

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name

other names/site number West End Commercial District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet.

NA not for publication

city, town Winsted

NA vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06098

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
8	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
8	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
 National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
 In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

6/28/90

Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

Entered in the
National Register

John J. Baker

August 3, 1990

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 2 Page 1

Location:

Main Street: 398, 410-414, 416, 420, 424-426, 430-434, 436-438, 440-444, 448
and Lot 110/52/2 to rear of 398.

PROPERTY OWNERS IN WEST END COMMERCIAL DISTRICT as of 12/6/89

Inv.#	Map/Blk/Lot*	Address	Owner(s)	Mailing Address
1.	110/52/1	398 Main Street	Winchester Hotel Limited Partnership	88 Terry Rd. Hartford, 06105
2.	111052/26	410-414	" Richard E. & Nancy C. Colt d.b.a P.D.J. Realty	same
3.	110/52/25	416	" Richard E. & Nancy C. Colt d.b.a. P.D.J. Realty	same
4.	110/52/24	420	" Olive E. Powell	same
5.	110/52/23	424-426	" Martin C. Ritchie	same
6.	110/52/22	430-434	" Michael O. & Charlene B. O'Neil	c/o Besse's Paint Co. same
7.	110/52/21	436-438	" Jerome E. Cohen	Box 538 Avon, 06001
8.	110/52/20	440-444	" NRW Associates	72 Main Street Winsted, 06098
9.	110/52/27 110/52/19	448	" Winsted Citizen Corp.	same

Additional lot that is part of the district:

* Map #110 was formerly #129.

Note: All the above information was taken from the records of the Tax Assessor, Winsted Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/office building/store

DOMESTIC/hotel/multiple dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/office building/store

DOMESTIC/not in use/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate/Romanesque/
Renaissance; LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt (built-up)

other Cast iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The West End Commercial District is a business block between Elm and Union streets on the north side of Main Street (State Route 44) in downtown Winsted, a city in the Town of Winchester, Connecticut. It is a small district, consisting of only eight contributing masonry buildings constructed between 1878 to 1927, but it contains examples of most of the major commercial styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Photograph #s 1, 2). These styles range from the Italianate through Romanesque, Classical, and Colonial Revivals. The only non-contributing building in the district is a modern one-story structure inserted between buildings in an alley near the east end of the block (Inventory #3).

The district is the only intact historic commercial block that has survived in downtown Winsted. Mid-twentieth-century commercial development has generally replaced historic buildings to the west and east of the district along the north side of Main Street. The business district on the south side of the street was virtually destroyed in the flood of the Mad River in 1955. Some factory buildings remain on the streets that slope up from the river but the commercial buildings that fronted on Main Street were not rebuilt. Instead, the street was widened with more lanes for traffic and parking.

The surrounding residential neighborhood behind Main Street and the district has changed very little since the early twentieth century. Behind the district along Union Street are small one- and two-family houses. The Winsted Fire Station is located beyond the parking area on Elm Street, one of the few non-residential structures on this street.

All of the contributing buildings in the West End Commercial District are constructed of brick, some with stone sills and stringcourses. A number display cast-iron cornices. Ranging in height from two to four stories, most of the buildings are attached with party walls. There is one alley now providing access to the interior of the block; as noted above, infill construction has closed off the other one near the eastern end of the block. A large open asphalted parking area extends almost the entire length of the block to the immediate rear of the buildings in the district (Photograph #3).

Typically, the buildings in the West End Commercial District are facade oriented with architectural detail limited to street elevations (Photograph #4). Although most of storefronts have been modernized, the upper levels of these facades are generally intact. All but two of the buildings utilize the round Romanesque-style arched openings at the upper stories and display prominent cornices. The cast-iron entablature of the Adams Block is especially notable, with large corner brackets, a continuous swag in the frieze, and central modillions with an acanthus leaf design (Inventory #4; Photograph #5). It also features blind sunbursts in the third-story windows and cast iron lintels

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 7 **Page** 2

at the second floor. Other window treatments in the district include the use of pressed-metal molded lintels set on acanthus consoles and the use of radial-glazed transoms above spandrel panels, such as are found in the Stone Block (Inventory #5; Photograph #s 5, 6). Dean's Block, the 1890 building to the east, is more simply executed, but still employs round-arched windows (Inventory #6; Photograph #6). The facade dates from 1905 when the building was cut back to accommodate the first widening of Main Street; the cornice has artificial siding and the brackets are missing.

Two large buildings anchor the east end of the district: the Winchester Hotel and the Wetmore West Block (Inventory #s 1, 2; Photograph #s 7, 8). The Winchester Hotel, the largest building in the block with 12 bays on Main Street and nine bays on Elm Street, was a 1898 replacement for an earlier hotel on this site, known as the Clarke House. It features extensive use of corbeled brickwork at the cornice, to connect the arches of the fourth-story windows, and below the integral chimney of the east elevation. Originally there were round-arched windows for the lobby at street level at the corner of the building that echo the detailing and shape of those of the second floor in this location; they are currently blocked in with brick. The Wetmore Block, the earliest building in the district, displays a central peak in its prominent cornice. The original window openings, now retrofitted with smaller modern sash, are a combination of round and segmental arches, all with keystones.

The last building to be constructed in the district is the Winsted Evening Citizen Building, located at the other (west) end of the block (Inventory #9; Photograph #9). Built as a printing plant for the newspaper in 1927, its original Classical Revival-style facade and storefront are intact. The larger expanses of glass in the paired windows of the second story and the molded cornices carried around the side elevation are indicators of its relatively recent construction date (Photograph #2). An unusual feature is the broken scroll pediment over the storefront entrance which features a bust of Benjamin Franklin. The neighboring building, the only other two-story structure in the district, was originally built for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company in 1915. The storefront has been remodeled extensively and siding applied to the brick of the upper story. Splayed limestone lintels and free-standing columns (now boxed-in) at street level are the only remaining style indicators of this sole example of the Colonial Revival in the district (Inventory #8; Photograph #9).

See below for a complete inventory of the buildings in the district.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 3**INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS IN WEST END COMMERCIAL DISTRICT***

<u>Inventory #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name, Style, Date</u>	<u>Photograph #</u>
1.	398 Main Street	Winchester Hotel Renaissance Revival, 1898	7, 8
2.	410-414	" Wetmore West Block Romanesque Revival, 1878	7
3.	416	" One-story infill of alley, c. 1970 (non-contributing)	
4.	420	" Adams Block Italianate, 1894	5
5.	424-426	" Stone's Block Italianate, 1894	5, 6
6.	430-434	" Dean's Block, 1890; Commercial/Classical facade 1905	6
7.	436-438	" Catlin Block Victorian Commercial, c. 1900	6
8.	440-444	" Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. Colonial Revival, 1915	9
9.	448	" Winsted Evening Citizen Classical Revival, c. 1927	2, 9

* All buildings except #3 are contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1878 – 1927

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

The West End Commercial District is architecturally significant as an intact cohesive streetscape that displays most of major commercial styles in use from 1878 to 1927. These styles include the Italianate, the late Victorian revivals of Romanesque and Renaissance architecture, and the Colonial and Classical revivals of the twentieth century. As the sole surviving commercial block in downtown Winsted, it is historically significant as a representative microcosm of the historic business district which flourished there in response to the town's industrial and urban growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Architectural Significance

The West End Commercial District is architecturally significant, not simply as the sole surviving historic business block in Winsted, but in its own right as a fine collection of historic commercial architecture. The district is generally well preserved, especially the brick facades above street level, which are freely interpreted individual examples of commercial architectural styles. The district as a whole displays the rhythmic facade orientation which is typical of the late nineteenth century. Even though the building heights vary considerably, this rhythm is carried out in the repetition of round-arched window openings on the majority of the buildings, adding to the flow and cohesiveness of the block. The bold and highly decorative cornices, which crown all but two of the buildings, emphasize this horizontal sweep.

Several buildings in the block are distinguished by the variety of their architectural detailing. The Adams Block and its immediate neighbor, Stone's Block, built the same year, are a case in point (Inventory #'s 4, 5). Although they are similar in design, the facades make individual statements by the differing treatments of the windows and cornices. On both, the segmental arches of the second floor have individually decorative molded hoods which give way to the taller round-arched openings on the third floor. There again, the same components are treated differently. For example, the closed arches of the Adams Block, with their sunburst designs reflecting the commercial exuberance of the period, contrast with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

the more restrained classically inspired fanlights of the Stone Block.

Their massive neighbors to the east, the Wetmore West Block and the Winchester Hotel, make a more formal statement (Inventory #s 2, 1). These facades are more simply designed and rely less on applied detail, both characteristic of late Victorian commercial architecture. The spacing of the fenestration and some subtle brickwork add interest to the design to the Winchester Hotel. In fact, it is the only building in the district to deviate from axial symmetry by varying the size of the bays and to limit applied detail to only one location. The arched openings with closed fans at the corner of the building call subtle attention to the main entrance of the hotel lobby which was located there until the 1940s.

Historical Significance

The City of Winsted is a prime example of the process of urbanization and industrialization that accompanied the establishment of a railroad network in the Northeast. Although the Town of Winchester had prospered as the gateway from central Connecticut to northern Litchfield County in the turnpike era of the early nineteenth century, the area known today as Winsted remained undeveloped until the depot for the Naugatuck Railroad was built there in 1849.¹ Major industries, attracted by the railroad, were established along the Mad River in the area then known as the "Flats" to become the nucleus of a new town. Some Connecticut companies such as the Strong Manufacturing Company, producer of coffin trimmings, relocated in Winsted to be near the source of transportation. Factory housing accompanied by a commercial district on Main Street, which was promoted by the early industrialists, soon followed. In 1858 Winsted became an independent borough. By the end of the nineteenth century, Winsted was not only the industrial and commercial center for Winchester, it was the principal industrial and marketing center for the region.

John G. Wetmore, the founder of the New England Pin Company, was one of the first to build a factory on the Mad River near the depot. A prominent and influential citizen, Wetmore represented the town in the state legislature and was responsible for the initial commercial development of Main Street. In the next block to the east of the West End Commercial District, he built an Opera House and his first commercial building, known as the Wetmore Block (neither is still standing). This block also contains the present Winsted Town Hall, constructed in 1878, on a site selected by Wetmore.

Winsted's first railroad hotel, a wood-frame building, was constructed on the corner of Elm and Main Streets (the site of the present Winchester Hotel), followed soon by the Wetmore's West Block, key buildings which assured the future growth of the downtown and the present district. The rest of the new commercial buildings in the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 3

block were small detached wooden buildings but they were soon replaced by the brick buildings standing today in the district, the majority dating from the last decade of the century.

Charles and Lester Stone were typical of the businessmen who invested in the block after 1890 and provided goods and services for a growing urban population. The Stone's were house painters who maintained offices in the upper floors of Stone's Block, renting the first floor to several small businesses, such as a music store and O'Meara's meat market (Inventory #5). There were also residential apartments upstairs in their building. Horace Adams, owner of a construction firm, followed their example in combining office and residential space while renting out the storefronts in the Adams Block (Inventory #4). Others, such as jeweler Frank Catlin, had their store at the street level and lived upstairs (Inventory #7).

With the replacement in 1898 of the wood-frame hotel by the larger brick Winchester Hotel, the district was almost complete. The new hotel was a venture financed by George L. Lilley, a Waterbury resident who briefly served as governor of the state in 1909, but who died in office in April of that year. A town-wide competition was held by the Winsted Evening Citizen to name the building. The name selected by over 4000 votes was a surprising choice for the principal hotel in a community that had rejected the same name when they formed the new borough.² The hotel operated until the 1950s, primarily for businessmen who came to town by train.

End Notes:

1. While two village clusters were located along the Mad River to the east and west, the "Flats" remained unsettled even after the establishment of the Greenwoods Turnpike in 1799 (present Route 44; in Winsted, Main Street), connecting the town with Hartford and the upper Hudson Valley.

2. Winsted was a combination name, derived from Winchester, the parent town, and Barkhamsted, a neighboring town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Litchfield County, Connecticut. Philadelphia, 1881.
Historic Resource Survey of Winsted, Connecticut. June, 1987.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.5

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone	Easting	Northing												

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The described boundary encompasses all the land and buildings associated with the commercial block between Elm and Union Streets during the period of significance of the district.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant, Reviewed by John Herzan, National organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 12/14/89 Register Coordinator
street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072
city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated district can be generally described as follows: all commercial properties fronting on the north side of Main Street in Winsted, Connecticut between Elm and Union Streets. Specifically the following boundaries, taken from the Town of Winsted Tax Assessor's Map 110 (formerly 129), Block 52, encompass the district in its entirety:

Beginning at a point at the northeast corner of Lot 2, the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along the east side of Lot 2 and Lot 1 to a point at the corner of Elm and Main streets, being the southeast corner of Lot 1, then turns approximately 90 degrees and continues along the setback line of Main Street in a westerly direction along the front of Lots 1, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, and 28 to the southwest corner of Union and Main streets, being the southeast corner of Lot 28. Here the boundary turns in a northerly direction and runs along the setback line of Union Street and Lots 28 and 19 to the northwest corner of Lot 28. At this point the boundary turns and runs in a easterly/northeasterly direction along the rear property lines of Lots 19, 20, 21, and 22 to the northeast corner of Lot 22, then turns in a southerly direction to run along the east boundary of said lot until it meets the north property line of Lot 2. At this point the boundary turns and runs in an easterly direction along the north boundary of said lot until it returns to the first point herein described.

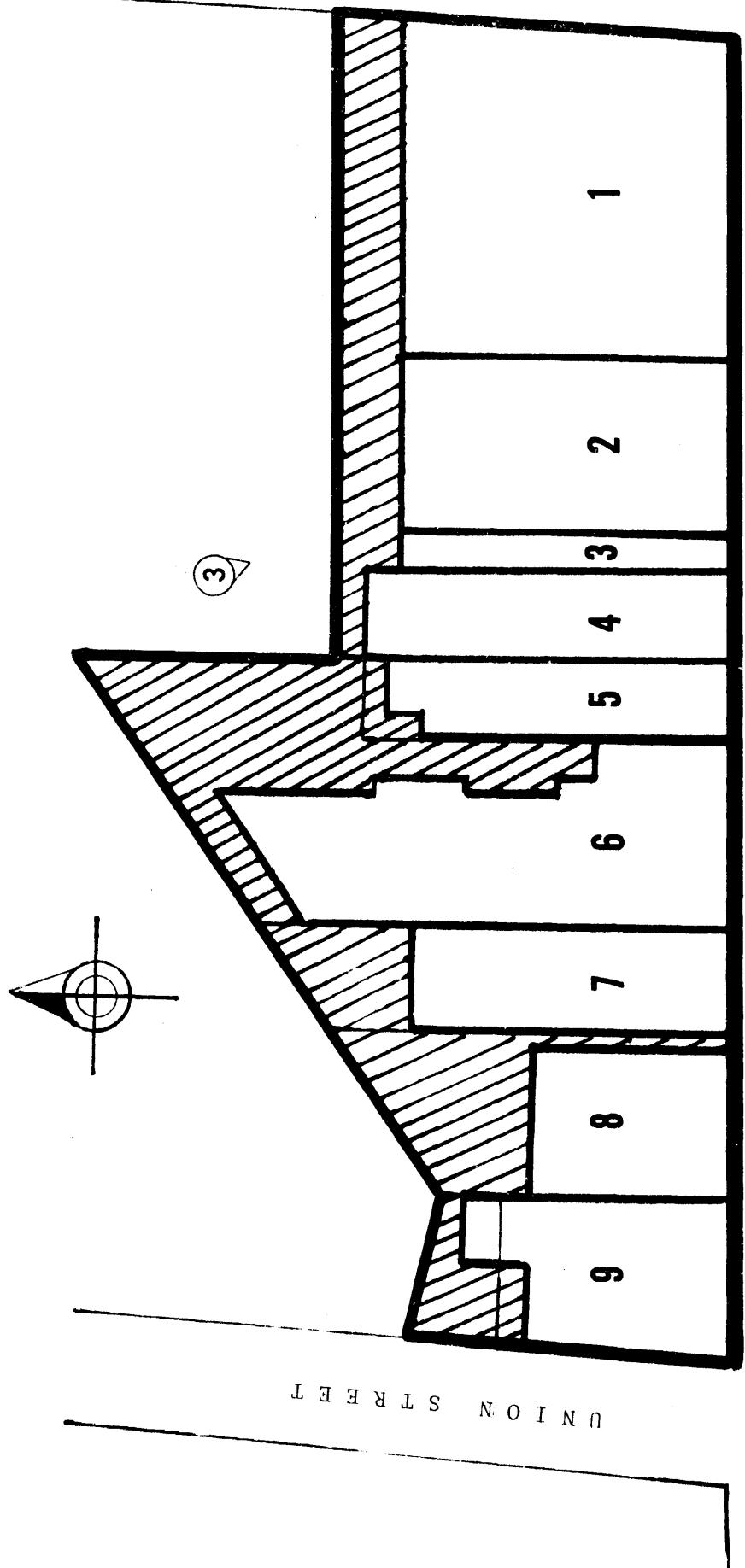
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West End Commercial District, Winsted, Connecticut

Section number Photos **Page** 1List of PhotographsPhotographer: Janice P. Cunningham, Cunningham Associates
Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: January, 1989.

Photo #	View	Facing
1.	Streetscape of district North side of Main Street	northwest
2.	Streetscape of district	east
3.	Rear of district block	southeast
4.	Catlin Block to Winchester Hotel (Inventory #'s 7-1)	northeast
5.	Stone & Adams Block; 416 Main, Street; Wetmore West Block (L-R)	north
6.	Catlin Block; Dean & Stone's blocks (L-R)	north
7.	Adams Block; 416 Main St.; Wetmore Block; Winchester Hotel	northeast
8.	Winchester Hotel (east & north elevations)	southwest
9.	Winsted Evening Citizen; A&P Company	north



M A I N S T R E E T

(2)

MAIN STREET
WEST END COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
Winsted, Connecticut
Schematic Diagram of District

(1)

5
6
7

4

9

WEST END COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Winsted, Connecticut

Schematic Diagram of District

SCALE (approx.) 1"=50'

Inventory numbers

Photograph views

Compiled by: Cunningham Associates Ltd. 12/89