National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

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JUN 6 1985

1. Nam	ne				
historic	Newport I	Downtown His	toric Di	strict	
and/or common	NEWPORT I	DOWNTOWN HIS	STORIC DI	STRICT	
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	2-66, 35- Depot Squ		in St.;	17 Depot St.; n/	a not for publication
city, town	Newport	n/av	ricinity of		
state	New Hampshire	code 33	county	Sullivan	code 013
3. Clas	sification	1			
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being consider X N/a	on Accessil yes:	cupied in progress	Present Use agriculture _X_ commercial educational entertainmentX government industrial military	X museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name	Multiple		- See cor	ntinuation sheet	
street & number		<u> </u>		iornidacion blicec	,,,,
city, town		\	icinity of	state	
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courthouse, regi street & number	istry of deeds, etc.		County Re	ourthouse egistry of Deeds Main Street	
city, town		Newport,		state N	New Hampshire 0377
6. Rep	resentati	on in Exi	isting	Surveys	
title see co	ontinuation s	sheet	has this pr	operty been determined eli	igible? yes no
date				federal stat	te county local
depository for su	urvey records				
city, town				state	

7. Description

good ruins altered moved date	Condition —— excellent —X good —— fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unalteredX_ altered	Check one X original site X moved date (please see text)	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newport Downtown Historic District is comprised of a section of Main Street and adjacent Depot Street, along which the town's commercial district developed in the 19th century. Main Street extends in a north-south direction, sloping downhill to the south where it crosses the Sugar River, south of the said district Main Street is wider at the north than the south resulting in the siting of a parking island flanked by angled parking spaces at the northern part below the circular grassy island known as the Little Common. Four streets enter the section on Main Street included in the proposed district - Sunapee Street at the northeast, Central Street at the southeast, West Street from the west below the Lantz Building, Depot Street at the southwest. Korn Alley is a narrow paved passage entering on the west side of the street between the Richards and Gamash Blocks. Sidewalks line both sides of the street. The lowering of Main Street in the twentieth century has resulted in a steep embankment up to 21/2 feet high on the east side of the street separating the street and sidewalk levels. Drop-acorn luminaires with mercury vapor lamps mounted by single-truss support arms on poles are spaced intermittently along the street with two late 19th century cast iron standards bearing three globes each, surviving in front of the courthouse.

With the exception of the Old County Jail set back from Main Street, those buildings on the west side form an almost solid street wall. The east side of the street is distinguished by an undulating streetscape deriving from its blend of commercial, governmental structures, and once residential structures which retain their front lawns. Small grassy areas survive in front of the Police Station, Kelley Real Estate, and Funeral Home with planters located in front of the Courthouse. Structures on the east side do not abut but retain narrow spaces between buildings. The grassy hill upon which the old courthouse sits is visible between the Records Building and Police Station.

The Newport Downtown Historic District includes a total of twenty three structures and two objects, (a bell and watering trough), ranging from the early 19th-20th centuries, including three noncontributing structures. The district includes eighteen buildings fronting Main Street and two on Depot Square which were also part of the 19th century commercial district as well as one residential structure at the rear of a Main Street block. Three of the structures are currently individually listed on the National Register:Sullivan County Courthouse (7/5/1973); Reed House (7/19/1978); Town Hall and Courthouse (2/29/1980).

The proposed district excludes a number of structures to the south either because they are not older than fifty years or because they have been significantly altered so as to obscure or destroy their original characteristics.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX_ architecture art commerce communications		ng landscape architectui law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1824-1943	Builder/Architect	Various, see text	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Newport Downtown Historic District is significant architecturally as a varied downtown streetscape retaining an unusual blend of architecturally interesting 19th and 29th century buildings illustrating the historical evolution of a typical downtown from residential to commercial and governmental structures.

Following the granting of the royal charter in 1761, Newport's earliest settlers, arriving in 1765, established themselves on meadow lots on the western side of the south branch of the Sugar River. Soon others arrived, settling on the opposite side of the valley where the present village is now located, no doubt attracted by the important water power offered by the main river. As early as 1774 the town voted to construct a bridge across the east branch of the Sugar River near the site of the present bridge in the center of the downtown.

The dominant axis that is Main Street as we know it today, was created by the establishment of the Croydon Tunrpike along this same route in 1806. With the intention only of avoiding crossing the Sugar River twice, those routing the turnpike successfully caused the abandonment of the nascent village on the western edge of the Sugar River Valley along what is today Pine Street, in favor of the current Main Street. A proliferation of hotels and taverns were soon situated along the length of Main Street to service the many travellers who stopped along the route. Of these establishments, only the Eagle Block (#10) survives today. A fine example of the Federal style, this structure remains virtually intact except for the loss of the eagle which once crowned the hip roof pinnacle and the replacement of the original three story porch with the present single story version. Recessed brick arches rise the height of the building which is also embellished by a Palladian window.

It was not long before business activity became concentrated in this area, beginning a period of rivalry between factions north and south of the river, each eager to serve as the center of trade. The erection of the Congregational Church to the south and the Baptist Church in the north represented bold attempts by each side to achieve dominance. Newport's first business block, the Tontine Crescent, was erected in 1818, standing until 1850 on the land that is today the Methodist Vestry. The struggle was eventually settled by the erection of the Eagle Block north of the river in 1826. The north received added impetus with the establishment of Newport as shire town for the newlyformed Sullivan County. The Old Courthouse (#5), the County Jail (#13) and the County Safe Building (#6), all survive today, in various

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10.	Geo	grap	hical	Dat	ta					
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organizati	ion			-Lake	Sunapee		date	Augus	t, 1984	
street & n	umber	Counci	_	Bank	Building	5 1	telephone	(603)	448-168	0
city or tov	٧n	Lebano	on,			!	state	New H	ampshire	03766
12.	Stat	e His	storic	Pre	eserva	tion	Offic	er C	ertific	ation
The evalu		ificance of national	this propert	-	the state is: X loca	I				
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 Hist	oric Pres	ervation O	fficer signati	ure	July	7. C	Jan	de		
title New	Hampsh	ire Sta	te Histor	ic Pr	servation	Officer		date	APR 25	1985
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1.	Dona Prudhomme Columbus Circle, Newport, N. H.	03773
2,3,4	County of Sullivan 20 Main Street, Newport, N. H.	03773
3A,5,6,21	Town of Newport Sunapee Street, Newport, N. H.	03773
7	George L. Kelley 30-34 Main Street, Newport, N. H.	03773
8	Newton-Bartlett Funeral Home 42 Main Street, Newport, N. H.	03773
9	Thomas Hubert 20 Cheney Street, Newport, N.H.	03773
10,11	Eagle Apartments, Inc. 64-66 Main Street, Newport, N.H.	03773
12, 12A	James Lantz RFD #3, Newport, N. H.	03773
13	Twin Valley TV 29 Main Street, Newport, N. H.	03773
14	Cleon Johnson 1 Sandy Lane, Newport, N. H.	03773
15,15A,16	Erwin Caplan 7 Highland Avenue, Claremont, NH.	03743
17,17A,18	Lake Sunapee Savings Bank Main Street, Newport, N. H.	03773

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- McCrillis & Eldredge Insurance Co.
 Depot Street, Newport, N.H. 03773

 Paul Burns
 - Paul Burns Rands Pond, Goshen, N. H.

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

-National Register Nominations

Sullivan County Courthouse (Town Hall & Courthouse), listed July 29, 1980

District Court & Town House (Sullivan County Courthouse), listed July 5, 1973

Isaac Reed House, listed July 19, 1978

Depository: N.H. Office of Historic Preservation Concord, NH 03301

-Newport Historic Resources Survey 1984, Local

Depository: Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Council Lebanon, NH 03766

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1. Lewis Block, 2 Main Street, 1886.

Constructed after a fire destroyed the Town Hall and adjoining business buildings in 1885, this two story brick block commands a highly visible corner location. The structure is dominated by brick pilasters with recessed corbelled detailing which give rise to buttresses capped by gablets, punctuating the flat roof profile and ordering both the Main and Sunapee Street elevations into three divisions.

The brick is a stretcher bond veneer over a wood frame structure and is laid in a bond of eight rows of stretchers and a row of headers and stretchers. The four ground floor storefronts, capped by a stone belt course, remain fairly intact with the exception of the vertical boards which replace the original storefront of the Corner Coffee Shop. The others retain cast iron piers, recessed entrances and wooden panels beneath windows that appear to project like bay windows. On the second floor of the facade, the central section, capped by a stepped pediment parapet, features a central rectangular window with rectangular stone lintel, capped by a molded round arch within which is a molded brick diamond-shaped panel filled by a floral motif. The central window is flanked on each side by a pair of windows with segmental brick lintels ending in corbel stops and with granite sills, similar pairs of windows fill the other bays of the building. Original 2/2 doub!ehung windows have been replaced by blocked down modern units. Above the central round arch is a large segmental arch, capped by a keystone inscribed '1886'; beneath it a arched granite stone denotes 'Lewis Block'. The corbel stops of the arch continue the corbel table of the cornice across the facade. Iron cresting originally crowned the roof; the chimneys on the north facade have lost their corbel caps but feature terra cotta diamond shaped details. A single story three bay flat-roofed brick addition fronts Sunapee Street, the tall fixed pane windows feature granite sills and lintels with a corbel course at the cornice. A clapboarded single story shed is attached to the addition. The rear elevation features tall windows with granite sills and lintels.

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2. DeWolf Block, 16 Main Street, 1893-4.

Designed seven years after the adjacent Lewis Block by local architect, Samuel DeWolf Lewis, the DeWolf Block echoes the Romanesque Revival detailing of its neighbor. A three story, three bay stretcher bond building it is framed by panelled corner buttresses culminating several feet above the flat roof. The first story of the facade is composed of two large plate glass window fronts, with a central entrance flanked by cast iron pilasters. Barn board obscures the bulkhead and belt The second floor contains a center course above the canopy. set of three doublehung windows flanked by two paired sets, capped by segmental brick arches with corbel stops. Dominating the building are three identical semi-circular tripartite windows with multiple light upper sash on the third floor. multiple light sash are stained glass panels which complete the circular form, and identify the third floor as a fraternal hall. Round arches terminating in corbelling, cap the windows, with the spandrel area between windows filled by recessed triangular panels. At the very top of the building are three recessed rectangular panels, the center one reading "The DeWolf". Below each panel is a course of bricks on edge and above the panel is The panels are divided from each other a course of corbeling. by two small buttresses which rise above the roof line framing a recessed triangular brick panel, which forms a pediment capped by a projecting molding. Inside the triangular panel is a smooth stone plaque with the date of the building, 1893, above which are three rows of brick corbelling. A horizontal element is added to the DeWolf Block by four rows of banding: a wooden cornice, smooth stone lintels under the third floor windows and continued on the buttresses, and a stone band directly above the first floor The rear facade of the building has several tall windows. with double row relieving arches and granite sills. dock and a one-story board and batten shed with projecting eaves are at the rear.

3. Sullivan County Courthouse (formerly Town Hall & Courthouse), 20 Main Street, 1888.

Replacing an earlier Town Hall previously on the site, built in 1872 and destroyed by fire in 1885, this two story brick building with projecting clock and bell tower is the most prominent landmark in downtown Newport. The building's fine eclectic design represents local Claremont architect, Hira Beckwith's interpretation of late 19th century architectural idioms and is basically unchanged.

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3. (contd.)

The main body is capped by a truncated hip roof, its facade measuring three bays wide, the central bay occupied by a projecting clock and bell tower with pyramidal roof. The center entry is sheltered by a projecting portico, supported by square brick piers featuring corbelling at the cornice and crowned by a balustrade. First story windows are paired four over four doublehung sash with stained glass transoms below a brick segmentally arched lintel with a contrasting stone keystone and impost blocks. floor windows are paired six over six sash crowned by a round arched stained glass transom and lintel. Each side of the upper stage of the tower features a set of three arched openings filled with louvered panels and sunburst motif and is capped by a keystone. Pedimented dormers protrude from each side of the pyramidal roof and are filled with clock faces. A weathervane caps the tower roof while three tall, corbel cap chimneys protrude from both the north and south roof slopes. The side elevations each measure seven bays wide with fenestration echoing the facade. Decorative brick work embellishes the building which is constructed of stretche: Pilaster strips at the building corners give way to quoining on the lower half of the building. Molded beltcourses mark the floor levels, courses of bricks set on edge mark the spring line of the Terracotta decorative panels flank a granite tablet reading "Town Hall and Court House" in the center of the tower. Corbel tables decorate the cornices of the main block and tower while an additional row of denticulated brick runs above the second floor windows. A three story arcaded stage addition capped by a truncated hip roof with a windowless side elevation measuring two bays wide and a rear elevation of four bays is located behind. 1899-1905, the addition was designed by J.B. McElpatrick & Son of . New York. P. Dodd, Ackerman & Co. of Brooklyn designed the stage scenery. Flanking the front entrance are cast iron lamp standards each featuring three globes. Building was listed individually on the National Register February 29, 1980.

3A. Revere Bell

Exhibited in the front of the building is a Revere Bell, enclosed in glass and sheltered by a gable roof supported by plain log posts Dating between 1802 and 1828, the bell hung in the Universalist Church from 1837 to 1897 and subsequently used as the main fire alarm in the Town Hall until 1923. It was removed from the tower in 1975.

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4. Sullivan County Records Building, 28 Main Street, 1948, noncontributing

Though its relatively recent date of construction renders this two story gablefronted NeoColonial brick building ineligible for the Register, it does respect the scale, massing and materials of the older buildings along Main Street. Laid in a common bond of five rows of stretchers to a row of headers, the building is set above a concrete beveled watertable. The central entrance on the three bay facade contains a simple entablature doorway supported by unadorned pilasters, the frieze bearing a sign "Sullivan County Records Building". Windows are six over six doublehung topped by gauged flat arch brick lintels. Beneath the boxed and pedimented cornice a band of brick courses protrudes slightly with numerals denoting '1948' centered in this frieze area on the facade. Within the pediment is a recessed triangle containing a lunette window. Windows on the lesser elevations are for the most part single doublehung 6/6 near the facade with paired and small horizontal opening near the rear. A single exterior end brick chimney is located at the rear.

5. District Court & Town Museum (formerly Sullivan County Courthouse), Court Square, 1826.

Situated on a grassy knoll behind Main Street, this 2 3/4 story brick landmark was deeded to the town in 1873 and subsequently served as School and Grange Hall before its present use as courthouse and museum. Brick is laid in a bond of 14 stretchers to a row of headers. Protruding from the five-bay facade, the central bay features a clapboarded pediment and supports a square wooden base above which an open square stage with arched openings framed by pilasters is capped by a copper sheathed domical vault and finial. A balustrade originally crowned the square base. The central entrance features a vertical panelled door topped by a recessed arched panel filled with wood and flanked by half sidelights which are set into the brick on either side of the door. The window above is doublehung 6/6 flanked by four vertical lights on each side. The remaining windows are 6/6 doublehung with smaller windows of the same configuration lighting the attic on the three bay side elevations. A small two story wing, a single bay wide is centered on the north elevation and is also capped by a gable roof. The side entrance is capped by a granite lintel. Window lintels are a mixture of plain brick and flat gauged lintels. On the side elevations, eaves of roof closely follow the wall ending in cornice returns, two square brick chimneys extend from the end of the ridge. Some fenestration at the rear

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has been altered, and some bricked in. An excellent example of the Federal style and one of New Hampshire's important early buildings, this structure successfully defied destruction for a parking lot and was listed on the National Register July 5, 1973.

6. Police Station (formerly County Safe Building), Main Street, 1843.

Originally constructed as a county safe building by local builder Jonathan Wilmarth, over the years this 25 story brick structure has also housed the Guaranty Bank and Town Offices. bond is stretcher with an occassional row of headers above a granite foundation partly revealed on side elevations. front contains three bays; the third bay being without windows perhaps owing to the structure's original use as a County Safe Building. Above stone steps, offcenter entrance features a panelled door framed by 3/4 sidelights, capped by a full transom above which is a granite lintel and sheltered by a single-bay low pedimented entrance porch supported by two Roman Doric columns. Markings on the building preserve the memory of an elaborately carved 19th century entrance porch which once extended across the facade. Windows are 1/1 doublehung with simple stone sills and lintels. Photographs show they were once 2/2 and apparently Staggered projecting horizontal bricks originally had blinds. create a sawtooth pattern at the eaves and feature horizontal stone pieces, flush with the brick visually read like cornice returns. The north elevation, fronting an asphalt driveway, measures five bays across with a wooden, multilight door located in the second bay from the rear. A single-story flat roofed brick and concrete addition extends at the rear. Three interior corbel cap brick chimneys punctuate the ends of each slope of the asphalt roof except the southwest. The main entrance features granite steps flanked by tooled granite walls with a curvilinear silhouette.

7. Dr. Isaac Reed House, 30-34 Main Street, 1869.

A fine example of the French Second Empire style, this two story clapboarded structure measures three bays wide and is capped by a mansard roof. Its first floor front elevation is dominated by a bracketed bay window connected by a flat-roofed porch extension to the offcenter porch capped by a broken pediment and supported by wooden piers with a simple stick balustrade. Entablature lintels cap the doublehung two over two windows while above, the cornice

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includes a panelled frieze and paired brackets. The roof is punctuated by four dormers with segmental pediments, two on the facade and one on each side. Extending at the rear is a two-story gable roofed ell. Additional rear additions and extensive porches along both side elevations were removed in 1976. An important visual reminder of the historical evolution from residential to mercantile and governmental structures, this structure was individually entered on the National Register July 19, 1978. It now houses offices.

8. 42 Main Street, c. 1890.

Local architect Samuel DeWolf Lewis designed this two story gambrel roofed structure as a residence for Dr. J.L. Cain about The gambrel front features a three bay recessed porch supported by Roman Doric columns sheltering an offcenter entrance with an entablature doorframe flanked by Ionic pilasters which frame half sidelights filled with leaded tracery. Originally sheathed in a variety of shingles, the structure is now covered in aluminum siding. Pedimented two story cross gables project from both the north and south slopes with a shed roofed carport also with Doric columns on the south. Several gable roofed dormers protrude from the north slope. Beyond the cross gables, the roof of the ell takes on a gable roof profile with a gable roofed door hood on the south elevation. A converted two story gambrel-roofed attached barn is offset to the southeast. Windows are 12/-1 doublehung sash with the exception of a central fixed horizontal twelve light window on the second floor. two story porched office was originally located to the south of the main house.

9. Wheeler Block, 46-48 Main Street, 1858

Constructed by Edmund Wheeler in 1858, this two story flat-roofed, vinyl-sided commercial block commands a highly visible corner location at the junction of Main & Central Streets. Set on a sloping site, concrete steps run the length of the facade. Occupying the first floor are a large central storefront flanked by two smaller fronts separated by angled recessed entrances. Recently replaced, the storefront window has been divided into smaller sections, with wood framing at the top giving the impression of transoms. Above, slightly unevenly spaced, are eleven doublehung 6/6 modern windows replading original 2/2 and more recently 6/6 wooden windows. Single and paired

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(contd.) 9. brackets alternate at the cornice supporting projecting eaves with pairs located at the corners of the building, above plain cornerboards. The south elevation bordering Central Street until recently featured seven windows on the second floor. Those on the first floor have also been clapboarded over while the exposed basement level contains two stores, side by side, each with a central multi-light door flanked by large glass show windows. Located at the rear are two single story sheds, featuring eighteen light windows. A third addition at the northeast corner features a two-story section connecting with a 13 story gabled barn. Originally a flat-roofed single-story porch measuring seven bays wide ran the length of the facade with individual doorways flanked by doublehung windows rather than storefront windows. The porch was removed sometime after 1905. The Wheeler Block is a solitary reminder of the prolific clapboarded commercial buildings which once lined the Main Street. Vinyl siding was recently applied over existing clapboards.

10. Eagle Block, 64 Main Street, 1825-26.

Built by James Breck and Josiah Forsaith as a hotel in 1826, this Federal three-story hip roofed square brick block was converted for use as a business block in 1856 and has remained in the ownership of the same family since that time. It now houses commercial on the first floor with apartments above. measures five bays wide on each elevation. The brick work is laid in a stretcher bond with headers every seventh row. A single story flat-roofed porch supported by piers runs the length of the facade, one pier has been removed. Sheltered by the porch is the central entrance featuring three wood and glass doors, with leaded glass over the center door and a molding around the archway consisting of projecting circles alternating with incised holes in a circular pattern. The entrance is flanked by two large glass storefronts, replacing smaller storefronts which were originally centered between three entrances. Each storefront consists of a large fixed window topped by four smaller horizontal panes. On the north and west elevations, recessed arches rise the full height of the building containing rectangular doublehung windows with two over two sash, covered by storm windows, with simple stone sills, no lintels and which were once flanked by blinds. The central windows on the second and third stories of the facade contain a round arched opening above the rectangular window, which is filled with wood on the second floor and with intersecting tracery on the third. On the lesser facades, the rectangular windows feature a recessed arch above each. Added by 1876, a single flat roofed brick wing adjoins the north facade with a

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two bay front including a showcase window and a depth of three bays, each bay articulated by brick quoining. This part of the structure was constructed originally to house a lawyer's office. The openings feature brick-hood molds with corbel stops, with a patterned brick cornice course, parapet wall and cast iron cresting. A small flat roofed frame addition is on the top of the roof. Located at the rear of the main building is a three story two-bay clapboarded addition with a screened porch on the first floor. Five tall brick chimneys originally punctuated the roof, two on the north slope have been removed, as has a flag pole topped by an eagle which once crowned the pinnacle. Daquerreotypes show that the hotel originally featured a three story front porch, open to the elements on the top floor. Erection of this building in 1826 settled the question whether the center of trade in Newport should be north or south of the Sugar River.

11. Newport Diner, 66 Main Street, c. 1930.

A lunchcart occupied this site as early as 1905, to be replaced in 1957 by this Diner moved from Allen Street in Hanover. It is a single-story Streamliner Diner manufactured by the Worcester Lunch Car, Co., (#751) set upon a cement block foundation, abutting the Eagle Block next door. The broad facade features seven railroad style windows with transoms of leaded stained glass, above porcelain enamel/steel panels on which "Streamliner, Booth Service" is inscribed. A stainless steel door with upper panel of glass marks the southern end of the facade, while on the northern end is a four feet wide steel addition providing access to a partial basement below and connecting to the rear addition which is also a diner. The sloping sides of the diner slant inward up to the roof and display slightly rounded corners with details of stainless steel, designed to convey a futuristic image of sleekness and speed. The original railroad style monitor roof was covered several years ago by the present rolled asphalt covered gable roof with clapboarded ends.

The interior features chrome stools, wood booths, tile floors and a stainless steel backbar in a typical sunburst design. Formica, a new plastic material appearing in the 1930's and valued for its burn-proof, acid resistant qualities, is used for counters, tabletops, wall and ceiling panels.

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I2. Lantz Building, (formerly Citizens Bank Building, 35 Main St., 1912 A three story, 3 x 6 bay flat-roofed brick commercial block with NeoClassical detailing constructed in 1912 to house the Citizens The second and third floors are divided into three sections by six Ionic pilasters: a pair on either end of the building and two single pilasters evenly spaced between. The pilasters carry a full entablature which contains a denticulated cornice above which is an egg and dart molding. A paneled parapet wall surrounds the roof on three sides. In the center panel of the parapet on the front facade, there is a cartouche reading 1912, which is The first floor is composed of flanked by two floral carvings. two transommed plate glass display windows set in a copper frame to either side of the main entrance, adorned by a denticulated The main entrance is framed by two pairs of fluted cornice. piers carrying a large entablature. A rusticated appearance is created on the first floor by banding the brick. Located at the rear of the south elevation, on the first floor is a secondary entrance with fluted pilasters and a horizontally panelled door with glass.

The 1/1 windows on the second floor are paired and tied together by a shared rectangular stone lintel and sill. An inlaid stone panel above the middle pair of windows reads: "Citizens Bank Building". The third floor also has three pairs of windows connected by stone sills under which is an egg and dart molding. The lintels are crown cut stone with a center keystone. Below the window, to either side of the sill, are square pieces of stone. Between the center paired windows on the second and third floors, are paired fluted Doric pilasters.

A two story, two bay brick addition is attached to the rear and features segmental brick lintels and stone sills. Noteworthy on the interior is the Masonic Hall retaining much of its original features including Stickney-inspired wood and leather armchairs, wainscotting and stencilling.

- 12.A. Located in the rear of the parking lot is a single story 22'x20' clapboarded, flat roofed structure two bays wide with barn doors.
- 13. 29 Main Street (formerly the County Jail), 1842, non-contributing.

This two story gable-roofed brick building was erected in 1842 at a cost of \$3300 to house the County Jail, a purpose which it continued to serve for about fifty years. Set back from the other commercial buildings on Main Street, the original brick structure

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is laid in a common bond with eight rows of stretchers to one row of headers. Cornice returns adorn the facade. Windows on the side elevations feature a mix of granite and brick sills, lintels are flat arch gauged brick, some have been bricked in. A projecting frame pavilion was added to the original structure about 1946. Sheathed in asphalt "brick" siding and capped by a pediment it contains two large plate glass display windows which angle back to a recessed glass door on the first floor. Above the display windows are opaque glass transoms. Panels of Carrara glass cover the bulkhead area and encircle the first and second floors. Above the first floor are two single paned windows surrounded by wooden panels. Attached to the left of the building is a single story addition containing a single glass door and window also surrounded by Carrara glass. This structure served the Empire Theater for a number of years.

14. Ben Franklin, 25 Main Street, 1943, noncontributing.

This two story rectangular brick structure is located on the site of the Old Universalist Church built in 1837 which was sold to John Johnson in 1895, who renovated it for commercial purposes and whose descendants still operate this store. Fire destroyed the Ben Franklin Store previously on the site in November, 1942. Apparently some of the exterior walls of the current structure survive from the earlier structure, though bear no resemblance to the original. This simple, unadorned two story flat-roofed brick building features nine rows of stretcher to each row of headers. The ground floor glass storefront is divided into six vertical sections and framed by metal tiles with an offcenter entrance adorned only by a plastic sign reading "Ben Franklin". A fanlighted six panel door occupying a bay to the north of the building provides access to the second floor apartment. The second story contains three paired doublehung windows with simple stone sills with an additional five of the same configuration on the second story of the south elevation. the first floor on this elevation is windowless with some windows lighting the basement. A two story flat-roofed brick wing extends at the rear with a corner entrance leading from the large parking lot.

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15. Kendall-Emerson Block, 19-23 Main Street, 191/.

Rebuilt in 1917 following a fire, this two story building consists of two components, the Kendall and Emerson Blocks, which with the Gamash Block to the north form a unified, symmetrical commercial block of frame construction covered in a brick veneer. storefronts with expansive plate glass, modern signage, enamel trim and recessed entrances occupy the first floor. Above an aluminum canopy the second floor windows of the Kendall Block (that to the south) feature transom panes and simple granite sills and lintels. A central doublehung window is flanked by two paired The two upper windows of the Emerson Block are each tripartite, one containing doublehung, the other a multilight bay window. Unifying the facade is a modillioned cornice above which a metal parapet reading Emerson Block is centered featuring · ornate consoles supporting a cartouche inscribed 1917. Kendall Block was gutted and rebuilt after an additional fire in 1937.

15A. House (Rear of Kendall Block), c.1900

The angled siting of this 2½ story gable fronted clapboarded structure is a direct result of its original location fronting the railroad tracks, long since removed. The only residential building remaining in the area, it was originally joined by neighboring houses. Two bays wide and three long, it features a porch wrapping around the facade and west side while a smaller porc shelters the east side, exhibiting turned posts with cutout scroll brackets. Windows are predominant 2/2 doublehung with a diamond shaped windows and a large front window with diamond lattice work in the upper sash.

16. Gamash Block, 15 Main Street, 1917.

A two story frame building sheathed in a brick veneer continuing the facade lines of the Kendall and Emerson Blocks next door. The first floor contains two storefronts with plateglass windows set above a Carrara glass base set into an aluminum frame. Enamel trim surrounds the first floor above which three windows are located on the second floor, a central doublehung 1/1 window with transom flanked by single plan windows with two light transoms All have simple rectangular lintels and sills. A metal parapet with modillioned cornice extends across the facade. Windows on the side elevations are set into arched openings. The storefront was remodelled in 1954.

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17. Richards Block, Main Street, 1873-4.

This three story brick commercial block was built by Dexter Richards in 1873, with the upper two stories gutted by fire in 1919 changing only the cornice lines. The facade measures seventeen (17) bays wide and is accentuated by pronounced brick details and moldings characteristic of the Italianate style with the common brick bond alternating eight rows of stretchers to a single row of headers. The central three bays are framed by pilaster strips on the second and third floors which support a band of slightly projecting brick courses, the result being a grid outline framing the recessed panels in which the series of windows are set.

On the ground floor, the central three bays are framed by granite quoining which is repeated at the ends of the facade on this floor and capped by a stone belt course between the first and second floors, acting as a sill for the second story windows. the ground floor was divided into seventeen individual bays, each framed by fluted piers with Corinthian capitals supporting arched openings each crowned by a keystone. Today, large glass storefronts with three vertical sections, each occupy the equivalent of three bays and are capped by anodized aluminum kick roofs and feature modern globe lamps. Also added later are the two granite doorways, consisting of panelled pilasters, carrying full entablatures and a low pediment, which frame the two sets of modern glass doubledoors. The second floor windows feature round arch openings while those on the third are stilted segmental, each capped by brick hood molds with corbel stops and exaggerated stone keystones corresponding to the shape of the opening. Windows are 6/1 doublehung with storm windows, replacing the original 2/2 configuration. another stone corbel course is a granite block reading "Richards Block 1873". The metal denticulated cornice replaces an earlier, more massive modillioned cornice. A low pediment which once crowned the three central bays was removed after a fire in 1919 and replaced by a balustrade preceding the present.

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The side elevations each measure five bays wide, the central bay framed by pilaster strips. The first floor window openings on the northwest elevation have been bricked in. Four flat-roofed brick additions extend at the rear, ranging in height from 1-3 stories. Windows for the most part are doublehung in segmental openings, several have been replaced by modern units while an ornate tripartite window with multilight sash lights is on the second floor of the southeast elevation.

Beyond these, bordering Depot Street is a two story addition, originally clapboarded with a parapet wall, currently being covered by a stretcher brick veneer. To the southeast is a concrete block 36' square addition erected in 1971.

17A.N.H. State Liquor Store (non-contributing)

At the end of the complex, fronting the depot, a one story brick structure capped by a hip roof, houses the N.H. State Liquor Store, constructed in 1983.

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18. Depot Square Medical Building (formerly B & M Railroad Passenger Depot), Depot Square, 1897.

A single story brick railroad station capped by a flared hip roof, a typical though rather late example of the many late 19th century stations across the country inspired by the work of Boston architect H.H. Richardson.

Wooden doors with large glass upper panels mark the two ends of the facade and are capped by twelve light transoms as are the windows which are individual fixed pane probably replacing original windows of a doublehung configuration. Five windows irregularly spaced, light the facade, some with granite sills and lintels, while a set of three are located on the side elevations. Two rock-faced granite belt courses wrap around the building below the sills. At the rear, a central bay window faces the tracks. Large wooden bracket members rest on stone blocks supporting the wide eaves. Copper hip knobs articulate the ridge of the roof which also features an offcenter, eyelid dormer filled with fixed multilight sash on both north and south slopes as well as a central brick chimney. Sold in 1958 after passenger service was discontinued. During recent renovations a glass vestibule was added outside the main door and the interior was totally gutted.

19. McCrillis & Eldredge, 17 Main Street, c. 1850.

These buildings at one time constituted part of the original Richards Block which was cut up and moved from Main Street to the current location before 1876. This complex, directly behind Main Street consists of two 2½ story clapboarded buildings, that to the west situated broadside to the street and connected by a single bay one story flat-roofed extension to a gable-fronted structure at the east. Original first floor fenestation has been replaced by multi-light tripartite bay windows. The structure to the west has a central recessed entrance above which the irregularly spaced six bay second story contains a mix of original 2/2 and replacement 6/6 windows. Pilaster cornerboards support a plain frieze which ends in cornice returns.

The single story connection contains a wooden door with a multisash upper window panel. The easternmost gablefronted structure is 2½ stories and three bays wide on the second story. Simple cornerboards, gable returns and brackets with pendantsdecorate the

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cornice. The offcenter entrance has a door like that of the middle section. This structure also has a shed dormer on the west slope and a roofed side entrance. Located at the rear is a second story small addition supported by three large brackets.

20. Gauthier & Woodard (formerly the Cheney Block), 48 Main Street, 1816, 1873, 1930.

Built by Col. William Cheney for a dwelling in 1816, this two story brick commercial block retains its original second floor fenestration on the facade but was originally capped by a hip roof. Enlarged and refitted by Dexter Richards in 1873, a mansard roof was added at that time, removed in 1930 and replaced with the current cornice echoing the profile of many of the downtown structures. Located on the first floor of the Cheney Block are three commercial establishments each having a separate display window and entrance. Surrounding these windows is a recently added brick veneer. The top floor contains 2/2 windows capped by splayed brick lintels, painted white with the exception of the center opening which features a brick arch with a keystone. A panelled parapet supported by numerous brackets caps the structure.

On the north facade there is an enclosed staircase covered with vertical wood siding. Also on the north facade, is an original iron fire escape complete with pulleys and weights. In the rear of the building there is a two story, three bay flat-roofed brick addition. Attached to this addition is a one story concrete block structure.

21. Rowell Watering Trough, north end of Main Street, by 1898.

Donated by Franklin Pierce Rowell (b. 1850 - d. 1927) this granite watering trough, now used as a planter, is an interesting surviving element of the 19th century streetscape, providing reference to the historic character of Main Street, once a dirt road lined with horses and carts. The container, six feet wide, two feet high and two feet deep, reads "ROWELL" and is constructed of rockfaced granite with smooth margins.

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states of alteration, as examples of early 19th century governmental structures. The Old Courthouse (1826) is significant as one of New Hampshire's early public buildings, without comparison in this part of the State. Notable for its exterior detailing, the Old Courthouse is a fine example of a Federal Style public building. The County Safe Building (1843) designed by local builder Jonathan Wilmarth represents a simplified translation of the Greek Revival forms into a utilitarian brick structure, displaying a sidehall plan and stone blocks intended to give the effect of cornice returns. The County Jail has been greatly altered over the years and retains little of its original simple dignity.

The configuration of North Main Street directly above the business district took on a new form in 1821 when the common was established. At that time, the land, then a swamp, was sold to the town by William Cheney. However it was not until 1891 that the common was laid out formally as a park and beautified by plantings.

The Wheeler Block (#9) constructed in 1858 is an early and simple example of the Vernacular Italianate commercial style conceived in frame. Today it is a solitary example of the clapboarded blocks which once lined Main Street.

The extension of the Concord and Claremont Railroad in the 1870's was to have a regionwide impact, largely responsible for the establishment of a resort area in the Lake Sunapee area. In downtown Newport, the railroad right-of-way wound its way through the downtown between the Nettleton and Cain (#8) houses on the east side of Main Street and between the County Jail (#13) and the Ben Franklin (#14) on the west, extending in a northwestern arc to the passenger depot in Depot Square. The coming of the railroad to Newport in 1871 resulted in new growth in the downtown. Residential structures and wooden blocks which once stood on the Main Street were moved elsewhere to make room for brick business blocks such as the Richards Block (#17). Parts of the clapboarded block which preceded it are visible in the McCrillis & Eldredge Building on Depot Street. Despite alterations to the cornice after a fire and storefront renovations, the Richards Block retains the spirit of the Italianate style, accentuated by brick details, corbels and segmental window openings.

During this same period the Cheney House (#20) was refitted for commercial purposes. The Reed House (#7) constructed c. 1870 was one of the last residences to be built on the Main Street and is a fine example of Vernacular French Second Empire architecture.

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in the extitution of the experimental extremely and the engineering of the experimental extremely and the experiment As is the case in many downtown areas, fire loss has also had an important role in the evolution of Main Street. Newport's most destructive conflagration occurred in 1885, razing the shortlived Town Hall, erected in 1872, as well as an important business block and hotel. Plans for the present Town Hall and Courthouse (#3) were readied in less than a week with the Lewis (#1) and DeWolf (#2) Blocks constructed on the remainder of the fire site in 1886 and 1893, respectively. Unified by stylistic detailing and elaborate brick and terra cotta work, these three structures taken together create one of the most attractive vistas along Main Street. The Courthouse represents local architect, Hira Beckwith's interpretation of late 19th century eclecticism. Widely regarded as Sullivan County's leading builder of his day, Beckwith served as the builder for the C.M. Emerson and Seth Richards residences in Newport, as well as the Claremont Opera House and depot at Claremont Junction. Other attempts at design by Beckwith are not currently known. The Lewis and DeWolf Blocks were both designed in the Romanesque Revival style. architect of the earlier block is unknown but seven years later, local architect Samuel DeWolf Lewis heavily borrowed the buttresses, corbels and terra cotta details of the predecessor for the DeWolf. Lewis (1867-1943) also designed the Church of the Epiphany in Newport and several summer homes on Lake Sunapee. A few years later he acted as architect for the Dr. Cain House (#8). Its original shingles are currently obscured but the structure continues to play a dynamic role in the varied downtown streetscape. It was the last residential structure to be constructed on the Main Street.

Ushered in by thriving manufacturing, the late 19th century marked a period of great growth and prosperity in Newport. Municipal water and sewer services were in place in 1894. The Rowell Watering Trough (#21) also dates to this period and survives today at the head of Main Street, a visual reminder of the days when the downtown's dirt roads were traversed by horses and carts.

The Richardsonian B & M Passenger Station (#18) was constructed in 1897 replacing an earlier frame structure. It remains an excellent though somewhat late example of a style which met widespread popularity for railroad stations across the country.

The Classical Revival styles of the beginning of this century are well represented within the district. Especially noteworthy is the Lantz Building (#12) an impressive brick and stone block dominated by colossal Ionic pilasters. The Kendall-Emerson-Gamash Blocks

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(#15 and 16) rebuilt after a 1916 fire, feature classical detailing. The Richards Block partially rebuilt on the upper two floors after a fire in 1919 was fitted with a denticulated cornice replacing an earlier more massive modillioned, Italianate style model. The desire to remove vestiges of the late 19th century resulted in the replacement of the Cheney Block (#20) Mansard roof with a more classical panelled parapet.

In the 20th century, Main Street was transformed by concrete and asphalt paving as well as electric lighting diffused by cast iron standards supporting three lamp globes. Several of these lamps survive in front of the Courthouse. The few trees which lined Main Street and stood in what is now the center parking median, gradually disappeared, doomed by the effects of the winter road salting. advent of the automobile resulted in parking lots and service stations that weakened the axial effect of Main Street, digesting corners on the southern end, while commercializing once-residential Sunapee Street. Expressing a distinctive streamlined effect, characteristic of the automobile and machine age is the Diner (#11), dating to the 30's though it was not brought to its current site until 1957. the original monitor roof has been obscured it remains one of the finest surviving diners in the State.

Beginning in the 1930's and continuing through to the present day, Main Street storefronts have undergone continual modernization. Some were replaced with inappropriate materials - brick veneers and wood boards, supplemented by new materials including an abundance of Carrara glass. Out of scale signs and canopies representing the latest in advertising rivalled the attention of the shopper.

Recent years have witnessed further changes in the downtown, accompanied by growing awareness of Newport's historic resources. Passenger railway service to Newport ended in 1955, at which time the depot was sold. Its future has recently been made more secure by a renovation into medical offices. During the 1970's the Old Courthouse, Nettleton and Reed Houses successfully avoided demolition for a parking lot proposed as part of revitalized complex of town and county offices linked by a new courthouse park. All are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places as is the Town Hall/Courthouse. The recent acquisition of the DeWolf Block represents the latest development in a growing County complex. Rehabilitation has also been accompanied by new construction. The 1983 construction of the NH Liquor Store in Depot Square has further concentrated activity in the "Second Main Street" area. First Citizens Ba

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erected a new modern structure on Main Street in 1976. The remains of the Newport House, a landmark hotel in Newport history, which burned in a fire in the 1960's, were razed early in 1984 leaving a potential building site at the corner of Sunapee and Main Street that could have a major impact on the shape of the downtown in the years to come.

Founded early in 1984, the Newport Housing Rehabilitation Program seeks to improve substandard living units, many of which are housed in historic structures, initially within a designated target area containing Main Street, as well as West Street, Ash, Sunapee, and Canal Streets. The Community Development Office will now be available to help coordinate rehabilitation activities and promote sound historic preservation practices, sensitive to the unique qualities of this architecturally significant assemblage of 19th and 20th century structures.

The buildings and sites in this description are identified by the following parcel numbers on Tax Map 45 at the Town Assessor's Office, Sunapee St., Newport, NH: 2346; 921; 258;113; 638; 595; 1221; 2032; 384; 692; 872; 1791; 1726; 1382; 996; 763.

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Argus Champion (formerly Argus Spectator), various issues (Richards Library)

Edes, Marcia & Samuel Edes, <u>Book of Old Newport</u> Newport: Argus & Spectator, 1909

National Register Nominations, Sullivan County Courthouse, 7/5/1973; Reed House, 7/19/1978; Town Hall and Courthouse, 2/29/1980.

Ketchen, "A Beginning Who's Who of Newport". Typewritten, n.d. (Richards Library)

Newport, Bicentennial Commission, Newport, New Hampshire 1761-1961.

"S.D. Lewis Scrapbook", Property of Newport Historical Society, n.d.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries of the nominated district are those indicated by a dashed line on the attached sketch map. The district boundary is drawn to include those buildings along Main Street, north of the Sugar River which are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as well as two structures in the adjacent Depot Square which were also part of the 19th century commercial district.

Using these criteria, the following structures south of the district were excluded to their recent date of construction:

> First Citizens Bank (1976); Arlington Sample Co. (c. 1945).

While several others have been significantly altered so as to obscure or destroy their original characteristics and render them incompatible with the proposed district.

Boundaries as drawn, are sufficient to convey the original context and also sufficient to protect it.

Boundaries of the nominated district have been highlighted in yellow on the enclosed sketch man.

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This certifies that the appearance of the photographs has not changed.

