

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Remnants (Cherry and Railroad Sts. (Boundary))
by Arnold, Blackstone, Church, and Railroad Sts. (Boundary)

NAME: Cato Hill Historic District Amendment (NMAA) (Figure 5)
LOCATION: Surrounded by Main, Railroad, Arnold and Blackstone Streets and including portions of Cato, Boyden and Church Streets and all of Clarkin Lane and Cato Lane (See detailed description below.)
OWNERS: Multiple
NOTE: Entered on the National Register August 10, 1976. A more detailed description and statement of significance is contained in the original nomination.
CONDITION: Good; altered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

Cato Hill is a compact, densely built-up, modest, mid-nineteenth century neighborhood on a rise adjacent to the City's central business district. Defined, topographically, by steep slopes on the south and east which drop to Railroad and Main streets, and by arterial thoroughfares, Arnold Street and Blackstone Street, on the north and west, the district consists of two principal streets, Cato and Church, linked by Boyden Street and Clarkin Lane; Cato Lane is a cul-de-sac off Cato Street. Holder Lane constituted a distinct subsection of the district when Cato Hill was nominated to the National Register in 1976, but it is being deleted from the district because the buildings which stood on Holder Lane have been demolished.

The 70-odd detached dwellings on Cato Hill are all wood frame and most are clapboard-clad. About 30 were single-family houses, the rest, multi-unit dwellings, housing 2 to 6 families. The oldest extant buildings date to about 1840; housing dating from the 1850s, '60s and '70s predominates; there are a few large tenements dating from the era 1880-1900. There are but seven twentieth-century buildings in the district. The Greek Revival idiom in its simplest vernacular manifestations pervades the district, remaining popular from the 1840s into the 1870s. Later nineteenth-century buildings have simple Bracketed and Queen Anne trim.

INVENTORY

Contributing structures are defined as those which date from the period in which Cato Hill developed, c. 1840-1880, along with later structures of compatible scale, design and/or use. Contributing structures are listed first, alphabetically by street name; non-contributing structures are listed at the end of the main inventory. Inventory entries are by street number but include plat and lot numbers (e.g. 14-R/385) as well. Names assigned to buildings are those of the earliest known owners, ascertained through research using maps, directories and,

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in some cases, deeds. Further information on Cato Hill properties can be found in the original National Register nomination inventory and in the Woonsocket survey report.

Contributing Structures

BLACKSTONE STREET (#128-160 even numbers only)

- 128 House (c. 1872): Fine 2½-story, Bracketed house with 3-bay facade, gable roof with central cross-gable on front containing an oculus; central entrance portico flanked by paired windows. House type fairly common in Woonsocket, but usually less elaborated. (14-A/265)
- 150 House (c. 1865): 1½-story, 3-bay, Bracketed cottage with hooded entrance. (13-F/39)
- 160 House (c. 1865): Bracketed cottage similar to 150 but with 2-bay facade and a broad, square-fronted bay window flanking the hooded entrance. (13-F/38)

BOYDEN STREET (#5-73 inclusive)

- 5 Early 19th-century house, much added to and possibly moved to this site. (14-S/235)
- 20 House (c. 1885): Large, 2½-story, gable-roofed tenement; 2-story bay windows flank the central entrance, below a central cross-gable; Bracketed trim. (14-T/318)
- 54 House (c. 1885): 2½-story, 2-bay, gable-and-cross-gabled house with simple Queen Anne trim. (13-F/136)
- 62 House (c. 1865): 2½-story late Greek Revival tenement. (13-F/132)
- 65 House (c. 1885): Late Bracketed, 2½-story, gable-roofed double house with a 2-story bay window flanking the entrance. Built in a group including 145, 151 and 163 Church Street. (14-A/264)
- 72 2½-story Greek Revival house, 3-bay facade now fronted with late nineteenth-century porches; building probably moved here; located behind 62 Boyden. (13-F/101)

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Boyden Street (cont)

- 73 Much altered, late 19th-century house with 3-bay front, central entrance. (14-A/325)

CATO LANE (#17 only)

- 17 Simple, small, late 19th-century cottage with 3-bay facade. (14-R/198)

CATO STREET (#29-241 inclusive)

- 47-51 Store and tenement (c. 1865): 3½-story store/tenement block; portions of iron bracket-supported balconies remain; trim a "styleless," simplified late Greek Revival. (14-S/312)
- 57 Store and tenement (c. 1872): Small, 2½-story store/tenement block with balcony above storefront; late Greek Revival/Bracketed trim. (14-S/348)
- 61 Store and tenement (c. 1860): 2½-story store/tenement block with gambrel roof, balcony above storefronts. (14-S/307)
- 62 2½-story Greek Revival house; 5-bay facade with central entrance. (14-R/226)
- 67 2-story, flat-roofed late 19th-century tenement with 2-story porch. (14-S/349)
- 79 Charles Dean House (c. 1845): 2½-story Greek Revival house with a late nineteenth-century addition, including oriels across the front. Dean was a harness maker. (14-S/252)
- 96 House (c. 1840): Small, 1½-story late Federal style cottage on steep bank site; exposed basement story in rear. (14-R/202)
- 99 Kelley House (c. 1845/c. 1890): Extensively altered Greek Revival house, made over into a flat-roofed tenement in the late nineteenth century. (14-S/250)
- 117-119 House (c. 1890): 2½-story, late 19th-century house on site of the cottage of E.C. Arnold, built c. 1845. (14-S/245)
- 118 1½-story Greek Revival cottage with altered, 5-bay street elevation and central entrance. (14-R/199)

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Cato Street (cont)

- 132 William Kelley House (c. 1840): 1½-story Greek Revival, temple-form cottage, now with curious octagonal posts carrying the portico. Kelley was a mariner turned mason. (14-R/194)
- 134 (House (c. 1885): Gable- and cross-gable-roofed cottage. (14-R/197)
- 135 Tenement (c. 1885): Large, 2½-story tenement; gable- and cross-gable roof, central entrance in 7-bay facade, Bracketed trim. (14-S/340)
- 140 Alfred Sheldon Tenement (c. 1845): Remodelled, 2½-story, Greek Revival tenement; 7-bay facade with central entrance. (14-R/192)
- 141 Robert Clarkin House (c. 1845): Remodelled Greek Revival cottage; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance. Clarkin was an Irish-born stone mason; he gave his name to Clarkin Lane which runs back from Cato Street to Church Street. (14-S/243)
- 148 William Greenman House (c. 1840): Altered 1½-story late Federal or Greek Revival cottage; by 1851 the property of Greenman, a blacksmith. (14-R/190)
- 151 Tenement (c. 1885): Large, 2½-story Bracketed tenement, similar to #135. (14-S/306)
- 162 Tenement (c. 1890): Large, 2½-story tenement, gable- and cross-gable roof, 2-story semi-octagonal bay windows flanking central entrance in 5-bay facade; retains some simple Queen Anne trim; similar to 20 Boyden Street. (14-R/179)
- 171 Edward Cassidy House (c. 1840): 5-bay Greek Revival cottage with central entrance, moved to back lot between 1875 and 1895. By 1857, this was the home of Edward Cassidy, watchman. (14-S/239)
- 175 House (c. 1885): 2½-story late Bracketed 2-bay, gable-roofed, 2-family dwelling; square-fronted, 2-story bay window flanks the hooded entrance. (14-S/239)
- 179 Much altered 2-story, hip-roofed house--possibly early nineteenth-century. (14-S/237)

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Cato Street (cont)

- 211 Tenement (c. 1870): 2½-story gable-roofed tenement, now much altered. (14-T/234)
- 221 Mrs. Dorary Tenement (c. 1865): 2½-story late Greek Revival, gable-roofed tenement. (14-T/233)
- 231 Tenement (c. 1900): Large, 2½-story tenement; 3-bay facade with 2-story bay window beside entrance; porches removed. (14-T/303)
- 241 James A. Greenhalgh House (c. 1865): L-plan cottage with very simple trim. (14-T/231)

CHURCH STREET (#28-30 through 232 inclusive)

- 28-30 The First Vose House (c. 1840): Greek Revival, 1½-story double house. Occupied in the 1850s by Alvah Vose, top roller coverer, and Alonzo D. Vose, proprietor of the Woonsocket Baking Company (see #61). (14-S/66)
- 42 House (c. 1870): Altered 1½-story late nineteenth-century house; 3-bay facade, formerly with porch. (14-S/257)
- 46 House (c. 1925): Outstanding brick 3-decker, surrounded by handsome porches on 2 sides. (14-S/257)
- 48 Benedict Roys House (c. 1845): Greek Revival cottage with late 19th-century bay window. Roys was a blacksmith. (14-S/256)
- 61 The Second Vose House (c. 1865): 2½-story, gable-roofed, Bracketed house with lateral ell; 3-bay facade with side-hall entry; multiple diminutive brackets trim the window casings. Owned by the Vose family and by 1870 occupied by Alvah Vose (see #28-30). (14-A/379)
- 62 House (c. 1840): 5-bay, 2½-story, Greek Revival house with central entrance. Larger than most single-family houses on Cato Hill, this dwelling probably belonged to George Wilder, a grocer. (14-S/255)
- 70 Martha Kimball House (c. 1840, c. 1880): Originally 1½-stories, this Greek Revival cottage was enlarged in about 1880 when the house was raised up and a new first story installed, creating the existing 2½-story building with a late Victorian entrance

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Church Street (cont)

hood and Greek Revival cornice, corner and window trim.
(14-S/254)

75- Former barn made over in the early twentieth century into a
2½-story dwelling with 2-story porches across the front; sited
behind 77 Church Street. (14-A/379)

77 House (c. 1865): Transitional late Greek Revival 2½-story, end-
gable, 3-bay house with minimal Bracketed trim on window casings.
(14-A/379)

84 House (c. 1865): Late Greek Revival 1½-story, end-gable, 3-bay
house with Bracketed trim (probably added). (14-S/251)

85 House (c. 1865): Small, simple cottage. (14-A/272)

93 House (c. 1865): Small, simple cottage; shop windows added in
the early twentieth century. (14-A/381)

94 Tenement (c. 1872): Tall, narrow, 3½-story tenement, recently
restored, with paneled corner pilasters. (14-S/249)

98 Tenement (c. 1872): Dwelling altered into a tall, narrow, 3½-
story tenement; very plain. (14-S/248)

99 House (c. 1865): 1½-story, 3-bay house with late Greek Revival
trim. (14-A/271)

108 Tenement (c. 1872): 2½-story, gable-roofed tenement flank to
street, 6-bay street elevation with high brick basement. En-
trances on Clarkin Lane. Severely simple trim, essentially
Greek Revival in character. (14-S/244)

111 Tenement (c. 1865): Late Greek Revival, 2½-story tenement, flank
to street; 5-bay facade with central entrance; located behind
#113. (14-A/270)

113 House (c. 1861): Late Greek Revival, 1½-story dwelling; 3-bay
facade with sidehall entrance. (14-A/270)

116-118 House (c. 1890): Queen Anne 2-decker with 2-story, semi-oc-
tagonal bay window flanking the spindlework, 2-story porches.
(14-S/335)

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Church Street (cont)

121. Tenement (c. 1872): One of a pair of 2½-story tenements set flank to street; 7-bay street front with central entrance; modest transitional Greek Revival/Bracketed trim. (14-A/267)
- 125 William McKenna House (c. 1865): Small, somewhat altered cottage located behind 133 Church Street. (14-A/267)
- 133 Tenement (c. 1872): One of a pair of 2½-story tenements; see 121. (14-S/267)
- 138-142 Tenement (c. 1865): Transitional late Greek Revival tenement; 6-bay facade with twin entrances in end bays. (14-S/319)
- 145 Tenement (c. 1885): One of a group of four tenements with Bracketed trim; see 151 and 163 Church and 65 Boyden Street. (14-A/264)
- 146 Altered 19th-century cottage set behind 148-150 Church and moved back from street to make way for 148-150. (14-S/240)
- 148-150 Tenement (c. 1890): Gable- and cross-gable, 2½-story tenement with oriel over entrance in 3-bay facade. (14-S/240)
- 151 House (c. 1885): A fine, 2½-story, gable-roofed, Bracketed, 2-family dwelling; one of a group of 4 similar structures; see 65 Boyden, 145 and 163 Church Street. (14-A/264)
- 163 House (c. 1885): A fine, 2½-story, gable-roofed, Bracketed, 2-family house; one of a group of 4 similar buildings; see 65 Boyden, 145 and 151 Church Street. (14-A/264)
- 168 Ward Room (c. 1905): Shingled, 1-story bungalow built by the city as a ward room and later the Ukrainian -American Veterans Association headquarters. (14-S/236)
- 186 Tenement (c. 1885): Large gable- and cross-gable, 2½-story tenement with Bracketed trim. (14-T/304)
- 194 Tenement (c. 1865): Altered late Greek Revival tenement located well back from street. By 1870 it belonged to a Mrs. Dorary. (14-T/233)

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Church Street (cont)

- 197 House (c. 1845): 1½-story Greek Revival house with late nineteenth-century porch; moved here between 1870 and 1895. (13-T/37)
- 206 McSoley's Tenement (c. 1865): 2½-story Bracketed tenement set flank to street; 2-story porch across front. (14-T/360)
- 214-216 Tenement (c. 1875): Late Greek Revival 2½-story tenement with gable roof, set flank to street; 1-story glassed-in porch across front. (14-T/399)
- 232 House (c. 1875): 1½-story, 3-bay, Bracketed house. (14-T/232)

CLARKIN LANE (#7 and 11)

- 7 House: 1½-story Federal house, moved here after 1875. (14-S/245)
- 11 House (c. 1872): Extremely plain, 2½-story, gable-roofed dwelling. (14-S/247)

Non-Contributing Structures

ARNOLD STREET (#401-471 odd numbers only)

- 401 Mid-20th-century, 1-story coffee shop and bakery. (14-R/385)
- 415-423 Early 20th-century, 1-story shop. (14-T/332)
- 433 Early 20th-century, 1-story garage. (14-T/232)
- 471 Mid-20th-century gas station. (13-F/35)

CATO STREET

- 29 Nondescript 20th-century garage. (14-S/258)
- 50 Nondescript 20th-century brick storage building, later Woonsocket Musicians' Club. (14-R/17)

CHURCH STREET

- 158 Heavily altered 19th-century dwelling. (14-S/238)

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Social History, Ethnic History.
PERIODS: 1800-1899, 1900-
SPECIFIC DATES: N.A. BUILDER/ARCHITECT: N.A.
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Cato Hill is the sole, well preserved, mid-nineteenth-century blue-collar neighborhood in Woonsocket. As the only modest neighborhood of any date in the City deemed eligible for nomination to the Register, even its later buildings have special import, for they exemplify Woonsocket's pervasive late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century tenement forms. Housing stock of all periods, then, has significance as an indicator of the social organization and economic status of Woonsocket's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century work force.

The area's ethnic history is noteworthy, for the neighborhood was laid out by Lydia and Cato Willard, blacks, in the 1830s and 1840s. From the 1850s through the 1870s, Cato Hill was developed and occupied by Irish immigrant families--people working in the local mills and as laborers for the most part. From the 1880s until the early 1900s, this became a French Canadian neighborhood, and throughout much of the twentieth century a community of Ukrainians lived here. Cato Hill reflects the impact new ethnic populations had in the City.

Stylistically, its humble early Greek Revival buildings are of interest to the student of vernacular architecture. So, too, are its Bracketed buildings. Three periods of development are represented: the 1840s; the Civil War/Post-Civil War era, 1860-1875--the period in which the greatest growth occurred; and the 1880s and 1890s. These periods correspond to eras of major industrial development in Woonsocket which provided the impetus for an increased workforce and, consequently, new housing. Here are small cottages and tenements in abundance displaying all the economy of construction, layout and ornament one would expect in such an area.

Cato Hill is a representative nineteenth-century working-class neighborhood of the sort which evolved in rather informal fashion through the efforts of individual property owners who erected houses for themselves or inexpensive tenements to rent. In layout and architecture, Cato Hill is the antithesis of planned industrial housing areas built and owned by manufacturers for their workers. Cato Hill was home to the successive waves of immigrant workers who built and labored in Woonsocket's factories. And, though it is poised above the heart of the old business district, this neighborhood remains remarkable apart and intact.

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ACREAGE: Approximately 11 acres.

BOUNDARIES:

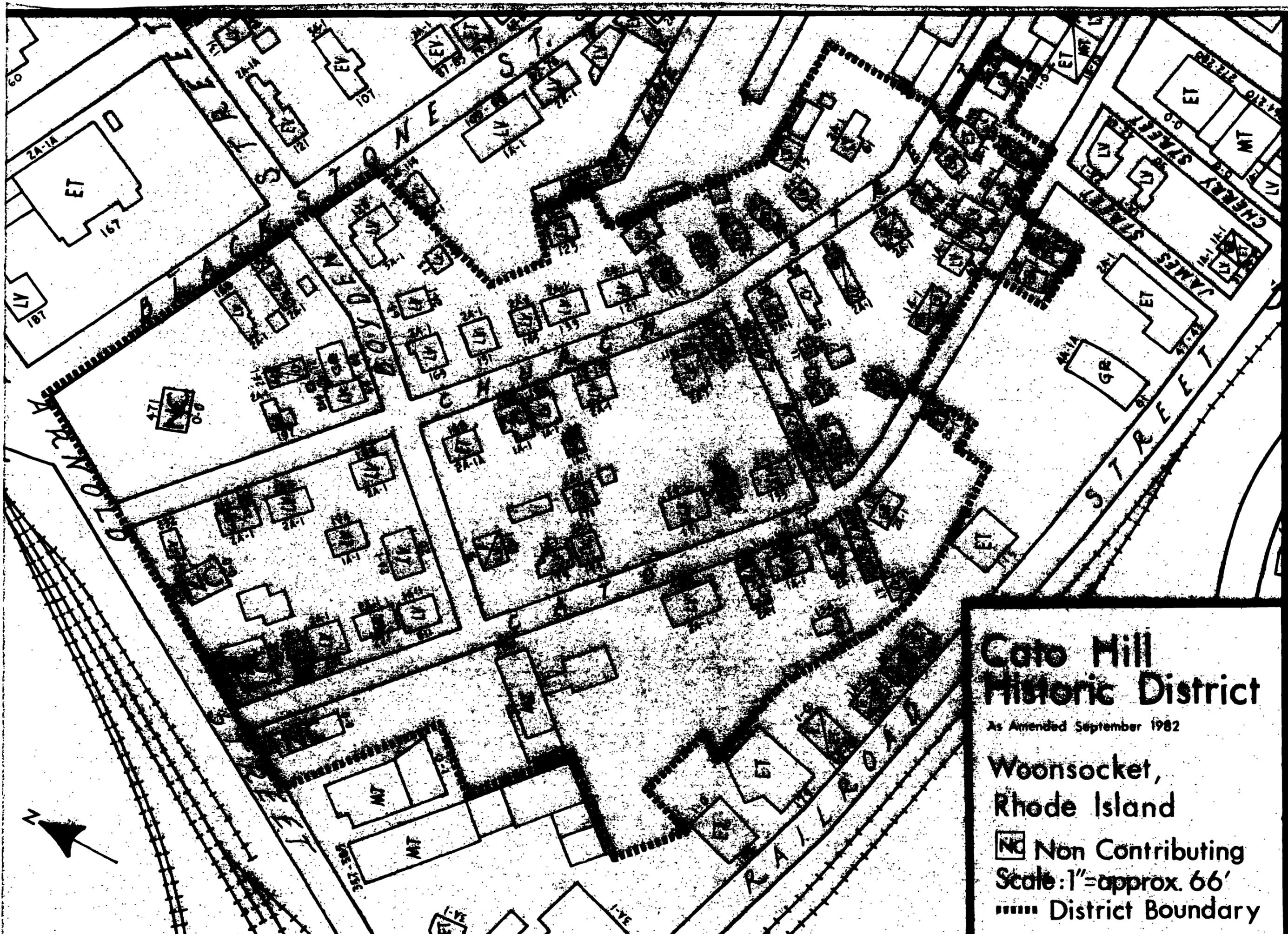
Cato Hill Historic District is bounded on the northwest by Arnold Street; on the northeast by Blackstone Street and the back lot lines of properties on the northeast side of Church Street, to a point near the intersection of James and Cato Streets; on the east by lot lines of properties near this intersection numbered 28-30 Church Street and 29 Cato Street; and on the south, generally, by back lot lines of properties on the southeast side of Cato Street.

Properties with the following addresses are within the district: Arnold Street, numbers 401, 415-423, 433 and 471; Blackstone Street, numbers 128, 150 and 160; Boyden Street, numbers 5, 20, 54, 62, 65, 72 and 73; 17 Cato Lane; Cato Street, numbers 29, 47-51, 50, 57, 61, 62, 67, 79, 96, 99, 117-119, 118, 132, 134, 135, 140, 141, 151, 162, 171, 175, 179, 200, 211, 221, 231 and 241; Church Street, numbers 28-30, 42, 46, 48, 61, 62, 70, 75, 77, 84, 85, 93, 94, 98, 99, 108, 111, 113, 116-118, 121, 125, 133, 138-142, 145, 146, 148-150, 151, 158, 163, 168, 186, 194, 197, 206, 214-216 and 232; and Clarkin Lane, numbers 7 and 11.

The following parcels are included in the district; plat 13-F, lots 35, 37, 38, 39, 101, 132 and 136; plat 14-A, lots 264, 265, 267, 270, 271, 272, 325, 378, 379 and 381; plat 14-R, lots 17, 179, 187, 189, 190, 192, 194, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202, 210, 226, 385, 408, 410 and 411; Plat 14-S, lots 66, 74, 181, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 306, 307, 312, 319, 333, 335, 340, 348 and 349; and plat 14-T, lots 231, 232, 233, 234, 303, 304, 318, 332, 360 and 399.

UTM:	A)	19	291740	4653250
	B)	19	291840	4653080
	C)	19	291700	4653060
	D)	19	291440	4653160
	E)	19	291560	4653350

(See Continuation Sheet #19)



Cato Hill Historic District

As Amended September 1982

Woonsocket,
Rhode Island

-  Non Contributing
- Scale: 1" = approx. 66'
-  District Boundary

The Cato Hill Historic District (Amended 1982)
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Gail Gustafson, Delineator August 1982
Original: Rhode Island Historical
Preservation Commission

District map.

Figure 5



Cato Hill Historic District

As Amended September 1982

Woonsocket,
Rhode Island

- NC Non Contributing
- Scale: 1"=approx. 66'
- District Boundary