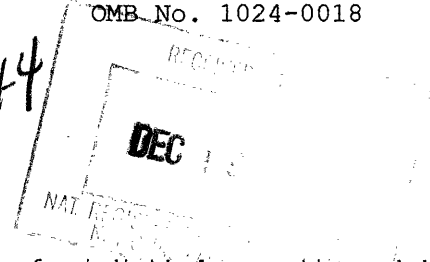


1744



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name N/A

other names/site number Downtown Stamford Historic District Boundary Increase # 2

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number See Continuation Sheet not for publication N/A
city or town Stamford vicinity N/A
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001
zip code 06901

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 John W. Shannahan December 17, 2002
Signature of certifying official Date
 John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2 Page 1

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

=====

Inventory of Addresses

- 15 Bedford Street
- 27 Bedford Street
- 65 Bedford Street
- 69 Bedford Street
- 83 Bedford Street
- 94 Bedford Street
- 95-105 Bedford Street
- 120 Bedford Street
- 125 Bedford Street
- 128 Bedford Street
- 135 Bedford Street
- 148 Bedford Street
- 151 Bedford Street
- 163 Bedford Street
- 172 Bedford Street, (33 Spring Street)
- 175 Bedford Street
- 183 Bedford Street
- 217 Bedford Street
- 218 Bedford Street
- 219 Bedford Street
- 227 Bedford Street
- 244 Bedford Street
- 255 Bedford Street
- 272 Bedford Street
- Corner of Bedford and Forest Streets (plaza)

4. 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
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature] 1-31-03

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>20</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>21</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> COMMERCE </u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Store/Business</u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Theater</u>
<u> HEALTH CARE </u>	<u>Medical Office</u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u>Government Office</u>
<u> LANDSCAPE </u>	<u>Plaza</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> COMMERCE </u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Store/Business</u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Theater</u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u>Organizational</u>
<u> LANDSCAPE </u>	<u>Plaza</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic, Neo-classical, Spanish Eclectic, Colonial And Tudor
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco
EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instruct.)
foundation STONE: granite, CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT, CERAMIC TILE
walls BRICK, STONE: limestone,, granite,, sandstone,
CONCRETE, STUCCO
other WOOD, STONE: granite, marble, limestone, sandstone: TERRA COTTA, METAL: bronze, IRON,

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets.

Description

This boundary increase extends the historical commercial district of downtown Stamford, Connecticut in a northerly direction along both sides of Bedford Street from the Ferguson Library at Broad Street to Forest Street at the foot of Bedford Park. The increase contains 25 resources of which 21 contribute to the significance of the district. The contributing resources include 19 early-to-mid 20th century commercial buildings, ranging in height from one to four stories; a five-story apartment building built in 1925; and a triangular-shaped plaza created by the progressive widening of Bedford Street. The four non-contributing resources consist of commercial buildings of the same period whose original facades have been radically altered. All of the buildings are situated directly on the sidewalk and constructed of brick, half of them displaying cut-stone facades. They form three uninterrupted blocks of buildings: a solid block of 16 on the east side of the street, a solid block of five on the west side, south of Spring Street, and a row of three buildings north of Spring Street, the northern-most separated by a narrow alley.

A little more than halfway up Bedford Street, the east side angles off to the right, creating a triangular plaza bordered by Forest Street to the north, beyond which lies Bedford Park. Originally devoted entirely to vehicular use, the plaza now includes a landscaped median recently installed to separate the redirected main traffic to the left (west) from a parking area occupying the remainder of the site (Photograph 1).

All of the contributing structures exhibit characteristic features of the styles they represent. Examples of the styles represented include a Classical Revival temple of distyle-in-antis design (Photograph 2), Spanish Eclectic displays terra cotta ornament details (Photograph 3), late Gothic Revival displays foliate corbels and arcades of pointed arches (Photograph 4), and a variety of Art Deco elements blend geometric and stylized motifs with projecting piers that rise above the buildings to create a distinctive roof line (Photograph 5).

The boundary increase is clearly distinguished from the surrounding area by its compact development and the distinctive architecture of its component structures. Its southwest edge begins at the Ferguson Library, the existing northern terminus of the present historic district. To the west it is clearly bounded by a parking lot and the mixed use Spring Street neighborhood which includes a recent Neo-Tudor commercial building and a 1920s Tudor Revival style apartment building. This western edge retains suburban elements, such as front yards, that contrast sharply with the compact, decidedly urban context of the boundary increase resources. To the north are several commercial structures built after 1950, the narrow end of the trapezoidal-shaped Bedford Park, and the 19th century Universalist Unitarian Church, already listed on the National Register. To the east is an immense, five-story parking garage. Extending easterly along Broad Street from the southeast corner is a row of undistinguished one-story commercial structures built after 1950. Directly to the South, across Broad Street is Landmark Square, the first and largest skyscraper built during the city's 1970s urban renewal program and a dominating visual element in the commercial center of the city.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Inventory of Resources

Address	Description	Status
15 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1932, Art Deco Style, two stories, limestone façade, Polished granite base, storefront bays divided by projecting stepped piers rising above the parapet, Stepped piers display stepped buttresses above the parapet. <u>Photograph 6.</u>	Contributing
27 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1936, no original detail remaining, no stylistic reference. <u>Photograph 7.</u>	Noncontributing
65 Bedford Street	LIBRARY APARTMENTS, 1930, Art Deco style three stories, limestone ashlar façade divided by three fluted pilasters rising from bases with stepped fluted panels And terminating with stepped apexes rising above the parapet. North storefront retains granite base and bronze trim, second story displays window spandrels with triglyph fluting. <u>Photograph 8.</u>	Contributing
69 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1940, Colonial Revival style with Art Deco influence, four stories, red-brick walls with limestone trim. First story faced with limestone, retaining storefront flanked by fluted pilasters surmounted with a low-relief dentil course and a frieze of disks and triglyphs, and accented by bronze trim and a marble base. Second-story windows show ornamental, wrought iron railings, and solid, fluted fanlights with projecting, curved keystones. Fourth-story windows surmounted by ornate limestone plaques located between two string courses. <u>Photograph 9</u>	Contributing
83 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1937, Art Deco style, two stories, limestone façade divided by four piers characterized by recessed grooves, slightly recessed at parapet which is further divided by narrow piers. <u>Photograph 10.</u>	Contributing
94 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1937, Art Deco style, one story, limestone façade, divided by three reeded piers that rise above the parapet, connected by narrow cornice supported by very wide, reeded brackets. <u>Photograph 11 .</u>	Contributing

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Inventory of Resources (continued)

Address	Description	Status
95-105 Bedford Street	BRENNAN BUILDING, 1930, Art Deco style two stories, limestone façade. Central entrance bay rises above chevron-incised parapet, showing a stepped profile with faceted edges and adorned with wooden plaques employing lozenge designs. Flanking bays consist of large commercial windows with ornate wooden spandrels and lintels, all framed by piers accented with wooden plaques similar to those of central bay. <u>Photograph 12</u> .	Contributing
120 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1936, 20 th century commercial, two stories. Original façade replaced with one of Neo-Tudor design. <u>Photograph 13</u> .	Noncontributing
125 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1946, Colonial Revival style, one story, red-brick façade showing wooden storefront framed by reeded pilasters and simple entablature surmounted by broad pediment at the recessed entry, its doors surmounted with transoms of diagonal muntins showing ornamental ties at intersections. Parapet accented by corbelled cornice. <u>Photograph 14</u> .	Contributing
128 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1925, late Gothic Revival style, one story random ashlar, rock-faced granite façade, crenelated parapet shows a cast stone plaque located under each crenel, which curve into merlons. <u>Photograph 15</u> .	Contributing
135 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1946, 20 th century commercial two stories, red-brick façade framed by brick quoins, storefront framed by simple entablature resting on end piers, parapet shows raised brick panels over each window, above simple wood cornice. <u>Photograph 16</u> .	Contributing
148 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1929, Neoclassical style, two stories, limestone façade with granite base, first floor storefronts surmounted with solid, elliptical arched fanlights, large second story windows draped with label molds, Tuscan style entablature and paneled parapet. <u>Photograph 17</u> .	Contributing

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Inventory of Resources (continued)

Address	Description	Status
151 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1946, Colonial Revival style, one story, red-brick façade. Storefront framed by wooden pilasters and simple entablature. Recessed entrance displays side-lit double doors surmounted with elliptical arched transom. Parapet is corbelled. <u>Photograph 18</u> .	Contributing
163 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1932, late Gothic Revival style, two stories, random ashlar granite facade , trimmed with glazed terra cotta. Initial two-bay unit of a three-unit (seven-bay) row, each bay delineated by a quoined pier showing stepped, ziggurat components at the top. Second story of each bay occupied by a large, pointed-arch window rising from a wooden spandrel showing a lozenge design, divided vertically by mullions, and glazed with multi-paned, opaque glass above a transom bar. <u>Photograph 19</u> .	Contributing
175 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1932, late Gothic Revival style, two stories, random ashlar granite façade trimmed with glazed terra cotta. Central two-bay unit of three-unit row, originally identical to # 163 (storefronts have been replaced and window spandrels removed). <u>Photograph 20</u> .	Contributing
172 Bedford Street, (33 Spring Street)	Commercial corner building, 1929, late Gothic Revival style, style, two stories, random ashlar granite facades with cast-stone trim. Five Tudor-arched storefronts, three of them retaining spider-web transoms, large second-story windows framed by architrave trim, parapet accented by rectangular plaque above each window. <u>Photograph 21</u> .	Contributing
183 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1932, late Gothic Revival style, two stories, random ashlar granite façade trimmed with glazed terra cotta. Northern three-bay unit of three-unit row, identical to # 163 except for replacement of original second-story windows with three-part windows, glazed with modern sash. <u>Photograph 20</u> .	Contributing
217 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1929, 20 th century commercial, two stories, original limestone façade replaced with glazed red brick at the second story. <u>Photograph 22</u> .	Noncontributing

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Inventory of Resources (continued)

Address	Description	Status
218 Bedford Street	BEDFORD PARK APARTMENTS, 1925, Colonial Revival style, five stories, red brick laid in common bond with Flemish headers, trimmed with cast stone, resting on a high cast-stone basement. Off-center, fan-lit entry at street level, framed by Tuscan style pilasters and spanned by entablature crowned with wrought iron balustrade. First story rusticated, second-story fenestrated primarily with round-arched windows with solid fanlights, fifth-story articulated by corbelled string course under sills. <u>Photograph 23, 24, 25.</u>	Contributing
219 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1928, Tudor Revival style, two stories, red-brick façade trimmed with limestone. Storefront altered by layers of stucco, second story windows draped with label molds, surmounted with paired gables projecting from a slate roof. <u>Photograph 22.</u>	Contributing
227 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1929, late Gothic Revival style, two stories, glazed terra cotta. Second story flanked by octagonal piers rising from foliated corbels and crowned with bell caps with ball finials. Continuous blind arcades of Venetian, pointed arches occur between first and second story and at parapet. <u>Photograph 4.</u>	Contributing
244 Bedford Street	Commercial building, 1937, 20 th century commercial, one story, red-brick façade with altered storefronts. <u>Photograph 25.</u>	Noncontributing

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Inventory of Resources (continued)

Address	Description	Status
255 Bedford Street	Commercial corner building, 1928, Spanish Eclectic style, two stories, buff brick facades angled at the corner, and trimmed with turquoise and yellow terra cotta. First story divided by piers surmounted by entablature decorated with shield-and-ribbon motif above each pier and crowned with festooned urns with pineapple finials. Bedford Street façade displays centrally placed, recessed, round-arched entry ornamented with spiral columned jambshafts and archivolt. Corner entry and second story windows show elaborate frames: sills resting on carved corbels, engaged tapered columns with swollen, foliated bases and Corinthian capitals and entablatures showing the shield-and-ribbon motif. Roofline accented by arcaded, corbelled cornice surmounted by narrow pent roof covered with curved tiles and interrupted at the angled corner by a shaped parapet accented by a blind quatrefoil window, flanked by voluted buttresses, and crowned by a festooned urn. <u>Photographs 3,26,27.</u>	Contributing
272 Bedford Street	AVON THEATER, 1939, Neoclassical style, three stories, red-brick façade trimmed with wood and marble, distyle-in-antis design with smooth columns and pilasters surmounted by Temple-of-the-Winds capitals. Anta features playbills framed by fluted pilasters, quarterly entablature, and swan's-neck pediment, and solid, molded, and keystone bull's-eye windows. Central recess shows three French doors surmounted with blind fanlights showing molded sunbursts; cantilevered second story features three polygonal bay windows with gadrooned supports, Corinthian colonettes and swan's-neck pediments. Third story rises above molded cornice, showing curved central recess, octagonal windows and angled, centrally placed vertical sign rising above parapet. <u>Photograph 28.</u>	Contributing
Corner of Bedford And Forest Streets	Triangular Plaza dating to colonial times formed by the gradual widening of Bedford Street and bounded by Forest Street to the north. Originally devoted entirely to vehicle use, it now includes a landscaped median dividing the main traffic to the west from a parking area to the east. <u>Photograph 1.</u>	Contributing

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Areas of Significance

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance
1925-1946 _____

Significant Dates
See Continuation Sheets.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder _____

Cultural Affiliation

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Increase Rationale

This boundary increase contributes to the historical significance of the Downtown Stamford Historical District by adding the last portion of the downtown to be developed in the traditional urban manner and by further substantiating the area's importance as the commercial heart of Stamford (Criterion A). It contributes to the district's architectural significance by adding numerous well preserved examples of the various later styles, especially those not well represented in the original district, i.e. late Gothic Revival and Art Deco (Criterion C).

Historical Significance:

The development of downtown Stamford as a commercial center evolved from the area's status as the oldest and most centrally located settlement within the town. The commercial district grew in four directions from the original nexus of settlement, marked by the intersection of its two main streets, Atlantic Street, running north and south, and Main Street, running east and west. By the 1920's, commercial development of the traditionally dense, cheek-by-jowl kind had terminated to the south at the railroad tracks, and to the east and west along Main Street (U.S. Route 1) in a more dispersed, automobile-oriented development. Only to the north did the commercial district continue to develop in the traditional manner, along Bedford Street, the northern extension of Atlantic Street. While all four of these commercial corridors had replaced rows of respectable, even fashionable residences, all except the northern eventually became less desirable, in part because of adjacent lower income, mixed-use neighborhoods. Relative to these other avenues of development, Bedford Street emerged as the preferred location for the more expensive stores. It was flanked by middle-income neighborhoods and oriented to the north, where most of Stamford's vacant land was located and therefore the greatest potential for development.

Like the other principal streets of the downtown, Bedford Street's originally residential character included other uses. During most of the 19th century there was a limited industrial and/or commercial presence on the street. The 1837 map shows a stove foundry and a tin shop while the 1867 Beer's Atlas shows a small lumber yard. All of the uses, however, co-existed with stable, middle-income houses and at least one bona fide mansion, the latter preceding the Ferguson Library.

By the 1890's, such mixed-use areas were developing into single-use areas, i.e. industrial, commercial and residential. On the lower end of Bedford Street, the only non-residential uses remaining was a private boys school, compatible to the surrounding residences.

Significantly, the first still extant building constructed in this boundary increase was residential. The five-story Bedford Park apartment building, located at the corner of Bedford and Spring Streets, was built in 1925. It was one of the first "elevator apartment buildings" constructed in the city, as opposed to the less expensive, walk-up tenements of lower income neighborhoods. It set the tone for the following commercial development, providing a middle-income residential stability not found in the older precincts of Main Street and Atlantic Street. In fact, the first commercial buildings were built several years later at this northern end, not to the south which, although adjacent to the existing commercial district, was not developed commercially until the 1930's.

Historical Significance (continued)

The area quickly acquired an aspect of separateness from the downtown proper, specifically an aura of prestige derived from the surrounding residential neighborhood and reflected in the formation of the Bedford Street Association in 1939 by entrepreneurs who sought to maintain their neighborhood's high standing within the downtown's commercial district.

This aspect of prestige was evident in the kinds of businesses located within the buildings. While there was a variety typical of commercial districts, the specific uses tended toward the high end. For instance, in 1948, the street level uses were dominated by shops catering to affluent women, including ten clothing shops, two fur shops, and five gift shops. Other uses, serving a broader clientele, included several drug stores, bakeries, a leather shop, and a hardware store. Even these more "basic" uses reflected expensive tastes, i.e. the grocery store was a Gristede's, an upscale food store, and the liquor stores were "spirit shoppes". The upper floors contained over 50 professional offices, including 17 dentists, nine lawyers, seven doctors, and several government offices, and a juvenile court. Of particular importance was the Avon Theater, located at the northern end of the district, which provided activity in the area past the business hours and attracted patrons from a wider area than most other businesses.

Development in this boundary increase ended in 1946 when a three-unit brick clock was constructed, filling the vacant lot formerly occupied by the Masonic Temple. Since then, there has been no major building activity. This is exceptional, since much of Stamford's historic downtown has been eviscerated by urban renewal. Because of its prestige and the vociferous presence of the Bedford Street Association, the area has been immune from the urban renewal schemes of the 1970s and the following explosion of high-rise development. The area remains highly desirable for small businesses although the specific uses have changed, reflecting the changing requirements for various business uses. The most visible change is the explosion of restaurants, currently numbering 12, while women's clothing stores have largely abandoned the area for the nearby mall. Office uses have also changed, virtually all of the medical offices have left, replaced in part by architectural and business services. On the other hand, there is still one grocery store and five beauty salons, the same number as in 1948. Such vitality and adaptability make Bedford Street an important part of the downtown and a logical extension of the historic district.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Architectural Significance:

The area encompassed by this boundary increase is characterized by two architectural themes: Art Deco commercial architecture and various eclectic “Revival” styles, Colonial, Spanish Eclectic and Gothic Revival among them. The earlier of these themes reflects the eclectic, albeit traditional styles of the 1920s, all showing specific historical origins. The dominant of these styles is the late Gothic Revival which includes a three-unit row at 163-189, its second story displaying a striking arcade of seven pointed arches (Photograph # 19, 20, 22). Also exceptional is the glazed terra cotta façade of # 227 which displays arcades of pointed arches above and below its large, second-story commercial windows, producing a Venetian Gothic appearance, as well as octagonal piers rising from carved corbel and crowned with bell-shaped caps (Photograph #4). Another notable example of this style is the corner building at # 172 which features a colorful cut granite façade and Tudor-arched storefronts, several of which retain spider-web fanlights (Photograph # 21). The corner building at # 255 is a remarkable ornate example of the Spanish Eclectic style, characterized by a variety of multi-colored terra cotta ornament including urns, shields and swollen foliated columns, but also featuring an arcaded, corbelled cornice capped by a pent roof covered with curved tiles, and a shaped parapet rising from the angled corner (Photograph #'s 3, 27). The Colonial Revival style is prominently represented by the Bedford Park Apartments, a five story brick structure that includes a Tuscan plastered entry, a rusticated first story, arched second-story windows, and a top story accented a a corbelled string course under the window sills (Photograph #'s 24, 25). To the north, the Avon Theater reveals an elaborate Neoclassical façade composed primarily of distyle-in-antis design, its columns and pilasters surmounted by Temple-of-the-Winds capitals, but also including an oversized attic (third) story characterized by an innovative curved recess centrally placed above the portico of the basic design and accented by a tall, projecting, vertical sign. This interesting combination of designs is enhanced by a variety a wood and marble ornament, including swan’s-neck pediments, gadrooned bay window supports , and solid bull’s-eye windows and fanlights employing sunburst motifs (Photograph #'s 2, 26).

The later architectural theme is represented by the decidedly non-traditional Art Deco style. Located at the southern end of Bedford Street, these buildings comprise the largest concentration of Art Deco structures in the city. Because of their location adjacent to the existing historic district, they differentiate the area architecturally, primarily in the complete change in the roof line. While the existing historic district is characterized in general by some sort of cornice, the roof line of lower Bedford Street is dominated by the tops of projecting piers that rise above the facades to pierce the sky. (Photograph # 5). (Continued on Section 8, page 4.)

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Architectural Significance: (continued)

This vertical emphasis is typical of the style and is particularly evident at # 95, which displays a stepped, faceted central bay accented by lozenge designs (Photograph # 12 and # 15) whose piers are tapered at the top and accented by stepped incisions (Photograph # 6). The Library Apartments at # 65 displays fluted piers with pointed apexes and whimsical crown-like projections ornamenting its parapet (Photograph # 8). Art Deco influence is also evident in the flatness of the Colonial Revival trim at # 69 which is similar to the much larger State National Bank of Connecticut, visible to the south in the existing historic district and built ten years earlier (Photograph # 29). The late Gothic Revival row at # 163-189 also shows Art Deco influence in the stepped, set-back apexes of its piers, as well as the bold lozenge designs of its window spandrels (Photograph #'s 19, 20).

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) _____ Primary Location of Additional Data
____ preliminary determination of _____ X State Historic Preservation Office
 individual listing (36 CFR 67) _____ Other State Agency
 has been requested. _____ Federal agency
____ previously listed in the National _____ Local government
 Register _____ University
____ previously determined eligible by _____ Other
 the National Register Name of repository:

____ designated a National Historic _____ Connecticut Historical Commission
 Landmark 59 South Prospect Street
____ recorded by Historic American _____ Hartford, CT 06106
 Buildings Survey # _____
____ recorded by Historic American
 Engineering Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

UTM References (Place additional _____ Acreage of Property 5
UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	622770	4545820	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Meagher/ Nils Kerschus _____
Organization Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program date 7/1/02 _____
street & number 78 Webbs Hill Road _____ telephone (203) 322-6671 _____
city or town Stamford _____ state CT zip code 10603 _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Geographic Data

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all contiguous buildings built between 1925 and 1946 and excludes buildings constructed after 1950, i.e. those extending east of # 15, along Broad Street; the building on Spring Street, next to Bedford Park Apartments (# 218); and the building on Forest Street, next to # 255. The northern boundary also excludes Bedford Park and the Universalist Unitarian Church, the latter already listed on the National Register. The park extends northerly from its narrow end at Forest Street, relating more to the buildings that face it and functioning as a boundary element to the district. The church, located on the northeast corner of Forest and Prospect Streets, faces the park and features landscaped setbacks from both streets. These conditions tend to visually isolate it from the dense streetscape of the district and make it part of the mixed-use neighborhood that is oriented to the park.

Downtown Stamford Historic District, Boundary Increase # 2
Fairfield County, CT

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

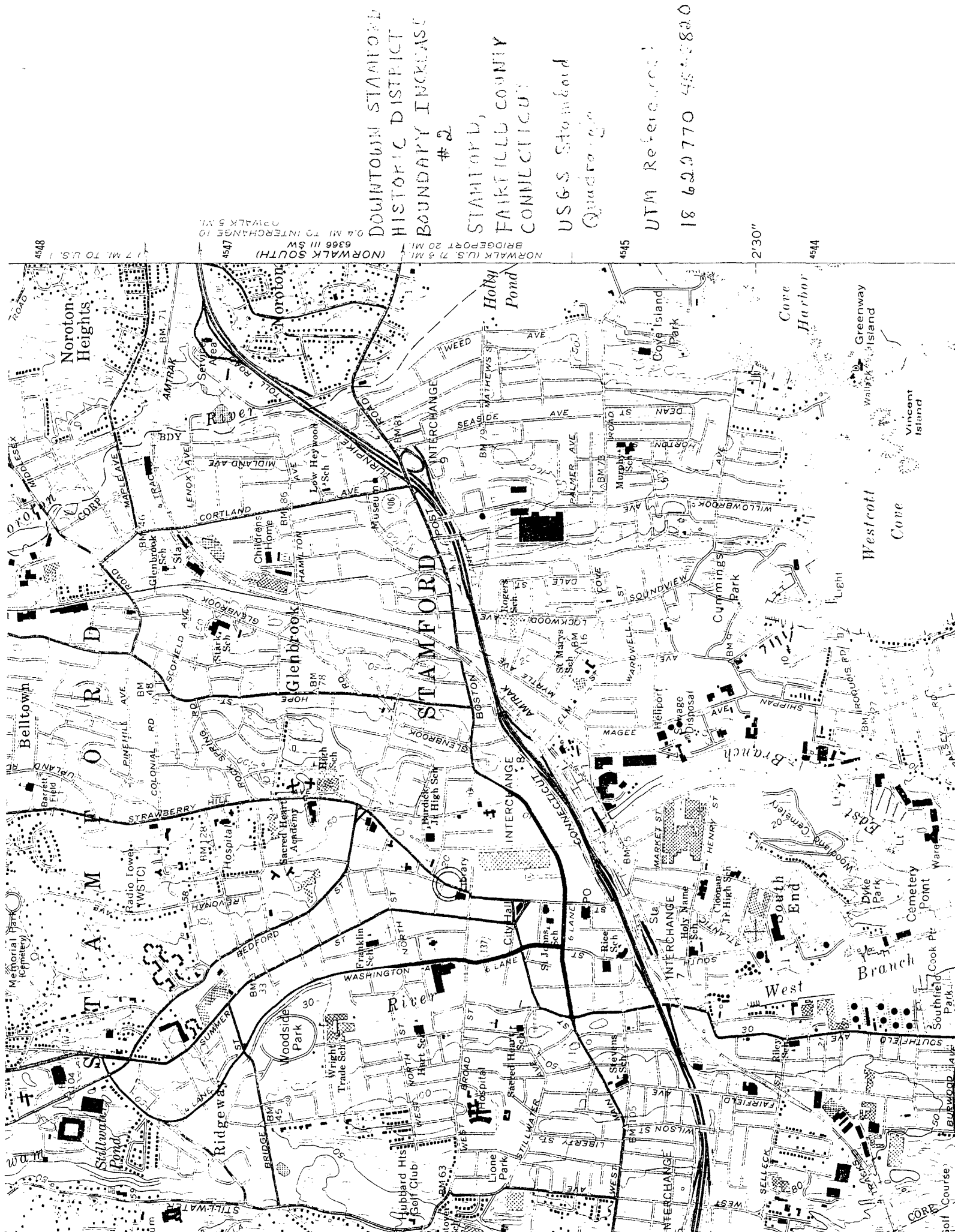
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
=====

Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



DOWNTOWN STAMFORD
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 BOUNDARY INCREASE
 # 2

STAMFORD,
 FAIRFIELD COUNTY
 CONNECTICUT

USGS Standard
 Quadrangle

UTM Reference

18 622770 4540800

4548 1.7 MI. TO U.S. 1
 NORWALK (SOUTH) 6366 III SW
 BRIDGEPORT 20 MI. 0.4 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 10
 4547
 4545
 2'30"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

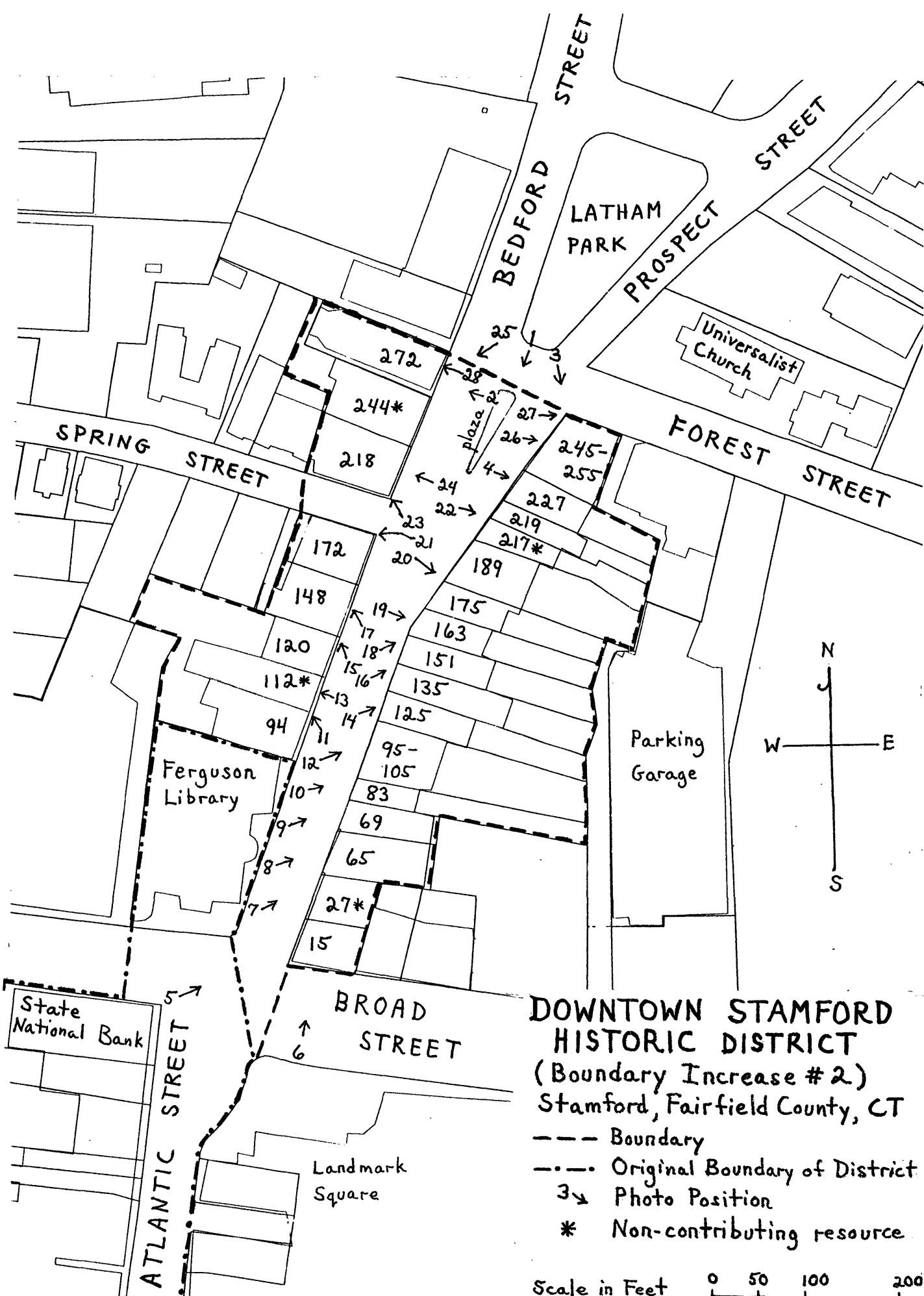
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo_ Page _1_

Downtown Stamford Historic District
Boundary Increase #2
Fairfield County, Connecticut

Photographer: Ellen Meagher
Date: February 15, 2002

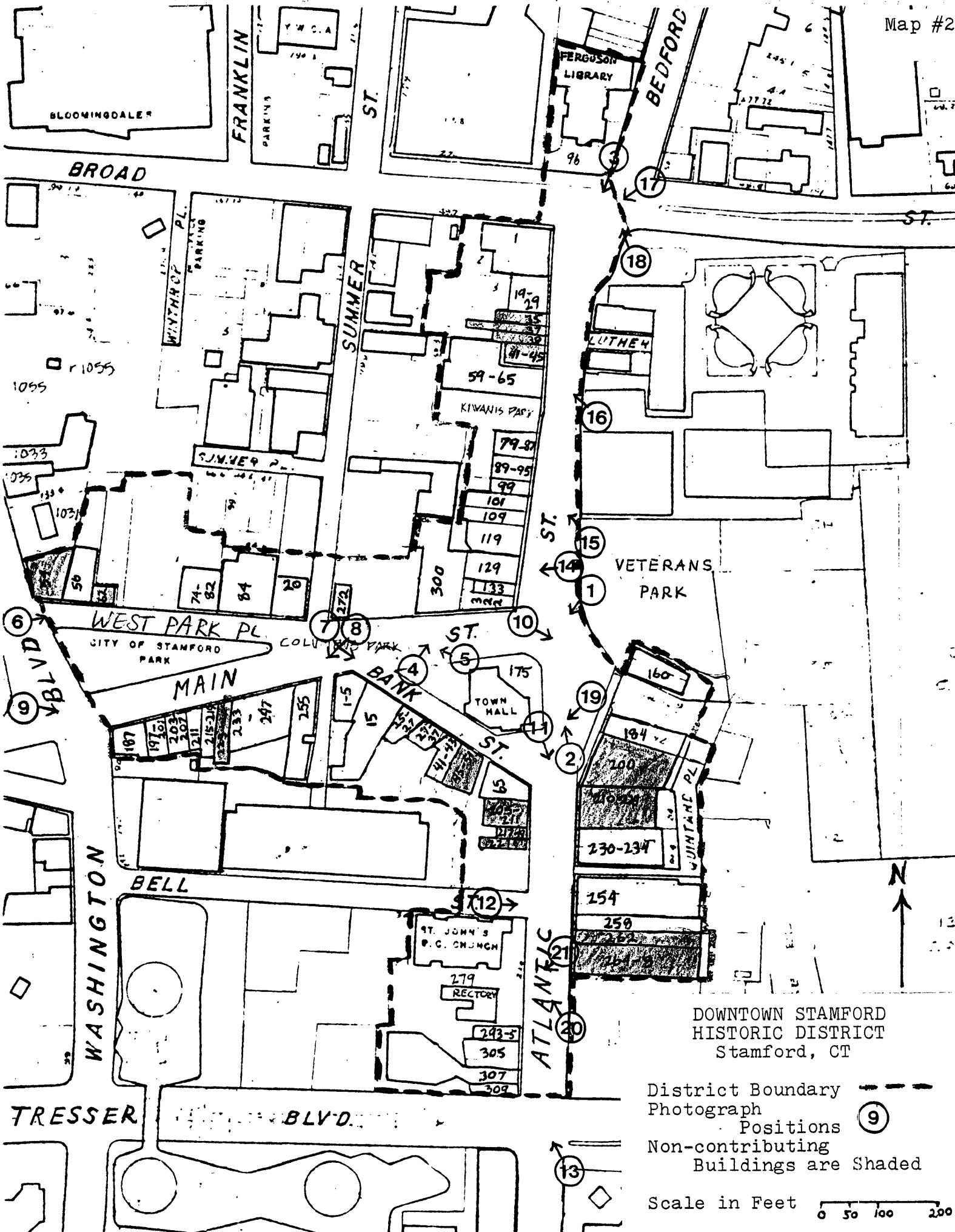
1. View of plaza, Bedford and Forest Streets, south view
2. Avon Theater, Bedford Street, facing west
3. 245-255 Bedford Street, view at Forest Street, facing southeast
4. 227 Bedford Street, facing east
5. View of Bedford Streetscape, facing northeast
6. 15 Bedford Street, Broad Street elevation facing north
7. 27 Bedford Street, noncontributing, facing east
8. 65 Bedford Street, facing east
9. 69 Bedford Street, facing east
10. 83 Bedford Street, facing east
11. 94 Bedford Street, facing west
12. 95-105 Bedford Street, facing east
13. 112 Bedford Street, noncontributing, facing west
14. 125 Bedford Street, facing east
15. 120 Bedford Street, facing west
16. 135 Bedford Street, facing east
17. 148 Bedford Street, facing west
18. 151 Bedford Street, facing east
19. 163 Bedford Street, facing east
20. 189-175 Bedford Street, facing southeast
21. 172 Bedford Street, facing southwest
22. 219 and 217 Bedford Street, facing east
23. BEDFORD PARK APARTMENTS, facing southwest
24. BEDFORD PARK APARTMENTS, detail at entry, facing west
25. Streetscape, Bedford Street, facing southwest, 272, 244, and 218 Bedford Street
26. 245-255 Bedford Street, detail at entry, facing east
27. 245-255 Bedford Street, corner detail, facing east
28. AVON THEATER, 272 Bedford Street, detail at corner, facing west
29. STATE NATIONAL BANK, corner of Bedford, Broad and Atlantic Street



**DOWNTOWN STAMFORD
HISTORIC DISTRICT
(Boundary Increase #2)
Stamford, Fairfield County, CT**

- Boundary
- Original Boundary of District
- 3 ↘ Photo Position
- * Non-contributing resource

Scale in Feet 0 50 100 200



DOWNTOWN STAMFORD
HISTORIC DISTRICT
Stamford, CT

- District Boundary
- Photograph Positions
- Non-contributing Buildings are Shaded

Scale in Feet