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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name James Pharmacy

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2 Pennywise Lane not for publication

city or town Old Saybrook vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06475

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan 07/06/94
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
 John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
 State of Federal agency and bureau

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

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

for Signature of the Keeper	Entered in the National Register	Date of Action
<u><i>Stephen M. Lepore</i></u>	<u>8/5/94</u>	

James Pharmacy
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Connecticut
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade: specialty store
Domestic: multiple dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade: specialty store
Domestic: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal
Late 19th and 20th Century
Revivals: Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone-fieldstone
walls Wood-clapboard
roof Asphalt-shingle
other Brick
Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage-Black

Health Care-Medical Business/Office

Other-Women's History

Period of Significance

1918-1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Anna L. James

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

James Pharmacy
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Connecticut
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.25 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 7 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

(Reviewed by John F. Herzan, National Register
name/title Gregory E. Andrews Coordinator, Connecticut Historical Commission)

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date July 1, 1994

street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone 203-561-3841

city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Garth E. and Kim M. Meadows

street & number 2 Pennywise Lane telephone 203-388-2566

city or town Old Saybrook state CT zip code 06475

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

The James Pharmacy is located at 2 Pennywise Lane in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Pennywise Lane and Main Street (photographs 1 and 2; Figure 1). The Pharmacy is several hundred feet south of the modern commercial center of Old Saybrook along Main Street. The building lot is nearly level, and the 1987 reconfiguration of Pennywise Lane at Main Street has created a paved parking area in front of the pharmacy.

Standing on a quarter-acre lot, the c.1820 Federal/Colonial Revival building is part of the National Register-listed Old Saybrook South Green Historic District. To the north across Pennywise Lane is the historic town green, and directly across Main Street is the First Church of Christ, Congregational (1839). Among the other significant 18th- and 19th-century buildings in the district are the Humphrey Pratt Tavern (1785, National Register individual listing), General William Hart House (1767, National Register), Grace Episcopal Church (1872), and Samuel Pratt House (1874).

The James Pharmacy is being nominated individually to the National Register because of the previously undocumented significance in Connecticut history of Anna James, a former owner. The period of significance for the building is approximately 1918 to 1944, part of the period during which it was owned by Miss James and served as both her residence and drug store. Following her retirement in 1967 until 1985, the building was vacant or used as a dwelling. The present owners reopened the pharmacy in 1985, and part of the second floor is a rental apartment.

The 12-room building combines retail and residential space in five sections of varying age (Figure 2): a 2-story gable-roofed main block (20' x 30') of c.1820, with the pedimented gable end facing the street, which contains the pharmacy at the first floor and a second-floor apartment; a 2-story gable-roofed wing (25' x 15.5'), projecting from the south (side) elevation of the main block, that was likely built early in the 19th century (note 1) and is residential; a long 1-story shed-roofed section (c.1925) spanning the front of the wing that houses the pharmacy's soda fountain area; and two 1-story ells (14' x 11' and 18' x 11',

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

respectively), dating from the mid-20th century, at the back of the building (photograph 3) that are part of the residential space. Other than the pharmacy, there are no resources on the property.

Major additions and alterations have occurred to the pharmacy over time. The main block, and perhaps also the wing, originally served as a general store and, according to local tradition, formerly stood adjacent to the Humphrey Pratt Tavern at the corner of Main Street and the Old Boston Post Road. Some time before 1900, the building was moved to this site. The wing may have been an integral part of the original building or built here prior to the arrival of the main block (note 2).

Anna James made extensive alterations, beginning c.1925, to both the interior and exterior, that remain intact (note 3). Her improvements changed the character of the building from a modest Federal-style example to one dominated by Colonial Revival embellishments. The most important of these are, on the exterior, the front doorway and display window in the first floor of the main block (note 4), the pharmaceutical motif in the front gable pediment, and the arcaded front extension on the wing; and, in the interior, virtually all of the features and equipment in the pharmacy and soda fountain space open to the public. Subsequent owners have made few additional alterations (note 5).

The full-height basement under the main block, wing, and southwest ell has parged fieldstone walls. Concrete covers the entire floor area except under the main block, which is dirt. Original rough-hewn framing in both the main block and wing is of similar date, while machine-sawn dimensioned lumber is found elsewhere. The northwest rear ell has a concrete block foundation that encloses crawl space.

Sheathing the exterior of the building are wood clapboards, with vertical corner boards. Most of the windows are double-hung sash in 12-over-12, 8-over-12, and 6-over-12 glazing patterns; of these, only those at the second story of the main block (in the front and south elevations) and of the wing appear original. Non-original louvered metal shutters are found at second-story windows across the front of the building. The soda fountain area

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

is distinguished on both front and side elevations by arcades of semi-elliptical arches, flanked by molded pilasters, that enclose awning-style windows, each a 24-light single-sash.

Ornamental detailing is concentrated in the facade of the main block (photograph 4). The front door displays a 16-light window in the upper half over raised paneling in a diagonal cross motif. Flanking the doorway are fluted pilasters, with raised pyramidal block capitals, that support a full entablature with molded triangular pediment. To the right of the doorway is a three-sided bay window of considerable size. The front gable is embellished with weatherboards radiating outward from a raised mortar and pestle motif. Raking frieze boards and eaves with slight returns are found in all gables, and a single slender chimney rises from the roof of the wing (note 6).

The interior is divided clearly according to the different uses (Figure 2). The first-floor pharmacy consists of a large front room and two smaller rooms to the rear reached by semi-elliptical, molded arched openings with keystones. Features include narrow-board chestnut floors, walls of beaded vertical boards, and ceilings of large composition panels and battens in a grid pattern. Cherry-finish birch display cases and glass-door cabinets, manufactured by the now-defunct L.F. Dettenborn Woodworking Company of Hartford and installed c.1925, line the north and south walls of the front room. With the exception of more merchandise and new light fixtures, contemporary and c.1925 photographs (photographs 5 and 6) show little change in the interior appearance. Next to the front door is a c.1900 oak telephone booth that has been in the building for decades.

Another arched opening leads from the pharmacy to the soda fountain (photograph 7). The floor here is covered with black-and-white checkerboard linoleum, the walls display vertical beveled boarding or horizontal flushboards, and the ceiling is supported by evenly spaced exposed rafters embellished with beading. The dominant feature is the grey marble counter, behind which is the stainless steel fountain apparatus, and beside which is an old-fashioned glass refrigerated display case. Centered in the rear wall is a large mirror recessed under a curvilinear arched opening and flanked by tall wooden cabinets with paired

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

round-arched glass doors; the entire composition is surmounted by a heavy molded wood cornice. Wrought-metal chairs and tables are available for patrons. Except for the replacement linoleum floor, all of the features and fixtures were installed by Miss James.

The residential space is divided into two separate apartments: one in the wing on both floors, and one in the main block above the pharmacy (Figure 1), each with bath and kitchen facilities. Many of the features of these spaces reflect 20th-century alterations and additions. In the wing, however, surviving original features appear to be sections of old 12-inch-wide flooring, several old multi-panel doors with 19th-century hardware (photograph 8), and beaded window and door casings. Similarly, the apartment in the main block, with a modern open-plan layout and roof skylight, displays the original rough-hewn mortise-and-tenon structural framing and a section of beaded chestnut wall boarding. Both apartments also retain original steep, narrow stairs to the second floor.

Notes

1. Among the features of the wing that indicate this construction date are the rough-hewn framing in the basement, the wide-board (12 inches in width) flooring, paneled doors with old hardware, and original 6-over-6 windows. Assuming this age, the continuous foundation under the main block and wing then suggests either that they were built as a unit or built separately and joined at this location.
2. See note 1 and The Hartford Courant, 12/19/1982, p. F7, and The Old Saybrook Pictorial, 8/18/1987, p. 3, and 8/7/1984, p. 5.
3. Information supplied by Ann Petry, niece of Anna James.
4. A c.1900 photograph in the possession of Ann Petry shows the facade of the main block with a central front door, one window to either side, and two windows at the second story.
5. Former owners built arcaded openings to connect the main pharmacy room with smaller rooms to the rear.
6. In the basement under the main block is a large brick chimney base; the corresponding chimney stack is no longer extant.

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

The James Pharmacy (photographs 1 and 4) is significant historically because it housed both the drug store and residence for over four decades of Anna Louise James (1886-1977), an important figure in Connecticut history because she was the first African-American woman pharmacist in the state and a notable fixture in the life of Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Architecturally, the Pharmacy is little changed from the time of Miss James, and many of its features are her creation. The building is also important because of its associations with other members of Miss James' family. In particular, her niece, the noted American novelist Ann Petry (1908-), was born and spent her childhood here, and she later worked here as a pharmacist assisting Miss James (note 1).

Historical Significance

At the end of the 19th century, Connecticut's African-American community was small, accounting for only 1.7% (approx 15,450) of the state population in 1900. Discrimination was an accepted fact; African-Americans, for example, had few employment opportunities and were ridiculed routinely in newspapers. Most were employed in menial jobs, such as servants, laborers, and laundry workers. Conditions were even worse outside the cities, and the small black population in rural areas declined during the period (note 2).

Against this unpropitious background, Peter Clark Lane (1872-1949) and Bertha James Lane (1875-1956), the sister and brother-in-law of Anna James, moved to the little town of Old Saybrook around 1898. One of the few African-American families in the community of 1400 (note 3), they distinguished themselves by their accomplishments. Peter Lane was among Connecticut's first licensed pharmacists (1895), and he opened a drug store, the town's first, in rented space in the Pharmacy building upon their arrival. Bertha Lane, daughter of a runaway slave from Virginia, was a state-licensed barber (1901) and chiropodist (1915) who also organized a business creating embroidered linens. The family occupied an apartment above the store where daughter Ann Lane (Petry) was born in 1908. Success came with a price, however; racial prejudice dogged the family. Peter Lane was

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2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

threatened when the store opened, and Ann Petry later was taunted by other children on her first day in school (note 4).

Anna James joined her older sister's household as a child. She followed in Peter Lane's professional footsteps, graduating from the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy in 1908 (photograph 9), the only woman in her class. In receiving a pharmacist license from the State of Connecticut in 1911, she was the first African-American woman to obtain that distinction and one of the first women in general. She, too, experienced discrimination, both racial and gender. The Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association rejected her application for membership because they did not accept female members. Instead, they encouraged her to join the women's auxiliary (note 5).

Anna James joined her brother-in-law's store in 1912. At some point around 1918, Peter Lane moved to Hartford to work for the Sisson Drug Company, a wholesaler of drugs. Anna James continued to run the Old Saybrook store and also to live in the building, and in 1922 she acquired ownership (note 6).

Open every day of the year, the James Pharmacy continued in operation until 1967, when Anna James retired after a career of 55 years. During the store's long existence, Miss James, as she was known to all, established for herself and her business a special place in town life. She was a personality of great integrity, business acumen, courtesy, and warmth. As one measure of her public image, the Congregational Church and numerous summer residents trusted her with keys to their buildings and cottages.

Likewise, her store was a highly respected business establishment known for its fine products and quality service. Adding glamour to the store's image over time were the celebrities who stopped, in part because of the fashionable summer resorts nearby. Howard Hughes was among them, while actress Katherine Hepburn was a regular visitor. Stops at the pharmacy and soda fountain were a routine and expected occurrence for townspeople of all ages. For her record of exemplary service to the town, Anna James received the 1974 Citizen of the Year award from the Old Saybrook Veterans of Foreign Wars (note 7).

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The physical appearance of the building also contributes to its importance. The historical associations with Anna James are considerably strengthened by the fact that its present features, both inside and out, and Colonial Revival character are, to a large degree, the result of her improvements (photographs 1, 4, 5, and 7). The part of the wing that was her residence, furthermore, remains unchanged from her lifetime.

Ann Lane Petry lived above her aunt's pharmacy until 1920, when her mother built a house not far distant. She followed in Anna James' footsteps and graduated from the University of Connecticut College of Pharmacy in the late 1920s, after which she worked for her aunt for several years. Married in 1938, Petry moved to New York City with her husband and began a new career in writing. Jobs with the Amsterdam News(1938-41), a Harlem weekly, and People's Voice(1941-44), published by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., exposed her to the social ills of urban life, which formed the basis for her first novel, The Street (1946), an immediate best seller that established her national reputation as a major literary figure and earned her a Houghton Mifflin Library Fellowship.

Over a long and distinguished writing and teaching career, Petry has produced several other novels and received many honors. Recognition has included a 1978 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous honorary degrees. Her degree from Suffolk University lauded her "pen as an instrument of social criticism" to oppose "tyranny in all its pernicious forms." (note 8) In 1993, Trinity College (Hartford, CT) sponsored a symposium on her work.

Notes

1. Despite her noteworthy career and the fact that the James Pharmacy is her birthplace, Ann Petry is not claimed as a significant person in connection with the property for two reasons. First, the National Register program does not, as a rule, recognize living persons and, secondly, the home of Ann Petry in Old Saybrook, where she has lived since 1946, has stronger associations with her life.

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2. David O. White, "Blacks in Connecticut," in David Roth, ed., Connecticut History and Culture: An Historical Overview and Resource Guide for Teachers (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Commission and The Center for Connecticut Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University, 1985), p.201.
3. State of Connecticut Register and Manual (Hartford: State of Connecticut, 1992), p. 617.
4. Adele Sarkissian, Contemporary Authors, vol. 6 (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1988), p. 255-256 (autobiographical recollections of Ann Petry).
5. Ibid., p. 261.
6. Deed from Virginia Freeman to Anna L. James at volume 23, page 9 (recorded 9/11/1922), of Old Saybrook land records.
7. The Hartford Courant, 12/19/1982, p.F7; The Old Saybrook Pictorial, 8/18/1987, p. 3, and 8/7/1984, p. 5; and recollections of Ann Petry..
8. McCain, Black Women of Connecticut: Achievements Against the Odds (Hartford, 1984), p. 32.

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James Pharmacy
2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interviews with Kim Meadows (co-owner of the James Pharmacy) and Ann Lane Petry, residents of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, in October, 1993.

Middletown Press, June 1, 1985, p. 7:1.

McCain, Diana. Black Women of Connecticut: Achievements Against the Odds. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1984.

New York Times, 1/8/1992, p. C13.

Nomination document to National Register of Historic Places for Old Saybrook South Green Historic District (listed 1976) and Humphrey Pratt Tavern (listed 1972), Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Archives of the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

Old Saybrook, Town of. Town Clerk's office (land records) and Town Assessor's office.

Poirier, Suzanne. "Ann Petry - From Pharmacist to Novelist." Connecticut Pharmacist XLV: 5 & 6 (September-October and November-December, 1986).

Roth, David M., ed. Connecticut History and Culture: An Historical Overview and Resource Guide for Teachers. Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Commission and The Center for Connecticut Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University, 1985.

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The Hartford Courant, 11/8/1992, "Northeast Magazine," p. 8;
12/19/1982, p. F7.

The Saybrook Pictorial, 8/7/1984, 8/18/1987.

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James Pharmacy
2 Pennywise Lane
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of this property, for National Register listing purposes, are identical to those found in volume 213, page 256, of the Old Saybrook, Connecticut, land records, which is the deed into the present owners.


Boundary Justification


The boundary conforms to the present property lines, which are identical to those during the ownership of Anna James.

Figure 1: Property Boundary/Location Map

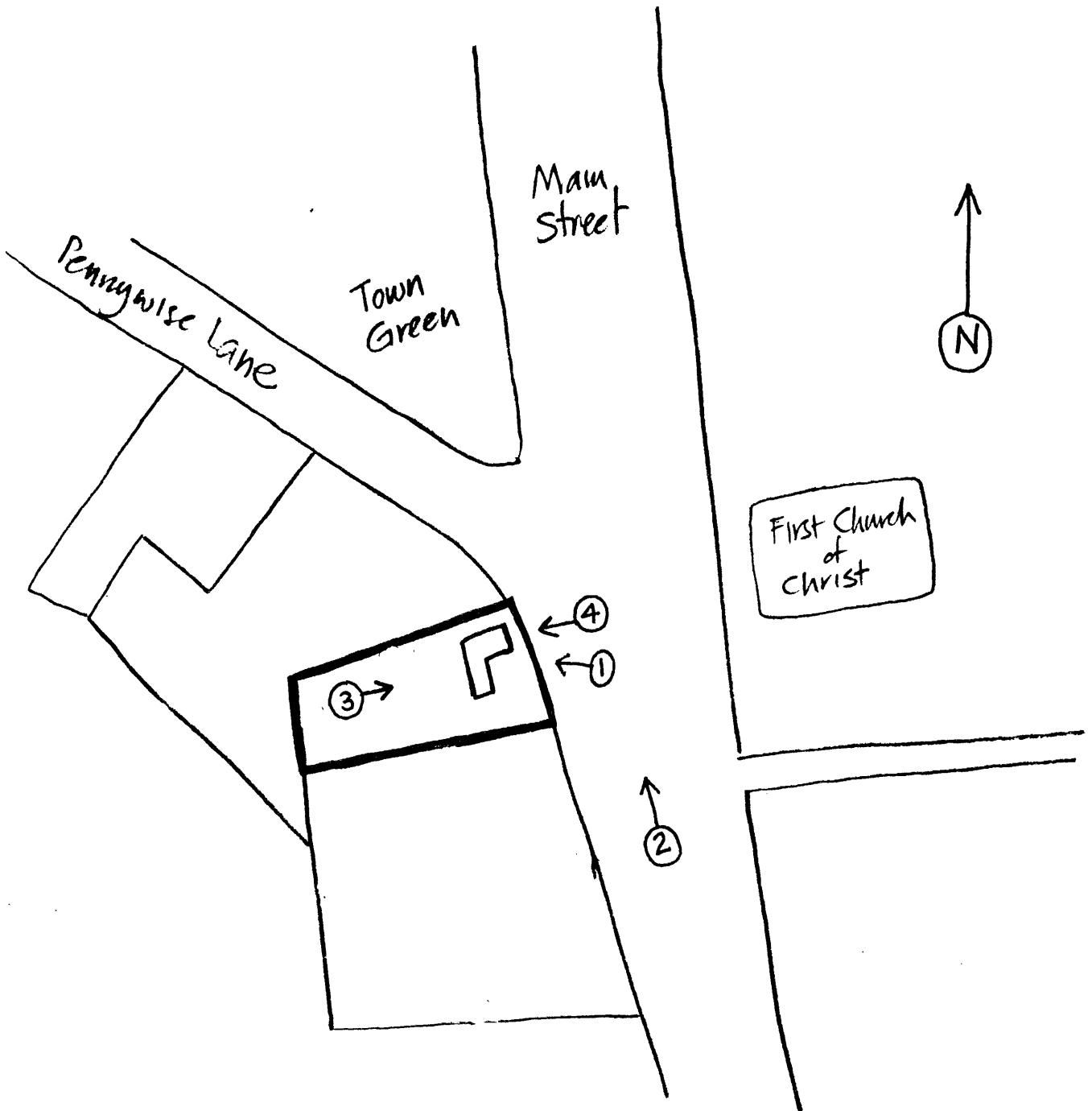
James Pharmacy
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

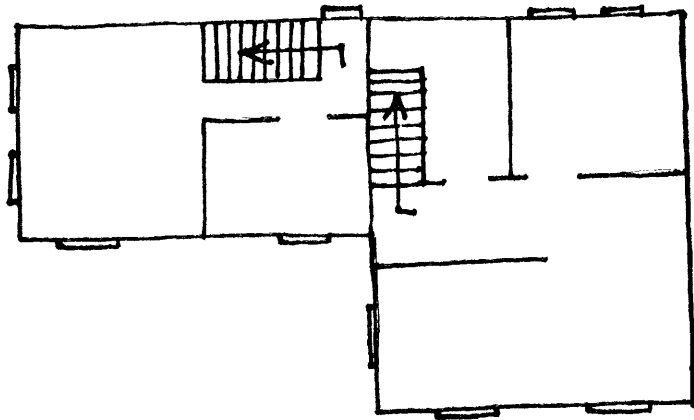
Scale: 1 inch = approximately 100 ft.

Key:  Property Boundary

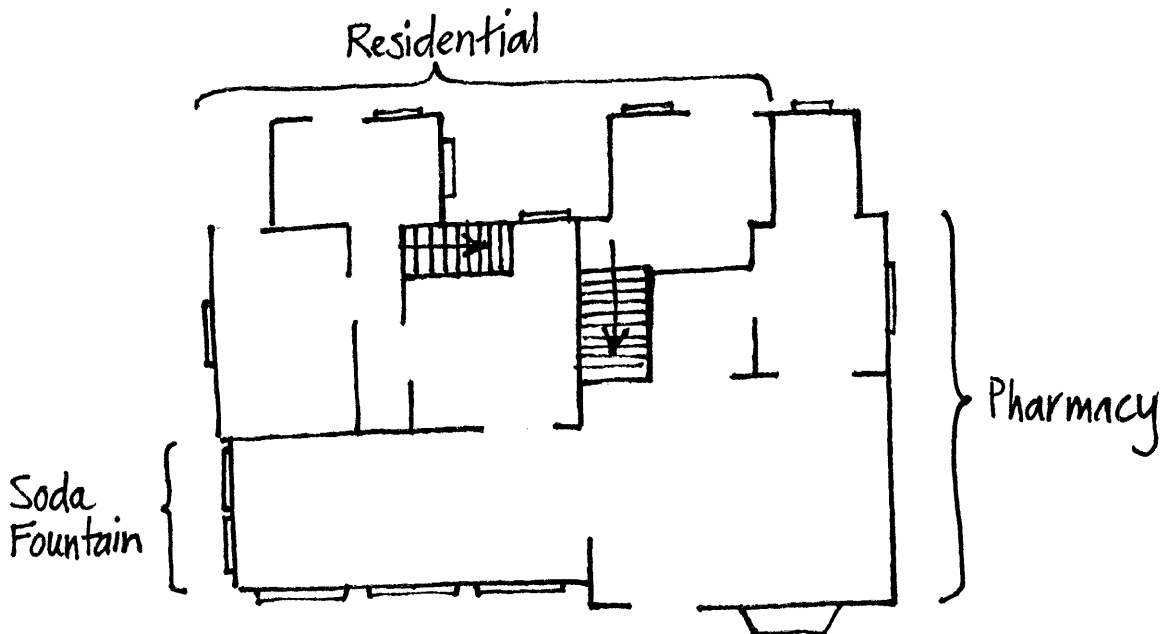
 Photo Positions of Exterior

Source: Assessor's Map 30
Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut





SECOND STORY
 (entirely residential, in two sections)



FIRST STORY

Figure 2: Building Layout Sketch

James Pharmacy
 Old Saybrook, Connecticut

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Old Saybrook, Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

All of the photographs in this nomination documentation were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in October, 1993. Negatives for the photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT.

1. Front elevation of the James Pharmacy, looking northwest.
2. View of vicinity of James Pharmacy, looking northward up Main Street from just south of intersection with Pennywise Lane, which forks off to the left. Points of interest, from left to right, are the James Pharmacy, the town green (beyond the white car), and, on the east side of Main Street, the First Church of Christ, Congregational (1839), shaded by trees.
3. The rear (west) elevation of the James Pharmacy, looking east.
4. The front elevation of the main block of the James Pharmacy, shed, looking west.
5. The main public space in the James Pharmacy (first floor, front room of the building), looking north.
6. C.1925 view of the same space shown in photograph 5.
7. The soda fountain space in the James Pharmacy (first floor, front room of the wing), looking north.
8. First-floor door in rear residential section of the wing of James Pharmacy, looking east.
9. 1908 Graduate in Pharmacy diploma of Anna L. James from Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, Brooklyn, New York (Original in possession of Ann Lane Petry, Old Saybrook, Connecticut).
10. C.1925 view of the James Pharmacy, after alterations to the main block and prior to the changes to the soda fountain area.