farmington Avenue
(All)(Photograph No. 1)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Parcel: 322-001-016

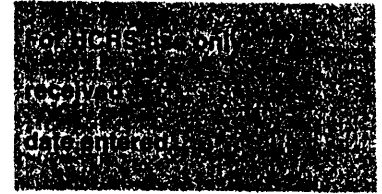
Date: 1907

In addition to its rock faced stone foundation, rusticated brick base, stone quoining and modillioned cornice, this building is distinguished by its light brick color. Its Palladian, pedimented central bay has a recessed entrance flanked by Doric columns and engaged Doric

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412 Farmington Avenue (Cont.)

pilasters. Colossal Ionic columns and pilasters frame the recessed, second and third story porches. The facade has Chicago windows with fixed central transoms beneath molded stone lintels. The building still has its original elevator.

416 Farmington Avenue
(A12)(Photograph No. 2)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1911

Parcel: 322-001-015

Contributing

Paired, three-story brick porches connected at the second story by a balustrade accent the facade of this five bay building. The paired, central bay, stairhall windows have a flat arched lintel with a raised keystone. This lintel is also used above the porch and end bay openings. The building's other features include stone quoining and a modillioned cornice with paired brackets.

422 Farmington Avenue
(A13)(Photograph Nos. 2, 5)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick St.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1914 "The Strathmore Apartments"

Parcel: 322-001-014

Contributing

Stone lions flank the entrance of this rather ornate and eclectic four-story apartment building with its diaper patterned brick facade. The building has a rock-faced brownstone foundation, a rusticated brick base and brick quoining. The end bays of the upper three stories have French doors leading onto bracketed, wrought iron bombe balconies. The center bays have Chicago windows with fixed, bevelled glass transoms. The stuccoed top story has brick surrounds and a continuous sill. The pent, tile roof is supported by metal consoles.

419-421 Farmington Avenue
(Photographs No. 3, 5)

Judge James Kinsella
c/o Probate Court
550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

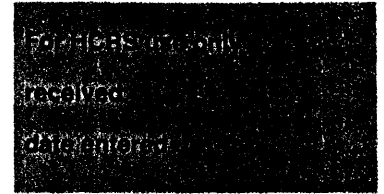
Date: 1922 "The Dorilton Apartments"
Architect: Harry H. Beckenstein, Hartford

Parcel: 321-003-005

This three-story Jacobethan Revival building has major entrances on both Farmington Avenue and Owen Street. The decorative treatment of the

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419-421 Farmington Avenue (Cont.)

Contributing

Farmington Avenue facade, which is continued on the Owen Street elevation, includes a crow-stepped and shaped parapet accented by concrete coping, ogee arched panels on crocketed corbels and a belt course. The Owen Street parapet has rosettes under the shaped gables. Both elevations have sets of paired and triple windows with quoined surrounds; a continuous hood-mold above the first floor fenestration; arched and panelled entrances and a continuous water-table.

429-431 Farmington Avenue

(A 2)(Photographs Nos. 3, 4, 6)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Parcel: 321-002-009

Contributing

Date: 1919 "The Rosalind Apartments"
Architect: Harry H. Beckenstein, Hartford

The "Rosalind" is several years older and slightly larger than its near twin, the "Dorilton". The "Rosalind" features an off-center, arched hood-mold above its Owen Street entrance. The crow-stepped and shaped gable parapets have been largely replaced by plain brick walls.

435 Farmington Avenue

(Photograph No. 4)

Shirley S. Coblens
5 Pheasant Lane
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002

Parcel: 321-002-008

Contributing

Date: 1913 "The Astoria Apartments"

Number 435 Farmington Avenue is a three bay, three-story, brick building with a dentilled cornice, stone quoining, a rusticated brick base and a dressed stone foundation. The triple, end bay windows have brick surrounds with stone corner blocks. The center bay windows have arched lintels. The entrance porch is supported by two sets of three-member, Tuscan order column groupings.

439-441 Farmington Avenue

(A 4)(Photograph No. 4)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1917
Architect: Berenson and Moses, Hartford

Surface ornamentation is kept to a minimum on this four-story brick apartment. Brick pilasters

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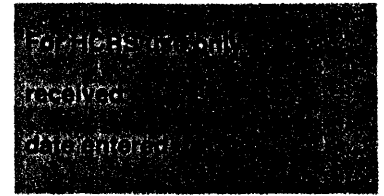
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with triglyph capitals in the cornice emphasize the building's three bay division. The first story windows have flat arched lintels with raised keystones and stone sills. The upper story windows also have flat arched lintels and stone sills, but they lack raised keystones. The center bay stairhall windows are smaller than the end bay openings, an unusual treatment for this type and style of building.

445 Farmington Avenue

Paul and Santina Spagna
445 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-006

Contributing

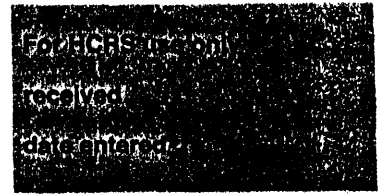
Date: 1915 "The Belvedere Apartments"
Architect: Willis E. Becker, Hartford

This three story brick building has a rusticated and quoined brick base, brick pilasters

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445 Farmington Avenue (cont.)

Contributing

with flat, Ionic stone capitals and a modillioned and bracketed cornice. The windows have stone lintels with raised keystones and corner blocks and stone sills. The entrance porch has been modified by the addition of decorative concrete block walls.

16 Owen Street

(0 7)(Photograph No. 5)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1923
Architect: George Matthews, Hartford

This three-story brick structure is unusual in its pair of projecting wooden porches on its facade. The porches appear to be original and have Tuscan columns, plain balusters and hipped roofs. The central entrance has an ornate surround with a segmentally arched transom and engaged Ionic columns and pilasters supporting a wide entablature. This entrance is flanked by narrow four-over-one windows with lion head keystones and shaped sills. The building is crowned by a battlemented parapet that is gabled above the porches. (See floor Plan No. 1)

Parcel: 321-003-04

Contributing

24 Owen Street

(0 8)(Photograph No. 5)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Date: 1921

Numbers 24, 26, and 28 Owen Street have common details and are arranged around a central entrance court. The buildings have evenly spaced, double-hung windows with slightly quined surrounds. Horizontal elements include a concrete water-table and a continuous molding above the third floor windows. The parapets contain stone panels with carved floral patterns above the corner bays and rectangular and diamond shaped insets above the center bays. All three buildings have ~~trabeated~~ entrances with crowning cartouches.

Parcel: 321-003-003

Contributing

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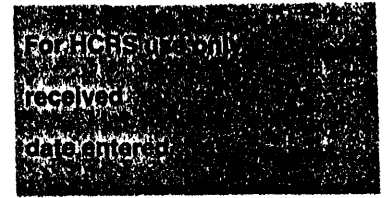
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26 Owen Street (O 11)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

(See description for 24 Owen Street)

Parcel: 321-003-03

Contributing

28 Owen Street (O 12) (Photograph No. 5)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

(See description for 24 Owen Street)

Parcel: 321-003-002

Contributing

13-15 Owen Street (Photograph No. 6)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1921
Architect: Burton A. Sellow, Hartford

Parcel: 321-002-010

Contributing

This dark brick, three-story, five bay building has a modillioned cornice, concrete window surrounds and a continuous concrete sill running under the third story openings. The round arched, central entrance with its brick spandrels carrying a wide entablature is illuminated by ornate lighting fixtures found in the panelled surrounds on either side of the doorway.

17-19 Owen Street

(O 2) (Photograph No. 6)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Date: 1923
Architect: Dunkelberger and Gelman, Hartford

Parcel: 321-002-011

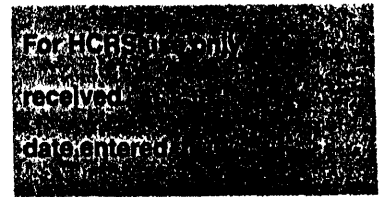
Contributing

This fanciful Swiss Chalet Revival style building is distinguished by its twin, bracket-supported tiled gables, its decorative brick "half-timbering", and its bracket-supported, shed roof entrance porch. Colored tile insets are

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17-19 Owen Street (Continued)

found in the belt course and in the stuccoed panels of the second and third stories. The brick surrounds of the first story windows connect the belt course with the brick water-table creating aprons under the first story windows. (See floor Plan No. 2)

23 Owen Street

(O 3) (Photograph No. 6)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1921

Parcel: 321-002-012

Number 23 and Number 27 Owen Streets were designed as a pair, and are entered through a common courtyard. The facades have a narrow, central bay with transomed windows with quoined surrounds and shaped lintels, set between panelled pilasters. The pilasters support volutes and a false, balustraded balcony. The window above the balcony is crowned by a rosette. The end bays have tripartite, transomed windows with concrete quoins, lintels and sills. A continuous belt course divides the first and second stories. A brick parapet with a shaped gable and blind balustrades caps the building.

Contributing

27 Owen Street

(O 4) (Photograph No. 6)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-013

Contributing

31 Owen Street (O 5)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1923

Architect: Dunkelberger and Gelman, Hartford

Parcel: 321-002-014

This "Moorish" three-story brick and stucco building repeats the diamond-shaped tile inset detail of 17-19 Owen Street. In Number 31 Owen Street, one finds vertical banks of paired windows with brick header surrounds and arches, tile spandrel insets and tile apron insets. This building, with its full brick first story, is crowned by a central, pent tile roof and rosettes set in brick header surrounds.

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35 Owen Street

(O 6) (Photograph No. 7)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-015

Contributing

Date: 1923
Architect: Dunkelberger and Gelman, Hartford

Number 35 Owen Street closely mirrors the general arrangement and decorative treatment of Number 31 Owen Street. Because of its corner location, however, Number 35 Owen Street continues its ornamental treatment on its Frederick Street elevation.

10-12 Frederick Street

(F 11) (Photograph No. 7)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-016

Contributing

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This three-story brick building has a recessed central entrance bay. The round-arched entrance has a gabled tile porch roof supported by plain wooden brackets. The central bay also has a pent, tile roof projecting above the third-story window. The two flanking bays have tripartite windows with concrete lintels, sills, and impost blocks. The building is banded by a water-table, third story continuous sill and a flat cornice. These bays have shaped gable parapets with block insets.

14-16 Frederick Street

(F 12)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-017

Contributing

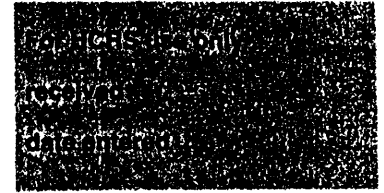
Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This three-story brick building has a stepped parapet containing rectangular concrete panels. The windows have quoined surrounds with a continuous belt course at the second floor. The central entrance has a plain, concrete surround.

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20 Frederick Street (F 13)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-018

Contributing

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

Among this three-story brick apartment building's original features is a gabled brick parapet with a triangular stucco panel. Later alterations include the replacement of the central bay windows with a smaller aluminum sash and the demolition of the central, three-story porch.

22 Frederick Street

(F 14) (Photograph No. 10)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-001

Contributing

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This three-story corner building has a light brick wall surface accented by darker brick in the window surrounds. The stuccoed parapet is both stepped and gabled, with inset panels outlined in brick.

30-34 Frederick Street (F 15)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 314-008-014

Contributing

This post-World War II, three-story brick apartment building follows the setback and form of the surrounding buildings, but does not maintain their level of ornament. Outside of the slightly recessed entrance and the slightly projecting, brick rowlock sills, the building is a severe, brick block.

1-3 Frederick Street (F 1)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-001-006

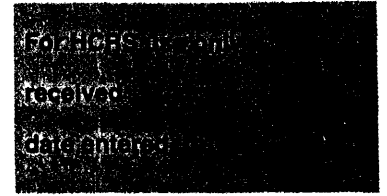
Contributing

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This three-story, corner building has a Tudor entrance with a cartouche inset and rusticated brick surrounds. A raised parapet crowns this rather simple three-bay structure.

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5-7 Frederick Street (F 2)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

Parcel: 321-001-005

This structure is identical to 21-23 Frederick Street except for its entrance. Here one finds a broken entablature with a rosetted frieze, a grotesque in the keystone and a cartouche carrying the building's street number. Among the details shared by the buildings are consoled window keystones, bracketed pent roofs and beltcourses carried between the first and second stories.

Contributing

9-11 Frederick Street

(F 3) (Photograph No. 8)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

Parcel: 321-001-004

This building has a Tudor entrance surround with a pointed arch, a hood-mold with label stops, and a crocketed gable with a fleur-de-lis finial. Above the entrance is a stone cartouche and a pent tile roof supported on consoles. The flanking bays have paired windows with concrete sills and carved, shield keystones above the first and third story openings. The third story is stuccoed above the sill line and has diamond shaped panels beneath stepped parapets. The first two stories are rusticated. (See floor plan No. 3)

Contributing

13-15 Frederick Street

(F 4) (Photograph No. 8)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

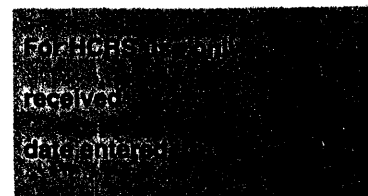
Parcel: 321-001-003

This brick structure has a full wooden entablature above its five-bay facade. The second and fourth bays have projecting, three-story porches with brick piers and classical balustrades. The windows have flared stone voussoirs and raised keystone and impost blocks. The stone water-table continues around the porches at the first floor level.

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17-19 Frederick Street

(Photograph No. 8)

Joseph and Sylvia Solomon
11 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Date: 1923
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

Parcel: 321-001-002

This structure originally was identical to 9-11 Frederick Street with its Tudor entrance, cartouche inset and rusticated brick first and second stories. The stuccoed third story was altered with the elimination of the stucco ornament.

Contributing

21-23 Frederick Street

(F 6) (Photographs 8, 9, 10)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Date: 1922
Architect: Rocco D'Avino, Hartford

Parcel: 314-001-001

The finest feature of this structure is its central entrance. The doors are recessed under a segmentally arched portal which, in turn, is flanked by engaged Tuscan columns crowned by strapwork blocks and antefixae. Above the segmentally arched opening is a panelled voussoir with a hanging sway decoration that is repeated in the flanking banner panels. The building's street number is carried in an ivy festooned panel in the curved, segmental pediment. The building also has a second floor beltcourse, consoled window keystones, and a tile pent roof. (see floor plan No. 4)

Contributing

25-27 Frederick Street

(F 7) (Photograph No. 8)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Date: 1922
Architect: Harry H. Beckenstein, Hartford

Parcel: 314-008-004

This three-story brick structure has an unadorned stone entrance surround with a crowning hood-mold. The paired and tripartite windows have concrete sills and impost blocks, with brick rowlock lintels. Above a stone cornice is a gabled parapet with trefoil and quatrefoil insets above each bay.

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18 Denison Street

(D 5) (Photograph Nos. 10, 11)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-004

Contributing

Date 1921

This three-story Tudor Revival apartment building has a central entrance with a trabeated concrete surround. Above the entrance is a concrete panel containing double-hung windows, cartouches, swagged aprons and a shaped parapet. The flanking bays contain tripartite, mullioned windows with beveled glass transoms and quoined surrounds. Above these windows are semicircular parapets with stone cartouches. A water-table, beltcourse and cornice further accent the facade.

20-22 Denison Street

(Photograph No. 11)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 321-002-003

Contributing

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This structure matches 24-26 Denison Street. The building has a central, ground level entrance with a concrete plaque in lieu of a transom light. The entrance, flanking tripartite windows and corners on the first floor level have stone quoins. The second floor is banded by projecting stretcher courses, producing a rusticated effect. The upper story windows have rowlock brick lintels with raised keystones. The shaped brick parapet has an ornamented panel in the center bay, and a plain, horizontal panel in the side bays.

24-26 Denison Street

(Photograph No. 11)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Parcel: 321-002-002

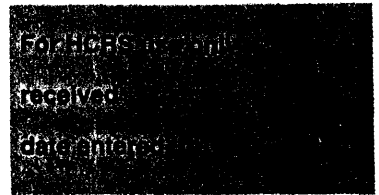
Contributing

(See description for 20-22 Denison Street)

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

Little Hollywood, Hartford, Connecticut



Continuation sheet

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Item number

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Page

12

17 Denison Street (D 1)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 314-008-010

Contributing

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This three-story structure has a recessed, central bay with a tile pent roof. The flanking bays have tripartite windows with rowlock brick lintels with concrete keystones and sills. The stuccoed third story has stepped parapets above the end bays with shields bearing the initials "A.K.M." for Ann K. Morrissey, the wife of the developer. The pent roof and stucco treatment is continued along the north elevation. (See floor plan No. 5)

21 Denison Street (D 2)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 314-008-011

Contributing

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

Numbers 21 and 25 Denison Street are paired around a central courtyard. Their detailing is almost identical to numbers 24 and 28 Owen Street with double-hung windows set in concrete surrounds, concrete beltcourses and cornices and stepped brick parapets with concrete inset panels.

25 Denison Street (D 3)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 314-008-012

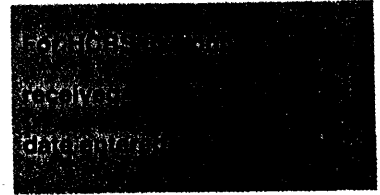
Contributing

(See description for 21 Denison Street)

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Little Hollywood, Hartford, Connecticut



Continuation sheet

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29 Denison Street (D 4)

Intown West Associates
Limited Partnership
1 Frederick Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Parcel: 314-008-013

Contributing

Date: 1922
Architect: George H. Matthews, Hartford

This structure resembles 13-15 Frederick Street with its three-story brick porches, raised keystone and impost block lintels, and its crowning entablature. This building differs only in the use of a lighter color brick and the continuation of the porch roof and cornice over the central entrance bay.

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Little Hollywood, Hartford, Connecticut

Continuation sheet

Surveys

Item number

6

Page

1



Hartford Architecture Conservancy's
Survey of Hartford

X No

1977

X Local

The Stowe-Day Library

Hartford

Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places

X No

1980

X State

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford

Connecticut

**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 Description Item number 7

Page 1

district is the rear lot lines of properties facing Denison Street. The properties on either side of Denison Street as it meets Farmington Avenue are omitted from the district because they are mid-20th century one-story commercial structures.

Visually, the district is a well-defined pocket of land, surrounded on three sides by Farmington Avenue, the North Branch of the Park River, and the House of the Good Shepherd, and densely built up with apartment houses constructed prior to the Great Depression.

The Buildings

The oldest buildings in the Little Hollywood District are located on Farmington Avenue and date from the period 1907-1919 (Numbers 402-404, 412, 416, 422, 429-431, 435, 439-441 and 445 - Photographs 1, 2 and 4). These three- and four-story, light and dark brick buildings stand on broad, tree-shaded lawns. Designed as upper-income apartment buildings, according to established building codes, these buildings vary considerably in their facade treatments. Falling into the broad category of the second Renaissance Revival style, they range in their detail treatment from Florentine arched windows (Number 402-404 - Photograph 1), to a Palladian porch, (Number 422 - Photographs 2 and 5). During the 1920s, two Jacobethan Revival buildings (Numbers 419-421 and 429-431 - Photographs 3, 4 and 5) and a modernistic building (Number 408 - Photograph 1) were added to the Farmington Avenue group in the Little Hollywood District. The Farmington Avenue buildings contain the largest apartment units in the district, with one- and two-bedroom suites, some with fireplaces, arranged along central hallways. Many of these buildings have undergone interior alterations to increase the number of units, but few have witnessed exterior modification.

The two Jacobethan apartment buildings, (Numbers 419-421 and 429-431) on Farmington Avenue by their positions on either side of Owen Street, form a gate onto Owen Street (Photograph 3). These structures establish the building height, set-back and shaped parapet roofline theme for the buildings on Owen, Frederick and Denison streets (Photographs 4-11). Variations of the Second Renaissance Revival and Jacobethan Revival styles are well represented on these streets (Photographs 5, 6 and 10). Swiss Chalet, (17-19 Owen Street, Photograph 6), Mission style (35 Owen Street, Photograph 7) and Baroque (21-23 Frederick Street, Photograph 9) architectural elements are also found. Built between 1919 and 1923, the Owen, Frederick and Denison streets buildings have less ornate facades and stand on smaller lawns than do those on Farmington Avenue. A number have been grouped around central courtyards as at 23-27 Owen Street and 24-26-28 Owen Street. The floor plans of the Owen, Frederick and Denison Street structures are generally for one-bedroom units, with combined dining and kitchen areas.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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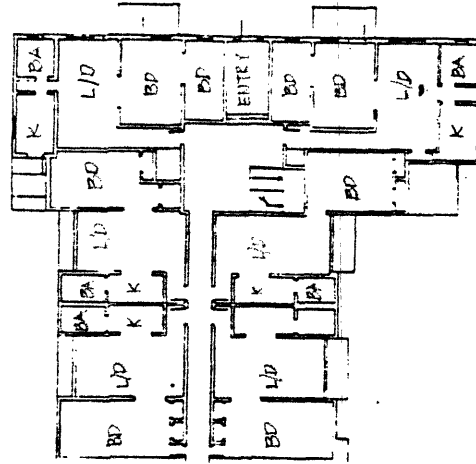
ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

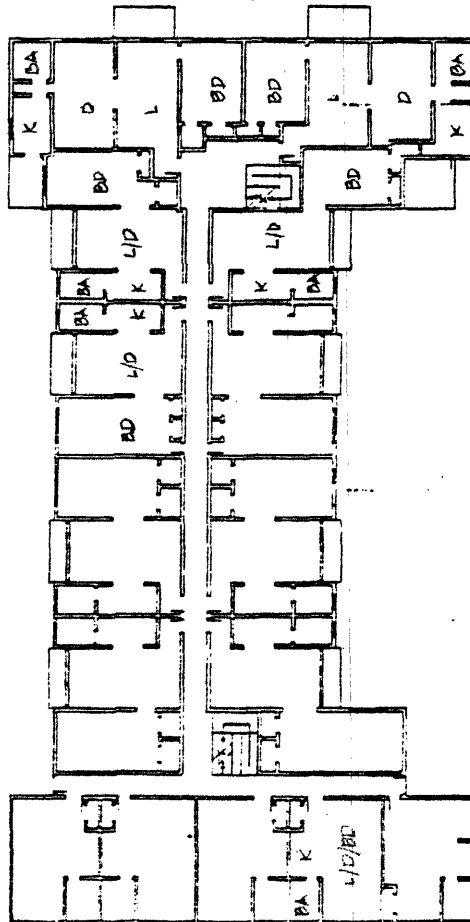
A

Floor Plan

①



FIRST FLOOR



UPPER FLOORS

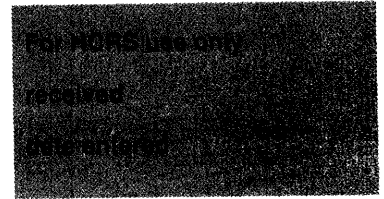
INTOWN WEST
 Intown Development Corp. Hartford, Conn.
 David A. Cross & Partners/DACP, Inc.
 Site Planning & Landscape Architects
 Philadelphia, Pa.

design group one
 TYP. FLR.

16 Owen Street
Little Hollywood District
Hartford, Connecticut

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Little Hollywood National Register Historic District
Continuation sheet Description Item number

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Page 2

These units are often entered from long central hallways (see floor plans 1-5). The apartments in the Owen, Frederick and Denison streets buildings are smaller and the buildings are closer together, compared with those on Farmington Avenue. The Farmington Avenue buildings and the Owen, Frederick and Denison streets buildings form a cohesive urban entity bound by building type (apartments), building material (brick), scale (three-to-four stories), and style (early 20th-century eclecticism). Their physical compactness, visual continuity and shared architectural features make the Little Hollywood District a distinctive urban community in Hartford, unmatched by any other neighborhood in the city.

(11/78)

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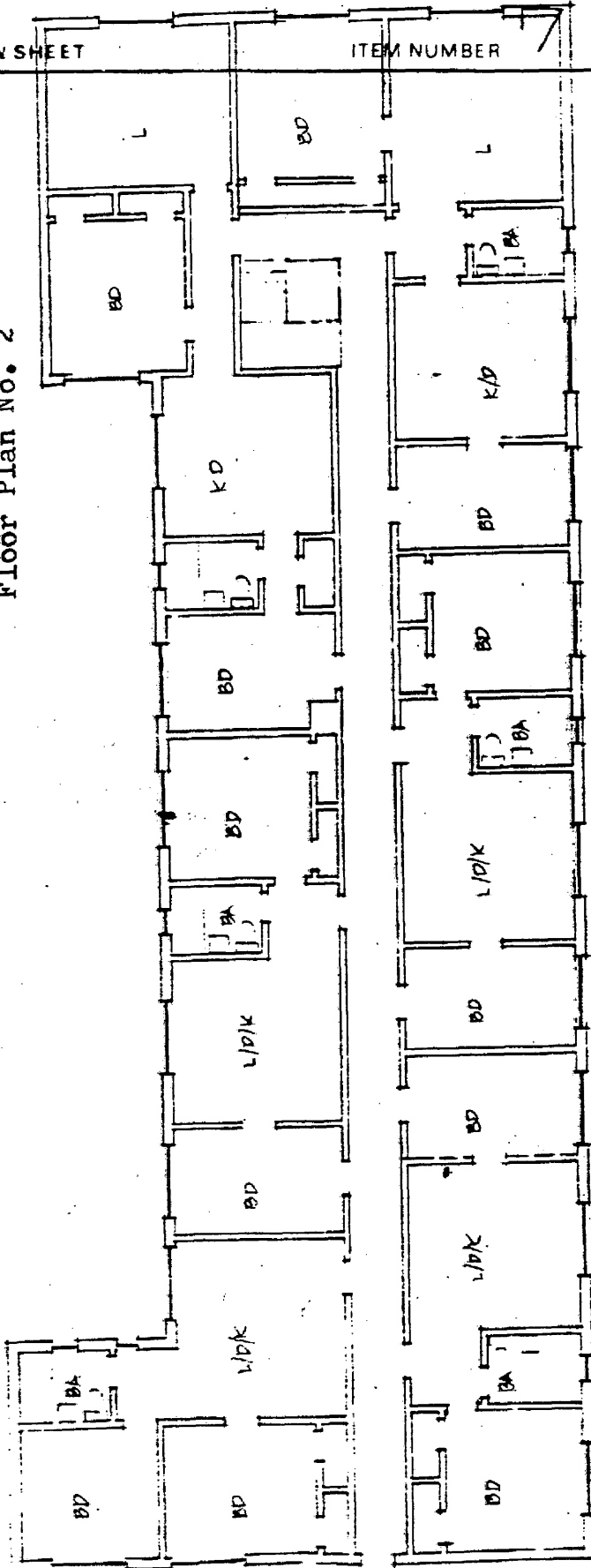
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

2 A

Floor Plan No. 2



17-19 Owen Street
Little Hollywood District
Hartford, Connecticut

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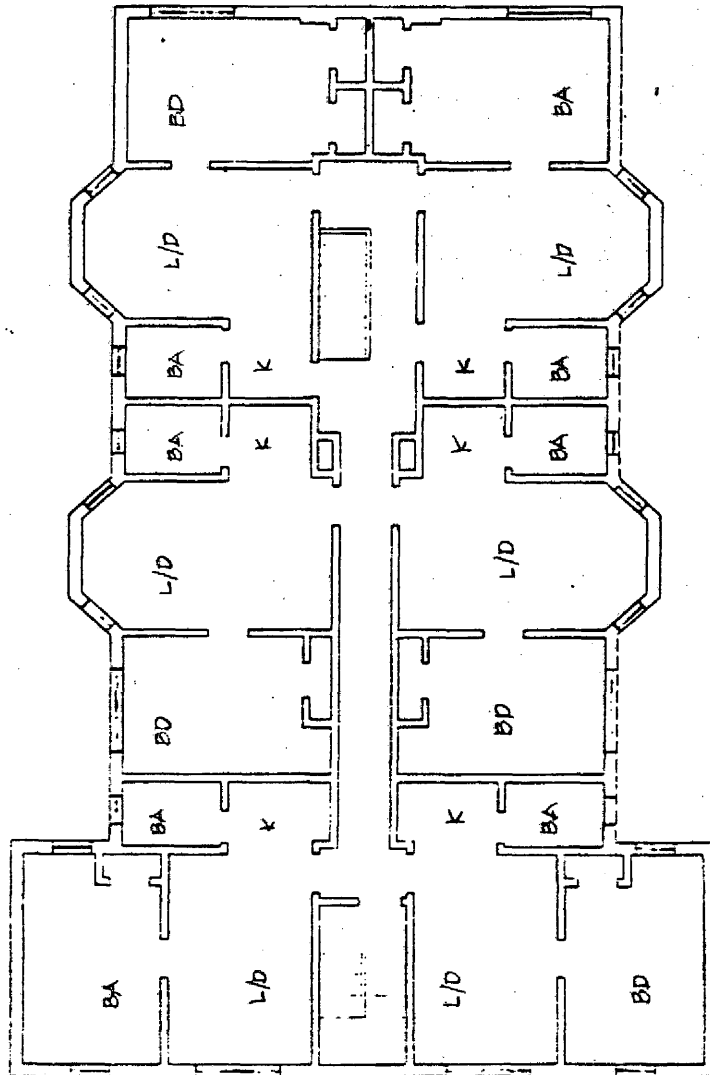
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER **7**

PAGE **3A**

Floor Plan - No. 3



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Development Corp. Hartford Conn.
David A. Gross & Partner/DMCP Inc.
Site Planners & Landscape Architects
Philadelphia, Pa.

architects-hartford.com

design group one

TYP. FLR.

9-11 Frederick Street
Little Hollywood District
Hartford, Connecticut

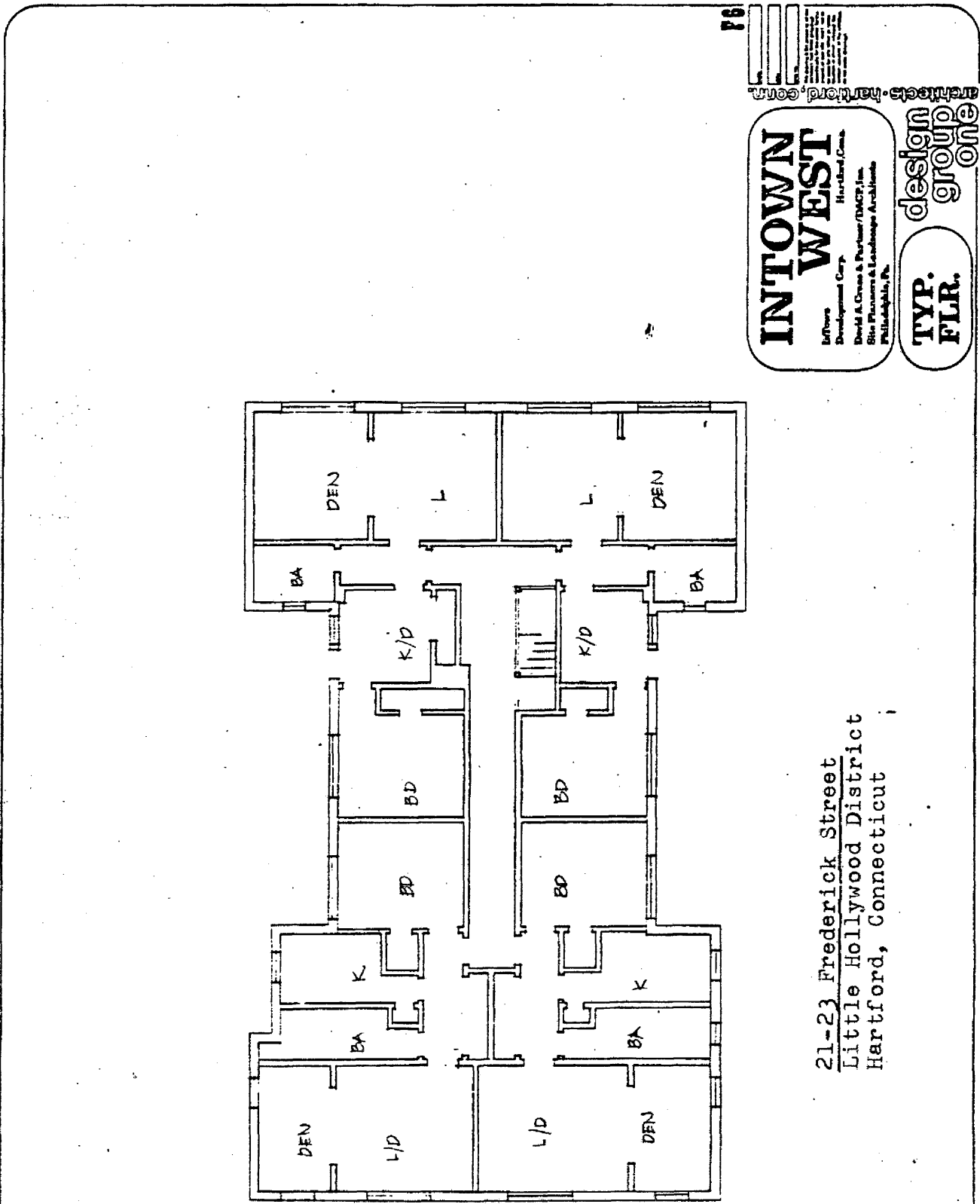
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

Floor Plan - No. 4



INTOWN WEST
 Interior Development Corp. Hartford, Conn.
 David A. Cross & Partners/DACP Inc.
 Site Planners & Landscape Architects
 Philadelphia, Pa.

design group one

TYP. FLR.

21-23 Frederick Street
Little Hollywood District
Hartford, Connecticut

F-6

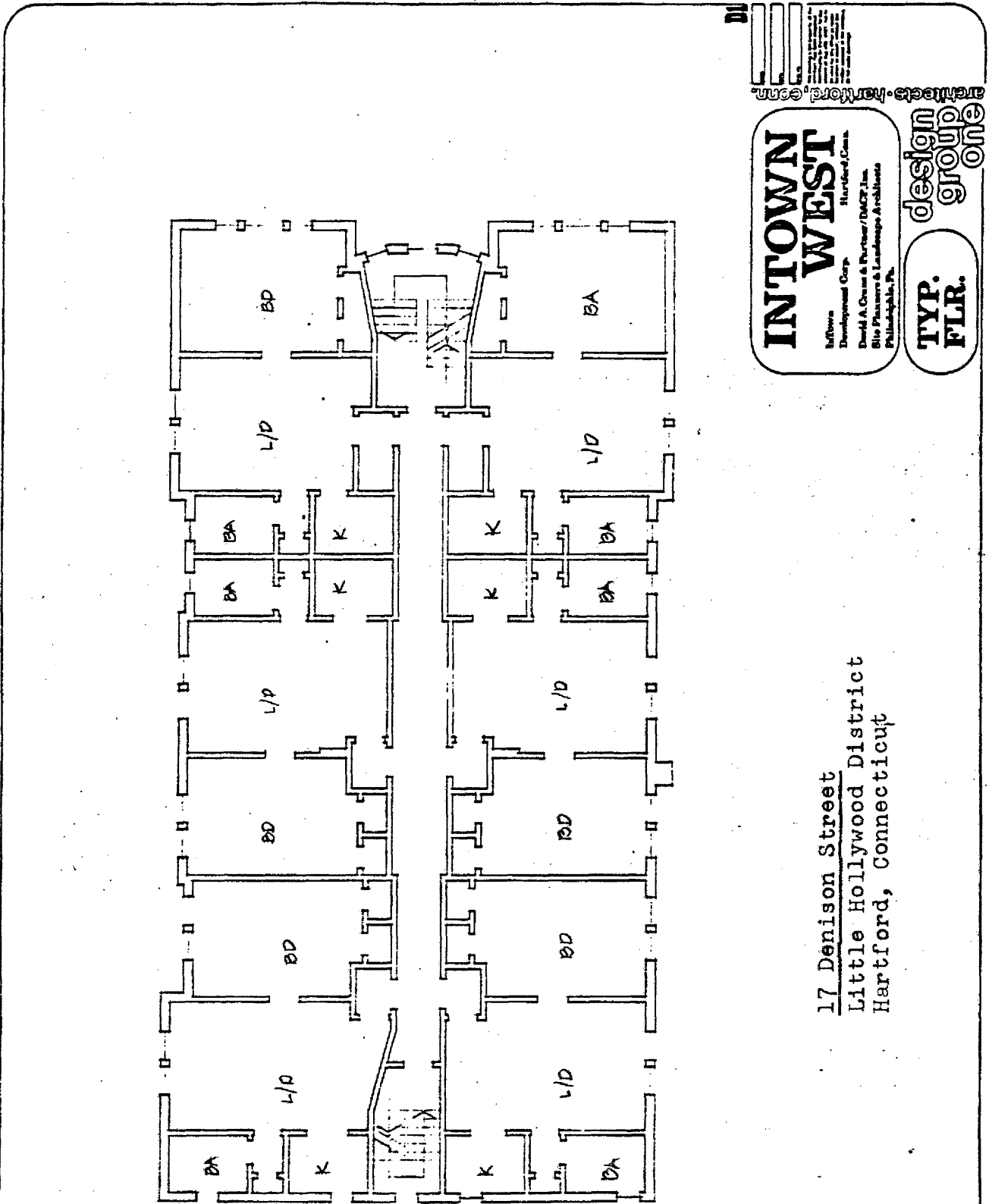
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Floor Plan - No. 5



17 Denison Street
Little Hollywood District
Hartford, Connecticut

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) social history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates See Item 4

~~Builder~~/Architect See Item 4

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria

The Little Hollywood National Register Historic District is significant for its variety of eclectic architectural detail in the classic tradition, for its urban cohesiveness and density, and for its unusual integrity as an early-20th-century Hartford apartment development (Criterion C). The apartment complex that comprises the district is also significant in social history because it is a statement of the change in living patterns that developed after World War I throughout the country and in Hartford, particularly for young working women (Criterion A).

Architecture and Architects

The architects are known for all but 12 of the 39 buildings in the district. Sixteen were designed by George H. Matthews, three by Harry H. Beckenstein, three by Dunkelberger and Gelman, one each by Berenson and Moses, Willis E. Becker, and George Zunner, and twelve by unknown architects.¹ All of the known architects were local men, working in a common community of architectural ideas and state of the art, a fact that helps explain the compatibility of the structures with one another.

The architects for Little Hollywood were the city's second tier of talent, not the leading firms of the day. The position at the top of the profession in the city at the time was held by such firms as Davis & Brooks, who won the competition for the new Municipal Building conducted in 1911 by John M. Carrere and who designed the Orient Insurance Building. Another prominent architect was Edward T. Hapgood, who was associated with Donn Barber in the State Library and Supreme Court Building and who designed many upper income homes in the western part of the city. Another prominent firm was Smith & Bassette, successors to William C. Brocklesby, known for their restoration work on the Bulfinch State House and for their design for the State Office Building.

By contrast, the first building in the Little Hollywood District for which the architect is known, 402-404 Farmington Avenue, 1912, was designed by Burton A. Sellow who had started out in 1900 helping his father, a builder. Sellow, after several years, opened his own office as an architect and in the same year that he did the Little Hollywood building, 1912, also designed a six-family apartment at 42 Wolcott Street and a larger structure at 195-197 Maple Avenue, which were less prestigious addresses. All three are versions of the Neo-Classical Revival with such elements as keystones in splayed lintels and modillioned cornices. The Farmington Avenue structure is, appropriately for its location, the most ambitious

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 8 prox.

Quadrangle name Hartford North

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UMT References See continuation sheet

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification This district boundary is roughly indicated by the dotted line on the sketch map, and more particularly indicated by reference to the City permanent parcel numbers on item 4.

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Merle Kummer and David Ransom

organization Hartford Architecture Conservancy date June 22, 1980

street & number 130 Washington Street telephone 203 525-0279

city or town Hartford state CT 06106

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 March 18, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

for

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 4/29/82

Attest:

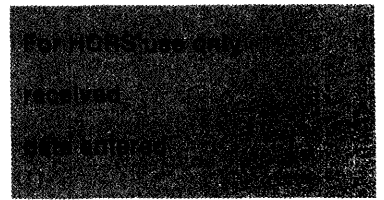
date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Significance Item number



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of the trio with its rusticated-stone first story and Flornetine-arched windows. It probably was one of the largest and most expensive buildings of Sellew's career.

Its neighbor, 408 Farmington Avenue, 1920, was designed by Sellew's contemporary, George Zunner. In fact, Sellew and Zunner practiced briefly (1908) in partnership. In his Farmington Avenue building, Zunner displayed his awareness of the Chicago School by using the popular tripartite windows, but under a stepped and gabled parapet taken from the archeological approach to design that was then in vogue. So far as is known, these two adjacent Farmington Avenue apartments represent the apex of these architects' careers in terms of size, elaboration, and expense.

The Berenson and Moses building, 439-441 Farmington Avenue, 1917, is one of three they are known to have designed on the Avenue, the other two being 260 and 467-469 Farmington Avenue. Their work at 439-441 by its brick pilasters with triglyph capitals indicates their commitment to the classical idiom, which developed at 260 Farmington Avenue into a fully-articulated Georgian Revival design. The Berenson & Moses firm was not a great success, and in the Great Depression went out of business for lack of work.

Dunkelberger & Gelman were the architects for 17-19, 31 and 35 Owen Street, 1923. These three buildings have in common inventive and attractive, but low budget, decorative detail, such as is found in other work by this firm. The firm's most visible commissions are the highly decorative bridges of the Merritt Parkway in southwestern Connecticut which they created, each one different, out of poured concrete, with a variety of textures and design motifs. Dunkelberger & Gelman's large apartment building at 1-9 Wethersfield Avenue, in the South Green National Register Historic District, is executed in various shades of tan and brown brick in a theme of Tudor/Jacobean Revival styles with rectangular drip stones, gargoyles, owl finials and a castellated roof line, most of the trim, again, in inexpensive poured concrete. At 17-19 Owen Street twin, green-tiled gables on the facade, unlike anything else in the district, are combined with brick courses to give a truly eclectic half-timbered/Swiss Chalet effect. Their use of red, green and blue diamond-shaped and oblong tile inserts on the facade was carried over to 31 and 35 Owen Street where the basic design is derived from the Spanish Colonial Revival or Moorish architecture and carried out with a stucco facade and a tile pent roof, again enlivening the street with the low-budget ingenuity that was the Dunkelberger & Gelman trade mark.

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George H. Matthews, who alone is responsible for most of Frederick and Denison streets, had a brief career of only several years as an independent, practicing architect. Earlier, in 1915, he had distinguished himself by designing at 670 Broadview Terrace what is probably the earliest example in Hartford of the California-type, asymmetrical bungalow with deep front porch under projecting gable roof and rafters, but he spent most of his life as a draftsman for others.³ When he died in 1935 his brief obituary notice⁴ stated simply that he was a draftsman for the Factory Insurance Co., making no reference whatsoever to the 16 buildings he designed for Little Hollywood in 1922-23 or whatever architectural work he may have done.

Matthews gave a great deal of thought to the facades of his Little Hollywood buildings, continuing the eclectic classical approach found in the buildings already constructed. 9-11 and 13-15 Frederick Street (Photograph 8) typify his work. The facade of 9-11 Frederick Street has a central Tudor entrance surround with a pointed arch, a hood mold with label stops, and a crocketed gable with a fleur-de-lis finial. At second-floor level, above the entrance, is a stone cartouche and above it a title pent roof supported on consoles. The third floor is stuccoed, with diamond-shaped panels, and the roof line is a stepped parapet. It seems as though he left out nothing. What else could a potential tenant possibly want? Perhaps he would like a front porch, and if so he could step next door to 13-15 Frederick Street where Matthews provided two tiers of porches, on either side of the central entrance, giving six apartment access to outdoor living.

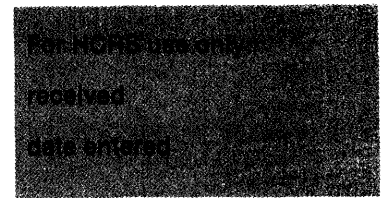
The Farmington Avenue buildings, built before the War, are larger, more elaborate, constructed of more expensive building materials, and laid out, originally, in larger apartments for higher-income families. The Owen, Frederick, Denison street buildings, built after the war, are lower budget structures with smaller apartments, intended for single occupancy. The entire district's eclectic, fanciful detailing in the Jacobethan, Renaissance, Spanish Colonial and Swiss Chalet Revival styles is of fine quality, and reflects mainstream American architecture of the early 20th century, where various styles of the past were still used as "design mines" for buildings of thoroughly new functions.

Social History

The development of the Little Hollywood National Register Historic District was no happenstance either in time, or place or function of the buildings. Several currents of community development came together to stimulate construction of buildings of that type at that time at that place. In the first quarter of the 20th century, a basic change occurred in life style in America and in Hartford that created a demand for new and unprecedented character for apartments, particularly small units, in a desirable location. Little Hollywood satisfied the demand.

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By the time of World War I, Asylum Hill had passed its zenith as the most desirable residential section of the city. Some of the old families were either dying out or moving out, further west. The big new homes were being built further west along Farmington Avenue or on streets in the northwest quadrant of the city, or beyond the city line. Some apartment houses were being built in Asylum Hill, a number of them on Farmington Avenue. The district's Farmington Avenue apartment houses were built as a part of that trend. They were elaborate structures with large apartments built for upper income families who elected to follow the trend of the times toward apartment living and who liked the "good address" of Farmington Avenue just west of Asylum Hill. It was a convenient location, too; street cars provided good service to downtown. These forces encouraged the construction of the district's Farmington Avenue apartments during the decade of World War I.

A separate life style development was also occurring at this time that accelerated in momentum at about the time of World War I. This development related to living conditions for young people and single people. Traditionally, young people and single people, up to this time, tended to live at home with their families, or perhaps if no family unit was at hand, to live in boarding houses. Boarding houses constituted a way of life, but in the first quarter of the 20th century boarding houses started into a period of terminal decline. In the decade after World War I, young people and single people of good background no longer were satisfied to live at home or in a boarding house. They wanted small apartments.

The trend was helped along by the feminist drive for independence and for recognition of job capability separated from the question of sex. The women's suffrage movement achieved success at this time. More women were successfully pursuing higher education and education in fields formerly reserved for men. These women did not wish to live at home or in a boarding house. But they did want to live in a pleasant, convenient, and well-thought-of part of town. Fortunately, the former Owen farm, lying between Farmington Avenue, the North Branch of the Park River, and the House of the Good Shepherd, was still available for development. It had once been owned by Mr. Frederick Denison Owen, whose names are used for the streets. Developers sensed the opportunity in the early 1920s and proceeded to construct small, inexpensive apartments, convenient to transportation and in what was still a good part of town. They were able to build the right apartments in the right place at the right time to satisfy a new demand of unprecedented character.

The extent to which young, professional women took advantage of the opportunity to live in Little Hollywood in a totally unprecedented manner is reflected by the city directories. For example, the 1926 directory lists 12 tenants for 9-11 Frederick Street, eight of them female. Occupations are given for five of the eight: telephone operator, teacher, nurse, assembly

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worker in a factory, and clerk in a factory office. Thirty-eight tenants are listed for 16 Owen Street, 21 of them female. Occupations listed for the women are teacher (3), bookkeeper (3), stenographer (2), clerk (3), machine operator, "at Aetna" (presumably an office worker at the insurance company). The names were exclusively Anglo-Saxon; Alice M. Benjamin, Mary E. Pendegast, Anne Y. Philips and Mary M. Ayers were typical.

The district became popularly identified with this new type of independent young woman, said to be beautiful and said to lead glamorous lives. Hence the name Little Hollywood.

In the years after World War II, Asylum Hill, Little Hollywood, and Hartford in general, suffered problems common to all other cities. The automobile and suburban living drew desirable tenants from Little Hollywood, and the neighborhood went into decline. Many of the apartments now are not occupied, some have suffered fire damage, and most are in need of maintenance, but plans are now in hand for rehabilitation of the buildings.

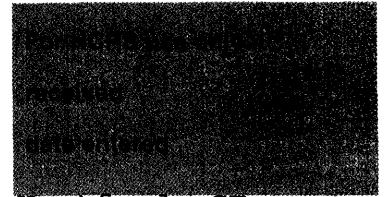
Summary

The buildings in the Little Hollywood National Register Historic District illuminate and give meaning to the history of a particular phase of the social and architectural development of the Hartford community. Local architects in the facades of these apartment houses displayed a panoply of eclectic, classical motifs in a final burst of such activity before the onset of modern architecture. Young and single people, especially an avant-garde of newly-independent young women, occupied the apartments as an expression of the ongoing development of the American life style between World War I and World War II.

1. The source of information about architects (and the dates of construction) is the city building permits. The first city building permits occurred in the mid-1890s, but the name of the architect was not always shown. This practice of showing the architect's name sometimes but not always continued through the first quarter of the 20th century.
2. Interview August 8, 1979 with Sidney Moses, son of the architect.
3. One of Matthews' employers was the L. F. Dettenborn Woodworking Co., cabinet makers, who produced the fixtures, many of which are still in place, for the Stackpole, Moore and Tryon store (listed in the National Register of Historic Places).
4. Hartford Daily Times, January 9, 1935, 31:1.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Little Hollywood National Register Historic District, Hartford, CT
Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 1

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Hartford City Directories.

Hartford Daily Times, January 9, 1935.

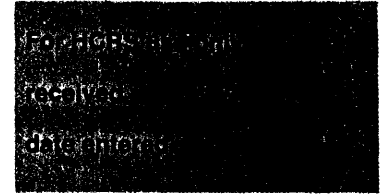
Interview with Jenny Heiser, resident, 40 Owen Street, December 5, 1979.

Interview with Sidney Moses, August 8, 1979.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Little Hollywood National Register Historic District



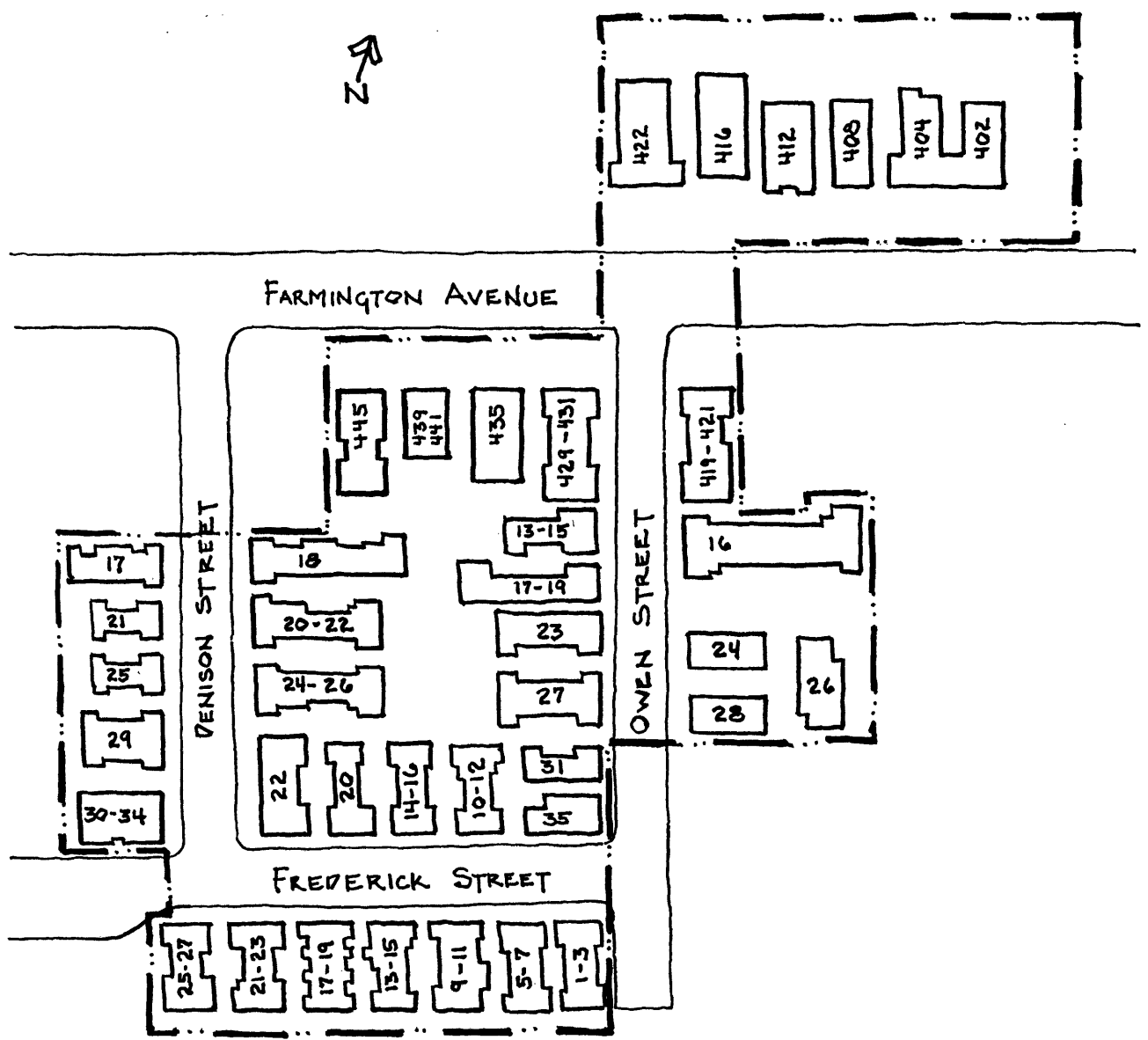
Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10

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UTM References

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- B. 18/690850/4626250
- C. 18/690760/4626230
- D. 18/690770/4626190
- E. 18/690800/4626200
- F. 18/690810/4626130
- G. 18/690760/4626120
- H. 18/690770/4626030
- I. 18/690650/4626010
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- L. 18/690600/4626160
- M. 18/690670/4626180
- N. 18/690660/4626220
- O. 18/690730/4626230
- P. 18/690730/4626290

Little Hollywood District Hartford, Connecticut



Little Hollywood District Hartford, Connecticut

Photograph Key

