

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

AL 25 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic n/a

and/or common Downtown Seymour Historic District

2. Location

9-37 Bank Street, 22-27 DeForest Street, 1-46 First Street, 26-169
street & number Main Street, 52 Wakeley Street Extension n/a not for publication

city, town Seymour n/a vicinity of

state CT code 09 county New Haven code 009

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number n/a

city, town n/a n/a vicinity of state n/a

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall

street & number 1 First Street

city, town Seymour state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

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

city, town Hartford state CT

7. Description

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

The town of Seymour is located in southwestern Connecticut, approximately fifteen miles northwest of New Haven. The Downtown Seymour Historic District is situated in the center of the town, on a former flood plain at a bend of the Naugatuck River. Natural topographic boundaries of the proposed district are formed by a steep bluff rising east of Main Street and the railroad tracks, and by the Naugatuck River to the south and west. Route 8 (a limited access elevated state highway) forms a man-made boundary to the north and northwest. A small shopping center on the west side of First Street establishes the western boundary. The district consists of 49 structures and sites, 42 of which contribute to the architectural and historical merit of the 21-acre district. Most buildings were constructed around 1900.

The town center is densely built, featuring three north/south streets (Main, First and Wakeley) which are bisected by DeForest and Bank streets (see Map A). The five-block street pattern encompasses a visually cohesive ensemble of commercial, industrial, civic and residential buildings. Entering the district from the south end of Main Street brings the historic industrial complex, commercial row buildings and civic structures immediately into view. The buildings of the New Haven Copper Company and Waterman Pen Complex (building #s 13-17, 32-35) comprise the industrial property within the district. These structures are situated on a diagonal between DeForest and Main streets (photograph #11). Three civic structures within the district, the Seymour Fire Department (building #12), Town Hall (building #19), and the U.S. Post Office (building #38) overlook the industrial complex on Bank Street (photograph #9). The balance of structures within the district are commercial and residential structures, mostly 2-story brick commercial buildings located along an axis formed by the intersection of Bank and Main streets. Freestanding civic and industrial buildings on the south side of the district provide a striking contrast with the clustered development of smaller-scale commercial buildings along Main, Bank and Wakeley Street Extension.

The range of building types within the district varies from gabled-roof frame structures (building #s 3,8,10,11,23,25,36,47) to multi-story reinforced-concrete and glass curtain-wall industrial buildings (building #s 13-15). Most of the gabled-roof frame structures date from the late nineteenth century, and may be loosely defined as Queen Anne vernacular. An exception to this grouping is building #25, which predates its neighbors by approximately 50 years, and which features Greek Revival stylistic elements now obscured by asphalt siding. The reinforced concrete buildings of the Waterman Pen Complex provide an exciting visual focus for the district's industrial area, and clearly establish the physical presence of industrial development in the town. Commercial building facades along Main Street (building #s 25-31, 36-37, 40-48) consist of a variety of picturesque revival styles, such as the Italianate and Victorian Gothic (building #s 27,28,43,45), as well as the more academically inspired Beaux Arts style (building #40). The stone and concrete Beaux Arts bank facade adds textural and visual interest to Main Street, and reinforces the late nineteenth-century identity of the town center (photograph #4). Commercial street facades vary between 1 and 3 stories in height, decorated with stone window sills and cornices, and usually topped off by prominent frame roof cornices and/or parapets. Probably the most visually appealing of

(continued on p.4)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Criteria A,B,C

Specific dates See Item 7: Inventory Builder/Architect See Item 7: Inventory

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Downtown Seymour Historic District is a microcosm of the commercial and industrial development of the Naugatuck Valley region and the town of Seymour during the late nineteenth century (Criterion A). A fine variety of late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial, civic, industrial and residential buildings establishes the turn-of-the-century identity of the district, and reflects the historical development of the town (Criterion C). High Victorian Gothic and Italianate Commercial-style buildings built between 1880 and 1910 combine with Colonial Revival and other eclectic and revival styles constructed between 1910 and 1940 to form a distinguishable and cohesive ensemble of architectural resources. Due to its proximity to the Naugatuck River and Falls, the district was the setting for the town's earliest manufacturing activity, facilitated by the entrepreneurship of early settlers, notably Gen. David Humphreys (Criterion B). Humphreys' successful development of the Humphreysville Manufacturing Company (woolen mill) provided the stimulus for the establishment of several other industrial concerns including, in 1848, the Humphreysville Copper Company (known as New Haven Copper Company after 1855).

Historical and Industrial Development

The district developed in four stages from the late seventeenth century to the 1920s. Its origins may be traced to Indian settlements around the Naugatuck River and Falls. A portion of land around the Falls was purchased in 1678 from Indian inhabitants by the town of Derby (chartered in 1675), with the stipulation that a fishing place be reserved for the Indians along the Naugatuck.¹ This earliest settlement was called Naugatuck until 1738, when the settlement was renamed Chusetown after sachem Joseph Chuse. In 1760, Chuse sold the Falls and adjacent property to John Wooster, Ebenezer Keeney, Joseph Hull and Thomas Perkins of Derby. Wooster, in association with Bradford Steele, opened a blacksmith shop east of the Falls, on the site of the Waterman Pen Complex (building #s 13-17)². This second stage of development represented the beginnings of manufacturing activity in the district. Between 1785 and 1790, Wooster and Steele operated fulling mills adjacent to the Falls, and erected a sawmill, gristmill and clothier's shop in the same area. There are no extant structures from this development period.

The third stage of the district's development occurred after 1800, and provided the framework for future industrial and commercial development. In 1803, Gen. David Humphreys (1752-1818) purchased the Naugatuck Falls and nearby property, and established a new woolen mill there, one of the earliest in the U.S.³ Educated at Yale, and elected to the state legislature in 1786, Humphreys accompanied Thomas Jefferson to Europe in 1784 as secretary of the delegation.⁴ He served as U.S. minister to Portugal from 1791 to 1797, and later minister to Spain from 1796 to 1802. He returned from Spain with 100 merino sheep, and chose the Chusetown settlement as headquarters for a sheep-

9. Major Bibliographical References

Campbell, Rev. Hollis A.; William C. Sharpe and Farnk G. Bassett. Seymour Past and Present. Seymour: W.C. Sharpe Publisher, 1902.

Malloy, Leo T. Tercentenary Pictorial and History of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Ansonia: Emerson Brothers, 1935.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 21

Quadrangle name Naugatuck

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	6	0	8	0	0	4	5	8	3	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	6	6	0	8	2	0	4	5	8	4	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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

D

1	8	6	6	0	9	6	0	4	5	8	4	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

1	8	6	6	1	1	5	0	4	5	8	4	3	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

1	8	6	6	1	0	8	0	4	5	8	3	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Legal description: see lot line map (Map B).

The geographical setting of downtown Seymour and the more recent construction (continued on p.16)

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

state	n/a	code	n/a	county	n/a	code	n/a

state	n/a	code	n/a	county	n/a	code	n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack A. Gold, Architectural Historian - edited by John Herzan,

Jack A. Gold National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date February 1983

street & number 50 Hubinger Street telephone 203 389 4590

city or town New Haven state CT

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

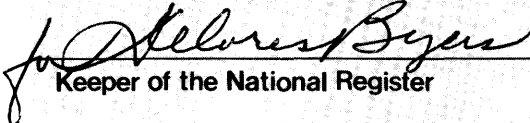


title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date July 18, 1983

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/25/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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DOWNTOWN SEYMOUR HISTORIC DISTRICT, CT

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

OWNER	BUILDING OR SITE #	LOT #	CONTRIBUTING (C) NONCONTRIBUTING (NC)
Elmer L. Schaible 350 Quaker Farms Rd. Seymour, CT	25	69	C
Nicholas Attruia 716 Derby Avenue Seymour, CT	26	68	NC
Zois & Argyro Tzepos 46-50 Main St. Seymour, CT	27	67	C
Carl & Veronica Kuzia 191 Church St. Seymour, CT	28	66	C
Seymour Metal Workers #1827 54-56 Main St. Seymour, CT	29	65	C
Tony & Carol Chapis 39 Canfield Rd. Seymour, CT	30	64	NC
New Haven Copper Company 79 Main St. Seymour, CT	31	63	NC
Janet Dikowsky 2209 Main St., Apt. #C34 Bridgeport, CT	36	62	C
Henry Chatfield 12 First St. Seymour, CT	37	61	C
Seymour Trust Co. 115 Main St. Seymour, CT	39	69A, 49B	NC
Knights of Columbus Association Norman Franzis, Treasurer P.O. Box 41 Seymour, CT	24, 48	48	C
Julia & Gennaro Giovacchino 27 Potter Rd. Seymour, CT	47	47	C

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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DOWNTOWN SEYMOUR HISTORIC DISTRICT, CT

Continuation sheet

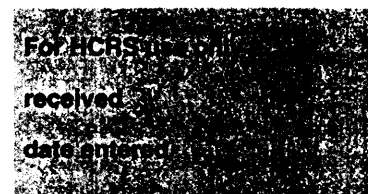
Item number

4

Page

2

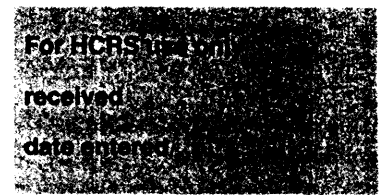
OWNER (continued)	BUILDING OR SITE #	LOT #	CONTRIBUTING (C) NONCONTRIBUTING (NC)
Michael & Linda Mordowaned 18 Chestnut St. Seymour, CT	46	46	C
Richard Koval 145 Main St. Seymour, CT	45	45	C
Ted Rogol 71 Spruce St. Seymour, CT	44	44	C
James Principi 155 Hodge Ave. Ansonia, CT	43	57	C
Ralph DeFonce 26 Harvest Hill Dr. Trumbull, CT	42	56	NC
Ralph DeFonce 26 Harvest Hill Dr. Trumbull, CT	41	55A	C
Seymour Trust Co. 115 Main St. Seymour, CT	40	52, 53, 54	C
U.S. Post Office 91 Main St. Seymour, CT	38	51	C
New Haven Copper Company 79 Main St. Seymour, CT	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 32 33, 34, 35	58, 59	C
Town of Seymour 1 First St. Seymour, CT	12, 19	27, 28, 29, 30	C
Gary & Summer Sochrin 11 Colony Rd. Seymour, CT	7, 21	32, 33	C
Edward Howe 14005 Leeward Dr. Seminole, FL 33542	22, 22a	39	C, NC



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Continuation sheet	Item number	4	Page 3
	BUILDING OR SITE #	LOT #	CONTRIBUTING (C) NONCONTRIBUTING (NC)
OWNER (continued)			
Southern New England Telephone Company 6 First St. Seymour, CT	20	50	NC
Eckhardt Furniture 14-16 Bank St. Seymour, CT	4,23	40,41, 42	C
A.M.F.&S. Realty Group 12 Bank St. Seymour, CT	3	43	C
Seymour Furniture Company 18-22 Bank St. Seymour, CT	6,8,40	37,38, 39A	C
Ned & John Fanotto 5 Emma St. Seymour, CT	10	36	C
American Legion #10 Dept. of CT, Inc. 33-37 Bank St. Seymour, CT	11	35	C
William Goodrich c/o Goodrich Oil 39 E. Ferry St. New Haven, CT	9	34	C
Sallie & Pauline Paternoster 17 Bank St. Seymour, CT	5	57B	C
Richard Smith 164 Old Hickory Rd. Orange, CT	2	57A	C

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7. DESCRIPTION

this type is building #28, which features a finely scaled 3-bay facade, original storefront and handsome bracketed roof cornice (photograph #1). The district also contains its share of twentieth-century design influences. These include the Spanish Mission Revival commercial building on Wakeley Street Extension (building #49), and the Art Deco inspired neon and polished-metal siding of the Seymour Diner (building #24).

The most prominently sited commercial building within the district is the Humphreys Building (building #43, photograph #3). Featuring a domed tower and finely detailed brickwork on both its Main and Bank Street elevations, the Gothic structure provides the central focus for the town's late nineteenth-century commercial development. This focus creates a striking juxtaposition between the town's commercial development and the highly visible complex of industrial and civic buildings to the south. Of the three free-standing civic buildings situated along DeForest Street, the fire station (building #12) and U.S. Post Office (building #38) are outstanding examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century-style civic architecture, respectively, and serve as important visual anchors for the town center (photograph #s 8,10). The U.S. Post Office, prominently sited on a steeply graded corner lot, accentuates the rise in street grade from lower Main Street to the central block between DeForest and Bank streets.

The New Haven Copper Company/Waterman Pen Complex (building #s 13-17, 32-35, site # 18), a historically related cluster of industrial buildings bounded by DeForest, Main Street and the Naugatuck River, is situated on the south side of the district. The Naugatuck River Dam and Falls (site # 18) are included within this industrial complex (photograph #12). The original Dam and Falls were formed by a twenty-foot-high rock ledge which stretched two-thirds of the way across the river bend. The remaining portion was blocked off by timber and planks. In 1850 the entire dam was rebuilt with stone. The group of three multi-story reinforced concrete structures (building #s 13-15), originally part of the Waterman Pen Complex (photograph #s 13,14) feature immense planar wall surfaces which contrast greatly with the low-slung stone-front mill building (building #34) to the northeast, as well as with the adjacent 2-story frame structure (building #16), and the brick mill building to the southeast (building #35). The multi-story structures are now used by the New Haven Copper Company for storage. In addition to the head race leading from the Falls to the mill buildings, smaller canals also traversed the industrial property on a diagonal, providing a rationale for the diagonal siting of all mill buildings. Extant traces of the nineteenth-century canals are located along the river bank. A large 3-story brick structure, originally part of the New Haven Copper Company and situated on the river bank south of building #s 13-15, was demolished ca.1960.

Although the late-nineteenth-century street pattern and architectural composition of the district have not significantly changed over the past eighty years, the overall density of the central business district has changed considerably. Sporadic fires on Bank Street in 1882 and 1889 caused the replacement

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7. DESCRIPTION

of 2 and 3-story frame commercial buildings with 2-story brick structures (photograph #s 6,7). Urban renewal clearance programs during the 1960s caused the demolition of closely spaced frame houses and commercial buildings along First and Wakeley streets between Bank and DeForest. A portion of this area (outside of the historic district) was developed as a small shopping center facing south between First and Wakeley streets with a parking lot in front. The single-story shopping center and parking lot provide a clear western boundary for the district. A brick railroad depot, constructed in 1898 and formerly located on the east side of Main Street near the Bank Street intersection, was demolished for bank parking ca.1975. The now vacant site of the railroad depot probably represents the most significant loss for the town, in terms of the architectural and historical development of the community.

Noncontributing structures and sites within the district (see end of building inventory) have minimal impact on the overall cohesiveness and visual identity of the district (photograph #s 15,16). Building #s 20,22a, 26,30 and 42 are relatively new buildings which do not contribute to the architectural or historical merit of the district. Site #s 31 and 39 are open spaces which detract from the visual continuity of the line of commercial building facades along Main Street.

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS IN DISTRICT (Building numbers keyed to Map A and list of property owners.)

1. 9 Bank St. Barber Shop. 1-story 1-bay shed-roof frame structure. Simple parapet with cornice. Ca.1930.
2. 11-15 Bank St. Foley Drug. 1-story 3-bay shed-roof brick structure. 1st-floor glass storefront surmounted by flat wooden parapet. Ca.1930.
3. 12 Bank St. 2½-story pyramidal-roof frame structure. Aluminum siding. 2-story front porch with chamfered posts and scrolled brackets; multiple gable ends. Queen Anne vernacular, ca.1900.
4. 14-16 Bank St. Eckhardt Furniture (Bellin Building). 3-story "triple decker" frame structure with two prominent projecting oriel bays and extended roof cornice. Facade sheathed by aluminum siding. Storefront intact, with dentiled cornice and pilaster strips. Early twentieth century vernacular, 1917.
5. 17 Bank St. State Transmission. 1-story 5-by-1-bay flanking gable brick structure. Rectangular fenestration, wood sills. Ca.1920.
6. 18-22 Bank St. Seymour Furniture Company (Beach's Block). 2-story 5-bay gable-front painted brick structure. Gable end on facade is masked by a heavy dentiled roof parapet with a central pedimented section. Storefront intact with round cast-iron columns supporting a dentiled cornice. 2nd floor has three semicircular-arched windows centered on the facade, articulated by stone sills and dripstones. Prominent streetcorner location. High Victorian Italianate, 1890.

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7. DESCRIPTION

7. 19-23 Bank St. 1-story shed roof brick structure. Cast-cement roof cornice surmounted by urns on corner blocks. 1923.

8. 26-28 Bank St. Seymour Furniture Company. 3-story gable-front frame structure Asphalt siding over clapboard. Roof parapet with extended cornice and central raised and pedimented section masks gable end. Rear elevation reveals original clapboard and heavy roof cornice. Late nineteenth-century commercial vernacular, ca.1890.

9. 27-29 Bank St. Seymour Sports Shop. 1-story shed-roof frame structure. Prominent roof parapet with dentiled and raised semicircular roof cornice. Ca.1900

10. 30-34 Bank St. Mid Valley Sales, Full House Cafe. Double gable-front stuccoed frame structure. Clapboard visible on east elevation. Shed-roof storefronts. Ca.1880.

11. 33-37 Bank St. OK Shoe Shop, Malerba Liquors. 2½-story 5-bay gable-front frame structure with 2-story ell on west elevation, and shed addition on the rear. Ca.1875.

12. 22 DeForest St. Seymour Fire Department, Citizens Engine Company #2. 2½-story hipped-roof brick structure with prominent 2-stage interior-end bell tower. Facade embellished with stepped roof parapet with rock-faced granite coping. Window openings framed by heavy granite lintels and sills. Brickwork variations include double corbeled roof cornice formed by brick headers placed on a diagonal. Carved stone eagle springs from southeast corner of roof cornice and base of tower. Tower features heavy crenelated parapet surmounted by a wooden arcade and a hipped pantiled roof with a concave profile. Queen Anne, 1892. 4-bay flanking-gable reinforced concrete addition (ca.1977) attached to northeast elevation; single-story brick additions (ca.1960, ca.1970) are situated on northwest (rear) elevation and house town police department.

13. Off DeForest St. Waterman Pen Complex (New Haven Copper Company storage). 6-story reinforced-concrete structure. Metal-frame industrial sash surrounded by flat concrete bands. 1920.

14. Off DeForest St. Waterman Pen Complex (New Haven Copper Company storage). 4-story reinforced-concrete structure. Metal-frame industrial sash surrounded by flat concrete bands. 1914.

15. Off DeForest St. Waterman Pen Complex (New Haven Copper Company storage). 5-story reinforced concrete structure. Metal-frame industrial sash surrounded by flat concrete bands. 1918.

16. 25 DeForest St. Medical Arts Building (originally part of Waterman Pen Complex). 2-story 5-by-3-bay flanking-gable frame structure. Weatherboards on side elevations appear original; aluminum siding on facade. Double-hung 1-over-1-light rectangular sash. Vernacular, ca.1905. Remains of head race situated along rear (southeast) elevation.

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7. DESCRIPTION

17. 27 DeForest St. Waterman Pen Complex (New Haven Copper Company storage). 1-story 3-by-2-bay flanking-gable brick structure. Segmental-arch fenestration. Ca.1890.
18. Naugatuck River Dam and Falls. Dam consists of a flat-topped uncoursed-stone wall situated at the bend of the Naugatuck River. Dam spans two-thirds of the river; Falls spill over along south river bank. Remains of head race on north bank.
19. 1 First St. Town Hall. 1-story 7-by-3-bay flanking-gable brick structure with raised basement. 12-over-12-light rectangular sash. Wood-paneled gable ends. Pedimented central entrance. Roof surmounted by a wooden cupola. Colonial Revival, 1930.
20. 6 First St. Southern New England Telephone Company. Noncontributing structure (see end of inventory).
21. 29-31 First St. 1-story brick structure with concrete roof parapet. Ca.1940.
22. 35-37 First St. 2-story 9-bay brick structure. Garage door centered on facade. Segmental-arched windows on second floor. Ca.1930. (1-story concrete-block gasoline service station added to north side facing Route 8, is non-contributing structure: see end of inventory.)
23. 40 First St. 2½-story raised-basement multigabled frame structure. Asphalt siding. Rear porch intact with milled spindles and bracketed trim. Queen Anne vernacular, ca.1900.
24. 46 First St. 1-story flat-roof cinder-block structure with Art Deco-style polished-metal siding, blue formica banding and neon sign. Ca.1940.
25. 26-28 Main St. Trestle Tavern. 2½-story 4-bay flanking-gable frame structure. First floor of facade renovated ca.1950, featuring porch supported by heavy scrolled brackets. Original configuration of window openings intact on second-floor facade and side elevations. Asphalt siding obscures original clapboard. Greek Revival vernacular, ca.1840.
26. 32 Main St. Noncontributing structure (see end of inventory).
27. 46-50 Main St. Attruia Building. 3-story 9-bay brick structure with low-rise flanking-gable roof surmounted by a bracketed and louvered wood cupola. Storefront alterations on first floor. Original fenestration intact on second and third floors, framed by granite sills and lintels. Paired exterior-end chimneys rise flush above gable-end parapet. Italianate commercial, ca.1880.
28. 52 Main St. Veronica's Ceramic. 3-story 3-bay brick structure featuring heavy bracketed roof cornice with raised semicircular arched central section. Original storefront intact with dentiled cornice. Italianate commercial, 1906.

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29. 54-56 Main St. UAW-CIO Local #1827. 3-story 3-bay brick structure. Brick roof parapet defined by concrete banding. Flat-arch brick lintels above rectangular fenestration. Ca.1920.

30. 60-62 Main St. Noncontributing structure (see end of inventory).

31. 64-80 Main St. Noncontributing site (see end of inventory).

32. 79 Main St. New Haven Copper Company (A). 2½-story gable-front brick structure (ca.1860) with hipped-roof additions (ca.1900) attached on the northwest and southeast elevations. Gable-front section features corbeled roof cornice and granite semicircular-arch ventilator window set in tympanum. Rectangular fenestration features heavy granite sills and lintels. Standing-seam copper roof over entire structure. Italianate, ca.1860. Colonial Revival (side additions), ca. 1910.

33. 79 Main St. New Haven Copper Company (B). 2-story flat-roof brick structure. Fenestration distinguished by a continuous line of metal-frame casement windows. Structure sited on a diagonal in relation to street. Ca.1940.

34. 79 Main St. New Haven Copper Company (C). 1½-story gable-front stone structure. Structure is obscured from view from the street because it is situated below street grade, and because side additions obscure original elevations. Roofline distinguished by four pyramidal-roofed cupolas used to ventilate the large interior open space of the copper sheet mill. Stone structure, 1849. Frame additions to the southwest (ca. 1865) probably original location of U.S. Pin Company factory.

35. Off Main St. New Haven Copper Company (Austin G. Day Caoutchouc Company) (D). 2½-story 13-by-4-bay flanking-gable brick structure. Double-hung 12-over-12-light window sash with wood lintels and sills. Prominent hipped-roof rectangular cupola centered on roof. Ca.1860.

36. 82-84 Main St. Dance Studio, Public Accountant. 2½-story gable-front frame structure with latticed trim in gable end, and bracketed porch above second floor. 2-bay addition north, and gable-front brick garage addition south. Ca.1890, additions ca.1920.

37. 88-90 Main St. Seymour Office Equipment, Maybury Office Equipment. 3-story 4-bay brick structure with casement windows and concrete sills. 2-story vertically boarded frame addition in rear. Ca.1940. Additions, ca.1970.

38. 91 Main St. U.S. Post Office. 1-story brick structure with 3-sided facade situated on a triangular lot. Six Egyptian columns support a heavy stone entablature which continues around the side elevations. Stone cartouches with floriated designs are set above each of the four rectangular windows and the central entry. James A. Wetmore, architect. Neo-classical Revival, 1916.

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7. DESCRIPTION

39. 100 Main St. Noncontributing site (see end of inventory).
40. 115 Main St. Seymour Trust Company. 2-story brick structure with monumental concrete-clad facade and polished-granite foundation wall. Semicircular-arched entry supported by Ionic columns set in antis on facade. A prominent dentiled cornice runs the full length of the facade above the arch. Side walls are of buff brick with elongated semicircular-arch fenestration. A single-story stone-faced addition (1981), featuring small rectangular windows with deep reveals, stretches south of the main building. Beaux Arts Classicism, 1922.
41. 117-121 Main St. Isaacson's (1). 2-story 6-bay brick structure, featuring heavy, bracketed wood roof parapet. Rectangular fenestration with stone lintels and sills. Storefront altered ca.1960. Victorian Gothic, ca.1890.
42. 127 Main St. Issacson's (2). Noncontributing structure (see end of inventory).
43. 131-139 Main St. Humphreys Building. 2½-story 9-by-6-bay brick structure. Prominent streetcorner location. A three-part square tower is centered on the facade, topped by a distinctive copper-clad dome. The central entry on the facade features coursed rock-faced stone surrounding semicircular arch and dripstone. Rectangular fenestration north of tower is defined by smooth-faced stone sills and rock-faced lintels. South side features pointed-arch fenestration on the second floor, surmounted by an attic with small square sash set within the base of the corbeled roof cornice. Carlos French, builder. High Victorian Gothic, 1891.
44. 141 Main St. Rogol Building. 1-story 6-bay brick structure. Prominent streetcorner location. Storefronts surmounted by heavy concrete cornice. Roof parapet articulated by Spanish Mission style concrete panels and knobbed finials. South elevation features leaded-glass panels above storefront windows. Ca. 1925.
45. 143-149 Main St. Yale-Reach Building. 3-story 6-bay brick structure. Segmental-arched fenestration, corbeled roof cornice, double-brick stringcourse above third-floor windows. First-floor alterations consist of wood-shingled mansard roof above storefronts. Italianate Commercial, 1900.
46. 151-153 Main St. 3-story 5-bay brick structure featuring semicircular-arch window openings with fanlight inserts and granite sills. Polychromatic effect on facade achieved through use of yellow-brick strips in central bay, and yellow-brick quoins at the two corners of the building. Wooden roof cornice supported by scrolled brackets and consoles. Neo-classical Revival, 1902.
47. 157-161 Main St. 2-story 5-bay shed-roof frame structure. Fluted pilaster strips between window bays support frieze and modillioned roof cornice. Italianate Commercial, ca.1890.

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48. 163-169 Main St. Donavan Building (Strand Theater). 3-story 3-bay brick structure with tripartite rectangular window openings. Polished-metal and glass-block first-floor theater front, surmounted by Strand marquee with neon. Patterned brickwork between second and third floors. Corbeled cornice above third floor. 1921 (theater front ca.1940).

49. 52 Wakeley St. Extension. 2-story 3-bay brick structure. Spanish Mission-style red pantile shed roof on facade. Second floor balcony with iron rail. Ca. 1925.

STRUCTURES OR SITES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORICAL MERIT OF THE DISTRICT

20. 6 First St. Southern New England Telephone Company. 1-story hipped-roof brick structure. Ca.1975.

22a. 37 First St. (faces Route 8). Mobil Service. 1-story concrete-block structure faced with formica panels. Ca.1970.

26. 32 Main St. 1-story 3-bay glass-front brick structure. Flat roof surmounted by billboard. Ca.1950.

30. 60-62 Main St. Captan Building. 1-story 3-bay stone-faced cinder-block structure. 1947.

39. 100 Main St. Parking lot, Seymour Trust Company (site of railroad depot).

42. 127 Main St. Isaacson's (2). 1-story brick structure. Plate-glass storefront surmounted by storefront sign. Ca.1970.

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raising business and the manufacture of woolen broadcloth. In honor of Humphreys' new enterprise, the state legislature in 1804 changed the name of Chusetown to Humphreysville, a name which survived until incorporation of the settlement in 1850 as the town of Seymour.⁵

Humphreys' woolen mill was constructed in 1806, with the assistance of English workmen.⁶ His new company was named T. Vose and Company, after associate Thomas Vose of Derby. In 1810, the name was changed to Humphreysville Manufacturing Company. A channel cut through the rock on the east side of the Falls provided a flow of water which propelled machinery in the mill for shearing, carding, ravelling and spinning the sheeps' wool. In addition, a sawmill was also constructed for maintenance of the property. Humphreys was committed as well to the social stability and security of the growing settlement. He organized Sunday schools for mill workers, and a military company. He died in New Haven in 1818. In partnership with Waln and Leaming

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of Philadelphia, John DeForest (1776-1839), another prominent industrialist of the Naugatuck valley, purchased in 1821 the water rights and existing mill buildings of the Humphreysville Manufacturing Company adjacent to the Naugatuck Falls. DeForest renovated the woolen mill (no longer extant) for the production of cotton sheeting.

Other Naugatuck valley towns experienced industrial growth during the nineteenth century. In addition to the Naugatuck River and Falls, the numerous streams and natural reservoirs in the region established the lower Naugatuck valley as an ideal location for industry and manufacturing. Derby, ideally situated at the point where the Housatonic River meets the Naugatuck (approximately eight miles south of Seymour), also developed a solid industrial base during the nineteenth century. Some of Derby's major industries included the Serling Company (pianos and organs), Birmingham Iron Company, and Howe Manufacturing Company. Across the Housatonic River in Shelton, 25 factories were established by 1896, including the Derby Silver Company, Birmingham Brass Company and Radcliffe Brothers woolen mills.

Formation of the Naugatuck Railroad between 1845 and 1850 facilitated development of new industry in the district during the mid-nineteenth century, and stimulated the fourth development period of the district from 1850 through the 1920s. The most important company to be established in the district during this period was the Humphreysville Copper Company. Organized in 1848 with \$40,000 in capital stock, the company was owned by W.W. Goddard, who changed its name in 1855 to the New Haven Copper Company. Thomas James (1817-1887), a Welchman with experience in copper smelting, immigrated to the U.S. for employment as a copper roller for Anson Phelps of Derby. James later invested in the New Haven Copper Company, and was hired as manager in 1859. In 1872, the company was reorganized and sold to a group of stockholders including James. James, as superintendent, manager and later president, and his son Thomas L. were responsible for the growth and prosperity of the company through the 1920s. In 1876 James patented a process which he developed for maintaining the gloss on polished copper, a process which established a national reputation for the company.⁷ The main copper rolling mill was located in the extant stone structure (building #34), and contained ten sets of rollers powered by a 250 horsepower steam engine, and four turbine waterwheels which aggregated an additional 250 horsepower. Other manufacturing areas included a stamping shop, polished copper department, forging room, and bit and auger shop. The company maintained a work force of 100 to 125 employees. The James family held the company until 1923, when it was purchased by the Calumet and Hector Copper Company. After 1929, financial difficulties caused a reduction of operations and a succession of new owners. During World War II, the New Haven Copper Company again gained national prominence with the development of a new silicon bronze, patented and trademarked "New Haven Bronze." The product was used by the Navy for submarine gate valves and for fire extinguishers until the 1950s, when stainless steel replaced most uses for silicon bronze. The New Haven Copper Company, now a subsidiary of Cities Service Company, remains in operation in the district.

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The Waterman Ideal Fountain Pen Manufactory, known as the Waterman Pen Company, operated in the district from 1854 until its purchase in 1963 by BIC Pen, and relocation to a larger facility in Milford. Waterman Pen was originally a division of the Austin G. Day Caoutchouc Company, manufacturers of pen holders and hard rubber items. Day's company, conceived in 1850, moved from New Haven to Seymour in 1854 after Day's invention of Kerite, a rubber compound used to insulate telegraph cables and other electric wires. After a fire in 1864, manufacturing operations were shifted to an adjacent (and extant) brick building (building #35). The U.S. Pin Company, established in 1860 by Thaddeus Fowler and H.C. Hotchkiss, was another important nineteenth-century industry within the district. The pin factory utilized machinery and mechanical processes invented by Fowler. His pin-making machine was considered the leading invention in the American pin industry.⁸ The company, located within the New Haven Copper Company complex, closed in 1897. U.S. Pin's major competition was the Howe Manufacturing Company of Derby, a company credited with having developed the earliest pin manufacturing concern in the nation.

Architecture

The district is architecturally significant as a cohesive ensemble of distinctive late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial, industrial and civic buildings. High Victorian Gothic and Italianate stylistic influences are the most sophisticated and influential design influences within the district, reflected especially in commercial buildings on Main and Bank streets, and in the Seymour Fire Department.

The earliest stylistic influences present in the district are the most vernacular in derivation. The Trestle Tavern (building #25) is probably the oldest structure in the district. While its construction conforms in massing and fenestration detail to the Greek Revival style, its vernacular appearance is derived from the gabled roof flanking the street rather than facing the street as is customary with most Greek Revival frame residences. The other few residences constructed in the district after 1850 (building #s 11,23,36) also share vernacular influences, and are not as sophisticated stylistically as the late nineteenth-century commercial and civic buildings present here. These frame residences share Queen Anne-style elevations without a sophisticated level of details or exterior finish.⁹

As industry and commerce flourished in the district during the late nineteenth century, so also did commercial and civic architecture. Victorian Gothic and Italianate commercial buildings constitute the core of the district's architectural significance, and establish Main and Bank streets' cohesive late nineteenth-century flavor. These commercial buildings create a continuity in building appearance through the application of similar architectural details, such as prominent stone sills and window cornices; dentiled, modillioned and/or bracketed roof cornices; wood paneled roof parapets with pediments; cast-iron storefront columns; and variations in exterior brickwork patterns. Situated

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prominently at the corner of Main and Bank streets, the Humphreys Building (photograph #3, building #43) is the grandest commercial structure from this period. Its ambitious domed tower and Gothic arches reflect the picturesque exuberance which typified the High Victorian Gothic period. Its prominence is surpassed only by the Seymour Fire Department (photograph #10, building #31), the most visually exciting Victorian Gothic structure within the district. The functional hose tower and highly textural exterior elevations provide a fitting monument to the local fire department, and create a striking juxtaposition with the utilitarian Waterman Pen Complex just across the street.

While several single-story commercial buildings were constructed after 1900, the most sophisticated designs of this later period are found in civic and industrial buildings. The U.S. Post Office (photograph #8, building # 38), designed by architect James A. Wetmore (1863-1940), is typical of the period. Its monumental facade is a fine Neo-classical contribution to the district's building stock. Wetmore was Architectural Supervisor of the U.S. Treasury Department, and was also responsible for the design of the U.S. Post Office at Westport.¹⁰ The well-proportioned Colonial Revival-style Town Hall (photograph #9, building #19) is a relatively small structure, yet its prominent siting at the corner of First and DeForest streets conveys an imposing presence. The offices of the New Haven Copper Company (photograph #11, building #32) successfully meld a gable-front Italianate structure with hipped-roof Colonial Revival side additions. The cluster of three modernistic buildings of the Waterman Pen Complex (photograph #s 13,14; building #s 13-15) offers a fine example of the early twentieth-century industrial-construction techniques which, in utilizing reinforced concrete and metal framing, resulted in flat wall surfaces devoid of exterior decoration.

Other eclectic twentieth-century revival styles present in the district are applied in a vernacular fashion, and do not possess the level of significance characteristic of the turn-of-the-century period. For example, Spanish Mission-style elements are present in two commercial structures: the red pantile roof on building #49, as well as the heavy parapet on building #45, are evocative of the Spanish Mission style (popular during the 1920s and 1930s). Another vernacular building type represented in the district and popular throughout Connecticut after 1900 is the 3-story "triple decker" (photograph #6, building #4). These multi-family residential frame structures were popular in areas with a high working-class population; the structures characteristically incorporate elaborate, extended and bracketed roof cornices, perhaps to compensate for the lack of gable ends. Seymour's triple decker varies from the usual with the application of projecting bays and a first-floor storefront.

Commerce

While industry was the basis of the town's economic development through the nineteenth century, mercantile activity flourished as a result of this remarkable industrial growth. Another crucial factor affecting the

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development of local commerce was the incorporation of the Naugatuck Railroad Company in 1845. The line was built over a three-year period, and its working capital increased from \$600,000 to \$2 million in 1850.¹¹ Seymour's first financial institution, the Bank of North America, was incorporated in 1851, with \$100,000 capital. A building was erected on the corner of Main and Bank streets; however, the bank moved in 1861 to Ansonia and changed its name to Ansonia Bank. Founded in 1900, the Valley National Bank changed its name in 1905 to Seymour Trust Company, Edmund Day, President. Between 1905 and 1935, the institution's working capital increased from \$310,000 to \$2.5 million.¹² Originally located at the corner of Bank and Main, Seymour Trust Company moved to its new offices (building #40) in 1923.

The tradition of two prominent Bank Street furniture companies survives today. E.F. Bassett and S.Y. Beach have been supplanted by Seymour Furniture Company and Eckhardt Furniture. Bassett and Beach were largely responsible for the formation of a town fire company during the 1880s. In 1882 a fire destroyed E.F. Bassett's 3-story store along with four other buildings on Bank Street. As a result of this fire, the town purchased a new fire engine and hook and ladder truck, and constructed a small engine house on the corner of Wakeley and DeForest streets. The new fire department was called Ocean Fire Company, later renamed Humphreys' Engine and Hose Company #1. In 1886 the fire company was incorporated by the state legislature as the Citizens' Engine and Hook and Ladder Company #2. Another devastating fire in 1889 destroyed several buildings on Bank Street, including the recently constructed furniture company building erected by S.Y. Beach. Beach rebuilt his 3-story store on the same site one year later (building #6). In 1891, the town approved construction of a new fireproof engine house (building #12) in response to the fire of 1889. A business directory published in 1879 indicates the wide variety of mercantile activity within the district during the late-nineteenth century. Grocery and millinery shops, stove and tinware retailers, dry goods and hardware stores, and druggists were located within the district.

In 1869, W.C. Sharpe opened a printing office on Main Street. Sharpe established the Seymour Record two years later, a local newspaper which survived through the 1920s. J.H. Whiting established the Seymour Times in 1885, publication of which was suspended in 1888. Social organizations established in the community during the nineteenth century included the Morning Star Lodge, No.47, F.&A.M. (1804), Masonic Lodge (1851), and Mechanics Lodge (1890).

The decline of industrial activity in the Naugatuck valley during the mid-twentieth century has caused local and regional planners to seek alternative uses for vacant and underutilized industrial and commercial buildings. In Seymour, the Community Development Office is seeking to attract new retail and office development at the site of the New Haven Copper Company and Waterman Pen Complex. Also included within the town's development plans is a proposal to reuse the Naugatuck Falls and Dam as a hydroelectric facility. While these plans can only be classified as speculative at the present time, it is important

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to note the vital role that the town's historic resources will play in future development proposals.

NOTES

¹Rev. Hollis A. Campbell, Seymour Past and Present. Seymour: W.C. Sharpe, Publisher, 1902, p.17.

²Campbell, p.58.

³Campbell, p.58.

⁴Campbell, p.234.

⁵Industrial development provided the impetus for the separation of the Humphreysville settlement from the town of Derby. Derby residents, however, objected to incorporation of the settlement due to concern over competition for attracting new industry and commerce. Over strong objections from the town of Derby, the Humphreysville settlement was incorporated as Seymour in 1850. The town was named in honor of Gov. Thomas Hart Seymour (1808-1868), who served as governor from 1850 to 1853, and who served under President Pierce in 1853 as minister to Russia.

⁶Campbell, p.153.

⁷Campbell, p.185.

⁸Campbell, p.325.

⁹High-style residences constructed here during the nineteenth century are located outside of the district, to the east on a bluff overlooking the district, and across the Naugatuck River to the northwest.

¹⁰Henry F. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956, p. 647.

¹¹J.L. Rockey, History of New Haven County. New York: Preston & Company, 1892, vol. 2, p. 557.

¹²Leo T. Malloy. Tercentenary Pictorial and History of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. Ansonia: Emerson Brothers, 1935.

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Withey, Henry F. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

of State Highway 8 clearly define the physical boundaries of the district. In addition, district boundaries are defined by the area's use and development over time. Natural topographic boundaries are formed by a steep bluff rising east of Main St. and the railroad tracks, and by the Naugatuck River to the south and west. A small shopping center on the west side of First St. establishes the western boundary.