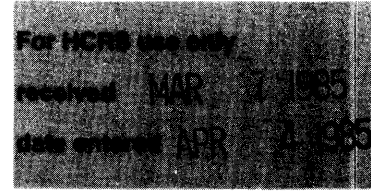


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

RECEIVED

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Downtown Norwich Historic District

Connecticut Historical
Commission

2. Location

street & number See Inventory attached to item 7 (description)

N/A not for publication

city, town Norwich

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut

code 09

county New London

code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the City Clerk

street & number Norwich City Hall, Union Square

city, town Norwich

state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places
(see continuation sheet)

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford

state Connecticut

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Downtown Norwich Historic District is located at the head of the Thames River, about 12 miles upstream from New London. The Yantic and Shetucket Rivers flow together there to form the Thames River. Overlooking Norwich harbor, the district includes most of the Central Business District of the city of Norwich, containing 132 structures of which 120 contribute to the district (Photograph 1). Main street, the major street, roughly parallels the shore. At either end of the downtown, Main Street is met by roads following approximately the courses of the Yantic and Shetucket Rivers: Washington Street and North Main Street. These form Washington Square and Burnham Square, delineating the western and eastern extent of the downtown. Union Square, created by the intersection of Union Street and Broadway with Church Street and two smaller streets, marks the northern limit of the downtown. Union Street and Broadway permit access to and from the downtown from the north. Franklin Street leads northward from Franklin Square, where it intersects Main Street. The district, which contains 64 acres, is notable for the density of its development. Built on the steep lower slopes of Jail Hill or Wawecus Hill, the site of the downtown has dramatic changes in level. Narrow alleyways with steep stairs between Water Street and Main Street and between Main Street and Church Street suggest a European city pattern. A compact and cohesive streetscape is exemplified by Franklin Square and Lower Broadway (Photographs 2 and 3). Slightly over half the structures in the district were built in the 19th century. As earlier buildings were remodelled in the 19th century, and as many early 20th-century buildings retained late 19th-century features, the predominant impression of downtown Norwich is of a late 19th-century urban streetscape leavened with buildings of earlier and later date. Nineteenth century styles such as the Romanesque Revival, Italianate, French Second Empire, High Victorian Gothic and Greek Revival set the dominant architectural theme of the area. Early 20th-century styles such as the Neo-classical style are other important components of the streetscape. The downtown functions as a commercial retail and financial center, and also contains city and state offices, churches, theaters, a railroad station, apartments and restaurants. Unifying elements include the district's function as the Central Business District of Norwich, the largely 19th-century character of its architecture, the dense urban streetscape, and the prevailing use of masonry construction of brick, stone, concrete and other materials.

The 18th-century development of the downtown focused on the area to the west of Broadway from the waterfront to the lower slopes of Jail Hill. The shoreline corresponded roughly to the course of modern Water Street. Wharves, warehouses and shops lined the waterfront, while homes were constructed further inland, along present Church Street and Main Street. The steep slope of Jail Hill precluded development above Church Street until the mid-19th century. As population expanded, development in the late 18th and early 19th centuries took place along the lower slopes of Jail Hill and in the low-lying, flood-prone area to the east of Broadway, around Franklin Square and eastwards. Intense demand for land resulted in the extension of the shoreline by filling in the waterfront. Sewer excavations in 1982 revealed that the area along Water Street still contains remains of the old wharves, covered by later fill. An 18th-century cast-iron swivel gun recovered at that time hints at the potential archaeological value of this section.¹

Although later 19th-century architecture styles dominate, buildings in the downtown span the history of the area from the early 18th century to the present. As the downtown has expanded, residential buildings once on its periphery have been removed for new construction or converted to commercial use. Conversion for commercial purposes resulted in the modernization of earlier buildings in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Seventeen buildings constructed prior to 1800 are extant in the Downtown Norwich Historic

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

Properties Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

William A. Buckingham House (Buckingham Memorial Building), 307 Main Street,
4/82.

Carroll Building (Flat Iron Building), 9-15 Main Street, 14-20 Water Street,
11/82.

Norwich City Hall and Courthouse, Union Square, 11/83.

Telephone Exchange Building, 23 Union Street, 11/83.

Properties Listed on the State Register of Historic Places, 1975. On file at
Connecticut Historical Commission

Beth Jacob Synagogue (Second Congregational Church), Church Street.

Buckingham Memorial (William A. Buckingham House), 307 Main Street.

City Hall and City Hall Annex (Norwich City Hall and Courthouse), Union
Square.

Shield's Law Office (Rev. John Tyler House), 58 Church Street.

Slater House, 352 Main Street

Tyler House (Glebe House), 62 Church Street.

Historic American Building Survey

John F. Slater House, 352 Main Street.

Existing Surveys Which Include the Downtown Norwich Historic District

Archaeological Technical Assistance, 1982 Survey and Planning Grant. Kevin
McBride and Mary G. Soulsby, 1983. MS at the University of Connecticut,
Storrs, Ct.

City of Norwich Storm Water - Waste Water Separation Project: Report on
the Archaeological Investigations. Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc.,
1978. MS at University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct.

Downtown Norwich Historic and Architectural Survey, Dale S. and John M.
Plummer. Norwich Heritage Trust, 1981. On file at Connecticut Historical
Commission.

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Norwich, Connecticut: A Guide to Its Architecture. Stephen Harby. New Haven: Community Identity and Record of Connecticut's Architecture, 1976.

Norwich Historic Homes & Families. Catherine Smith Doroshevich and Marion K. Keefe. Stonington: Pequot Press, 1967. Microfilm on file at Connecticut Historical Commission.

Survey of Theaters Built before 1940 in Connecticut. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, June, 1983. On file at Connecticut Historic Commission.

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District. The earliest surviving commercial building is the Uriah Hosmer, Jr. Still House, a brick building constructed on Water Street in 1741 or 1742 (Photograph 4). Despite 19th- and 20th-century alterations, it remains recognizable as one of the earliest downtown buildings. The remaining 18th-century buildings in the downtown are located on Main Street and Church Street in close proximity to one another. The Captain Daniel Tracy, Jr. House, although raised a story and stuccoed in the 19th century, retains the gambrel roof and five-bay facade which characterized it when constructed about 1745 (Photograph 5). The Moses Buswell House of the same date on Church Street was modernized by the addition of a mansard roof in the 19th century and is difficult to recognize as an early structure (Photograph 6). Nearby, the Guy Drock House of about 1759 was also altered in the 19th century with the addition of an Italianate bay and porch and a roof dormer, yet retains the original form of its gambrel roof (Photograph 7). A Glebe house built for Reverend John Tyler on Church Street in 1767 has a typical Georgian five-bay facade and central entrance with a Greek Revival portico and trim added in the early 19th century (Photograph 8).

Main Street contains a number of late 18th-century buildings, all of which were altered in the 19th century. The Peter Lanman House, erected in 1790, features an Italianate cornice superimposed on a late Georgian house (Photograph 9). Near the Lanman House, the Merchant's Hotel was constructed of brick in 1797 (Photograph 10). Originally Federal in style, an Italianate facade was added in 1867, only to be covered later with stucco. The stucco is currently being removed, exposing the 1867 facade. Other late 18th-century buildings on Main Street include the Howland/Beatty House of 1798, a brick house with a five-bay facade and gable roof (Photograph 11).

Due to poor economic conditions, few buildings were constructed in the Federal style in downtown Norwich. Most development in the first half of the 19th century was concentrated in the two decades of the 1830s and 1840s, when many downtown buildings were constructed in the Greek Revival style. The brick 1831 Strand Building on Franklin Square is an early example, and features a wooden entablature with triglyphs and metopes (Photograph 12). Other Greek Revival commercial buildings, such as the brick George Hebbard Building, constructed in 1842 on Water Street, are notable for the extreme simplicity of their detail (Photograph 13). Robert Johnson's Store, built about 1846 on Main Street, has a brick entablature with attic windows in the frieze (Photograph 14). The Otis Library on Union Square, designed by Joshua Shepard in 1849, has four pilasters across the facade supporting an entablature and pediment (Photograph 15). In contrast to these brick commercial buildings, the Freeman C. Chapman House on Franklin Street, built about 1835, is of frame construction and has an unusual heart-shaped attic window in the pediment (Photograph 16). The most elaborate Greek Revival building in the downtown is the John Fox Slater House, built of brick about 1843 (Photograph 17). The Slater House features a monumental portico in the Corinthian order.

Despite the popularity of the Greek Revival style, other styles began to appear in the 1840s. The Second Congregational Church, built in 1844 of granite by builder/architect John Bishop, combines both the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles (Photograph 18). Mullions in the round-arched windows create pointed or lancet arches within each window. The parapet wall on the gable end is crenellated, as are small towers at each corner.

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While many early 19th-century and 18th-century buildings survive in the Downtown Norwich Historic District, the architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries dominate the downtown streetscape. Nearly one-third of the extant buildings within the district were constructed in the second half of the 19th century. The presence of skilled architects in the downtown during this period contributed to the high quality of downtown architecture.

The Romanesque Revival style is an important late 19th-century style in the downtown. The Broadway Congregational Church, fronting Union Square, was built in this style by architect Evan Burdick from 1855-7 (Photograph 19). Other significant buildings in this style include the Carroll Building and the Rockwell Building. The Gothic Revival style is well represented by architect W.T. Hallett's 1868 Richard's Building, which features polychrome-pointed arches and other Gothic Revival detail (Photograph 20). The Water Street elevation of the building is far simpler in its detail. (Photograph 21).

The Italianate style was a frequently-used style in the 1850s and 1860s. The best extant example is Bliss Jewelers, an earlier building remodelled with an Italianate facade in 1869 (Photograph 22). The elaborate cornice and round-arched hood molds over the windows were retained when similar material was removed from other buildings. The French Second Empire style is well represented in the downtown, particularly for residential buildings such as the two brick apartment buildings erected by Henry Allen on Church Street about 1878 (Photograph 23). The Norwich City Hall and Courthouse of 1870-1873 was designed by Evan Burdick in the French Second Empire style (Photograph 24). Its mansard roof, clock tower and highly decorative dormers and window surrounds combined with its dramatic location make it a dominant building in the streetscape of downtown Norwich (Photograph 3).

Highly embellished late 19th-century styles also enliven the architecture of downtown Norwich. The Chateausque style of the 1895 Norwich Savings Society on Main Street and Broadway is characterized by a richly decorated surface treatment which offers a vivid contrast to nearby brick buildings (Photograph 25). A High Victorian Gothic facade added to an earlier building on Main Street in 1896 is distinguished by intricate polychrome-cut brick (Photograph 26). While the Richardsonian Romanesque style is not well represented in the district, a late example of the style is evident in the Norwich & Worcester Railroad Station on Railroad Court, characterized by a large, round-arched central window (Photograph 27).

Early 20th-century construction activity is also evident in the composition of the downtown. Many buildings of this period have Chicago or Commercial style window treatment, as the May Building of 1908 on Main Street (Photograph 28). The frieze is decorated with Sullivanesque ornament, yet the form of the building, with its cast-iron facade is relatively conservative in style. Other buildings conform more to the Chicago style, such as the Shannon Building (not illustrated). A remarkable series of Neo-classical-style buildings form a vital element in the appearance of downtown Norwich. These include the U.S. Post Office of 1903-5, designed by Louis A. Simon (Photograph 29) and the Chelsea Savings Bank of 1909-11. The Chelsea Bank was designed by the firm of Cudworth & Woodworth. On Shetucket Street, a row of three bank buildings built about 1910 forms a cohesive grouping of Neo-classical and Renaissance Revival elements (Photograph 31).

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Simplified classical motifs are found on many of the early 20th-century commercial buildings in the Downtown Norwich Historic District. The Disco Building of 1923 utilizes the Greek key motif in decorative bands of concrete (Photograph 32). The Art Deco or Modernistic style is less common, but was applied in several instances to older buildings. In 1934, an excellent Art Deco facade was added to the Beit Brothers Supermarket with vertical pylons ending in abstract motifs which frame a stylized Tree of Life (Photograph 33).

The 19th-century transportation industry is also represented within the district. The Norwich & Worcester train station of 1899-1900 (Photograph 27) has associated railroad structures nearby, including the Shetucket Bridge of 1901 and the Laurel Hill Tunnel, a granite-lined tunnel built about 1876. Remains of the connector between the Norwich and Worcester line and the Central Vermont line are still visible in sections, although some of it has been covered by pavement. The present shoreline is virtually the same as the 19th-century shoreline, although granite riprap has been added to stabilize the shorefront.

The built environment in the downtown is profoundly influenced by the street pattern. Dense development is relieved by open squares such as Union Square and Franklin Square. Narrow blocks between Main Street and Water Street have buildings which front both streets. In several cases, the two facades are quite different, as in the Richards Building (Photographs 20 and 21). Where Main Street is intersected at an acute angle, narrow triangular lots are created. Buildings constructed on these lots are pivotal to the appearance of the downtown. The Chelsea Savings Bank, for example, is constructed in the narrow angle between Cliff and Main Streets (Photograph 30). The monumental character of this building, which faces Franklin Square, is emphasized by its siting. Another example of this phenomenon is evident in the Norwich City Hall and Courthouse, which forms a visual terminus for lower Broadway (Photograph 3).

Little new development has occurred in the downtown since the 1930s. Only ten new buildings have been constructed since 1940. The era following the Second World War was characterized by the erosion of the downtown as a retailing center and by a poor climate for new construction. Redevelopment resulted in the loss of buildings on Water and Shetucket Streets and their replacement with a few modern buildings and parking facilities. The remainder of the downtown is remarkable intact. Building loss has been restricted to a few isolated examples. Intrusive modern structures are few. Dunkin Donuts on Washington Square is a notable exception (Photograph 34). The Superior Court Building, completed in 1983, while modern in design, is relatively compatible with the older structures surrounding it (Photograph 35). As a result of the survival of much of the earlier building stock in the downtown and the small number of intrusive modern structures, the streetscape of the Downtown Norwich Historic District retains much of its 19th- and early 20th-century character.

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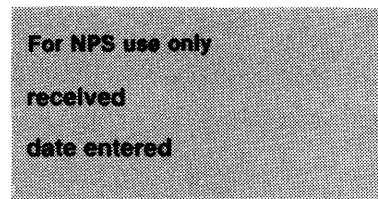
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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
11 Bath Street	N/C	Southern New England Telephone Company, 1949.
22 Bath Street	N/C	lot
1-29 Broadway (192-6 Main Street)	C	Wauregan Hotel, 1853-5, Italian-ate 5-story brick building, 1894 Renaissance Revival addition.
14-24 Broadway	C	City Hotel, c1826, c1922, 3-story brick building, Federal style altered to 20th-century commercial.
26-28 Broadway	C	The Buckingham Hotel, 1891, 5-story commercial brick building.
30-34 Broadway	C	Captain Andrew Perkins House, c1794, 4½-story Greek Revival altered from Federal style in early 19th century.
31-35 Broadway	C	The Dime Savings Bank, 1927, 1-story granite bank, Neo-classical style.
36-46 Broadway	C	William W. Coit's Brick Block, c1840, 3½-story brick Greek Revival.
41-5 Broadway	C	Central Building, c1894, Richardsonian Romanesque, 5-story brick building.
50-52 Broadway	C	Hamlin B. Buckingham House, c1831, 3½-story frame building adapted to commercial use, brick first floor.
54-56 Broadway	C	Myers & Bailey's Office, 1847, remodelled 1893, 4-story brick 19th-century commercial.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
57 Broadway	C	Sally Lathrop House, c1830, 2½-story brick Greek Revival building with Art Deco storefront.
59 Broadway	C	Geer's Block, c1878, 3-story brick Romanesque Revival building.
60 Broadway	C	Saint Mary's Temperance, Abstinence & Benevolence Society, 1891, 3-story Richardsonian Romanesque-style building, James A. Hiscox, architect.
87 Broadway	C	Broadway Congregational Church, 1855-7, 2-story brick Romanesque Revival building, Evan Burdick, architect.
110 Broadway	C	Gager Funeral Home, 1937, 2½-story brick Georgian Revival building.
116 Broadway	C	Charles A. Gager, Jr. House, 1909, 3-story brick house, early 20th-century Victorian, James A Hiscox, architect.
24 Chestnut Street	C	Central Fire Station, 1902-1904, 2½-story brick fire house, Queen Anne style.
2 Church Street	C	Captain Joseph Kelley House, c1737, 2½-story frame colonial house.
6-8 Church Street	C	Beriah S. Rathbun House & Apartments, c1869, 4-story brick Italianate apartment building.
10 Church Street	C	James Breed House, c1848, 3½-story brick Greek Revival house, attributed to Evan Burdick, architect.

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<u>Street address</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
14-16 Church Street	C	Frederick Prentice House, 1846, 3-story brick Greek Revival house, Evan Burdick, architect.
18-20 Church Street	C	William Henry Allen House, c1878, 2½-story brick house, French Second Empire style.
22-24 Church Street	C	Henry Allen House, c1878, 3½-story brick house, French Second Empire style.
32-34 Church Street	C	Dr. Charles Lee House and Apartments, c1856, 4½-story brick house, Romanesque Revival style.
42-48 Church Street	C	Cassidy Block, 1884-1885, 4-story brick apartment building, Romanesque Revival style.
45 Church Street	C	William L. Nichol's Brick Barn, c1858, 2½-story brick barn, Italianate style.
52 Church Street	N/C	lot
54 Church Street	C	Hezekiah Kelley House, c1789, 2½-story frame house, Federal/Greek Revival style.
56-58 Church Street	C	Reverend John Tyler House, c1772, 2½-story frame Georgian house.
62 Church Street	C	Glebe House, 1767, 2½-story Georgian Glebe house for the Episcopal Church, Greek Revival portico, trim.
63 Church Street	C	Second Congregational Church, "Dr. Bond's Church," 1844, 1-story granite church, Romanesque and Gothic Revival.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
68 Church Street	C	Moses Buswell House, c1745, 2½-story Georgian frame house remodelled to French Second Empire style, 1870s.
76 Church Street	C	Guy Drock House, c1759, 2½-story gambrel-roofed Georgian house with 19th-century alterations.
83 Church Street	N/C	lot
85 Church Street	C	Dwight Doolittle House, c1891, 2½-story brick Queen Anne house.
City Landing	C	Palace Theater, 1923, 2-story brick Neo-Classical Theater.
22-24 Court Street	C	Henry Allen Apartments, c1878, 2½-story frame French Second Empire apartment building.
11 Ferry Street	C	A.H. Vaughn & Sons Office, 1884, 4-story brick Richardsonian Romanesque office building with cast-iron storefront elements.
2-6 Franklin Street	C	City Hotel, c1868, 4-story Italianate hotel remodelled and reduced to 2 stories in 1939.
16-18 Franklin Street	C	Thayer Building, 1915, 4-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
29-35 Franklin Street	C	H. Dearing and Sons Saloon, 1893, 3-story brick building in the Romanesque Revival style.
30-34 Franklin Street	N/C	lot
38 Franklin Street	C	Henry Norman Meat Market, c1899, 2-story brick late 19th-century commercial structure.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
42-50 Franklin Street	C	Sunlight Building, 1914, 2-story early 20th-century commercial structure.
47-49 Franklin Street	C	James McGurrill Block, c1895, 2-story brick Italianate building.
66-74 Franklin Street	C	Norwich Bulletin Offices, 1907, 2-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
71-73 Franklin Street	C	Nathan Warner House, 2½-story frame dwelling converted to store, between 1791 and 1800.
75-77 Franklin Street	C	Timothy Fillmore House, c1796, 3½-story frame house, Federal/Greek Revival, converted to store in 19th century.
76-78 Franklin Street	C	Andrew Wilson Saloon, c1883, 2-story brick late 19th-century commercial building.
81-87 Franklin Street	C	Converse Block, c1891, 3-story late 19th-century commercial building, James Hiscox, architect.
89-93 Franklin Street	C	Wright-Herrick House, 2½-story brick double house in the Greek Revival style, c1840.
99 Franklin Street	C	Freeman C. Chapman House, c1835, 2½-story frame house in the Greek Revival style.
(under Laurel Hill Bridge)	C	Laurel Hill Tunnel, c1876, railroad tunnel with granite voussoirs and keystone.
9-15 Main Street (14-20 Water St.)	C	Carroll Building, 4-5-story brick commercial building in the Romanesque style, 1887.

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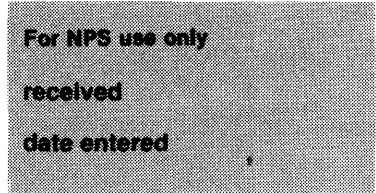
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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
16 Main Street	N/C	Dunkin Donuts, 1960s.
17-21 Main Street	C	Kenyon Building, 1896, brick late 19th-century commercial building; Shubael Hebbard Building, c1842, 5-story Greek Revival brick building. (attached)
23-29 Main Street, 28-44 Water Street	C	George Hebbard Building, c1842, 4-story brick Greek Revival commercial building (Water St.) with early 20th-century commercial facade on Main Street side.
31-35 Main Street	N/C	Silberman's Furniture, c1940, 2-story brick building in the Georgian Revival style.
39-41 Main Street	C	Doyle Building; Silberman Building, 5-7½-story brick commercial built in 1877, remodelled c1927.
40 Main Street	C	Norwich Savings Society, 1847, 1-story brick Greek Revival building.
43-49 Main Street	C	Amasa C. Hall Building, c1867; c1873; c1945, 4-story commercial building combining two earlier buildings with an Art Deco facade.
46-50 Main Street	N/C	lot
52-60 Main Street	C	Peter Lanman House, 1790, 3-story frame house, Federal style, converted to store in 19th century.
62-66 Main Street	C	Barzillai Davison House, c1766; c1865; c1887, 4-story frame building originally Georgian in style with added Italianate detail, late 19th-century additions in rear facing Church Street.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
65-69 Main Street	C	Main Street Fire Station, c1847, remodelled c1923, 2-story brick building in Renaissance Revival style.
71 Main Street	C	Merchant's National Bank, 1924, 2-story brick Neo-classical building.
72-86 Main Street	C	Merchant's Hotel, 1797, remodelled 1867, 3-story brick hotel building originally in the Federal style. The facade was altered in the Italianate style in 1867, and an Italianate addition erected. Covered with stucco in the early 20th century, the facade is now in the process of restoration.
77-85 Main Street	C	Bulletin Building, 1865-67; 3-5-story brick building in the Italianate style.
87-93 Main Street	C	Richards Building, 1868, 3-story brick and brownstone building in the High Victorian Gothic style, W.T. Hallett, architect.
88-90 Main Street	C	Timothy Ayers House, c1753, remodelled in 1860s, Georgian 3-story frame building altered to Italianate style for commercial purposes.
94-100 Main Street	C	General Elihu Marvin House, 1784, remodelled c1864, 3-story frame house in Federal style altered to Italianate style.
97-105 Main Street; 3-9 Market Street	C	Rockwell Building, c1861, 1895, 3-story brick building in the Romanesque Revival style with cast-iron addition in 1895 designed by C.H. Preston.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
104-110 Main Street	C	Erastus Coit's Store, c1838, 3-story brick Greek Revival store.
112-116 Main Street	C	Captain Daniel Tracy, Jr. House, c1745, 3½-story frame building in the Georgian style, altered for commercial purposes in the 19th century.
115-119 Main Street	C	Howland-Beatty House, c1798, 3-story brick building in the Georgian style.
118-22 Main Street	C	The Crawford, 1920, 3-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
121-25 Main Street; 142-44 Water Street	C	Manhattan Building, 1898-99, 2-story brick late 19th-century commercial building.
126 Main Street	C	Bliss Jewelers, 1869 remodelling of 1826 bank building, 3-story brick building with an Italianate facade.
128-130 Main Street	C	Benjamin R. Vaughn's Store, 1832, 3-story commercial Greek Revival building.
132-36 Main Street	C	Thomas Robinson's Bookstore, 1826, 3-story brick building remodelled extensively in the 1970s.
138-142 Main Street	C	Robert Johnson's Store, c1846, 3½-story brick Greek Revival commercial building.
146 Main Street	C	Plaut-Cadden Building, c1910, 5-story brick commercial building in stylized Renaissance Revival or Neo-classical style.
152-156 Main Street	C	The Cadden Building, c1904, 2-story early 20th-century commercial building.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
161-164 Main Street	C	Norwich Savings Society, 1894, 2½-story granite building in the Chateausque style with 1975 addition.
Corner of Main and Shetucket Streets (1 Courthouse Square)	N/C	Superior Court Building, 1983.
183 Main Street, 6-10 Shetucket Street	C	Shannon Building, 1910, 5-6-story building in the Sullivanesque style, Charles H. Preston, architect.
198-202 Main Street	C	Perkins Block, 1871, 4-story brick building influenced by the High Victorian Gothic style.
199-201 Main Street	C	Williams Block; Reid & Hughes, 1869, 1898, 3-4-story brick building in the Italianate style with an 1898 addition in the Sullivanesque style by Charles H. Preston.
203-215 Main Street	C	Strand Building, 1831, 3-story building of brick in the Greek Revival style with Doric order entablature.
206-210 Main Street	C	Stead Block, 1916, 2-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
212-215 Main Street	C	Castillia B. Brown Dining Room, c1878, 3-story brick building originally Renaissance Revival. Extensively damaged in 1938 hurricane.
218-224 Main Street	C	Trueman Building, 1845, 3½-story brick store in the Greek Revival style, modern storefront.
223-233 Main Street	C	Sellas Building, 1926, 3-story brick 20th-century commercial building.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
235-243 Main Street	C	Fay Block, between 1910 and 1915, 2-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
240-248 Main Street	N/C	Woolworth's, 1952, 1-story brick commercial building on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets.
252 Main Street	C	Beit Brothers Market, 1934, 2-4-story brick commercial building with concrete Modernistic (Art Deco) facade.
255-257 Main Street	C	Disco Building, 1923, 5-story building in Neo-classical style.
261-285 Main Street	N/C	State Building, 1948, 2-story concrete 20th-century commercial building.
276 Main Street	C	The May Building, 1908, 3-story brick building in the Chicago style with a cast-iron facade.
278 Main Street	N/C	Sears, 1945, 3-story brick International-style building.
287-291 Main Street	C	The Lerou Building, c1930, 4-story brick 20th-century commercial building.
300 Main Street (corner of Cliff)	C	Chelsea Savings Bank, 1909-11, 2-story granite bank building in the Neo-classical style.
307 Main Street	C	William A. Buckingham House, 1847, 2½-story brick Italianate house.
313 Main Street	C	William H. Cardwell House, 1870s, 3-story brick French Second Empire house.
314-318 Main Street	N/C	Exxon Gas Station, 1936.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
315-319 Main Street	C	James F. Holloway Building, 1896, remodelling of 1835 East Main Street Methodist Church, 2½-story frame building with brick High Victorian Gothic facade.
320-324 Main Street	C	Chamber of Commerce Building, c1916 3-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
321 Main Street	C	The Alice Building, c1902, 3-story early 20th-century brick commercial building with Sullivanesque-inspired ornament.
323-325 Main Street	C	Daniel B. Miner House, c1849, 2-story frame Greek Revival building with 20th-century storefront.
326 Main Street	C	The Marion Building, 1909, 4-story brick early 20th-century commercial building influenced by Romanesque Revival.
327-329 Main Street	C	Erastus P. Miner House, c1849, 2½-story frame Greek Revival house with added 20th-century storefront.
332 Main Street	C	Zadoc Z. Crowell House, c1881, French Second Empire 2-story brick house.
333 Main Street	C	Peter Lanman House, c1829, 3-story frame house in the Greek Revival style with later Italianate details
340 Main Street	C	United States Post Office, 1903-05, 2-story brick post office in the Neo-classical style, Louis A. Simon, architect.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
352 Main Street	C	John Fox Slater House, c1843, 2-story brick Greek Revival house with Corinthian portico, 1914 addition.
2-8 Market Street	C	Jackel's Saloon (Germania Cafe), c1905, 3-story brick early 20th-century commercial building.
Railroad Court	N/C	Buster's Diner, c1954, Modernistic or Art Deco diner.
Railroad Court	C	Norwich and Worcester Railroad Station, 1899-1900, 1½-story Richardsonian Romanesque brick railroad station.
125 School Street	C	Cornelius McNamara House, 2-story frame Queen Anne house.
(across Shetucket River)	C	Railroad Bridge, 1900, steel Pratt through truss associated with Laurel Hill tunnel.
16-20 Shetucket Street	C	The Thames National Bank, 1911, 2-story granite building in the Neo-classical style.
22 Shetucket Street	C	The Uncas-Merchants National Bank, 1910, 3-story granite building in the Second Renaissance Revival style.
28-34 Shetucket Street	C	Thames Loan and Trust Company, 1907, Second Renaissance Revival-style building, 3-story granite structure.
52-70 Shetucket Street	C	Ideal Service Station, c1935, 2-story stuccoed Modernistic or Art Deco service station.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
82 Shetucket Street	C	Norwich & Worcester Railroad Station, c1859, 2-story brick Italianate train station, altered extensively in 1944.
Union Square	C	Central Baptist Church, 1891-2, 1-2-story Richardsonian Romanesque brick church, John L. Faxon, architect.
Union Square	C	Norwich City Hall and Courthouse, 1870-73, 4-story brick French Second Empire building, Burdick and Arnold, architects.
Union Square	C	Otis Library, 1849, 2½-story brick Greek Revival building, Joshua W. Shepard, architect.
8 Union Street	C	Nathan S. Gilbert House, c1849, 4½-story brick Greek Revival building with parapet on gable end.
23 Union Street	C	Telephone Exchange Building, 1906, 2½-story brick Georgian Revival building; formerly Southern New England Telephone office.
58-60 Union Street	C	Mobil Service Station incorporating part of early 19th-century store building c1826.
68-72 Water Street	N/C	lot
74 Water Street	N/C	lot
80-82 Water Street	C	James B. Shannon & Co. Building, c1898, 3-story brick late 19th-century commercial building similar to Alice Building, May Building, features cast-iron facade.
86-92 Water Street	C	Uriah Hosmer, Jr. Still House, 1741 or 1742, 2½-story brick colonial brewery, distillery.

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<u>Street number</u>	<u>Contribution to District</u>	<u>Name, date, style</u>
Water and Market Streets	N/C	Thames Plaza, c1970s, 3-story brick and concrete office building.
Water, Market and Shetucket Streets	N/C	Parking garage, 1982, 3-story concrete building.
161 Water Street	N/C	Connecticut National Bank, c1970s, 2-story octagonal brick bank building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Criteria: A, C, B

Specific dates See Inventory-Item 7 **Builder/Architect** See Inventory-Item 7

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Criterion A) The Downtown Norwich Historic District illustrates the development of Norwich as an urban center from the colonial period to the 20th century. Extant structures within the district date from 1737 to the present, representing every phase in the growth of the downtown. The earliest phase is the development of a thriving port known as Chelsea in the 18th century. With the rise of manufacturing in nearby sections and the establishment of rail and steamboat links to Worcester and New York, the downtown emerged as a retailing and transportation center. In 1829, the seat of town government moved to the downtown, reflecting its dominance in the affairs of Norwich. Downtown Norwich became the center for commercial, financial, religious, and social activities for the town. In the 19th century, a variety of entrepreneurs - black, Irish, and Jewish, as well as businessmen of English background - helped to shape the downtown as a retail center. The role played by Norwich in the economic development of eastern Connecticut through the creation of rail transportation, capital provided by banks and political and economic leadership - lends regional and even state-wide significance to the downtown.

(Criterion C) The relative wealth and influence of downtown Norwich is evidenced by the large number of architecturally significant buildings in the area, most of the 19th- or early 20th-century date. In the early and mid-19th century, local architects designed buildings in The Greek Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, and French Second Empire styles. The most prominent of these architects was Evan Burdick, who resided on Main Street. In the later 19th century, The Romanesque Revival style and other styles were influential. Stephen Earle of Worcester, Massachusetts, and James A. Hiscox, who had worked in H.H. Richardson's office, were noteworthy architects active in the downtown area. The Commercial or Chicago style was introduced to the downtown by Charles H. Preston, an architect trained in Chicago. This was an important style of the early 20th century in the downtown, although The Renaissance Revival and Neo-classical styles are also well represented. As a result of intensive development in the 19th and 20th centuries, downtown Norwich exhibits a compact and remarkably cohesive streetscape. The enclosed spaces created by dense development along Main Street and lower Broadway are relieved by open squares at prominent intersections: Washington Square, Union Square, Franklin Square, and Burnham Square.

(Criterion B) The Downtown Norwich Historic District also contains a number of buildings associated with prominent figures such as the Reverend John Tyler, an 18th-century Anglican clergyman noted for his ecumenical views and belief in Universal Salvation; Joseph Howland, a merchant engaged in privateering during the Revolution, later a founder of the New York firm of Howland and Aspinwall; James Lanman, United States Senator, Mayor of Norwich, judge, and member of Connecticut's Constitutional Convention of 1818; William A. Buckingham, the Civil War governor of Connecticut, and John Fox Slater, a major 19th-century industrialist and philanthropist.

Development of Downtown Norwich

European occupation of downtown Norwich began in 1684 when a wharf was built at a rocky point of land near the west end of the district, where the Yantic River meets the Thames. Coastal and West Indian trade flourished, and wharves and warehouses were built along the waterfront.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Caulkins, Frances Manwaring. History of Norwich, Connecticut. Chester, Connecticut: The Pequot Press, 1976 (Reprint of 1866 Edition).
- Harby, Stephen W. An Architectural Guide to Norwich, Connecticut. 1976.
- Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of New London County, Connecticut. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1882.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 64

Quadrangle name Norwich

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A

118	7443810	460109210
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

118	7443910	4601081610
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

118	74431610	4601081610
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

118	74431610	4601081010
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

118	7442210	4601071410
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

118	741391616	4601071210
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

118	7439110	460107210
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

118	7437810	460106610
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Downtown Norwich Historic District boundary commences at the southeast corner of Park Street and Main Street, crosses to the south side of Main Street and continues along Main Street until the northeast corner of the lot of 333 Main Street is reached. The boundary

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nomination Consultant; edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Norwich Heritage Trust

date June 13, 1984

street & number 32 Starr Street

telephone (203) 443-4751

city or town New London

state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Dale S. Plummer*

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date 2/26/85

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/4/85

for *Alton Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The line of present-day Water Street was the location of the original shoreline. Infilling along the wharfline has gradually extended the shoreline outwards into the harbor. Sewer excavation work on Water Street in 1982 revealed that the colonial wharves still exist below the road surface. A revolutionary war era cast-iron swivel gun was found during these excavations. The rocky point of land was leveled in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries and is no longer visible due to the extension outward of the waterfront.

The earliest extant buildings in the downtown date from the 18th century. Until 1776, development was limited to a narrow strip of land along the river's edge. The remainder of the area was held in common as a sheepwalk. In 1726, the sheepwalk was divided into lots and divided among 42 proprietors. Rapid development followed this division. Known formerly as the Landing, the bustling seaport community became known as Chelsea, in allusion to a port suburb of London on the Thames River in England. Commercial buildings and wharves lined the waterfront while residences were constructed further inland. The earliest surviving downtown commercial building is the former Still House of Uriah Hosmer, Jr., on Water Street, constructed in 1741 or 1742 (Photograph 4). Of brick construction, the building is located near the original waterfront. Frame residences were also constructed in this period. The Captain Daniel Tracy, Jr. House, build about 1745, is a gambrel-roofed house which faces present Main Street (Photograph 5). This configuration, with residences behind the commercial area of the waterfront, reflects the high property values or properties directly on the water, which would quite naturally be utilized for commercial purposes.

In 1740, East and West Roads, corresponding to present Union and Washington Streets, were constructed to provide improved access to the expanding commercial district at Chelsea. Church Street, which connected the two roads, began to develop as a residential street in the 1740s. The Moses Buswell House of about 1745 was one of the early houses built on Church Street (Photograph 6). Its present appearance reflects the addition of a mansard roof when the building was converted to apartments in the 1870s. Nearby, the Guy Drock house of about 1759 was also altered in the late 19th century, but retains its gambrel roof (Photograph 7). Drock was a freedslave who owned a blacksmith shop. In 1767, the Episcopal Church built a Glebe House on Church Street for the Reverend John Tyler (Photograph 8). Georgian in style, the house had a Greek Revival portico and trim added in the early 19th century.

In 1790, a new street was laid out in between Water Street and Church Street. Known as either New Street, Middle Street, or Second Street, it is now Main Street. Water Street was then known as First Street or Front Street, and Church Street as Third Street or Back Street. Merchants associated with Norwich's extensive coastal and West Indies trade built houses on the new street. Peter Lanman, a wealthy merchant, constructed his home on the newly-laid-out street in 1790 (Photograph 9). Despite 19th-century alterations, it retains its basic form, a five-bay facade and gable roof. Increased business activity led to a demand for improved accommodations for travelers. Near the Lanman house, an association of businessmen built the Merchant's Hotel in 1797 (Photograph 10). This has been obscured by 19th-century alterations and the masking of the facade with stucco, now being removed.

A serious fire in 1793 destroyed 15 frame buildings in the crowded area of Chelsea. One

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result of the fire was to encourage brick construction. The Merchant's Hotel was built of brick. The Howland/Beatty House, built for Joseph Howland on Main Street about 1798, also reflected this trend. Constructed of brick it has a typical five-bay facade and a gable roof (Photograph 11). At this period, settlement was largely restricted to the western part of the district, or West Chelsea. From Franklin Square east along Main Street, the land was low-lying and subject to flooding. A stream appropriately named "Swallow-All" entered the river near the site of present-day Franklin Square.

The first two decades of the 19th century witnessed little growth due to unsettled economic conditions. The Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts of 1807 and 1809, together with the War of 1812, destroyed much of Norwich's thriving commerce. The lack of foreign-manufactured goods did stimulate the growth of local industry, however. The establishment of water-powered industry on the Yantic and Shetucket Rivers, tributaries of the Thames River, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was an important factor in downtown development. Raw materials and finished goods were shipped through the downtown area. The establishment of steamboat service to New York in 1816 and a railroad link to Worcester in 1839 reinforced this development. The population of Chelsea began to grow rapidly, once more, outstripping the traditional center of town. By 1829, Chelsea finally prevailed in the struggle for control of the town government. The seat of town government was relocated to Chelsea, and a new town house or town hall built on Church Street. By 1834, county court proceedings were moved to the new town hall. After this burned in 1834, it was replaced by the present Norwich City Hall and Courthouse of 1870-1873 (Photograph 24).

Due to a thriving local economy, many new buildings were erected in the downtown in the 1830s and 1840s. As a result, a remarkable number of Greek Revival-style buildings may be found in the downtown. Development also spread to Franklin Square and the eastern part of Chelsea. One of the earliest Greek Revival buildings downtown was the Strand Building, built of brick in 1831 near a former strip of beach at the mouth of the Swallow All Brook (Photograph 11). This features an entablature with triglyphs and metopes in the Doric style. The George Hebbard building built on Water Street in 1842 has simple Doric-style piers of granite comprising the first floor storefront (Photograph 13). Robert Johnson's store on Main Street, built about 1846, has molded stone lintels above second- and third-floor windows and a brick entablature with attic windows in the frieze (Photograph 14). Cast-iron grillwork in the attic windows utilizes Greek Revival motifs and may have been cast in a local foundry. Joshua Shepard, a local architect, designed the Otis Library on Union Square in 1849 (Photograph 15). Here four simple brick pilasters across the facade support an entablature and pediment. On Franklin Street, the Freeman C. Chapman House is a good example of a vernacular Greek Revival-style house (Photograph 16). Built about 1835, it features a narrow entablature, a full gable and pediment, and an unusual heart-shaped attic window. In contrast, the John Fox Slater House on Main Street east of Franklin Square reveals a fully developed Greek Revival style (Photograph 17). Corinthian columns support a monumental two-story portico. Elaborate detail on the main entrance door and surround reflect the more correct interpretation of the Greek Revival prevalent in the 1840s when the house was built.

Although Congregational and Episcopal churches were established in Chelsea in the mid-18th

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century, the surviving downtown churches date from the 19th century. Earlier buildings were destroyed by fire or removed to provide space for businesses. For example, the Universalist Church at the corner of Cliff and Main Streets, although built in the 19th century, was demolished in 1909 to permit construction of the Chelsea Savings Bank. The result of this process is that present churches are located near the boundaries of the district rather than on the major commercial thoroughfares. The Second Congregational Church on Church Street, constructed of granite in 1844 by architect/builder John Bishop, combines Romanesque and Gothic Revival features (Photograph 18). Another important downtown church, the Broadway Congregational Church on Broadway, was built from 1855-7 to plans provided by architect Evan Burdick (Photograph 19). This is in the Romanesque Revival style which preceded the Richardsonian Romanesque. The Central Baptist Church, not illustrated, is a good example of the latter style built in 1891-2 to the design of John L. Faxon.

Profiting through the production of textiles, firearms, and numerous other products, Norwich continued to prosper in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The downtown became a major retailing center for the region. Banking, government services, and many other functions were concentrated in the downtown area. This prosperity is reflected in the continued downtown construction boom during this period. New buildings were built in a variety of styles. The Richards Building, designed by architect W.T. Hallet in 1868, is a rare example of a Gothic Revival commercial building (Photograph 20). The Main Street facade featured an arcade of polychrome pointed arches on the first floor, second-floor windows with blind pointed arches, and third-floor windows with polygonal heads. Corbels in the cornice once supported Gothic Revival pinnacles. The Water Street elevation, an additional story in height due to the slope of the lot, has a ground-floor arcade of pointed arches in brick. The upper-floor windows have segmental arches in a lighter brick (Photograph 21).

An important phenomenon in the 19th-century development of the downtown was the conversion of existing buildings to new uses. This was probably stimulated by the adoption of a strict fire district in 1829 which necessitated that new construction in the area between Franklin and Washington Squares be fireproof. The effect of this was to encourage the remodeling of earlier buildings rather than the construction of entirely new and more expensive fireproof structures. Early frame buildings like the Captain Daniel Tracy, Jr. House (Photograph 5) and the Peter Lanman House (Photograph 9) were raised a full story in height and a brick storefront built underneath to provide retail space. Ornamentation in current styles was usually added. Another example of this early re-use was the Italianate facade added to the Bliss Jewelers building, a former bank, in 1869 (Photograph 22). In this same period, existing houses on Church Street such as the Moses Buswell House were altered to create apartments for a growing population (Photograph 6). New construction on Church Street included the Henry Allen Houses (Photograph 23). Built in the French Second Empire style about 1878, these were intended as residences for Henry Allen and his son as well as rental apartments. Allen operated a furniture factory downtown. He became an undertaker as a sideline to the production of caskets. The Norwich City Hall and Courthouse, located on Union Square, were also designed in the French Second Empire style (Photograph 24). Large dormers with multiple windows, elaborate hood molds and a large clock tower are distinctive features of this building.

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An important 19th-century phenomenon in the development of the downtown as a retail center was the participation of a variety of ethnic groups in downtown business activity. The earliest was the black community, which had its origins in the colonial period. The manumission of slaves resulted in a substantial freed black population in Chelsea by the end of the 18th century. While many found employment as unskilled laborers, others were skilled craftsmen like Guy Drock, a blacksmith who lived on Church Street (Photograph 7). By the mid-19th century, black entrepreneurs had started several restaurants downtown. These included Charles F. Harris, later succeeded by his son-in-law, Jacob Benjamin, in the 1860s, and Mrs. Castilia Brown, a widow, who operated a restaurant and confectioner's shop on Franklin Square (Photograph 2). Henry Ruggles, brother of David Ruggles, a famed conductor on the New York Underground Railroad, had a furniture store on lower Broadway. James Lindley Smith, an escaped slave who settled in Norwich, operated a shoemaking and shoe repair shop in various locations in the downtown from about 1842 to the 1880s.

In the 1860s, the first Jewish families moved into Norwich. Joseph Plaut was listed in the Norwich City Directory by 1869. The Plaunts and another family, the Caddens, engaged in the sale of jewelry and musical instruments. Two downtown buildings were built by these families in the first decade of the 20th century. Later Jewish immigrants were also active in downtown retailing, normally renting already existing building space. Irish immigrants arrived in the downtown during the potato famine of 1844-45 and 1846-47 with continued immigration through the rest of the century and into the 20th century. The Irish quickly established themselves in the downtown. In 1850, about 50% of the adult Irish living in Norwich were illiterate. Most were employed in unskilled or semi-skilled labor. This situation altered as the Irish population became acculturated and their children educated through parochial and local schools. By the late 19th century, several downtown businesses were run by individuals of Irish origin. These included Michael Hourigan, an undertaker, who purchased the Barzillai Davison house on Main Street, and James Shannon, who operated a cigar factory and liquor bottling company in a building erected on Water Street about 1898. Shannon also built the Shannon Building on the corner of Main and Shetucket Streets.

Another important factor in the development of the downtown was the banking industry. Local banks provided much of the capital for downtown construction during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Norwich Savings Society, one of the most important banks, occupied a number of sites, two of which are still extant on Main Street (Photograph 25). Six bank buildings of the late 19th and early 20th century are still extant in the downtown. Three of these form "Banker's Row" on Shetucket Street (Photograph 31).

Transportation facilities, essential for the 19th-century growth of Norwich, are also represented within the proposed district. The stone embankment along the waterfront was constructed in the 19th century to provide wharfage for steamboats and other vessels. Railroad trackage along the waterfront provided means for transferring materials from steamboat to rail transportation and linked the Norwich & Worcester and the New London Northern rail lines. In contrast to other 19th-century harbors, the downtown appears to have had a quay system rather than piers extending into the harbor. Part of the rail trackage along the waterfront survives, although no longer in use. The former Norwich & Worcester offices on

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Shetucket Street also survive, although greatly altered from their original 1849 appearance. Located near the waterfront, this office served both railroad and steamboat lines operated by the Norwich & Worcester. A new station was built on Railroad Court in 1899-1900, together with a nearby bridge over the Shetucket River (Photograph 27). The construction of these new facilities reflects the impact of the completion of the Thames River Drawbridge in New London in 1889. To compete, Norwich interests built a connector to the shoreline route and improved their facilities.

Due to Norwich's success as a transportation and business center, the downtown began to offer hostelries in the colonial period. The Lanman Tavern, on the corner of Main and Broadway, the earliest of these was demolished in 1895 for the construction of the Norwich Savings Society. The Chelsea Hotel, constructed in 1796 on Main Street, is still extant, although altered extensively (Photograph 10). The major 19th-century hotel in Norwich was the Wauregan Hotel, constructed at the corner of Main and Broadway from 1855 to 1857. Many smaller hotels, such as the City Hotel across Broadway from the Wauregan, offered less elaborate accommodations.

The basic pattern of downtown development was established by the mid-19th century. The locational advantage of the downtown near industrial areas at the Falls, Greenville, and Taftville together with its function as an entrepôt for eastern Connecticut were vital to its success. The favorable location of the city on a major water and land route to Boston was a further incentive to growth. New developments in transportation and the shift of the textile industry southwards, as well as increased suburban development, also had a major impact on 20th-century development. Lack of intensive development since the Second World War has also helped in the preservation of the downtown's historic integrity, however.

Architecture

The comparative wealth and influence of the downtown is attested by the high quality of its architecture. This is less evident in the surviving 18th-century buildings, due to the number of alterations made in the course of the succeeding century. Nineteenth- and early 20th-century buildings in the downtown form the bulk of its architectural legacy. Many were architect-designed. Early nineteenth-century architects of note in downtown Norwich were Joshua Shepard, Evan Burdick, John Bishop, and W.T. Hallett.

Joshua Shepard designed the Otis Library of 1849, a simple 2½-story brick building in the Greek Revival style with simple brick pilasters across the front (Photograph 15). His other known work in the downtown, the East Main Street Methodist Church of 1835, has been so altered in 1896 as to lose its original character completely (Photograph 26). A contemporary of Shepard's, Evan Burdick, was the most prolific architect of the early 19th century in downtown Norwich. Works by Burdick ranged from the Greek Revival to the French Second Empire styles. Among his work is included the Romanesque Revival Broadway Congregational Church of 1855-7 (Photograph 19), with its molded keystones and brownstone belt courses, and the Norwich City Hall and Courthouse (Photograph 24), perhaps the finest French Second

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Empire style building in the city. This features grouped windows with lintels bearing panelled keystones, large dormers, an exceptionally fine cast-iron entrance porch, and remarkable interior moldings and plasterwork. Burdick also designed the Italianate Wauregan Hotel of 1855-7, the Frederick Prentice House of 1846 on Church Street and many other notable downtown buildings.

John Bishop, a noted New London builder/architect, built the Second Congregational Church on Church Street in 1844 (Photograph 18). He may also have built the John Fox Slater House of circa 1843 on Main Street (photograph 17). The church has round-arched window openings with mullions which form pointed arches. The parapet wall on the gable ends is crenellated. The Slater House uses a variant of the Corinthian order illustrated in Minard Lafever's The Beauty of Modern Architecture. Bishop was apparently inspired by the same book in designing the 1843 Huntington Street Baptist Church in New London.

W.T. Hallett, a Norwich architect, designed the High Victorian Gothic Richards Building on Main Street in 1868 (Photographs 20 and 21). The use of a polychrome arcade of pointed arches for the Main Street storefront, blind brownstone arches above the second-floor windows on the same side, and of polygonal-headed windows on the third floor, epitomize the High Victorian Gothic style. The Perkins Block, also on Main Street, may also have been designed by Hallett, as it utilizes similar window treatment. Hallett also designed the original Norwich Free Academy building in the Italianate style, the Italianate New London City Hall, and the First Baptist Church in New London in the Romanesque Revival. All three were designed in the 1850s.

In the late 19th century, a number of professional architects were active in the Norwich area. Stephen Earle, of Worcester, Massachusetts, strongly influenced by H.H. Richardson, designed the Carroll Building and the A.H. Vaughn and Sons foundry office in the downtown. He was also noted for the Park Congregational Church and the Slater Memorial on the Chelsea Parade. Another prolific local architect, James A. Hiscox, who had worked in Richardson's office, designed the St. Mary's Total Abstinence and Benevolence Society Building on Broadway in 1891. Hiscox was also noted for many residences in the districts adjacent to the downtown. Charles H. Preston, trained in Chicago, introduced the Chicago or Commercial style to the downtown. The Shannon Building on Main and Shetucket Streets was one of many downtown buildings designed by Preston.

Many of the buildings in the downtown exhibit architectural merit. One of the earliest buildings in the style is the Strand Building, constructed in 1831 (Photograph 11). This features a simple Doric entablature without mutule blocks, but containing triglyphs and metopes. Unfortunately, the first floor storefront has been covered with 20th-century material. Another noteworthy Greek Revival building is Robert Johnson's store of about 1846 (Photograph 14). Second- and third-floor windows of this building have stone lintels with projecting molding forming hoods. The entablature is formed by raised brick courses, and features attic windows with elaborate cast-iron grills. It is likely that the grills were manufactured in Norwich. Another Greek Revival, more vernacular in nature, is the Freeman C. Chapman House on Franklin Street (Photograph 16). Here the entablature is

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reduced to a narrow strip under the gable and pediment. A very unusual feature is the heart-shaped attic window.

The Italianate style is well represented by the Bliss Jewelers building (Photograph 22). One of the best-preserved 19th-century buildings in downtown Norwich, Bliss Jewelers has an elaborate Italianate facade added to an earlier building in 1869. Heavily molded hoods above the round-arched windows on the second and third floor have molded stops. The cornice features large molded brackets and an arcaded corbel table. The French Second Empire style, which became popular only a few years later, is fairly common in downtown Norwich. The best-known example is the Norwich City Hall and Courthouse, mentioned before (Photograph 24). The Henry Allen Houses on Church Street are also good examples of the style (Photograph 23). These feature a bracketed cornice, and a mansard roof with segmentally-arched dormers.

Later 19th-century architectural styles are common in the downtown. The Richardsonian Romanesque was favored by architects such as Stephen Earle and James Hiscox, mentioned above. An interesting version of the High Victorian Gothic may be found in the James F. Holloway Building, an 1896 remodelling of the 1835 East Main Street Methodist Church (Photograph 26). Cut brickwork is combined with polychrome brick to create a striking visual effect. Another building of interest is the Norwich Savings Society building of 1895, built in the Chateausque style (Photograph 25). Round-arched window openings on the first and second floors create an arcaded effect. A keystone over the entrance is embellished with a bearded face. The dormers have shaped-gable ends. Foliate ornamentation is used on the larger gable ends and in the spandrels of the second-floor windows. The resemblance of this building to Richardson's Ames Building on Kingston Street in Boston is remarkable. Several buildings of the late 19th and 20th centuries have facades of cast iron or containing significant cast-iron elements. Among these is the May Building, built in 1908 on Main Street. Large Chicago-style windows are set between vertical and horizontal elements of iron. The cornice is furnished with brackets and has a parapet with a pediment above (Photograph 28).

In the first decade of the 20th century, the Neo-classical style was favored by banks and other public institutions. The United States Post Office of 1903-5, by architect Louis Simon, is a good example of the style (Photograph 29). This utilizes a Roman Ionic order for the 2-story portico, and features a roof balustrade and corner quoins. On Shetucket Street, a series of bank buildings constructed in the Neo-classical and Second Renaissance Revival styles form a compact and cohesive streetscape (Photograph 31). The Chelsea Savings Bank of 1909-11 occupies the corner lot on Cliff and Main Streets, facing Franklin Square and creating a visual terminus for the square (Photograph 30). This building has two-story monumental Ionic columns in antae.

The result of intense development pressure in the downtown during the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries has been to create an extremely compact streetscape, particularly in that part of the downtown along Main Street from Franklin Square to Washington Square, and on lower Broadway. Buildings were constructed to use the maximum amount of space permitted by the size of lot, and high land costs made taller structures economically feasible. The effect is that of canyon-like streetscapes, as is evident as one stands at the corner of Main and Broadway and glances toward Union Square (Photograph 3). Viewed from a distance,

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the downtown also exhibits a cohesive character, made more dramatic by the hill and river harbor between which it is sandwiched (Photograph 1).

Association with Prominent Historic Figures

Downtown Norwich is also associated with a number of prominent figures in commerce, industry, and politics. Joseph Howland, owner of the Howland Beatty House of circa 1798, was a member of the shipping firm of Howland & Coit, which outfitted privateers during the American Revolution (Photograph 11). Later moving to New York, he founded the firm of Howland & Aspinwall, one of the major transatlantic shipping firms of the 19th century. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a descendant of Howland. Peter Lanman, an important local merchant and tavern owner, lived on Main Street (Photograph 9). His son, James Lanman, who also lived in the house, was a U.S. Senator, Supreme and Superior Court Judge, and a member of Connecticut's Constitutional Convention of 1818. Reverend John Tyler was a prominent 18th-century Episcopal minister noted for his ecumenical views and his belief in the doctrine of Universal Salvation. He lived in the Glebe House on Church Street, later building another house next door (Photograph 8). His descendant, William Tyler Orcutt, an author and astronomer, lived in the same house in the mid-19th century. William Buckingham, the Civil War governor of Connecticut, lived on Main Street east of Franklin Square. John Fox Slater, prominent industrialist and philanthropist, lived on Main Street near Burnham Square from about 1843 to 1862 (Photograph 17). Slater later gave the Slater Memorial to the City of Norwich and in 1882 established a million-dollar fund for the education of blacks in the American South. Many other distinguished citizens lived in downtown Norwich. The concentration of mills and mill villages around Norwich was reflected in the numbers of wealthy millowners who generally lived in or near the downtown in preference to residing in the mill villages. The dominance of the downtown in the political affairs of Norwich ensured that political leadership for the city and even the region was recruited from the area.

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Geographical data (continued)

I	743540 Easting	W	744060
	4600850 Northing		4601040
J	743580	X	744080
	4600880		4601080
K	743590	Y	744140
	4600950		4601060
L	743800	Z	744080
	4600980		4600930
M	743860	A'	744150
	4601010		4600950
N	743850	B'	744160
	4601040		4600910
O	743880	C'	744200
	4601060		4600930
P	743860	D'	744260
	4601120		4600900
Q	743950	E'	744270
	4601130		4600930
R	743940		
	4601080		
S	743970		
	4601080		
T	743980		
	4601120		
U	744020		
	4601120		
V	744010		
	4601040		

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Verbal boundary description and justification (continued)

continues along the east and south sides of this lot until it meets the lot line of 327-9 Main Street, which it follows in a southerly direction, continuing past the lot across the tracks of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad until it meets the Route 12 Viaduct. Following the north side of the viaduct, the boundary crosses the Shetucket River, then crosses to the southwest side of the Laurel Hill Bridge, which it follows back across the Shetucket River to the shoreline. The district boundary then proceeds in a westerly direction along the shoreline until it intersects West Main Street. Crossing this street, it then follows the north side of the street in an easterly direction. At Washington Square it heads to the southwest corner of the lot of 2 Church Street, where it continues along the western side to the northern side of the lot. The boundary then continues in an easterly direction along to the rear or northern sides of the lots facing Church Street, crosses Court Street and continues past Schoolhouse Lane to the property line of the Central Baptist Church. The west and north boundaries of this property are then followed to the west side of Union Street. At this point, the boundary line continues north on Union Street to a point opposite the northwest corner of the lot of 23 Union Street. Crossing Union Street, it then continues along the north line of 23 Union Street and of the Norwich City Hall lot to Broadway, where it crosses the street and turns southwards on the east side of Broadway. The boundary then turns east along the south edge of the Broadway Congregational Church parking lot to the boundary line of the Central Fire Station, which it follows north and then east to Chestnut Street. Crossing Chestnut Street, the district boundary continues southwards to an alley west of 76-8 Franklin Street, which it follows to the east until meeting the lot line of 76-8 Franklin, which is followed to the west side of Franklin Street. The boundary line then turns north on Franklin Street to a point opposite the northwest corner of the lot of 99 Franklin Street. Crossing Franklin Street, it continues east on the north side of 99 Franklin to the east side of the lot where it turns south and follows the eastern or rear boundary lines of the properties along Franklin Street to Myers Alley. The district boundary follows Myers Alley to its intersection with the northeast corner of the lot of 262 Main Street. Continuing eastwards along the rear property lines of the properties on Main Street to the Municipal parking lot, it turns south along the eastern border of the lot to Cliff Street. On Cliff Street, the boundary turns east to a point opposite the Chelsea Savings Bank parking lot, where it crosses to the northern boundary of 214-8 Main Street, which it follows eastwards. The district boundary continues to follow the northern line of the lots facing Main Street until meeting the parking lot for 352 Main Street. Passing along the eastern and southern edges of this lot, it crosses Park Street to the east side of the street and goes south to the point of origin at the corner of Park and Main Streets.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Downtown Norwich Historic District have been set on the basis of several criteria: visual boundaries, historical development, and the integrity of the area included within the district. Visually, the downtown is fairly easy to define. The riverfront and the Route 12 viaduct conveniently provide a southern boundary for the district.

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The eastern and western boundaries are also visually defined by Burnham Square and Washington Square, respectively. At Burnham Square, Main Street ends, with roads leading to other sections of the city having their point of origin at the Square. Washington Square also represents a major intersection in Norwich's road system, and the point at which Main Street becomes West Main Street. The river edge and a steep drop-off at the western edge of Washington Square clearly mark an important visual boundary. At the north end of the district, Union Square with its impressive cluster of buildings also provides a clear transition from the downtown to the residential area to the north. Church Street, which connects Washington Square and Union Square, is an important visual component of the downtown. The 19th-century brick apartment buildings on the street relate well visually to the buildings along Main Street.

Historically, the development of the downtown has resulted in a continuous expansion of its borders up to the present Central Business District. Most of the CBD is included within the boundaries of the Downtown Norwich Historic District, as the historic significance of the district rests primarily upon its function as the downtown, with attendant governmental, financial, commercial, and religious institutions. Church Street, which was developed for residential purposes by downtown merchants, and shares several buildings in common with Main Street, has been included as part of this developmental process, as have lower Broadway and part of Franklin Street, where commercial use spread at an early date. The inclusion of a large redeveloped area between Main Street and the waterfront is justified because it does contain within it the remains of the rail connector between the two rail systems which served Norwich, and because the shoreline represents the 19th-century configuration. Also, important archaeological material is included within this area. Sewer excavation has revealed that the original wharves of the downtown are still present under later fill. The inclusion of the Shetucket River Bridge and Laurel Hill Tunnel is justified because these two structures form important evidence of the 19th- and early 20th-century transportation system vital in the development of the downtown.

The boundary of the Downtown Norwich Historic District has also been adjusted because of questions of integrity. Demolition of properties on Franklin Street and on Broadway for parking has reduced the potential boundaries of the district. Likewise, on Main Street, the district has been adjusted to the west of Burnham Square owing to the removal of several important 19th-century buildings for new construction and parking. The final district boundaries represent a reasonable compromise between the demands of visual boundaries, the need to incorporate the important historic elements of the district, and the necessity of integrity within the district borders.