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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names/site number</td>
<td>Parkville Industrial Historic District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>street &amp; number</th>
<th>See “List of Properties” Section 7 continuation sheet(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>city of town</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State code</td>
<td>Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/ Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of certifying official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

____________________________________________

____________________________________________
## 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td><strong>Contributing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X private</td>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X public - Local</td>
<td>site</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X public - State</td>
<td>structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public - Federal</td>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X private</td>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of related multiple property listing</th>
<th>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic: Single Dwelling.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic: Multiple Dwelling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Organizational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Department Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social: Meeting Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government: Fire Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Religious Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Religious College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Church-Related Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry: Manufacturing Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry: Extractive Facility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic: Single Dwelling.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic: Multiple Dwelling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Organizational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Department Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/Trade: Warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Religious Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Church-Related Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Religious College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion: Church-Related Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry: Manufacturing Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry: Industrial Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape: Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation: Rail-Related</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Mid-19th Century: Gothic Revival
- Late Victorian: Italianate
- Late Victorian: Second Empire
- Late Victorian: Stick
- Late Victorian: Queen Anne
- Late Victorian: Shingle
- Late Victorian: Folk Victorian
- 20th Century Revival: Colonial Revival
- 20th Century Revival: Neoclassical Revival
- 20th Century Revival: Italian Renaissance
- 20th Century Revival: Mission
- 20th Century Revival: Late Gothic Revival
- Modern Movement: Art Deco
- Modern Movement

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: Stone, Brick, Concrete
- walls: Wood, Brick, Stucco, Stone, Concrete
- roof: Slate, Asphalt, Synthetics
- other: 

---

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See continuation sheet(s).

**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheet(s).
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>X</strong> A</td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>X</strong> C</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>removed from its original location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>a birthplace or grave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>a cemetery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>a reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>a commemorative property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Period of Significance**

1860-1964

**Significant Dates**

1860

1964

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

See continuation sheet(s)

---

**Period of Significance (justification)**

See continuation sheet(s).

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

See continuation sheet(s).

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheet(s).
Parkville Industrial Historic District
Hartford, CT

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheet(s).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)
See continuation sheet(s).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See continuation sheet(s).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

| Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested | State Historic Preservation Office |
| Previously listed in the National Register | Other State agency |
| Previously determined eligible by the National Register | Federal agency |
| Designated a National Historic Landmark | Local government |
| Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # | University |
| Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # | Other |

Name of repository: __________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 155.22
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>690610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>690688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>691016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>691138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See continuation sheet(s).

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

See continuation sheet(s).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucas A. Karmazinas, Consultant
organization FuturePast Preservation date 10/1/2013
Parkville Industrial Historic District

Name of Property                   County and State
street & number 940 West Boulevard  telephone 860-429-7982

city or town Hartford                        state CT  

e-mail FuturePastPreservation@gmail.com   zip code 06105

---

**Additional Documentation**
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Photographs:**
Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Parkville Industrial Historic District

**City or Vicinity:** Hartford

**County:** Hartford  
**State:** Connecticut

**Photographer:** Lucas A. Karmazinas

**Date Photographed:** 10/15/2013, 11/12/2013

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** See continuation sheet(s).

1 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 788-790, 792-794, 798-800, 804-806, 808-810, 814-816, and 818-820 Capitol Avenue (1911, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1911, 1911, and 1911).
Camera facing northeast.

2 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 858-860, 864-866, and 868-870 Capitol Avenue (1910).
Camera facing northeast.

3 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of (from left to right) 867-869, 871-873, 877-879, and 881-883 Capitol Avenue (1910, 1910, 1911, and 1910).
Camera facing southwest.

4 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 77, 79-81, 83-85, 87-89, and 91-99 Sisson Avenue (1898, 1896, 1897, 1909, and 1909/1906).
Camera facing southwest.

5 of 59.
Streetscape of the intersection of Capitol Avenue and Arbor Street. From left to right, 789-791 Capitol Avenue (1912), 12-14 Arbor Street (1913), 16-30 Arbor Street (1912, 1925), 34-56 Arbor Street (1917, 1936), and 15-17 Arbor Street (1913).
Camera facing south.

6 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 84 ½-86 Sisson Avenue (1905, 1925), showing façade, roof, window, and storefront details. Camera facing east.

7 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 74-76 and 78-80 Sisson Avenue (1907 and 1909). Camera facing northeast.

8 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 Sisson Avenue (1909). Camera facing southeast.

9 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 57 and 59-61 Sisson Avenue (1902 and 1907). Camera facing northwest.

10 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 79-81 and 83-85 Sisson Avenue (1896 and 1897). Camera facing northwest.

11 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 19 and 21 Sisson Avenue (c. 1878 and c. 1875). Camera facing southwest.

12 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 34 Sisson Avenue (c. 1885). Camera facing southeast.

13 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 82 Hazel Street (1930). Camera facing northeast.

14 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 59-61, 63-65, and 67-69 Hazel Street (1906, 1906, and 1911). Camera facing southwest.

15 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 72 and 76-78 Hazel Street (1900 and 1902). Camera facing northeast.

16 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 31-33, 27-29, 23-25, and 19-21 Orange Street (1924, 1925, 1912, and 1925). Camera facing southwest.

17 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 63-65, 67-69, and 71 Orange Street (1913, 1911, and 1912). Camera facing northwest.

18 of 59.
Landscape view of George H. Day Park, 19 Arbor Street (c. 1920). Camera facing northeast.

19 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 16-30 and 34-56 Arbor Street (1912 and 1925, and 1917 and 1936). Camera facing northeast.
20 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 16-30 Arbor Street (1912 and 1925).
Camera facing southeast.

21 of 59.
West (front) elevation of 16-30 Arbor Street (1912).
Camera facing southeast.

22 of 59.
West (front) elevation of 34-56 Arbor Street (1917 and 1936).
Camera facing east.

23 of 59.
Landscape view from 34-56 Arbor Street (1917 and 1936) towards.
Camera facing southeast.

24 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of 1429 Park Street (1920).
Camera facing southeast.

25 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 1477 Park Street (1895 and 1910).
Camera facing southwest.

26 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 30 Bartholomew Avenue (1903).
Camera facing northeast.

27 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 50 Bartholomew Avenue (1922).
Camera facing northeast.

28 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 45 Bartholomew Avenue (1912).
Camera facing southwest.

29 of 59.
East (side) elevation of 81-99 Bartholomew Avenue (1895).
Camera facing southwest.

30 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 110 Bartholomew Avenue (1912, listed in Hartford Assessor’s records as 250 Hamilton Avenue).
Camera facing southeast.

31 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 237 Hamilton Street (1910, 1915-1916, 1943, and 1951).
Camera facing southwest.

32 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 169 Bartholomew Avenue (1919, 1923, 1939, and 1941).
Camera facing southwest.

33 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of (from right to left) 206-208, 210-212, and 214 Hamilton Street (1924, 1914, and 1912).
Camera facing northwest.
34 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 191 and 197 Hamilton Street (1893 and 1890).
Camera facing southeast.

35 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from right to left) 34 and 38-40 Rose Street (c. 1900 and 1907).
Camera facing northeast.

36 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 160-162 and 164-166 Bartholomew Avenue (1907).
Camera facing southeast.

37 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from right to left) 36-38 and 42-44 Belmont Street (1918).
Camera facing northeast.

38 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 17-21 Francis Avenue (1920).
Camera facing southwest.

39 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 49-51 and 53 Francis Avenue (c. 1920 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northwest.

40 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 61 Francis Avenue (c. 1875).
Camera facing southwest.

41 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 105-107, 109-11, and 113 Francis Avenue (c. 1871).
Camera facing southwest.

42 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 133-135, 137-139, and 141-143 Francis Avenue (1913, 1896, 1896).
Camera facing southwest.

43 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1585-1591 and 1597-1599 Park Street (1913).
Camera facing southeast.

44 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1605-1615, 1619-1625, and 1631-1637 Park Street (c. 1890, 1910, c. 1890).
Camera facing southeast.

45 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of (from right to left) 1608-1610 and 1618 Park Street (1912 and 1896).
Camera facing northwest.

46 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 32-34 and 38 New Park Avenue (1898 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northeast.

47 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 78-80 and 82-86 New Park Avenue (c. 1900 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northeast.
48 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 71 New Park Avenue (1922-1925).
Camera facing southwest.

49 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 85 New Park Avenue (1894 and 1907).
Camera facing northwest.

50 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1405-1409 and 1429 Park Street (1920).
Camera facing southwest.

51 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 1651-1663 Park Street (1922).
Camera facing east.

52 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 68-72 New Park Avenue (1924).
Camera facing southeast.

53 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of 784-786 Capitol Avenue (1926).
Camera facing northwest.

54 of 59.
South (side) and east (rear) elevations of 101 Pope Park Highway No. 4 (1930).
Camera facing south.

55 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 46 and 50 New Park Avenue (c. 1880).
Camera facing northeast.

56 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of 85-87 Francis Avenue (c. 1890).
Camera facing northeast.

57 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 26-28 and 30-32 Sisson Avenue (1896 and 1910).
Camera facing southeast.

58 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of 821 Capitol Avenue (left, 1915) and west (front) and north (side) elevations of 80 Orange Street (right, 1915).
Camera facing southeast.

59 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 88-90 Sisson Avenue (1915).
Camera facing southeast.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Overview:

The Parkville Industrial Historic District is located in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford, Connecticut. The district is situated near the western edge of the city, approximately four-tenths of a mile east of the West Hartford line, one-half of a mile west of Pope Park, one mile southwest of Bushnell Park and the Connecticut State Capitol, and just over two miles west of the Connecticut River. The district is crossed on a northeast-southwest axis by the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor and is roughly bounded on three sides by Interstate 84, these areas being located just north of Capitol Avenue, east of Arbor Street and Pope Park Highway Number 4, and south of Olive and Kane Streets. New Park and Sisson Avenues delineate the district’s western border and separate it from the western half of Parkville. These thoroughfares also serve as the primary north-south transportation routes through the district and lead between Hartford’s West End neighborhood and the City’s southern border with West Hartford.

The surrounding area is generally flat and includes eight existing National Register Historic Districts – Sisson-South Whitney Historic District (2013), Frog Hollow Historic District (1979), West Boulevard Historic District (2007), West End South Historic District (1985), Little Hollywood Historic District (1982), Inlay and Laurel Streets Historic District (1979), Laurel and Marshall Streets Historic District (1979), and the Nook Farm and Woodland Street Historic District (1979). The first two districts abut the northwest and east sides of the Parkville Industrial Historic District, respectively, while the remaining six nominations are situated less than four-tenths of a mile to the northwest, north, and northeast. The proposed district includes one resource individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Underwood Computing Machine Company Factory (34-56 Arbor Street, 2010), while its southern boundary abuts the former site of another, the Royal Typewriter Company Building (150 New Park Avenue, 1989), which was demolished after a devastating fire in July 1992.

The proposed district includes all of the resources on Arbor Street, Bartholomew Avenue, Belmont Street, Cherry Street, Francis Avenue, Francis Court, Hazel Street, Orange Street, Pope Park Highway Number 4, and Rose Street, as well as all those resources on Capitol Avenue between Interstate 84 and Sisson Avenue, all those on Hamilton Street between Interstate 84 and New Park Avenue, those on New Park Avenue between Park and Kane Streets (with the exception of the former Royal Typewriter property), all those on Park Street between and Interstate 84 and New Park Avenue, and all those resources on Sisson Avenue between and Capitol Avenue and Park Street (see district boundary map). The district’s primarily residential and commercial (non-industrial) blocks – including Capitol, Francis, and New Park Avenues, and Park, Hazel, Orange, Rose, and Belmont Streets – are delineated much as the rest of those included in Parkville’s grid pattern of streets and are generally of the same scale as those throughout the remainder of the neighborhood. These contrast with the district’s sprawling industrial blocks – for many decades the source of the neighborhood’s vitality and a driver of its development – which primarily flank Bartholomew Avenue, yet can also be found along Arbor Street, Pope Park Highway Number 4, and sections of Hamilton Street and Park Street. Shaped by the needs of industry rather than by the developer’s survey tape, the district’s factory zones cover sprawling parcels of land generally in the vicinity of the rail line.
The aforementioned industrial parcels vary in size and range from as little as one-fifth of an acre to upwards of over six-and-a-half acres in size. Most of these were once included as part of larger properties that were subdivided after a number of the more prominent industrial entities left the city or went out of business during the second half of the twentieth century. While some of the former industrial building stock is scattered across their respective parcels, most of the primary buildings are located close to the street and comply with the neighborhood’s general setback standard of approximately 30 feet. The residential buildings found within the Parkville Industrial Historic District largely share this standard and are located on moderately sized lots of approximately one-eighth of an acre. Several larger lots can be found, these typically being the site of larger apartment or mixed-use buildings, such as those found along Park Street and New Park and Sisson Avenues. The parcels within the district are similar in their size and spacing to the working-class Frog Hollow neighborhood located to the east, yet tend to be smaller and the homes more tightly arranged than those found in the West End neighborhood to the north, which was largely developed for a middle-class population. The western half of Parkville, that lying beyond the broad corridor formed by Sisson and New Park Avenues, was shaped by many of the same developmental forces that define the proposed district and thus shares many of its characteristics.

The Parkville Industrial Historic District is a collection of mid-to-late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century resources consisting of 340 primary structures or sites, 294 of which are contributing. The 46 non-contributing resources consist of 17 buildings and 29 vacant lots, the former including 11 commercial and 6 residential structures. The district’s historic building stock is predominantly residential, with approximately 223 of the contributing structures used solely for this purpose, and another 19 erected or later converted for mixed residential and commercial use. The exclusively residential buildings consist of 18 single-family houses and 205 multi-family dwellings. Among the latter are 175 residences containing two or three units, and 30 apartment buildings of four units or greater. The majority of the residential or mixed-use buildings remain substantially intact and free of major alterations or non-historic additions. The district also includes 103 secondary contributing resources; these being one- or two-story detached automobile garages.

The district’s non-residential contributing resources include 48 industrial or commercial buildings, five religious buildings (among these being one religious college and two buildings adapted for religious use), one institutional building, and one public park. Like the homes and apartment buildings found within the district, the non-residential resources are largely true to their original state. However, while the majority continue to function according to their historic purposes, a number, particularly those originally erected for industrial firms, have been put to new – primarily commercial – uses since the collapse of Hartford’s industrial prowess that took place during the second half of the twentieth century.

The district’s contributing buildings represent a broad assortment of construction materials and methods. Approximately 165 of the district’s 293 contributing buildings are wood frame with either original or replacement wall cladding, 99 are brick masonry, four are brick masonry with frame or metal sheathing, nine are brick masonry and frame, three are brick and stucco, six are brick and concrete, two are brick and concrete block, three are concrete block, one is poured concrete masonry, and one is granite masonry. These were built between 1868 and 1959, and all represent a significant period in Hartford’s developmental history. The architectural styles present include the majority of those popular during the period of significance and illustrate the skill and versatility of local and
regional architects and builders. While the majority of contributing resources classifiable by style are of Colonial Revival character; other designs include Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mission, Late Gothic Revival, Art Deco, and modern forms. However, as the district was largely developed as a working-class neighborhood, a substantial number of the contributing buildings can simply be classified as vernacular. While some are very plain, others illustrate the frequency with which various influences were melded together by local builders, the results being an eclectic aesthetic environment. The mix of forms and variety of styles seen throughout the Parkville Industrial Historic District creates an architecturally diverse yet simultaneously cohesive collection of historically significant buildings.

Narrative Description:

The northeastern entrance to the district is located on Capitol Avenue as one passes under Interstate 84 heading west. Upon arriving at Capitol Avenue’s intersection with Arbor Street the mixed residential, commercial, and industrial character of the district is clearly established. To the west, rows of three-story multi-family residences and apartment buildings flank the north and south sides of Capitol Avenue – these terminating at a small mixed-use commercial hub at the intersection with Sisson Avenue – while just to the south along Arbor Street stand the former industrial plants of the Gray Telephone Pay Company and Underwood Computing Machine Company (Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). The northern reaches of the Parkville Industrial Historic District were the last to be developed and as late as 1909 only two houses had been erected on the stretch of Capitol Avenue between Arbor Street and Sisson Avenue. This changed rapidly, however, as land in Parkville had become increasingly scarce during the first decade of the 1900s and by the end of 1912 almost all of the aforementioned section of Capitol Avenue had been built up. As was typical of much of the construction that took place throughout the surrounding area at the time, the residential development that occurred along Capitol Avenue was characterized by rows of nearly identical two-and-a-half- or three-story multi-family dwellings that were primarily built in groups on speculation. A number, including the row of six red-brick residences at 792-794, 798-800, 804-810, and 814-816, and 818-820 Capitol Avenue (Photograph 1; 1910, 1911, and 1911), were built in a short burst of activity between 1910 and 1912 and are of a style common throughout Hartford’s industrial neighborhoods. Locally known as the “Perfect Three,” these are three-family buildings with one unit on each floor, the floor plan being identical on each level. The dwellings often show Colonial or Neoclassical Revival influences and are oblong in shape, have offset paired entry doors, three-story front porches, and low-pitch hipped roofs. A three-story bow front is a common feature, as are broad metal cornices of varying degrees of detail. The Capitol Avenue examples also show ashlar brownstone block foundations and window sills; segmental-arched splayed brick lintels; and plain, widely overhanging cornices.

Moving further west along Capitol Avenue, one soon comes across another variation of the Perfect Three. The trio of red-brick residences at 858-860, 864-866, and 868-870 Capitol Avenue (Photograph 2), all erected in 1910, are similar in their basic
design to those identified above, yet most notably lack the three-story bow front. Here, rather, a three-story polygonal bay is present on the west (side) elevation and the first story of the three-story porch has been extended across the façade of each dwelling. The buildings have ashlar brownstone block foundations; concrete window sills and lintels; and plain, widely overhanging cornices. The latter are of pressed metal construction and, unlike their neighbors to the east, possess dentil courses running below their eave lines.

Four examples of another residential form found throughout the district are located across Capitol Avenue from 858-860, 864-866, and 868-870 Capitol Avenue. The houses at 867-869, 871-873, 877-879, and 881-883 Capitol Avenue (Photograph 3; 1910, 1910, 1911, and 1910) are manifestations of a plan popular throughout the city around the turn of the nineteenth century. They are two-and-a-half-story two- or three-family residences with front facing pitched roofs, cross gables, and prominent front porches. These relatively inexpensive designs provided increased living space within their gabled or dormered attic stories, which made for comfortable multi-family dwellings that allowed working- or middle-class individuals to supplant their income while enjoying the privilege of residing in their own house. The three frame houses at 867-869, 871-873, and 877-879 Capitol Avenue are identical designs, these showing ashlar brownstone block foundations; paired offset entries; full-width, one-story, hipped-roof porches with pedimented partial-width second-story porches above; and widely spaced windows in their front-facing gable-ends. On the other hand, while the residence at 881-883 Capitol Avenue shares the general form of the three houses directly to the east, slight differences in its design illustrate the versatility of the form and the ways builders made slight modifications to exterior details in an effort to set a house or group of houses apart from its neighbors. In addition to being of mixed red-brick and frame construction, 881-883 Capitol Avenue has flat-roofed rather than hipped and gabled porches, and paired rather than widely-spaced windows in its front-facing gable end.

A group of similar houses can be found at the southwest corner of the intersection of Capitol and Sisson Avenues (Photograph 4). Three of these, 87-89, 91-93, and 95-99 Sisson Avenue (1909, 1909, and 1906), were built just before those around the corner on Capitol Avenue yet share many similar details. These include their front-facing pitched roofs, cross gables, and prominent multi-story front porches. The houses at 87-89 and 91-93 Sisson Avenue were erected as a pair by local builder, Thomas L. McKone, and show a mix of red-brick and frame construction, offset entries, two-story bow fronts, and two-story porches. That at 95-99 Sisson Avenue, built by William H. Ray, is of frame construction, and while lacking a bow front has prominent cross gables on its north and south (side) elevations. As noted, the intersection of Capitol and Sisson Avenues can be classified as a mixed residential and commercial hub, this shift taking place during the 1920s as several residences were converted for mixed-use by the addition of ground-level storefronts. Such included the one-story brick block with peaked parapet now connecting 91-93 and 95-99 Sisson Avenue, this built in 1927, and the brick storefront erected at 84-86 Sisson Avenue (Photograph 6, 1905) in 1925.

Moving south along Sisson Avenue between Capitol and New Park Avenues the visitor traverses a streetscape that is in many aspects similar to that along Capitol Avenue. This includes the presence of several groups of red-brick Perfect Threes found along the east side of the street, among them being the pair of residences built by Robert A. McKone at 74-76 and 78-80 Sisson Avenue in 1907 and 1909 (Photograph 7), and the four houses at 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 Sisson Avenue erected by Frank E. McLean in 1909.
(Photograph 8). Like the aforementioned examples to the northeast along Capitol Avenue, these houses illustrate the variety of forms found within this classification. The dwellings at 74-76 and 78-80 Sisson Avenue show three-story bow fronts flanked by wrap-around one-story porches with Tuscan columns and pedimented hipped roofs, while those at 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 Sisson Avenue are more akin to 858-860, 864-866, and 868-870 Capitol Avenue, as they possess three-story polygonal bays on their north (side) elevations rather than a bow front, and a mix of three-story open or enclosed porches.

In contrast, however, the western side of Sisson Avenue is occupied by a diverse and detailed assortment of residences with no more than a pair of buildings being of identical or nearly identical styling. One such pair includes the Colonial Revival style houses at 57 and 59-61 Sisson Avenue, these erected by D.J. Dahill in 1902 and 1907, respectively (Photograph 9). Built five years apart, these brick and frame dwellings vary only in the details of their front porches and gable-end fenestration. The house at 57 Sisson Avenue is the more simple of the two buildings and has a tripartite gable-end window and a partial-width two-story porch with square supports on its first story, shingled piers on its second story, and a pedimented roof. In contrast, 59-61 Sisson Avenue has two widely spaced gable-end windows – these with denticulated lintels – and a partial-width two-story porch with square supports and denticulated cornice on its first story, shingled piers on its second story, and a flat roof with modillioned cornice.

Another detailed Colonial Revival residence can be found at 83-85 Sisson Avenue (Photograph 10). This red-brick house was constructed by a notable Hartford building firm, Porteus Brothers, Inc., in 1897, and shows an ashlar brownstone block foundation and window sills, splayed red-brick lintels, broad modillioned cornice, widely overhanging hipped roof, and hipped dormers with modillioned eavelines. Further details include a two-story polygonal bay on the residence’s south (side) elevation, and a full-width one-story porch with square balusters, paired Doric columns, bracketed and modillioned cornice, and hipped roof with pedimented cross gable over the entry. The house’s southern neighbor at 79-81 Sisson Avenue is an additional Colonial Revival home of note, this showing some Queen Anne style influences (Photograph 10). The multi-family frame house was constructed by local builder F.H. Turner in 1896 and has an ashlar brownstone block foundation, horizontal board siding on the first story and wood shingle siding on its upper levels, a widely overhanging hipped roof, prominent cross gable over a two-story polygonal bay on its south (side) elevation, and a gabled front-facing dormer. The house also has a second-story enclosed porch with flat-arched openings and multi-pane fenestration.

The southern end of Sisson Avenue, that near its intersection with Park Street, was one of the sections of Parkville that saw the earliest upticks in its development and, as such, some of the district’s oldest resources can be found here. Among these is a pair of houses – 19 and 21 Sisson Avenue – built during the 1870s and another – 34 Sisson Avenue – built the following decade (Photographs 11 and 12). The residences at 19 and 21 Sisson Avenue are good examples of two of the earliest architectural forms found in the district. The Italianate style house at 21 Sisson Avenue was erected circa 1875 and its simple hipped roof form is a design common throughout the city and the district. The two-story dwelling has red-brick masonry walls faced with stucco, a three-bay façade with offset entry, brownstone sills and lintels, and a widely overhanging low-pitch hipped roof. The main entry has a pedimented portico with fluted Doric columns and a widely overhanging pitched roof. Its neighbor to the south at 19 Sisson Avenue was built circa 1878
and is a good example of a center-gable Gothic Revival dwelling. The two-story frame house has a steeply-pitched side-gabled roof with front-facing cross gable, paired gable-end windows, and detailed bargeboards. The latter are particularly notable as they bear a repeating pattern of scroll-cut shamrocks, an interesting detail in this historically Irish neighborhood. Although the house’s one-story Folk Victorian-style veranda and two-story polygonal bay window are not original details, they were added by the house’s first owner, Ezra Smart, a machinist at the Pratt and Whitney Company, in 1898. Not only have these features graced the house long enough to gain historical significance in their own right, their details, including the turned porch supports and bracketed spindlework lend additional architectural character to the residence.

On the east side of Sisson Avenue and several houses north of 19 and 21 Sisson Avenue stands the district’s only example of the Second Empire style. Originally erected as a single-family residence, the house at 34 Sisson Avenue was converted for multi-family use in 1918. The residence retains a number of features typical of Second Empire designs and is one of the most highly detailed in the district. Second Empire influences include the house’s distinctive mansard roof, broad cornice with scroll-cut brackets, and pedimented and round-arched dormers. Having been constructed at the tail end of the Second Empire style’s popularity, however, it is unsurprising that features common among a contemporary form found their way into this house. This refers to details of the residence’s porch, the gable ends of which are ornamented with decorative trusses more typically found on Stick style designs.

To the east, two residential streets run parallel to Sisson Avenue and extend two blocks between Capitol Avenue and Park Street. These share similar scale and setback to the buildings already described and are generally of the same architectural character and styling. The first street east of Sisson Avenue, Hazel Street, was with only one exception – 80-82 Hazel Street (Photograph 13, 1930) – developed between 1898 and 1912 and is almost exclusively lined with Colonial Revival, two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame houses. These are typified by residences such as those on the west side of the street at 59-61, 63-65, and 67-69 Hazel Street (Photograph 14; 1906, 1906, and 1911), and on the east side at 72 and 76-78 Hazel Street (Photograph 15, 1900 and 1902). These residences are of the same template as many of those erected on Sisson and Capitol Avenue and they demonstrate a similar propensity on the part of local builders to blend a variety of details including pitched or gambrel roofs; multi-story polygonal bays on the front and/or side elevations; and multi-story front porches with assorted balustrade configurations, square or Tuscan supports, and flat, hipped, or gable roofs. A handful of residences, such as 72 Hazel Street, possess a slightly greater degree of detailing than others. Here scroll-cut bargeboards decorate the gable end of the house’s front-facing cutaway polygonal bay, and a tripartite window with splayed lintel is present in the primary gable.

In contrast to Hazel Street, Orange Street, a block to east, was primarily built up with small three-story brick apartment blocks, these interspersed with a handful of brick or frame Perfect Threes and triple-decker houses. This was largely the result of the fact that while Hazel and Orange Streets were laid out concurrently, the latter was not developed until the 1910s and early 1920s. By this point in time, the demand for working-class housing had intensified throughout Parkville and property owners were seizing upon the business opportunities presented by the scarcity of housing in the area. A number of the buildings erected along Orange Street are of a style exceptionally common throughout Hartford’s working class neighborhoods, these known locally as the “Perfect Six.” The
Perfect Six is in essence a double version of the aforementioned Perfect Three, the former being a three-story, six-family residence with two units on each floor. Typically these have a symmetrical façade with centered entrance – this often set within a recessed entryway and flanked by three-story bow fronts; bold, often highly detailed, cornices; and flat or low-pitch hipped roofs. Stylistically, Perfect Sixes tend to draw from a variety of influences ranging from the Colonial and Neoclassical Revivals to the Italian Renaissance and Beaux Arts forms.

Examples lining Orange Street include the three buildings on the west side of the street south of Cherry Street at 19-21, 27-29, and 31-33 Orange Street (Photograph 16; 1925, 1925, 1924), and two dwellings north of Cherry Street at 63-65 and 71 Orange Street (Photograph 17, 1925 and 1924). All three of the former are accredited to prolific Hartford architect George Zunner, and consist of two Italian Renaissance style inspired designs (19-21 and 27-29 Orange Street) and one Mission style building (31-33 Orange Street). The dwellings at 19-21 and 27-29 Orange Street are notable for their yellow-brick facades and three-story window bays, which are formed by the use of a contrasting shade of yellow-brick that frames the primary windows and creates both second- and third-story spandrel panels and Palladianesque window heads. Similarly, the use of red-brick wall detailing at 13-33 Orange Street alludes to its stylistic influences, this applied to a template essentially identical to its southern neighbors. Additional details present on all three of the aforementioned buildings – these including concrete rosettes, keystones, and corbels, and stepped parapets – illustrate the tendency of other architectural forms to creep into the design of these relatively straightforward buildings.

The apartment blocks at 63-65 and 71 Orange Street were designed by another notable Hartford architect, Burton A. Sellew (as was the Perfect Three located between them at 67-69 Orange Street), and further demonstrate the versatility of the Perfect Six template. The buildings represent an alternative interpretation of the Italian Renaissance style, and a Colonial Revival-inspired form, respectively. The dwelling at 63-65 Orange Street shows an ashlar brownstone block foundation, concrete watertable, recessed entry set in an arched opening with concrete keystone, tripartite windows with concrete sills and splayed lintels, and a widely overhanging modillioned cornice. That at 71 Orange Street is similar in most aspects yet has a poured concrete foundation and a rectangular entryway bearing a concrete surround with prominent quoins and keystone.

Starting from its intersection with Cherry Street, Arbor Street runs in a northeasterly direction framing a wedge-shaped piece of land bounded by Capitol Avenue on the north, Orange Street on the west, and Arbor Street to the east. The southern half of the wedge is occupied by a public space laid out with the rest of the surrounding parcels by Hartford industrialist George H. Day circa 1890, yet not adopted for use as a city park until circa 1920. The active recreation oriented park is surrounded by mature deciduous trees, while the interior is occupied by a mix of basketball courts and playground equipment (Photograph 18).

George H. Day Park separates the residential blocks along Orange Street from one of the primary hubs of the district’s former industrial activity, this referenced at the beginning of the narrative (Photographs 5, 19, and 20). The pair of factory complexes located on the east side of Arbor Street can be attributed to two of the most significant entities in the district’s development – and the City’s history – and are generally typical of other industrial plants erected during the period of their construction. That at 16-30 Arbor Street was built by the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company in two phases – these taking place in 1912 and 1925 – and is of poured
concrete and steel frame construction (Photograph 20). The factory has an H-shaped plan, this created by the construction of a four-story addition to the original southern block and central ell in 1925. The four-story Late Gothic Revival style building is more highly detailed than most of the district’s industrial resources and its heavy concrete piers rise into a prominent concrete cornice with a crenellated brick parapet wall above. The massive piers along the building’s façade are ornamented with heavy concrete consoles and pediments. The four-story bays created by the piers throughout the structure are divided on each floor by large, multi-pane, steel-frame hopper windows separated by red-brick spandrel panels. The factory’s entrance is located on the western elevation of its southern block and is sheltered by a partial-width, one-story entry porch with arched concrete columns, a crenellated brick parapet, and concrete pinnacles (Photograph 21). The entry is flanked by multi-pane sidelights and has a tripartite multi-pane transom above.

The factory complex at 34-56 Arbor Street was erected in phases for the Underwood Computing Machine Company, a division of the Underwood Typewriter Company, starting in 1917 (Photograph 19). Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, the building is of standard brick mill construction and shows subtle Italianate influences including tall, arched windows; flat roofline; brick cornice; and square towers with low-pitch hipped roofs. The four-story red-brick building has a poured concrete foundation, four-story bays framed by brick piers, segmental-arched window openings with brownstone sills, brick and copper cornice, and a flat roof. The four-and-a-half-story towers have brownstone quoins, simple copper-capped cornices, and shallow hipped roofs with slate shingles. Each of the two towers has a recessed entryway with a segmented brick relief arch and double fireproof doors. The Art Deco-style main entryway – added as part of other renovations in 1936 – is centered on the front elevation. The frontispiece is constructed of molded concrete and bears a large metal “56” indicating the building’s address (Photograph 22).

Gazing southwest from Arbor Street across southern end of the Underwood Computing Machine Company parcel a view of the Parkville Industrial Historic District’s other primary industrial hub can be seen (Photograph 23). The most prominent resource visible in this panorama is also one of the district’s most notable. This is the six-story, flat-slab, reinforced concrete and steel factory building erected at the northeast corner of the intersection of Park Street and Bartholomew Avenue for the United States Rubber Company, successor to the Hartford Rubber Works Company, in 1920 (Photograph 24). The towering, 300’ by 150’ Art Deco-inspired building is dominated by stepped concrete piers framing six-story arcaded bays on all sides of the factory. The bays are filled with large multi-pane hopper windows separated by yellow-brick spandrel panels and concrete sills and lintels, these rising to a stepped yellow-brick parapet running along the roofline. The piers, stringcourses, sills, lintels, and parapet coping are all painted bright white, this giving the structure a clean and gleaming aesthetic. Two pairs of massive stepped concrete piers dominate the west elevation. These rise six stories to the building’s roofline and are ornamented with a series of recessed rectangular panels.

On the west side of Bartholomew directly opposite the United States Rubber Company Factory is the oldest surviving building once associated with the Hartford Rubber Works Company (Photograph 25). Designed by notable Hartford architect, George Keller, the three-story structure at 1477 Park Street was built as an office and factory for the Hartford-based rubber manufacturer in

1895 and consists of a standard brick mill design with ashlar brownstone block foundation; red-brick masonry walls; front-facing pitched roof; stepped parapet; and a three-story, cross-gable rear block. The building’s entry is centered on its three-bay façade (north elevation) and consists of a tall round-arched opening with recessed brick surround, half-round fanlight, and brownstone hood mold. Fenestration throughout the building has rough-cut brownstone sills, the windows on the façade being in paired or tripartite arrangements.

Heading south along Bartholomew Avenue towards Hamilton Avenue, the visitor passes through a mixed-use corridor lined with notable manufacturing and auxiliary industrial buildings. These include, among others, the three-story brick mill-style factory with prominent castellated entry tower built for the Hartford Rubber Works Company at 30 Bartholomew Avenue in 1903 (Photograph 26); the two-story, red-brick, multi-purpose industrial building erected by the United States Rubber Company at 50 Bartholomew Avenue in 1922 (Photograph 27); the two-story reinforced concrete boiler house built by the Hartford Rubber Works Company at 45 Bartholomew Avenue in 1912 (Photograph 28); the two-story red-brick complex built by the Pope Tube Company at 81-99 Bartholomew Avenue in 1895 (Photograph 29); and the four-story brick mill-style building erected by the Hart Manufacturing Company at 110 Bartholomew Avenue in 1910 (Photograph 30). While these resources are of a generally vernacular character and their ornamentation minimal, a number of decorative details grace what are typical examples of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century manufacturing buildings. These include tall, narrow windows set in segmental-arched openings, rough-cut brownstone sills, corbelled brick cornices, and stepped brick parapets.

Upon crossing Hamilton Street, the west side of Bartholomew Avenue is dominated by two manufacturing complexes, these anchoring the southern end of the district’s industrial zone (Photographs 31 and 32). The buildings were erected for the Whitney Manufacturing Company starting in 1906 and both experienced several expansions over time. Work on the northernmost of the two complexes began at 237 Hamilton Street in 1906 and consisted of a four-story, 226’ by 60’, brick and concrete office and manufacturing plant. The building has a heavy one-story poured concrete base, red-brick piers framing three-story bays, concrete spandrel panels, concrete corbels and cornice, and a flat roof. The primary entry is located on the second story of the north elevation and consists of a one-story poured concrete entry porch with concrete pilasters and front-facing pitched roof with cornice returns. The Whitney Manufacturing Company expanded the factory south along Bartholomew Avenue with the construction of an identically styled five-story block in 1910, and another four-story addition between 1915 and 1916. In 1919, the company erected the first four-story 155’ x 62’ section of its plant at 169 Bartholomew Street roughly 125’ south of its earlier factory. The new building mimicked the details of the original plant and was eventually expanded south along Bartholomew Avenue in 1923 and 1939. Its primary entry is located on the north elevation and has a pedimented frame door surround with engaged pilasters, wide frieze, and multi-pane transom.

The southeast corner of the Parkville Industrial Historic District is comprised of a residential development laid out by a local real estate speculator, William Francis, in 1872, yet was not developed in earnest until the early 1890s. The Francis plat extends south

---

2 The building identified as 110 Hamilton Avenue is listed as 250 Hamilton Street in Hartford Assessor’s records.
from Hamilton Street and east of Bartholomew Avenue and is bounded on its south and east sides by Interstate 84. The building stock in this section of the neighborhood is similar to that throughout the remainder of the district and is comprised of a mix of brick and frame structures generally two to three stories in height. This character is clearly demonstrated on Hamilton Street where a row of brick apartment and mixed-use buildings grace the north side of the street at 206-208, 210-212, and 214 Hamilton Street, and stand opposite multi-family frame houses such as 191 and 197 Hamilton Avenue (Photographs 33 and 34). The three-story structures at 210-212 and 214 Hamilton Street were constructed in 1914 and 1912, respectively, and share Colonial Revival details typical among many other Perfect Six and Perfect Three style buildings throughout the district and the city. Designed by Hartford architect Burton A. Sellew, such details visible at 210-212 Hamilton Street include concrete quoins, splayed brick and concrete lintels, a broad denticulated and modillioned cornice, and a prominent concrete entry surround with quoins and keystones. The three-story, 12-unit apartment building next door at 206-208 Hamilton Avenue was designed by Hartford architect George Zunner and erected in 1925. The building bears an eclectic mix of stylistic influences drawn from the Italian Renaissance, Colonial, and Tudor Revival forms. These include its yellow-brick façade, concrete lintel keys, stepped parapet, and round-arched entry with corbel keystone, multi-pane fanlight, and concrete quoins.

Across the street at 191 and 197 Hamilton Avenue stand two multi-family frame dwellings typical of those found throughout the district during the early 1890s. While that erected at 191 Hamilton Avenue in 1893 is generally vernacular in character, the house built next door at 197 Hamilton Avenue circa 1890 is one of the district’s best examples of the Stick style. Typical of Stick style designs, 197 Hamilton Street has a steeply-pitched front-facing gable roof with cross gables, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, scroll-cut bargeboards, and decorative horseshoe trusses in its gable ends. Similar details are found on the one-story full-width porch, this, however, lacking horseshoe trusses.

Traveling two blocks south to Rose Street, one comes across several additional frame residences typical of those found throughout the district (Photograph 35). The vernacular house at 34 Rose Street, built circa 1900, is of a similar design to those found along Hazel Street and Capitol Avenue, while that erected at 38-40 Rose Street in 1907 is essentially a frame version of a Perfect Three. Lacking extraneous ornamentation, these affordable utilitarian houses were in high demand in this working-class neighborhood.

Mixed among these simple structures, and quite often bearing more architectural detailing, are a number of Perfect Sixes reminiscent of those ubiquitous throughout the Frog Hollow neighborhood to the east. These include the pair erected at 160-162 and 164-166 Bartholomew Avenue in 1907, and those built at 36-38 and 42-44 Belmont Street in 1918 (Photographs 36 and 37). Typical of hundreds of Hartford’s Perfect Sixes, these Colonial Revival style six-unit apartment buildings have symmetrical facades, recessed round-arched entries flanked by three-story bow fronts, segmental-arched window openings with ashlarp brownstone sills, and (in the case of three of the structures) broad metal modillioned cornices. The cornices of the buildings at 160-162 and 164-166 Bartholomew Avenue are particularly highly detailed and bear wide metal friezes embossed with repeating leaf and floral patterns.
Returning to the intersection of Hamilton Street and Bartholomew Avenue and then heading a block west along the former the visitor crosses the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor before arriving at Francis Avenue, which runs on a northeast-southwest axis parallel to the rail line. Except for several small one- or two-story commercial buildings – such as the red-brick machine shop just south of Park Street at 17-21 Francis Avenue (Photograph 38, 1920) – Francis Avenue is primarily characterized by late-nineteenth century residential development consisting of brick or frame single- and multi-family houses. Among these are several of the oldest resources in the Parkville Industrial Historic District. The house at 53 Francis Avenue was erected circa 1875 and bears Italianate and Stick style influences. (Photograph 39). The former is represented by the dwelling’s low-pitch gable roof with widely overhanging eaves; tall, narrow windows; polygonal bay; and corner porch with bracketed square supports; while the latter are visible in the scroll-cut decorative trusses found in the house’s gable ends. The Italianate style residence two doors down at 61 Francis Avenue, likewise erected circa 1875, is typical for its low-pitch gable roof with widely overhanging eaves; tall, narrow windows; and corner porch with bracketed square supports (Photograph 40). The round-arched window located on its north (side) elevation is an additional detail common among houses of this style.

Traveling south along Francis Avenue and upon crossing Hamilton Street one comes across another group of dwellings erected very early in the neighborhood’s developmental history. The residences built at 105-107, 109-11, and 113 Francis Avenue in 1871 are good examples of simple Italianate style houses built for the working class (Photograph 41). They have three-bay facades with offset entries, widely overhanging low-pitch hipped roofs, and simple entry porches. The first of these three dwellings is the best preserved of the group and shows red-brick masonry walls, ashlar brownstone sills and lintels, and low-pitch hipped roof. The house retains its hipped entry porch, however, the original supports have been replaced.

A bit further south, and likewise on the west side of Francis Avenue, stand two of the few examples of Perfect Three style residences found on the street (Photograph 42). The Colonial Revival style Perfect Three at 133-135 Francis Avenue was one of the last dwellings to be constructed in this section of the district and is also one of its most highly detailed. The three-story red-brick building was erected in 1913 and has a poured concrete foundation, concrete quoins, segmental-arched window openings with concrete sills and splayed brick and concrete lintels, and a broad and widely overhanging denticulated and modillioned metal cornice. The three-story frame house erected two doors down at 141-143 Francis Avenue in 1896 has an ashlar brownstone block foundation; paired offset entries flanked by a three-story bow front; and a widely overhanging, low-pitch hipped roof. The house retains its Folk Victorian style entry porch, this showing bracketed turned supports, spindlework, exposed rafter tails, and decorative stick work in the gable of its front-facing pitched roof. In contrast, the two-and-a-half-story frame house located between the two aforementioned residences at 137-139 Francis Avenue is another typical example of the multi-family residences built along the street during the 1890s. Built in 1896, the house is of the standard front-gabled plan bearing cross gables and front porches as so commonly seen elsewhere throughout the district and the city.

The northern end of Francis Avenue terminates at Park Street in the heart of the Parkville Industrial Historic District. While industrial and commercial buildings line Park Street to the west, as described, to the east the street’s character shifts to that of a vibrant
mixed residential and commercial area. This is typified by the block along the south side of the street directly west of its intersection with Francis Avenue and extending west to New Park Avenue. Here, structures such as 1585-1591, 1597-1599, 1605-1615, 1619-1625, and 1631-1637 Park Street illustrate the diversity of the area’s mixed-use building stock (Photographs 43 and 44). The four-story mixed-use and apartment buildings at 1585-1591 and 1597-1599 Park Street are typical Colonial Revival designs of brick construction and have concrete sills and splayed brick lintels, concrete stringcourses, broad and widely overhanging modillioned metal cornices, and flat roofs. In order to offset the higher property values of this high traffic corridor the buildings are larger than many others found throughout the district, in the case of 1597-1599 Park Street housing eight residential units and 1585-1591 Park Street blending six apartments with ground-floor commercial space in an effort to draw in additional rental income.

Similarly the pair of red-brick Queen Anne houses erected at 1605-1615 and 1631-1637 Park Street circa 1890 were converted to accommodate commercial uses on their first floors during the 1920s. Despite these alterations, the buildings retain the majority of the details that qualify them as being of Queen Anne derivation. Such include the patterned brick stringcourses running across the first and second stories and extending through the flat-arched window openings, steeply-pitched hipped roofs with lower cross gables, exposed rafter tails, paired eave line brackets, and pointed-arch bargeboards. Patterned shingle work in the gable ends and shed dormers with paired windows complete the Queen Anne designs. The mixed-use building at 1619-1625 Park Street was erected between the aforementioned dwellings in 1910 and was connected with its eastern neighbor through the addition of a one-story yellow-brick storefront during the circa 1920 alterations. Regardless of these changes, the red-brick building retains a number of its original Colonial Revival details including brick quoin, ashlar brownstone sills and lintels, and denticulated and modillioned cornice.

In contrast, a pair of two-and-a-half-story multi-family frame houses stand on the north side of Park Street opposite the aforementioned mixed-use buildings. These include the Colonial Revival residence built at 1608-1610 Park Street in 1912, and mixed Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival house at 1618 Park Street in 1896 (Photograph 45). The older of the two dwellings is one of the finest in the district and has an ashlar brownstone block foundation, wood shingle siding, engaged corner turret with round first story and octagonal upper level and spire roof, oriel window, hipped roof, and cross gables with recessed diamond-pane windows. Fenestration on the first story of the residence consists of double-hung windows with diamond-pane upper sash. Similarly, diamond-pane sidelights flank the main entrance, this sheltered by a partial-width one-story porch with shingled piers and Tuscan columns, shingled frieze, and hipped roof. Two shingled bays are present on the first story of the east (side) elevation, one having rounded sides and the other polygonal. The bays have denticulated cornices and low-pitch roofs. While not as highly detailed as its western neighbor, the house at 1608-1610 Park Street is an excellent and well-preserved example of the front-gabled, Colonial Revival multi-family houses found throughout the district. This has an ashlar brownstone block foundation, horizontal board and wood shingle siding, two-story cutaway bay, front-facing gable roof with cornice returns, and prominent cross gables. The building’s partial-width two-story porch has solid and square spindle balustrades, Tuscan columns, wide frieze, and a flat roof.

Continuing west along Park Street and then turning south along New Park Avenue – likewise a heavily traveled and vibrant corridor – the mixed-use character of this section of the district persists. The building stock along New Park Avenue differs somewhat
from that along Park Street, however, as it consists of a higher percentage of freestanding single- or multi-family residences, a number of these converted for mixed-use during the early twentieth century. Such are exemplified by the pair of buildings at 32-34 and 38 New Park Avenue (Photograph 46), built in 1898 and circa 1875, respectively. The mixed Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style frame dwelling at 32-34 New Park Avenue continues to be used as a multifamily residence and retains a number of its original decorative details including scroll-cut trim in the two-story cutaway bay on its south (side) elevation, modillioned triangular projections in its gable ends, and one-story front porch with square supports, hipped roof, cross-gable pediment, and gabled upper-story porch. In contrast, the two-story Italianate frame house at 38 New Park Avenue was altered for mixed residential and commercial use by the enclosure of its wrap-around porch in 1946. The building’s early character remains evident, however, in its cross-gable plan, widely overhanging pitched roof, and round-arched gable-end windows.

Further south past Hamilton Street, 78-80 and 82-86 New Park Avenue illustrate two additional examples typical of the building stock along the street (Photograph 47). The older of the two, 82-86 New Park Avenue, was erected circa 1875, likely as a six-unit residential building. Converted for mixed use by 1900, the three-story, red-brick, Italianate style structure is notable for its broad cast iron cornice with heavy brackets and widely overhanging roofline. The building next door at 78-80 New Park Avenue is a red-brick Italian Renaissance Revival style Perfect Six erected circa 1900. This has an ashlar brownstone block foundation, brick quoins, recessed round-arched entry, paired windows with ashlar brownstone block sills and lintels, and a broad modillioned metal cornice.

While buildings similar to those just described line the west side of New Park Avenue as far south as Francis Court, the east side of the street opposite 78-80 and 82-86 New Park Avenue is occupied by two of the district’s most notable and historically significant structures. These include the Gothic Revival Our Lady of Sorrows Church, erected at 71 New Park Avenue between 1922 and 1925, and La Salette Missionary College, the original portion of which having been built at 85 New Park Avenue in 1894 (Photographs 48 and 49). Our Lady of Sorrows Church was designed by the Boston architectural firm of O’Connell and Shaw and constructed by Hartford builders McIntyre and Ahearn. The structure measures 80 feet wide by 170 wide and was constructed of granite from the Duncan-Rusk quarries at West Townsend, Massachusetts. The building has ashlar granite block walls; a central nave flanked by towers, side aisles, and transepts; pointed-arch fenestration, stepped buttresses, forty-foot steel and copper pinnacle, and a front-facing gable roof with slate sheathing. The façade is dominated by a three-story pointed-arch portal with detailed archivolt and trefoil tracery. The primary entry is centered on the façade and consists of an enclosed entry porch with pointed-arch opening, heavy wood doors, and stone pinnacles.

Next door at 85 New Park Avenue, La Salette Missionary College is a four-and-a-half-story, red-brick, Georgian Revival structure with a side-gabled main block flanked by four-and-a-half-story cross-gable wings. The building has an ashlar brownstone block foundation, symmetrical façade with projecting four-and-a-half-story cross-gable entry pavilion, brownstone quoins on both corners of the forward-projecting wings, brownstone stringcourses forming round-arched lintels on the first- and third-story windows, modillioned cornice, pedimented gable dormers, and an octagonal steeple with double-hung windows, modillioned cornice, and spire roof. Fenestration throughout the building includes a mix of round- and segmental-arched window openings, these with brownstone
sills and lintels. Entries centered on the façade of the cross-gable wings have brownstone surrounds and fanlights with curvilinear tracery. These are flanked by tall, round-arched windows, likewise with curvilinear tracery.
List of Properties Located within the Parkville Industrial Historic District:

Arbor Street – All; #12/14 to #34/56, inclusive.
Bartholomew Avenue – All; #17/35 to #201, inclusive.
Belmont Street – All; #22 to #51/53, inclusive.
Capitol Avenue – #753 to #989, inclusive.
Cherry Street – All; #7/9 to #40, inclusive.
Francis Avenue – All, #’s 10-162/164, inclusive.
Francis Court – All, #8, inclusive.
Hamilton Street - #’s 155-300, inclusive.
Hazel Street – All, #’s 7-80, inclusive.
New Park Avenue – #’s 4/6-213, less #’s 150 and 152.
Orange Street – All, #’s 8-80, inclusive.
Park Street - #1390/1400 to #1651/1663, inclusive.
Pope Park Highway Number 4 – All; #’s 55/61 to #101, inclusive.
Rose Street – All; #30 to #49, inclusive.
Sisson Avenue - #7 to #91/99, inclusive.

Statistical Profile of the District:

Primary Contributing Resources: 294
Secondary Contributing Resources: 103
Vacant Lots: 29
Non-contributing Structures: 17
Total: 443

Use (current) of Primary Contributing Resources –
Residential: 223
(Single-family: 18)
(Multi-family, 2-3 units: 175)
(Apartment buildings, 4+ units: 30)
Commercial or Industrial: 48
Institutional: 1
Mixed-use: 19
Religious: 5
Public: 1
Total: 294

Ages of Primary Contributing Structures (dates of construction) –
Pre – 1870: 1
1870 – 1879: 25
1880 – 1889: 4
1890 – 1899: 79
1900 – 1909: 58
1910 – 1919: 87
1920 – 1929: 22
1930 – 1939: 6
1940 – 1949: 8
1950 – 1959: 3
1960 – 1964: 0
1965 – 1969: 2
1970 – 1979: 4
Post – 1990: 3
Introductory Note to Inventory of District Buildings:

Street numbers in this inventory are based upon those listed in Hartford Architecture, Volume 2: South Neighborhoods (1980). The Hartford Architecture Conservancy compiled the dates in this survey from city building permits, which Hartford began to issue circa 1890, or are estimates gleaned from research utilizing period atlases. The dates were confirmed in the preparation of this study through a review of building permits held by Hartford City Hall. Those buildings within the district that are non-contributing are indicated as such below.

Arbor Street, east side:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style, Use, Date, Architect or Builder (if known), Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Arbor Street, west side:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style, Use, Date, Architect or Builder (if known), Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bartholomew Avenue, west side:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style, Use, Date, Architect or Builder (if known), Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>17-35</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>45-55</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Bartholomew Avenue, east side:


110 See 250 Hamilton Street.

124-126 Shingle style residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with side-gabled roof and vinyl siding.


132-134 Neoclassical Revival apartment building, 1906. A. Glater and Son, builder. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with ground-level commercial unit and flat roof.


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District

County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 7  Page: 18


152-154  

156-158  
Vacant parcel.

160-162  
Neoclassical Revival apartment building, 1907. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with flat roof.

164-166  
Neoclassical Revival apartment building, 1907. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with flat roof.

Belmont Street, north side:

22  
Vacant parcel.

26-28  
Vacant parcel.

32  
Vernacular commercial building, 1929. Two-story red-brick warehouse and office building with flat roof.

36-38  
Neoclassical Revival apartment building, 1918. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with flat roof.

42-44  
Neoclassical Revival apartment building, 1918. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with flat roof.

50  
Vacant parcel.

Belmont Street, south side:

33  
Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-story, single-family frame house with side-gabled roof and asphalt shingle siding.

39  
Non-contributing commercial building, 1989.

43-45  
Italianate residence, 1897. Three-story, multi-family brick “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof.

47-49  
Vernacular residence, 1925. Three-story, multi-family frame triple-decker with low-pitch hipped roof and vinyl siding.

51-53  
Colonial Revival residence, 1915. Three-story, multi-family frame triple-decker with
front-facing gambrel roof and asphalt shingle siding.

Capitol Avenue, north side:


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1910.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


**Capitol Avenue, south side:**


*One-story frame garage*, c. 1912.


*One-story frame garage*, c. 1920.


*One-story frame garage*, c. 1920.


*One-story frame garage*, c. 1920.


*One-story frame garage*, c. 1920.

843-845  *Colonial Revival residence*, 1910. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District
County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 7 Page: 22

with front-facing gable roof and wood shingle siding.

-One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

849-851 Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


-One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


-One-story frame garage, c. 1925.


-One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


-One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


-Cherry Street, north side:

40 Non-contributing residential building, 1981.

-Cherry Street, south side:

7 Two primary buildings located on this parcel:

7-9 Cherry Street - Non-contributing residential building, 1970.

Francis Avenue, east side:

10-12
Vacant parcel.

14-26
Vacant parcel.

42
Vacant parcel.

46-50
Two primary buildings located on this parcel:

46 Francis Avenue - Non-contributing commercial building, 1978.


54
Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

58
Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, single-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

64
Vacant parcel.

66-68
Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

70-72
Stick style residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and horizontal board siding.

76
Vernacular residence with Gothic Revival influences, 1895. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

78-80
Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, 1895. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

82-84
Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, c. 1895. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

86-88
Vacant parcel.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District
County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 7  Page: 24

100  Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.
     One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

102-104  Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

106  Vernacular residence with Gothic Revival influences, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and asphalt shingle siding.

114  Vernacular residence with Gothic Revival influences, c. 1890. One-and-a-half-story, single-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.
     One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

118-120  Colonial Revival residence, 1912. Three-story, multi-family frame “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof and aluminum siding.
     One-story frame garage, c. 1950.

122  Vernacular residence with Gothic Revival influences, 1895. Two-story, single-family frame house.
     One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

126-128  Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, 1896. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

130  Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.
     One-story frame garage, c. 1940.


140  Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, c. 1890. Two-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

142-144  Vernacular residence, 1892. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

146  Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-story, multi-family red-brick house with low-pitch hipped roof.

Vernacular residence with Italianate influences, c. 1880. Two-and-a-half-story, single-family red-brick house with front-facing gable roof.

Vacant parcel.

Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

Francis Avenue, west side:


Vernacular residence, c. 1875. One-and-a-half-story, single-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

Colonial Revival residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and wood shingle and aluminum siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1940. One-story frame garage with low-pitch hipped roof and aluminum siding.

The States Company. Vernacular commercial building, c. 1923. One-story red-brick and frame auto garage with flat roof and board siding.

One-and-a-half-story frame garage, c. 1940. One-and-a-half-story frame garage with side-gabled roof.

Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-story, multi-family frame house with low-pitch hipped roof and asphalt shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1940.

Italianate residence, c. 1875. Two-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and asphalt shingle siding.

Vernacular residence, c. 1890. One-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

Italianate residence, c. 1875. Two-story, single-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

Vernacular industrial building, c. 1940. One-story red-brick industrial building with flat roof and some metal siding.

Non-contributing industrial building, 1980.
77  

*Vacant parcel.*

85-87  

*Stick style residence,* c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gambrel roof and aluminum siding.

93-95  


97-99  


101-103  


105-107  


109-111  


113  


117  

*Vernacular commercial building,* 1930. One-story red-brick commercial building and garage with low-pitch hipped roof.

121-123  

*Vernacular residence,* c. 1890. Two-story, multi-family frame house with side-gabled roof and vinyl siding.

125-127  

*Vernacular residence,* c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

129-131  

*Vernacular residence,* c. 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

133-135  


137-139  


141-143  


145  

*Vernacular residence,* c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingles siding.

Colonial Revival residence, 1897. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1940.

Vernacular residence, c. 1875. Two-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

Francis Court, north side:

8-10 Vacant parcel.

Hamilton Street, north side:

190 Vacant parcel.


One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


214 Colonial Revival residence, 1912. Three-story, multi-family red-brick triple-decker residence with flat roof.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

236 See 81-99 Bartholomew Avenue.

Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District

County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 7  Page: 28


Hamilton Street, south side:

155  Vacant parcel.

191  Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, 1893. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

197  Stick style residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, mixed-use frame residence and commercial building with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1940.

201  Vacant parcel.

205  Vacant parcel.

211  Vacant parcel.


219  Stick style residence, 1893. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

221-223  Shingle style residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


Vernacular commercial building, c. 1920. Two-story frame commercial building with front-facing gable and flat roofs and vinyl siding.


See 62-72 New Park Avenue.

Hazel Street, east side:

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1910.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1906. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1911. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

Vernacular residence, 1907. Three-story, multi-family frame “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.
One-story frame garage, c. 1911.

50-52


56

Queen Anne residence with Colonial Revival influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

60-62

Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

64

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1904. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with hipped roof and vinyl siding.

70

Queen Anne residence with Colonial Revival influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1900.

72

Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and wood shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

76-78

Colonial Revival residence, 1902. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

80-82

See 849 Capitol Avenue.

Hazel Street, west side:

7-9

Colonial Revival residence, 1912. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

11-13

Colonial Revival residence, 1898. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

15-17

Colonial Revival residence, 1899. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

19-21

Colonial Revival residence, 1898. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1940.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


31-33 Colonial Revival residence, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

35-37 Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1902. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1911.

49 Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1900. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

55-57 Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1905. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1930.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District
County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 7  Page: 32


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

75-77  Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

New Park Avenue, east side:

4-6  Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


12-14  Non-contributing commercial building, 1985.

16-18  Vernacular residence, c. 1870. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence, altered to accommodate combined commercial and residential use c. 1920. Has front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

20-22  Vernacular commercial building, 1940. One-story, frame commercial building with flat roof and aluminum siding.

26  Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, 1926.

30  Vernacular residence with Gothic Revival influences, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence, altered to accommodate combined commercial and residential use c. 1920. Has front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

32-34  Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, 1898. Nevels Brothers, builders. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.
One-story frame garage, 1940.

38

Vernacular residence with Italianate influences, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, single-family frame residence, altered to accommodate combined commercial and residential use in 1946. Alterations designed by William Koscher, architect (Hartford). Has side-gabled roof and wood shingle siding.

42

Grace Church Rectory. Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.

46

Gothic Revival residence, c. 1880. Two-story, single-family red-brick residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

50

Gothic Revival residence, c. 1880. Two-story, single-family red-brick and stucco residence with front-facing gable roof.

52

Colonial Revival residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.

54


62-72

Two primary buildings located on this parcel:

62-64 New Park Avenue – Italianate apartment building, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame tenement (alternately referenced as 303 Hamilton Street) with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.


One-story frame garage, c. 1890.

74-76


78-80

Italian Renaissance Revival apartment building, c. 1900. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” apartment building with flat roof.

82-86

Italianate mixed-use building, c. 1875. Three-story, multi-family red-brick commercial and apartment building with low-pitch hipped roof.

88

**Parkville Industrial Historic District**

**County and State:** Hartford, CT

**Name of Property:**

- **90-92** Stick style residence, c. 1875. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vinyl siding.  
  *One-story frame garage, 1924.*

  *One-story frame garage, 1926.*

- **98-100** Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and aluminum siding.  
  *One-story frame garage, 1924.*


  *One-story frame garage, 1922.*

- **114** Colonial Revival residence, 1900. Kindberg and Gilmour, builders. Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof.  
  *One-story frame garage, 1927.*

- **118-120** Vernacular mixed-use building, 1901. McIntyre and Ahern, builders. Three-story, multi-family red-brick commercial and apartment building with flat roof. Likely altered to accommodate combined commercial and residential use c. 1920.

- **122** Vernacular residence, 1897. Frank O’Marra, builder. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and vertical board and vinyl siding.

- **126-128** Vacant parcel.

- **130-132** Vacant parcel.

**New Park Avenue, west side:**


Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


One-story frame garage, c. 1950.


Non-contributing commercial building, 1958.

Queen Anne residence, 1898. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and wood shingle.


Orange Street, east side:

Vernacular apartment building, c. 1890. Three-story, multi-family frame apartment building with low-pitch hipped roof and vinyl siding.

Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Three-story, multi-family triple-decker frame residence with low-pitch hipped roof and asbestos shingle siding.

Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Three-story, multi-family frame “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof and vinyl siding.
Vernacular industrial building, 1917. One-story, red-brick machine shop with flat roof.

One-story frame garage, c. 1890.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


Orange Street, west side:

Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Three-story, multi-family red-brick triple-decker residence with flat roof.

Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Three-story, multi-family red-brick triple-decker residence with flat roof.

Italian Renaissance Revival style apartment building with Beaux Arts and Mission style influences, 1925. George Zunner, architect (Hartford). Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with yellow-brick façade and flat roof.

Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Three-story, multi-family red-brick triple-decker residence with flat roof.

Italian Renaissance Revival style apartment building with Beaux Arts and Mission style influences, 1925. George Zunner, architect (Hartford). Three-story, multi-family red-brick “Perfect Six” tenement with yellow-brick façade and flat roof.


Colonial Revival residence, 1911. Three-story, multi-family frame “Perfect Three” residence with low-pitch hipped roof and wood shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

One-story frame garage, c. 1930.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Park Street, north side:

Three primary buildings located on this parcel:


Non-contributing commercial building, 1965.


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


One-story frame garage, c. 1920.

Non-contributing commercial building, c. 1980.

Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


1429

Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


1477


1517

Vacant parcel.

1575

Vacant parcel.

1585-1591


1597-1599

Colonial Revival mixed-use building, 1913. Frank Kaplan and Son, builder. Four-story, multi-family red-brick commercial and apartment building with yellow-brick facade and flat roof.

1605-1625

Two primary buildings located on this parcel (buildings connected in 1955):


1631-1637

Queen Anne mixed-use building, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family red-brick commercial and apartment building with hipped roof and one-story, yellow-brick storefront. Commercial use added c. 1920.

1645-1647

Vernacular commercial building, c. 1920. One-story, red-brick auto garage with side-
gabled and flat roofs.

1651-1663

Colonial Revival mixed-use building, 1894. C.H. Cullen, builder. Three-story, multi-family red-brick commercial and apartment building with flat roof and one-story, yellow-brick commercial block adjoining south elevation. Altered for commercial use and commercial block added in 1922. Latter work completed by Wolf Greenberg, architect (Hartford), and Cullen and Katkin, builders.

Pope Park Highway No. 4, west side:

55-61


81


101

Two primary buildings located on this parcel


Rose Street, north side:

30

Vacant parcel.

34

Vernacular residence, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

One-story frame garage, c. 1922.

38-40


One-story frame garage, c. 1922.

44

One-story frame garage, c. 1922.

Vacant parcel.

Rose Street, south side:

33-35 Non-contributing commercial building, 1996.

39 Vernacular commercial building, c. 1920. One-story, red-brick commercial building with flat roof.

41-47 Two primary buildings located on this parcel


49 Vacant parcel.

Sisson Avenue, east side:

16-24 Two primary buildings located on this parcel (buildings connected in 1954):


One-and-a-half-story frame barn, 1899.

Two-story frame garage, c. 1900.


frame residence with side-gabled roof and wood shingle siding (converted for multi-family use in 1957).

34

Second Empire residence with Stick style influences, c. 1885. Two-and-a-half-story, single-family frame residence with mansard roof and horizontal board siding (converted for multi-family use in 1918, first floor altered for two doctors’ offices in 1946).

36-38


40-42


44-46


48-50


One-story frame garage, c. 1930.

60-62

Non-contributing residence, 1981.

66-68


One-story frame garage, 1920.

70


One-story frame garage, 1930.

74-76


One-story frame garage, 1916.

78-80


One-story frame garage, 1916.

82-84


One-story red-brick garage, 1916.
84 ½-86  

88-90  

Sisson Avenue, east side:

7  
Non-contributing apartment building, 1964.

15-17  
Colonial Revival residence, c. 1885. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family red-brick and frame residence with hipped roof and vinyl siding.

19  

One-story frame garage, 1911.

21  

27-29  
Vernacular residence with Queen Anne influences, c. 1890. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with side-gabled roof and vinyl siding.

One-story frame garage, 1920.

31-33  

One-story frame garage, 1929.

35-37  

One-story frame garage, 1932.

39-41  

43-45  
47-49  

One-story frame garage, 1913.

53  
Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1902. John Gilmour, builder. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame residence with front-facing gable roof and asbestos shingle siding.

57  

One-story frame garage, 1916.

59-61  

One-story frame garage, 1916.

63-65  

One-story frame garage, 1912.

67-69  
Colonial Revival residence with Queen Anne influences, 1907. Smith and DesChamps, builders. Two-and-a-half-story, multi-family red-brick and frame residence with front-facing gable roof and wood shingle siding.

71-73  

One-story frame garage, 1921.

77  

One-story frame garage, 1924.

79-81  

One-story frame garage, 1931.
83-85


87-89


One-story frame garage, 1916.

91-99

Two primary buildings located on this parcel:


Historical and Architectural Significance:

Summary Statement of Significance

The Parkville Industrial Historic District is historically and architecturally significant as an example of mid-nineteenth- to early twentieth-century residential, industrial, and neighborhood commercial development (Criterion A). The district is located along the western edge of the City of Hartford, an area that remained essentially rural as late as the early 1870s, yet felt the increasing pressure of residential and industrial expansion between 1870 and the 1920s. The development of the Parkville Industrial Historic District is typical of Hartford’s working-class suburbs and is demonstrative of the effects of population increases and suburban sprawl that followed the economic growth and subsequent build up of the city’s central neighborhoods and industrial districts during the late nineteenth century. Of particular importance is the expansion of Hartford’s primary industrial core – this for many years concentrated along a corridor flanking what is now Capitol Avenue between Broad and Laurel Streets – westward across the Park River into the city’s Parkville neighborhood. As a result of this industrial boom, the proposed district saw accelerated increases in the construction of housing and businesses oriented towards the needs of the largely working-class population. The district is an intact, architecturally cohesive neighborhood mainly comprised of multi-family homes and small apartment buildings, these either interspersed with or located in the vicinity of mixed-use or dedicated commercial blocks. Most stand in the shadow of factories once operated by some of the era’s most notable industrial entities, these including the Pope Manufacturing Company, Hartford Rubber Works Company, Gray Telephone Pay Company, Whitney Manufacturing Company, Hart Manufacturing Company, and Underwood Computing Machine Company, among others. In addition, the district’s building stock represents many of the significant industrial and residential architectural forms of the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century (Criterion C). Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mission, Late Gothic Revival, Art Deco, and modern vernacular forms, can be found, many being demonstrative of the frequency with which designers combined a number of influences to create eclectically-styled homes. A number of local builders and prominent architects designed and constructed homes in the district, contributing further to the significance of this historic neighborhood.

Historic Context:

A “Semi-Rural Village”

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the City of Hartford consisted of an area just a fraction of its current size. Maps from the 1850s depicting the western edges of the urban district and the town of Hartford beyond indicate it only extending as far a north-
south line drawn just west of High Street, Cooper Lane, and the western boundary of Bushnell Park. At this time, the area between Hartford’s still contentious municipal boundary with West Hartford, Prospect Avenue, and the north branch of the Park River was largely farmland and only a handful of structures could be found scattered across the landscape.

In his history of Parkville’s Grace Episcopal Church, Nelson R. Burr identifies neighborhood during the 1860s as, “a semi-rural village of widely scattered residences set in large lots and surrounded by gardens, fields, and woods.” Despite this pastoral status quo, however, the foundations for future development were in place even at this early date. Park Street, the neighborhood’s primary east-west corridor, had been in use as a route from Hartford to Farmington as early as the late eighteenth century, during which time it was known as “Middle Road,” or the “Middle Road to Farmington.” In 1821, Park Street received its current name in honor of South Park, then the only public park in Hartford (later renamed Barnard Park), and in December 1858 was official accepted as a city street. Prospect Hill Road – now Prospect Avenue – had been laid out between Farmington and Asylum Avenues in 1754 and was extended south to Park Street in 1851. Around 1863, Prospect Hill Road was extended as McKegg Road from Park Street south to Baker Street, this established around the same time and adopted by the City as New Park Avenue in January 1876. Sisson Avenue, the last major arterial route present in this early period, was deeded to the city by Samuel Hubbard in 1866 and ran as Hubbard Avenue from Park Street north to Farmington Avenue, as it continues to do to this day. The street was eventually renamed after resident Albert L. Sisson, a prominent owner of a downtown leaf tobacco business, who built the brick Italianate style house at 170 Sisson Avenue in 1865.

The aforementioned roads formed the basic network of local transportation in Parkville’s early history, however, they would not be the only drivers of neighborhood growth in the coming decades. Another important factor was the presence of the rail line established by the Hartford-Providence and Fishkill Railroad, which divided the neighborhood roughly in half along a northeast to southwest axis by 1850. The charter of the Hartford-Providence and Fishkill Railroad coincided with the beginnings of major industrial development along what would become Capitol Avenue and by the end of the nineteenth century Parkville industries enjoyed significant advantages from their close proximity to the rail line.

Despite this early infrastructure expansion, Parkville largely remained, as noted, a semi-rural village during the 1860s. Farmers such as Henry B. Jones, John King, and James McKegg continued to work the land, while others, such as Sherman Goodwin and Thomas Wood, maintained small commercial enterprises. Goodwin operated a grocery store at the northeast corner of the intersection of Park Street and Sisson Avenue, while Wood ran a brickyard on the south side of Park Street just east of the railroad. While approximately nine dwellings are identifiable in the area that now comprises the neighborhood on an 1856 map, by 1869 this had increased to roughly twenty. By 1873, the city line had been extended westward to the current border with West Hartford and Parkville’s population had slowly begun to expand.

Notably, much of this growth was a result of an influx of predominately Irish immigrants who had settled along Park Street and New Park Avenue. Among these were a number of farmers, including John King and James McKegg, as well as John Fallon, John Montgomery, Peter Fagan, and Patrick Madden. Others were tradesmen, such as Michael McGrath, a carpenter, and William
Brabazore, a stonemason. Many more were simply classified as laborers, among them being Robert Ray, Alfred Price, Joseph McFarland, and Jeremiah Sullivan. 

Despite its low population as late as 1869, Parkville was large enough to support its own school. This was a small brick structure erected on the east side of New Park Avenue, just north of its present intersection with Hamilton Avenue, around 1860. The neighborhood was also expanding at a rate that justified local Episcopalians in establishing their own Sunday school, this shortly after 1860. The isolated character of the district and its lack of a single place of worship dedicated to any denomination largely drove this decision as at the time the nearest Hartford churches were located downtown some two miles to the east, while the closest alternatives included the Congregational meeting house in Newington to the south, and the Congregational, Baptist, and Episcopal churches in West Hartford to the northwest. In the absence of another hall or gathering place, the Sunday school was conducted in the Parkville schoolhouse, where it remained until 1868 when the then recently established Trinity Parish built the first portions of their present edifice at 55 New Park Avenue.

William Francis and the Subdivisions

Residential development in Parkville showed its first signs of acceleration during the early 1870s. This activity largely coincided with that taking place in the city’s West End and Frog Hollow neighborhoods, these located to the north and east, respectively. Here was felt the increased competition for land closer to the downtown district in neighborhoods such as Asylum Hill and Clay-Arsenal and the demand for housing driven by the success of the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company, the latter located along the Park River on Rifle Avenue (later Capitol Avenue). As a result of these pressures, landowners and speculators started selling off parcels of large subdivided holdings to new owners in and around the area that comprises the Parkville Industrial Historic District. The most notable individual to enter this fray was William Francis.

Francis’s first real estate development was laid out and surveyed in February 1871. The tract comprised some 142 lots located on the west side of the Hartford-Providence and Fishkill Railroad and south of Park Street on land that Francis had accumulated during the 1850s. The development included parcels on the south side of Park Street and east side of New Park Avenue, as well as along a number of streets specifically laid out by Francis. Among the latter were Francis Avenue – named after the businessman himself – Grace Street, Greenwood Street, and Hamilton Street. The lots were generally 50 feet wide and between 110 to 130 feet deep. Those located within the proposed district were the most regularly sized, all of the lots on the east side of Francis Avenue being 50 by 110 feet, or 0.126 acres, and all those on the east side of New Park Avenue measuring 50 by 130 feet, or 0.138 acres.

At the time of surveying only five primary structures are depicted within the Francis plat. These include the old Parkville Schoolhouse and Trinity Church along New Park Avenue, two houses owned by Francis on the south side of Park Street just east of its
intersection with New Park Avenue, and a then recently constructed frame house on the east side of New Park Avenue just south of Park Street. Only the latter remains, this being the two-and-a-half-story vernacular frame house at 16-18 New Park Avenue. Another residence that was likely present at the time was that belonging to Henry P. Jones, who is indicated as owning a large parcel at the southwest corner of Park Street and New Park Avenue. No buildings are included on the Francis survey, however, and the latter parcel was not included in his development.²⁹

William Francis went to great extent to make his development as attractive to potential buyers as possible. He drained the land to facilitate construction, graded and widened existing streets in order to make them more passable, and personally financed a bridge allowing Hamilton Street to pass over the South Branch of the Park River thus connecting his development to another he had laid out along Zion Street in the vicinity of Trinity College. Such efforts met enthusiastic review from writers at the Hartford Daily Courant, which noted that due to Francis’s efforts Parkville stood poised to become Hartford’s up-and-coming working-class neighborhood. Of this they wrote in October 1871, “Parkville, the new outgrowth of Hartford at the Park street crossing of the Hartford and New Haven railroad, promises to become an important suburb, as a place of residence for workingmen especially, and for all who desire to secure a home at a limited cost.” The Courant continued, speaking of the auction of Francis’s land, “The sale of lots, when the enterprise had been fully developed, was one of the most successful ever known in the state; building sites were taken in rapid and eager succession till the whole improved territory was sold. The evidence of the permanent growth there is seen in the establishment of a depot, at which five trains daily will stop each way at such hours as will convenience the people of the place in coming to and going from this city.”¹⁰

The success of Francis’s initial land sales and the establishment of the railroad depot inspired additional speculation and development in the area. Shortly after Francis conducted his 1871 auction, another landowner, George Kibbe, moved to do the same.¹¹ The Hartford Daily Courant noted, “Now that the enterprise has become a fixed thing, it is fortunate that another enterprising citizen, Mr. George Kibbe, who owns a splendid section of land in the same neighborhood, has, to accommodate the pressing demand for more labor, gone forward and opened a new avenue with diverging streets, with the design of making the same liberal terms which have been the cause of the great prosperity up to the present time.”¹² The principal streets laid out by Kibbe included – perhaps unsurprisingly – Kibbe Street, Madison Avenue, and Carpenter Street. His development included 82 lots located just west of the Parkville Industrial Historic District.¹³

Notable among Kibbe’s improvements was his successful appeal for the construction of city water lines extending from Farmington Avenue south to his property. Such benefitted not only the Kibbe plat, but all of Parkville. As such, it may have been just this important factor that drove William Francis to open up another 140-lot development south of Hamilton Street on the east side of the railroad in May 1872. To do so he extended Bartholomew Avenue – this laid out by a wealthy Hartford banker, George M. Bartholomew, across his land south from Park Street to Hamilton Street a year earlier – from Hamilton Street south to another new road, Olive Street. In addition, he laid out a new grid of streets including Rose Street, Belmont Street, and Wellington Avenue, these framing neatly-sized lots generally either 50 or 60 feet wide, and 150 feet deep.¹⁴
The auction for Francis’s “Second Addition” was held on June 4, 1872. The Citizen’s Band of New Britain was present for the grand event, as was “Litchfield’s large omnibus,” which bore substantial advertisements for the sale on its sides. In addition, Francis paid for four rail cars to carry attendants from Asylum Street to the Parkville Depot where they were met by the band, which then led a banner-bearing procession to the auction site. The success of the sale was considerable. The Courant noted that some $60,000 was raised from the sale of 113 of the 140 lots. These were purchased by a total of 88 buyers, the participants obviously sensing what they saw as the investment potential of the area. Many of the buyers, such as James Jordon, William Hall, and Franklin Smith, were established real estate developers or builders, while many others were working-class individuals likely seeking to build and own a home of their own. Notable among the latter were a high percentage of Irish immigrants not previously found in the neighborhood, such as John Quigley, John Shea, John Connell, and James Hughes, all of whom were listed as laborers in the 1872 Hartford Directory. 15

The writers at the Courant expressed almost rampant enthusiasm for the aforementioned developments before and after the auction of Francis’s Second Addition. On May 22, 1872, they wrote, “The complete confidence shown in the enterprise by men who are the best able to judge, is well illustrated by the fact that one of the best builders in Hartford has already purchased a block of eight lots, and will at once commence building there, and will establish a joiner’s shop on the premises, to be ready for the great amount of work which will be demanded before the season closes.” 16 After the sale they opined that, “Most of the purchasers will go forward at the earliest opportunity and erect homes for themselves, and in a year or two undoubtedly Parkville, already a growing and prosperous locality, will be the most valuable of our suburbs.” 17 The attractiveness of the Francis plat was largely due to the affordable rates being offered which allowed working-class individuals to purchase their own homes. The Courant wrote, “The superior advantages offered in providing lots on terms so easily that all industrious men of families might be accommodated; the readiness with which subsequent improvements were carried out, including the establishment of a depot and the stopping of trains there, have given to that locality a sudden uprising and growth, whose progress to-day is evidence of the permanence of its prosperity.” 18 Despite the attractive rates and scenic character of the landscape, economic conditions related to the Panics of 1873 and 1877 stunted the majority of development plans in Hartford during the 1870s. While observers had expected the Francis developments to fill with new homes almost immediately, maps of the area from 1877 and 1880 indicate marginal growth at best. By 1880, some 24 houses appear to have been constructed on Francis Avenue, however, only another 15 were built on New Park Avenue, and Park, Grace, and Greenwood Streets combined. Francis’s Second Addition was even quieter. Only about 15 buildings appear on the 140-lot plat by 1880, most of these already present at the time of his 1872 land sale. One of the few exceptions is the vernacular frame house still standing at 33 Belmont Street, which was erected by Samuel Monk, a boilermaker, in 1879. 19

Like the Francis plats, the remainder of Parkville saw similar developmental delays. Although Parkville residents had been able to petition for the construction of a new brick schoolhouse on New Park Avenue just north of the Trinity Church in 1873, the George Kibbe plat experienced only moderate residential growth by 1880, as had a subdivision laid out by another real estate developer, Sydney A. Ensign, on the north side of Park Street between the present South Whitney and James Streets. Another
significant piece of property within the Parkville Industrial Historic District – this comprising all of the land within the block framed by what are now Sisson and Capitol Avenues, and Orange and Park Streets – had likewise been subdivided yet only one structure stood on this 139-lot development in 1880. The balance of the neighborhood at the time remained largely rural with farms belonging to such individuals as Patrick Madden and James T. Kelly sprawling south of Olive Street, and large estates belonging to others such as George M. Bartholomew and James Davenport, the latter a physician at the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, occupying much of the land near the intersection of Bartholomew and Sisson Avenues with Park Street. The sole industries of note in the neighborhood at the time were a carriage manufactory erected on Francis Avenue by Charles G. Wells in 1874, and the New Park Avenue brickyard operated by Michael Kane, an Irish immigrant who had come to the United States in 1865. Kane established his brick manufactory a short distance south of Kibbe Street in 1875, after having previously worked as a harnessmaker.20

Although the financial troubles of the 1870s clearly stunted Parkville’s initial growth, all of the streets within the Parkville Industrial Historic District had been laid out by 1880. This facilitated a rapid construction pace following the end of the recessions, which released their grips on Parkville’s development by the late 1880s. The building boom that followed was largely driven by two factors, the growth of Hartford’s Capitol Avenue manufacturing district and its eventual expansion into Parkville, and the arrival of the horse-drawn – and later electrified – streetcar network. As a result, by the early 1890s the majority of Parkville was experiencing notable residential development.

The Seeds of Growth and Parkville’s Industrial Prowess

In 1851, at a bend in the Park River just west of the present intersection of Capitol Avenue and Flower Street, the Windsor, Vermont metal-working firm of Robbins and Lawrence erected a factory to produce repeating rifles designed by the inventor Christian Sharps. Although Sharps would remain with the firm for just two years, and the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company itself would fall apart just six years later, the seeds of what would become Hartford’s principal industrial district had been sown. Over the course of the next three decades, some of the most prominent and notable companies in American history occupied space in, expanded, and erected additional facilities and housing alongside the Sharps Rifle plant. Initially known as Rifle Avenue, by the 1890s Capitol Avenue had been home to or currently housed the Pratt and Whitney Company, Weed Sewing Machine Company, Hartford Machine Screw Company, Cushman Chuck Company, and the Pope Manufacturing Company. Driven by these firms a bustling factory district established itself on the north side of Capitol Avenue and extending half a mile between Flower and Laurel Streets during this period.

Perhaps most significant to the early development of the Parkville Industrial Historic District was the formation of the Pope Manufacturing Company – producers of the Columbia Bicycle, and later the Columbia Motor Car – during the late 1870s and early 1880s. In 1876, Boston businessman Colonel Albert A. Pope attended the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition where he witnessed a velocipede for the first time. A self-made entrepreneur, Pope saw the potential in the awkward device and traveled to England to study
the machine rumored to be “twice as fast as a horse.” After importing the machines for a period of time, Pope settled on a preferred model, the British-made Bayliss, Thomas, and Company’s Duplex Excelsior. He bought the patent rights to build the Duplex Excelsior in the United States, and quickly organized the Pope Manufacturing Company for its production.  

Rather than establish his own plant to manufacture the machines, in 1878 Pope elected to contract out initial production to Hartford’s Weed Sewing Machine Company. As historian Bruce Epperson argues, Albert Pope’s decision to build his bicycles at the Weed Sewing Machine Company was due to the renowned manufacturing skills possessed by the city’s machinists, these gained in the firearm plants of the Colt and Sharps companies. He writes, “Weed’s reputation was based on three skills vital to armory practice: an ability to forge the part as closely as possible to its final form; the expert application of machine tools to allow the removal of unwanted metal in the least time and with a minimum of manpower; and rigid quality control over finished parts to reduce or eliminate the necessity for hand fitting at assembly.” Of additional importance were Weed’s mass production capabilities and the presence of the city’s first mechanical drawing school organized under Colt engineer George A. Fairfield, these being factors that ensured consistent productivity and innovation.  

In 1890, at a time that as many as 600 of Weed’s employees worked on his machines, Pope purchased the company and capitalized it for $1,000,000. Pope’s move was the first of many aimed at stabilizing the business and reemphasizing control over its product and production methods. In 1891, he financed the start-up of a factory in Shelby, Ohio to produce steel tubing suitable to his specifications, and in 1892 established his own testing department and metallurgical laboratory, headed by MIT engineer Henry Souther. In 1892, he founded his own metal tubing plant at the intersection of Laurel and Park Street. This was expanded and moved to Bartholomew Avenue in 1893.  

The previous year was also notable in Parkville’s developmental history as it was at this time that Pope purchased majority control of his long-time rubber supplier, the Hartford Rubber Works Company, after the untimely death of its founder, John W. Gray. Gray was a Hartford rubber goods merchant who in 1881 established his own rubber mill just south of Park Street along Bartholomew Avenue. The original Hartford Rubber Works plant measured just 50 feet by 60 feet and Gray’s entire workforce numbered just twenty hands. During the 1890s, however, the firm expanded to become one of the largest and best equipped manufacturers of rubber goods in the country and established itself as the primary supplier of bicycle tires to the Pope Manufacturing Company. A Hartford Daily Courant article announcing Pope’s acquisition of majority control of the Hartford Rubber Works Company stated that in 1892 about 170 employees labored at the latter firm which operated 24 hours a day in order to keep up with the demand for its goods, particularly bicycle tires. As an article in McClure’s Magazine from 1897 noted, “It was fortunate that the Pope factory and the rubber mill were in the same city, for this allowed the heads of the two establishments to consult together daily, and face new problems and difficulties side by side as they arose.” By 1896, maps of Hartford show that the Hartford Rubber Works Company factory consisted of an interconnected complex of brick and frame buildings ranging south some 800 feet along the west side of Bartholomew Avenue, among these being the three-story brick mill-style office and manufacturing building designed by notable Hartford architect, George Keller, and erected at 1477 Park Street (Photograph 25) in 1895.
As the aforementioned McClure’s Magazine article noted, by 1897 Hartford Rubber Works Company employed hundreds of workers operating an array of equipment including mixers, washers, calenders, and hydraulic presses. These were powered by a pair of 1,000-horsepower steam engines, as compared with the single 50-horsepower engine that Gray had started with in 1881. Another firm ancillary to the Pope Manufacturing Company, the Pope Tube Company, had also greatly expanded by this time. First constructed on the west side of Bartholomew Avenue just south of the Hartford Rubber Works factory in 1893, by 1896 the Pope Tube works filled 600 feet of frontage running all the way to Hamilton Street. The factory was operated by some 300 hands equipped with the most modern machinery available for the production of seamless metal tubing.27

By 1894, the Hartford Rubber Works Company and Pope Tube Company had also been joined by another manufacturing entity destined for national notoriety. This was the Hartford Faience Company, a producer of ceramic and porcelain goods, which erected a frame factory south of Bartholomew Avenue along the west side of the railroad. These three firms were central to Parkville’s growth during the 1890s and early 1900s as they represented hundreds of potential jobs to Parkville residents beyond the additional hundreds available just a half a mile away in the Capitol Avenue manufacturing district. The latter were increasingly accessible after 1893 as it was at this time that the Hartford Street Railway extended its Capitol Avenue line down Laurel Street and along Park Street as far as the railroad crossing.28

The Bicycle Bump

The expansion of Pope-related and other industries into Parkville helped transformed the character of the proposed district from what had for many years been viewed as a lawless and isolated backwater into a bustling and populous suburb. As a 1912 Hartford Courant article commenting on the growth of Parkville noted, “Parkville was synonymous with lawlessness, brawls and rowdyism, which resulted in preventing a better class of citizens from living there… However, the last few years have brought about many changes and today no more peaceful nor orderly section of the city can be found than Parkville.” Much of this was due to the work of William Francis and Sydney Ensign, who continued to market their residential developments in the northern portion of Parkville into the mid-1890s. During this period, the neighborhood was largely developed with moderately sized, single- and multi-family frame houses, these generally being more affordable than the Perfect Six style brick residences ubiquitous throughout neighboring Frog Hollow. Brick residences were, however, sporadically constructed in Parkville at this time, notable among them being the pair of Queen Anne style houses erected at 1605-1625 and 1631-1637 Park Street circa 1890 (Photograph 44), and the Colonial Revival house built at 83-85 Sisson Avenue in 1897 (Photograph 10).29

The prominence of Hartford speculators such as Francis and Ensign was at its peak by the last decade of the nineteenth century, these forces fueling a citywide building boom. Hartford’s grand list grew by seven percent in 1895, and increased by another 30 percent between 1895 and 1900. It was during this period that the proposed Parkville Industrial Historic District experienced its
first decade of substantial growth. Roughly 80 of the district’s 290 primary contributing resources were erected between 1890 and 1899, the majority of these along Francis, Sisson, and New Park Avenues. Many of these were built for an increasingly diverse influx of immigrant industrial laborers. By 1900, the Federal census shows that the Parkville was at that time home to residents from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants of Scottish, Danish, Swedish, Austrian, English Canadian, Polish, and Russian heritage. The Irish remained among the most frequently represented, however, by the turn of the nineteenth century they had also been joined by a high concentration of German and French Canadian arrivals.30

The construction of institutional buildings – unsurprisingly – also increased along with the neighborhood’s industrial and residential growth. This included the expansion of the New Park Avenue School in 1885 and 1896, the erection of an addition to the Trinity Parish’s Grace Chapel and establishment of both a church and seminary for the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows on Grace Street in 1887, and the construction of the Missionary College of La Salette on the west side of New Park Avenue in 1894. The latter is of particular importance as the four-and-a-half-story brick building erected at 85 New Park Avenue is one of the proposed district’s most culturally and architecturally significant resources. The Missionary College of La Salette was designed by Hartford architect Michael O’Donohue and constructed of Parkville-manufactured brick. The building’s central block comprises its original portion, this expanded by the addition of flanking wings in 1907.31

New Industries

Parkville’s growth surged forward as new industrial firms continued to establish themselves in Parkville’s Bartholomew Avenue manufacturing district after the turn of the nineteenth century. By 1912, these included the Whitney Manufacturing Company, established across from the Pope Tube Works at 237 Hamilton Street in 1906 (Photograph 31); the Capitol Foundry Company, this situated directly south of the Hartford Faience Company by 1909; and the Hart Manufacturing Company (Photograph 30), which relocated from 103-105 Allyn Street to a new factory across Bartholomew Street from the Pope Tube Works in 1910. Other notable firms also set up shop just outside of Parkville’s central manufacturing district at this time. The Royal Typewriter Company, by 1912 an employer of over 1,100 workers, arrived in Parkville in 1907 and chose a location along New Park Avenue south of Francis Court, while the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company (Photographs 19, 20, and 21), pioneering developer of pay telephone technologies, and the Underwood Computing Machine Company (Photographs 19 and 22), a division of the Underwood Typewriter Company, built the first portions of their Arbor Street factories in 1912 and 1917, respectively.32 The location of the latter firms created an industrial link between the Capitol and Bartholomew Avenue manufacturing districts, while Royal’s New Park Avenue location extended this highly productive corridor deep into Parkville.33

Like the entities that preceded them, these firms would become some of the most important in Hartford’s history. The Whitney Manufacturing Company, for instance, produced an array of machine tools including milling machines, water tool grinders,
keys and cutters for drill chucks, and friction tapping devices. Their most significant product, however, was a line of driving chains used first on Pope bicycles, and later in the production of automobiles built in Hartford by the Pope Manufacturing Company and Columbia Motor Car Company. Begun as an offshoot of the Woodruff Manufacturing Company in 1896, the Whitney Manufacturing Company expanded from a workforce of seven men in that year, to over 250 employees by 1908. The company’s growth was such as to require the construction of a five-story, 60-foot by 80-foot addition to the original four-story, 226-foot by 60-foot brick plant by 1910. The quality of the Whitney Manufacturing Company’s work garnered national markets for their products, eventually necessitating a second substantial expansion to their Bartholomew Avenue plant in 1915.34

Another firm of note, the Hart Manufacturing Company, was established by Gerald W. Hart, T.B. Enders, and Elwood C. Harris in 1898. Originally located on Asylum Street, the firm moved to Allyn Street in 1903 before building a new and larger plant at 110 Bartholomew Avenue in 1910. A commentary on the condition of Hartford published by the Hartford Post in 1912 noted that, “The new factory building of the Hart Manufacturing Company is one of the most complete in the city of Hartford. Built of brick and stone, four stories with a basement, the building contains all the added conveniences of modern factory buildings.” In this plant the company produced an array of electrical hardware including snap switches, automatic door switches, door bolt control switches, and remote control magnetic switches. The Post commented that, “The excellence of the goods is shown in the fact that they are in constant demand in nearly every country on the face of the earth, and the Company maintains offices not only in several of the important cities of this country, but in London as well, where a complete stock of the manufactured goods are kept constantly on hand to supply the demand at the shortest possible notice.”35

A third entity of significance, the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company, was founded to produce a pay-per-use telephone device invented by William Gray in 1886. Originally located in a small shop at 64 Asylum Street, the global demand for Gray’s telephone pay stations necessitated the construction of the new four-and-a-half-story reinforced concrete and steel plant on Arbor Street in 1912. This factory was to possess 60,000 square feet of floor space, four times that of its Asylum Street location. A Hartford Courant article outlining the construction of the plant noted that, “The construction of the new building marks only another step in the progress of a company that started business under great handicaps and has overcome them all and is now expanding by great leaps. The factory will be on Arbor Street in the center of the factory district, near excellent home facilities for its workers and with good railroad and freight accommodations.”36

Hartford was in the midst of a remarkable decade of growth at the time that the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company established itself on Arbor Street. That year, the Hartford Post commented that, “The increased population of the city due to the extensive enlarging of the manufacturing plants causes a demand for tenements and small houses and building booms on various tracts of land away from the center of the city have been most successful.” In the year previous to the publication of this statement some 1305 building permits – these valued at $5,896,244 – had been filed in Hartford, this a 200% increase over 1904. This statistic is even more impressive due to the fact that applications for building permits had steadily increased by 25% every year between 1904 and 1912.37
Just as the Hartford Courant suggested, an adequate quantity (and perhaps in some cases also quality) of housing for industrial workers was an important factor in the decision of many firms to establish their businesses in Parkville. This led to a doubling of the neighborhood’s population between 1907 and 1912, the total number of residents reaching approximately 5,500 in the latter year. In 1911, the Hartford Courant commented on the significance of the proximity between home and factory for the industrial laborer. The paper wrote, “Since the various tenements are within easy striking distance of the leading factories, their occupants are able to return home at noon for a hot meal, without inconvenience… Careful students of Hartford housing conditions are confident that the completion of present building operations in Parkville will be followed by an extensive migration of factory people to this territory.” As Hartford’s population increased through the first two decades of the 1900s, an impressive number of additional homes and apartment buildings were erected throughout the Parkville Industrial Historic District in order to accommodate it. Between 1900 and 1909 this included the construction of roughly 58 of the district’s 290 primary contributing resources, while the decade from 1910 to 1919 saw the addition of 87 new structures.38

Unlike the previous decades, in which modestly-sized single- or two-family houses tended to prevail, Parkville’s development during this period was typified by the construction of a mix of two- and three-family houses and small apartment buildings. Hartford builders erected many of these dwellings in pairs or groups, often on speculation. Such included the four brick triple-decker style houses at 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 Sisson Avenue (Photograph 8), which were erected by Frank E. McLean in 1909 for a development firm known as the Boulevard Park Company. Another example was the pair of multi-family frame houses next door to the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company at 12-14 and 15-17 Arbor Street (Photograph 5). These were built by Hartford contractor Wictor E. Anderson in 1913.39

The pair of apartment blocks at 1585-1591 and 1597-1599 Park Street typify the larger residential buildings erected during this period. Most were of brick construction, either three or four stories tall, and containing two units on each floor. Some, particularly those on primary thoroughfares such as Park Street or New Park Avenue, had a commercial unit or two on their ground floors, such as is the case at 1585-1591 Park Street. Although aesthetically different, 1585-1591 and 1579-1599 Park Street were both erected by the firm of Frank Kaplan and Son in 1913 for Morris Older, an attorney residing in the city’s Clay-Arsenal neighborhood. While they were rare in Parkville before the turn of the nineteenth century, apartment blocks became increasingly common after 1900. By 1920, they could be found in all corners of the proposed district.

As was the case during the 1890s, a large percentage of the residents found in Parkville during the first decades of the 1900s tended to be working-class individuals connected to industrial entities with factories on Capitol Avenue or in Parkville. Among these were Wallace S. Hastings, of 65 Hazel Street, and Martin J. Murray, of 14 Francis Avenue, both assemblers at the Underwood Typewriter Company; David Miller, of 16 Sisson Avenue, a helper at the Hartford Rubber Works Company; and John J. Murray, of 14 Francis Avenue, a machinist at the Whitney Manufacturing Company. One dwelling identified within the proposed district, this typical of many, was that of at least five individuals with jobs in local industries. In 1909, the house at 48 Francis Avenue was the residence of Joseph J. Morrison, an assembler at the Underwood Typewriter Company; Howard Morrison, a clerk at the Hartford
Rubber Works Company; Jessie Morrison, an assembler at the Pratt and Cady Company; and Nettie Morrison, an assembler at the Royal Typewriter Company. 40

As houses and factories were constructed throughout Parkville, a comprehensive infrastructure was needed to support both types of development. This work began as early as the 1870s when water lines were first laid to George Kibbe’s subdivision and continued through the 1880s when sewer lines could be found running from Grace Street and Francis Avenue to the Park River via New Park Avenue and Park Street. The eventual installation of sewer and water systems under all of Parkville’s streets indicated both the rising population and status of the neighborhood. It also reduced the frequency of various diseases connected with poor sanitary conditions such as typhoid fever, and once redirected away from the Park River in 1898 provided for much cleaner conditions in that waterway. Water and sewer projects within the Parkville Industrial Historic District were essentially complete by 1909, whereupon with the exception of Cherry Street (the lots flanking which being serviced by primary streets in any case), all of the streets in this section of the neighborhood benefited from reliable public water and sewer service. 41

Well-developed and adequately serviced transportation systems also became increasingly important as Parkville’s population and industries grew. While the Parkville depot station of the Hartford-Providence and Fishkill Railroad was in place as early as 1871, by the 1910s, complaints could be heard throughout the neighborhood regarding the inadequate passenger service offered by the railroad at that time. The Hartford Courant commented that, “Although Parkville is honored with a place on the official timetable of the New York, New Haven & Hartford road, it is of little benefit to the public inasmuch as the only trains which stop are a couple of early ‘dinkeys’ which bring in the suburbanites who work in the factories of that locality, and the outgoing one which takes them home when their daily toil is over.” The lacking character of railroad service was also felt by Parkville’s industries, which increasingly called for the construction of a freight depot in the neighborhood. In 1912, the president of the Harford Board of Trade appealed to Hartford’s Court of Common Council for assistance on this matter writing, “Manufacturing in the southwest section of the city has been growing rapidly, and under existing conditions, hundreds of tons of freight, of less than carload lots, are hauled downtown the Morgan Street stations, a distance of between two and three miles… It is estimated that the cost of transporting this freight is more than double what it would be if these manufacturers had a suitable freight depot in Parkville.” These calls fell on receptive ears as action was taken almost immediately after the comments were published. A site for the Parkville freight depot – this located on the east side of the railroad behind the Royal Typewriter factory – was selected by the end of October 1912, and work on this and a new passenger depot were underway by early 1913. 42

Rapid population growth also led to the expansion of the district’s trolley lines. As noted, horse-driven cars were available in Parkville by 1893, however, when the line was electrified in 1895 it was discovered that the new electric trolleys were six inches too tall to fit under the Park Street railroad crossing. This was remedied by 1897, whereupon a New Park Avenue branch was added to the Park Street line, the former running as far as the city’s border with West Hartford. By 1909, trolley lines had been established on all of Parkville’s primary streets. This included tracks running on Prospect, Sisson, and New Park Avenues, and Park Street, which established a reliable source of transportation throughout the neighborhood and into the adjacent neighborhoods and towns. 43
A Tempered Pace

As noted, Parkville’s development peaked during the 1910s. Streets essentially vacant in 1909 – such as Capitol Avenue between the Park River and Sisson Avenue, and Orange Street between Capitol Avenue and Park Street – saw furious building activity during this period as speculators sought to take advantage of expanding and newly arrived industrial firms. This led to a much tempered pace of construction in the following decade as by 1917 Sanborn maps show that the neighborhood had nearly reached its capacity. Only 22 new buildings were erected between 1920 and 1929, all but seven of these for non-residential use. Among them, however, are some of the most significant and notable buildings in the district. Two of the most prominent include the yellow-brick and concrete buildings at 1405-1409 and 1429 Park Street (Photographs 24 and 50), which were built for the United States Rubber Company – the 1917 successor to the Hartford Rubber Works Company – in 1920. These were designed by the notable Boston, Massachusetts engineering firm of Lockwood, Green and Company and built by Boston construction company Stone and Webster. The larger of the two buildings served as factory space for tire production while the second was used as a combination storage and employee comfort building. The U.S. Rubber Company buildings differ from the industrial plants throughout the district that preceded them, as they are the first that appear to have been constructed with the clear intention of being lit by electricity. While the earlier factories are characterized by long narrow blocks, the width of those designed by Lockwood, Green and Company would have prevented natural light from penetrating their interior spaces.44

Another centrally important building erected during the 1920s was the Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church at 71 New Park Avenue, this built between 1922 and 1925 (Photograph 48). The edifice replaced the parish’s first church, a wooden structure located at 45 Grace Street, which by 1919 had become prohibitively overcrowded as a result of the neighborhood’s rapid growth. Ground for the new church at the southwest corner of New Park Avenue and Grace Street was broken on June 11, 1922 in a ceremony conducted by Rev. F.T. Ledwith and attended by Hartford mayor Richard J. Kinsella and 800 citizens. The edifice’s cornerstone was laid by Bishop Nilan on May 21, 1923 and the building was dedicated by Bishops Nilan and Shahan on July 26, 1925. The new Our Lady of Sorrows Church was designed by the Boston architectural firm of O’Connell and Shaw and constructed by Hartford builders McIntyre and Ahearn. The structure measures 80 feet wide by 170 wide and was constructed of granite from the Duncan-Rusk quarries at West Townsend, Massachusetts. While initial construction estimates had been placed at $250,000, by the time the building was completed costs had risen to almost $500,000. Dedication ceremonies for the Gothic style structure were held before a capacity crowd of 1,500 people, almost three times that held by the earlier Our Lady of Sorrows Church.45

The 1920s were also characterized by an increase in the construction of commercial buildings. These were a direct result of local population growth and rising demand for goods and services ranging from drugs to dry goods and restaurants to real estate sales. New commercial buildings erected during this period were typically one-story brick blocks housing several small shops. These include
the one-story, L-shaped, yellow brick block erected on the southwest side of 1651-1663 Park Street in 1922 (Photograph 51); and the one-story, three-bay, red-brick block built for Charles J. Anderson, a restaurateur, at 68-72 New Park Avenue in 1924 (Photograph 52). Another method of dealing with the increasing demand for commercial space was to modify residential buildings for mixed-use by adding retail units on the ground floor. Such was quite common throughout the district with examples including the two-and-a-half-story, multi-family red-brick house at 84½-86 Sisson Avenue, converted for mixed use in 1925 (Photograph 6); the two-and-a-half-story, multi-family frame house at 95-99 Sisson Avenue, converted for mixed use in 1927 (Photograph 4); and the two-and-a-half-story, multi-family brick houses at 1605-1625 and 1631-1637 Park Street, converted for mixed use in 1928 (Photograph 44).

During the late 1920s, Parkville residents and business moved to market themselves as a fully developed community and trading center. In November 1928, approximately 75 merchants and businessmen organized a “Buy in Parkville” campaign in an effort to draw shoppers from Hartford and West Hartford to Parkville. A Hartford Courant article describing the event highlighted the neighborhood’s commercial benefits including accessibility, ample parking, extended business hours, and lower prices, and noted that, “Those who have not yet visited the district will find a community in which about 100 stores are located within a convenient radius of not more than one-fourth of a mile and will discover that there are many other business firms nearby, in addition to the stores.” A year later, another Hartford Courant article commented on Parkville’s commercial climate noting that as many as 345 stores could be found throughout the neighborhood. These served a populace that had exploded during the 1910s and 1920s. While Parkville’s population numbered 5,500 in 1912, this had almost quadrupled by 1929, at which time it had reached a total of 20,000 people. These lived among 54 industrial plants employing upwards of 8,500 workers.

Considering the tension between the demand for and available supply of land in Parkville during the 1920s it is unsurprising that the limited residential development that took place during this period was with only one exception characterized by the construction of apartment buildings. These were scattered throughout the district and generally contained either six or twelve units each. Examples include the Perfect Six style dwelling erected at 31-33 Orange Street and 784-786 Capitol Avenue (Photographs 16 and 53) in 1924 and 1926, respectively, and the 12-unit blocks built at 206-208 Hamilton Street and 27-29 Orange Street in 1925 (Photographs 33 and 16). These provided comfortable yet affordable housing for Parkville’s industrial workers, all within easy walking distance of the district’s factories, businesses, churches, and schools.

Parkville’s building boom essentially came to a close by the end of the 1920s, however, a slow trickle of new construction continued to take place over the next forty years. This was largely driven by a persistent need for additional commercial and industrial resources. Only one contributing residential building was erected in the district after 1926 (this completed in 1930), and the remaining 16 contributing primary structures were all erected for commercial and industrial uses. Notable among the latter are a pair of red-brick buildings erected for the Southern New England Ice Company, which built a plant and office near the southern end of Pope Park Highway Number 4 in 1930 (Photograph 54). The Southern New England Ice Company was created as a result of the merger of several Connecticut ice companies in February 1927. The company established its main offices on Edward Street in Hartford’s Clay-Arsenal neighborhood and at the time of its conception boasted natural or artificial plants in Ansonia, Derby, Hartford, Meriden, New
Haven, Middletown, New Britain, Bridgeport, New London, Waterbury, Shelton, Stamford, Norwalk, Greenwich, and Danbury, Connecticut; and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In January 1930, the company purchased an 80,000 square foot parcel near the intersection of Pope Park Highway Number 4 and Hamilton Street. On this they erected a combined manufacturing plant and storage facility capable of producing some 50,000 tons of ice a year and holding up to 20,000 tons at any given time. The red-brick factory was designed by architect Brutus Gundlack and the R.B. Engineering Company, both of New York, and was built by Hartford’s Bartlett-Brainard Company. Eight years later the firm erected a two-story office and 28-car garage abutting the west side of Pope Park Highway Number 4, this designed by Hartford architect Keith S. Heine and likewise built by the Bartlett-Brainard Company.49

Parkville institutions also continued to build during this period. Among the new construction was a building erected for the Royal Typewriter Industrial Union, Local 937, UAW, at 106 New Park Avenue in January 1952. Having only been established eleven years earlier in 1941, the Royal Typewriter Industrial Union was quite young at the time of the building’s construction, yet the organization represented the workers of one of the largest industrial entities in the city and it boasted some 4,800 members. The new union building replaced offices formerly maintained in a ground-floor commercial space in a mixed-use building at 128 New Park Avenue and consisted of a two-story brick building housing offices, an assembly hall, and credit union for Royal employees on its first floor, and ten offices leased to other CIO-UAW organizations on the second. At the time of building’s construction the Royal Industrial Union was locked in a series of strikes related to a production reductions, delayed wage increases, and changes to their pension plans, which would sporadically continue through the mid-1950s. At the same time, a similar strike was being conducted by 600 employees of the Whitney Chain and Manufacturing Company on Bartholomew Avenue, the UAW-represented workers there likewise seeking wage increases.50

Parkville in the Modern Era

One of the largest development projects in Parkville’s history was proposed during the mid-1940s but did not come to fruition until the 1960s. This was the construction of an east-west section of a new interstate highway system, which was to run east across the city from a rotary downtown near Hudson Street. The highway would traverse the city and connect eastbound motorists to another highway running north-south along the Connecticut River. In 1945, the plan for the east-west express highway was given an estimated budget of $10 million and was predicted to provide a critical link to Hartford’s central business district. The initial proposal called for a route that was to cross the Park River near Forest Street and run due west between West Boulevard and Warrenton Avenue, thus leaving Parkville untouched. By the time buildings were cleared and construction began, however, the route had been shifted to the southwest along the neighborhood’s eastern border. Requests for construction bids posted in April 1963 identify plans to erect a 0.7-mile section of highway from New Park Avenue northeast through Olive, Rose, Belmont, and Hamilton Streets, and then continuing north through the western edge of Pope Park. By this time the cost of the project had surpassed $84 million and would
require the seizure and demolition of 635 Hartford Buildings, approximately 50 of which being located in the aforementioned project area. Having been fortunate that it did no inflict greater damage, the completed highway system now forms the north, east, and southern boundaries of the Parkville Industrial Historic District.51

Hartford experienced significant social transitions during the second half of the twentieth century. These were related to notable shifts in the distribution and ethnic composition of the city’s population resultant of new immigration patterns and the forced relocation of entire neighborhoods due to large-scale redevelopment projects. The latter impacted Parkville as an influx of Puerto Rican residents who had been forced from their homes in the city’s Clay Hill neighborhood arrived in the southwestern sections of Hartford during the 1960s and 1970s. These individuals began to occupy housing and businesses in the area, particularly along a corridor flanking Park Street, and were joined by recently arrived immigrant groups who were represented in Hartford in limited numbers until that time. In Parkville, the ethnic make-up of the neighborhood was most notably impacted by an influx of Portuguese immigrants who, by the 1970s, were among the most heavily represented ethnic groups in this section of the city. In 1977, the Hartford Courant noted that while French Canadians made up the largest percentage of the population of Parkville starting around 1920, by the 1970s this status had been challenged by increasing numbers of Puerto Rican and Portuguese arrivals. The paper wrote, “The French-Canadians continued coming in periodic bursts until tighter enforcement of working visas during the American economic recession of the last decade slackened the tide. Now there are probably almost as many Portuguese as French-Canadians and Puerto Ricans in the Park Street area. The Portuguese consul in Waterbury, Dr. Adriano Veiga, said about 15,000 Portuguese live in the Hartford region, most of them in Parkville.” As these new arrivals assumed the homes and businesses vacated by the Irish, German, and French-Canadian residents who relocated to Hartford’s suburbs during the 1960s and 1970s, they had a significant impact on Parkville’s cultural character. Despite this, however, Parkville had long been an area populated by a mix of working-class natives and immigrants and the neighborhood retains this character today.52

Architectural Significance:

The Parkville Industrial Historic District is architecturally significant as a working-class neighborhood the likes of which developed throughout several sections of Hartford during the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district includes a notable assemblage of residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional architecture representative of the needs and design preferences that shaped the character of industrial neighborhoods such as Parkville. Hartford experienced considerable growth in its manufacturing sector between 1890 and 1920 and it was during this period that the majority of the buildings in the district were constructed. This being said, however, the district’s period of significance ranges from 1860 to the modern era and its building stock represents the variety of the architectural styles and developmental trends that characterize this span of time.53
The Parkville Industrial Historic District retains a considerable degree of architectural cohesion and integrity. This allows the neighborhood’s building stock to provide a clear narrative of the history and character of its growth. During the 1870s and 1880s, residential developments laid out in Parkville by individuals such as William Francis and George Kibbe were marketed as providing working-class residents with comfortable and affordable homes. A number of builders moved to take advantage of what was predicted to be a desirable working-class neighborhood by buying multiple building lots and erecting houses on speculation. The simple Italianate style residences built at 105-107, 109-11, and 113 Francis Avenue in 1871 are good examples, the first of the three being the best preserved (Photograph 41). This house is typical of those constructed throughout Hartford’s industrial districts at the time, its red-brick walls, brownstone sills and lintels, and low-pitch hipped roof being details particularly common among vernacular interpretations of the style. The pair of Gothic Revival style houses at 46 and 50 New Park Avenue also appear to have been built on speculation during this early period of Parkville’s development (Photograph 55). Erected circa 1880 on the site of and with bricks salvaged from the demolition of the old Parkville Schoolhouse, the houses are attractive working-class residences that typify the Gothic Revival style through their steeply-pitched roofs with steep cross gables, three-sided bay windows, inset dormers, and detailed lintels.

A number of simple yet individually erected houses also originate from this period. The residence at 19 Sisson Avenue, built circa 1878 for Ezra Smart, a machinist at the Pratt and Whitney Company, is another good example of a Gothic Revival dwelling (Photograph 11). Although the house’s one-story Folk Victorian-style veranda and two-story polygonal bay window were not added by Smart until 1898, the house retains a number of its original Gothic Revival details. These include its steeply-pitched roof and front-facing cross gable, paired gable-end windows, and detailed bargeboards. The latter are the most notable as they bear a repeating pattern of scroll-cut shamrocks, an interesting detail in this historically Irish neighborhood.

The house at 53 Francis Avenue is another good example of an individually built and detailed dwelling (Photograph 39). This residence was erected circa 1875 and combines features typical of the Italianate and Stick styles, both popular at the time of its construction. The former is represented by the dwelling’s low-pitch gable roof with widely overhanging eaves; tall, narrow windows; polygonal bay; and corner porch with bracketed square supports. Stick style influences, however, are visible in the scroll-cut decorative trusses found in the house’s gable ends. The residence two doors down at 61 Francis Avenue is also a notable example from this period (Photograph 40). Likewise erected circa 1875, this Italianate style house is typical for its low-pitch gable roof with widely overhanging eaves; tall, narrow windows; and corner porch with bracketed square supports. The round-arched window located on its north (side) elevation is an additional detail common among houses of this style.

The district’s only Second Empire residence was also erected during this early period in Parkville’s development. Built circa 1885, the house at 34 Sisson Avenue (Photograph 12) was originally that of Herschel C. Young, a molder at the Pratt & Whitney Company. The residence is one of the most highly detailed in the proposed district and it retains a number of features typical of Second Empire designs. These include the house’s distinctive mansard roof, broad cornice with scroll-cut brackets, and pedimented and round-arched dormers. Having been constructed at the tail end of the Second Empire style’s popularity, however, it is unsurprising
that details common among a contemporary form found their way into this house. This is specifically in reference to the residence’s porch, the gable ends of which are ornamented with decorative trusses more typically found on Stick style designs.

The house at 85-87 Francis Avenue (Photograph 56) is a good, albeit simple, example of the latter. This residence was constructed circa 1890 for Samuel Clark, a 46-year old gardener who had emigrated from Ireland in 1860. While the house lacks decorative gable trusses, it retains the bracketed and stickwork details of its one-story wrap-around porch. Another, more highly detailed, Stick style residence is that found at 197 Hamilton Street (Photograph 34). Also built circa 1890, by 1896 this house was occupied by Michael Brennan, an employee of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Typical of Stick style designs, 197 Hamilton Street has a steeply-pitched front-facing gable roof with cross gables, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, scroll-cut bargeboards, and decorative horseshoe trusses in its gable ends. Similar details are found on the one-story full-width porch, yet this lacks horseshoe trusses.

Although popular during the period in which Parkville experienced its most rapid development, few examples of the Queen Anne Style can be found throughout the district. The two-and-a-half-story, multi-family red-brick residences at 1605-1625 and 1631-1637 Park Street are two exceptions (Photograph 44). These were built circa 1890 by Joseph Hellyer, a mason, who eventually resided at 1605-1625 Park Street with his brothers Frank and Frederick, both of whom were also masons. While these houses were converted to accommodate commercial uses on their first floors during the 1920s, they retain the majority of the details that qualify them as being of Queen Anne derivation. Such include the patterned brick stringcourses running across the first and second stories and extending through the flat-arched window openings, steeply-pitched hipped roofs with lower cross gables, exposed rafter tails, paired eave line brackets, and pointed-arch bargeboards. Patterned shingle work in the gable ends and shed dormers with paired windows complete the Queen Anne designs.

Another house that shows Queen Anne influences does so in combination with feature typical of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. The eclectic house at 1618 Park Street was built in 1896 and shows wood shingle siding, an engaged corner turret, a mixed assortment of one- and two-story window bays, double-hung diamond-pane windows, a hipped roof with cross gables, and partial-width one-story porch with shingled piers and Tuscan columns, shingled frieze, and hipped roof (Photograph 45). As noted, the details of the design are variously found among houses inspired by the Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival styles, many of these being shared among either two or all three of these forms. Such include the engaged corner turret, typical among the Queen Anne and Shingle styles, and the hipped roof with multiple cross gables, which was a detail frequently employed by all three forms.

Construction methods in neighborhoods bordering Hartford’s industrial districts were largely characterized by repetition of design and the mass production of working-class housing and these practices are clearly evident in the proposed district. In Parkville, like many other sections of the city, a sizable percentage of the housing stock was erected by local builders and shaped according to their interpretations of popular architectural designs. As such, it is not surprising that a number of buildings throughout the proposed Parkville Industrial Historic District demonstrate the mixed stylistic influences and distinct tensions present during the transition
between Victorian forms, such as the Queen Anne and Shingles styles, and revival designs, such as the Colonial and Neoclassical Revivals, around the turn of the century.

As development in the Parkville Industrial Historic District was most active from 1890 through 1920, however, a majority of the district’s historically significant resources are either good examples of Colonial Revival designs or possess strong Colonial Revival influences. The finest example of the style within the district is La Salette College, the original portion of which having been built at 85 New Park Avenue in 1894 and expanded in 1907 (Photograph 49). La Salette College is a four-and-a-half-story, red-brick, Georgian Revival structure with a side-gabled main block flanked by four-and-a-half-story cross-gable wings. The building’s Colonial Revival details include its symmetrical façade with projecting four-and-a-half-story cross-gable entry pavilion, brownstone quoins, modillioned cornice, hipped roof, and pedimented gable dormers. Further characteristics can be found in the primary entry porch and surround, which consists of a one-story portico with Doric columns and pilasters, simple cornice and flat roof, and radial fanlight over a pair of wood and glass entry doors.

Among residential structures, the house erected at 83-85 Sisson Avenue in 1897 is one of the best illustrations of the Colonial Revival style in the district (Photograph 10). This two-and-a-half-story red-brick residence has straightforward massing, a largely symmetrical plan, splayed lintels, broad modillioned cornice, widely overhanging hipped roof, and hipped dormers with modillioned eave lines. The classical details of the front porch are also typical of the style, these including the paired Doric columns, bracketed and modillioned cornice, and hipped roof with pedimented cross gable over the entry. Similar details are found on another of the district’s examples of the Colonial Revival, this being the house built at 30-32 Sisson Avenue in 1910 (Photograph 57). Designed by Burton A. Sellew, the residence has a side-gabled roof with wide frieze, prominent cross gables showing Palladian-style windows, and an enclosed one-story front porch with Tuscan columns and flat-arched transoms.

Being primarily a working-class neighborhood, such highly detailed resources as those described above are somewhat rare, particularly among non-institutional structures. A more common manifestation of the Colonial Revival form is a plan popular throughout the city’s working- and middle-class neighborhoods during this period. These are generally two-and-a-half-story, multi-family homes with front-facing pitched roofs, cross gables, and prominent front porches. These relatively inexpensive designs provided increased living space within their gabled or dormered attic stories, which made for comfortable residences that allowed homeowners to supplement their income while enjoying the privilege of dwelling within their own house. Such are well illustrated by the multi-family frame residences erected at 867-869, 871-873, 877-879, and 881-883 Capitol Avenue between 1910 and 1911 (Photograph 3); and 59-61, 63-65, and 67-69 Hazel Street in 1906, 1906, and 1911, respectively (Photograph 14). While the multiple multi-story bay windows and scroll-cut bargeboards at 72 Hazel Street are details suggestive of the Queen Anne or Stick styles, the home’s generally straightforward massing, classical porch details, and Palladian-inspired tripartite window in the gable end of this home make it more typical of other Colonial Revival forms (Photograph 15).

Another form popular throughout this working-class neighborhood is of a style common throughout Hartford’s industrial neighborhoods. Locally known as the “Perfect Three,” these are three-family buildings with one unit on each floor, the floor plan
being identical on each level. The dwellings most often show Colonial Revival details, however some bear Neoclassical or other stylistic influences. Perfect Threes are oblong in shape, have offset paired entry doors, three-story front porches, and low-pitch hipped roofs. A three-story bow front is a common feature, as are broad metal cornices, the latter often containing the majority of the building’s architectural ornamentation. The house at 133-135 Francis Avenue is a good example (Photograph 42). This three-story red-brick dwelling was erected in 1913 and shows a number of typical Colonial Revival details including concrete quoins, segmental-arched window openings with concrete sills and splayed brick and concrete lintels, and a broad and widely overhanging denticulated and modillioned metal cornice. The building erected at 214 Hamilton Street a year earlier possesses a majority of the aforementioned details, these in a mixed-use adaptation of the Perfect Three format (Photograph 33).

As noted, the Parkville Industrial Historic District’s appeal and accessibility to working-class residents combined with a high demand for housing resulted in a significant number of apartment buildings being constructed within the boundaries of the proposed district. The first apartment block was a five-family frame building erected at 62-64 New Park Avenue circa 1875, and the construction of large multi-family residential buildings continued through the 1920s. Among these, the most popular template was in essence a double version of the aforementioned Perfect Three. Known locally as the “Perfect Six,” these were three-story, six-family residence with two units on each floor. Typical details include symmetrical façades with centered entrances – these often set within recessed and arched entryways; three-story bow fronts; bold, often highly detailed, cornices; and flat or low-pitch hipped roofs. Stylistically, Perfect Sixes tend to draw from a variety of influences ranging from the Colonial and Neoclassical Revivals to the Italian Renaissance and Beaux Arts forms, however, those in the district tend to be simple Colonial Revival designs. The three-story, red-brick structures erected at 160-162 and 164-166 Bartholomew Avenue in 1907 are the archetypal Perfect Six designs. Typical of hundreds of Hartford’s Perfect Sixes, these six-unit apartment buildings have symmetrical facades, recessed round-arched entries flanked by three-story bow fronts, segmental-arched window openings with ashlar brownstone sills, and (in the case of three of the structures) broad metal modillioned cornices. The building at 210-212 Hamilton Street is another, albeit slightly different, example (Photograph 33). Designed by Hartford architect Burton A. Sellew and built in 1914, this residence is similar to the aforementioned building next door at 214 Hamilton Street, in that it possesses familiar Colonial Revival details including concrete quoins, splayed brick and concrete lintels, and a broad denticulated and modillioned cornice. Likewise designed by Sellew, the dwelling at 71 Orange Street bears similar details, this having been built just two years earlier (Photograph 17). Eclectic variations on the Perfect Six format can also be found, these including the building at 31-33 Orange Street (Photograph 16, 1924), which bears Mission style-inspired contrasting brickwork on its façade; and the structure at 63-65 Orange Street, the arched to which appears to be derived from Italian Renaissance Revival forms (Photograph 17, 1911).

A handful of apartment blocks not patterned in the Perfect Six style are also present throughout the district. Like the aforementioned residential buildings, the majority of these are relatively plain Colonial Revival designs. Such are typified by the pair of four-story buildings at 1585-1591 and 1597-1599 Park Street (Photograph 43). Built in 1913, these structures are typical Colonial Revival designs of brick construction with concrete sills and splayed brick lintels, concrete stringcourses, broad and widely
overhanging modillioned metal cornices, and flat roofs. Three other apartment blocks, these erected in 1915, represent several rare exceptions to the prevalence of the Colonial Revival form. Better classified as Neoclassical Revival forms, the buildings include two blocks designed by Hartford architect Fred C. Walz and erected as a pair at 821 Capitol Avenue and 80 Orange Street, and another designed by Burton A. Sellew and built two blocks away at 88-90 Sisson Avenue. Despite being the work of two separate architects, the projects are strikingly similar. All three buildings are three stories in height and are of red-brick construction with yellow-brick facades. They have poured concrete foundations, yellow-brick pilasters framed with red-brick and with concrete bases and capitals, broad denticulated cornices with wide friezes bearing repeating raised vertical panels, and flat roofs. Divergences between the two properties can be found in their entries and window openings. The buildings at 821 Capitol Avenue and 80 Orange Street have recessed entries with plain concrete surrounds and splayed concrete lintels with prominent keystones, while in contrast, the more prominently sited block at 88-90 Sisson Avenue have detailed classical entry surrounds consisting of brick and concrete flanking panels and broken pediments above. While the majority of the building’s windows have plain concrete sills, those above the tripartite corridor windows have splayed concrete lintels with prominent keystones.

Institutional buildings such as the Colonial Revival La Salette College described above have a high propensity to illustrate high style examples of popular architectural forms. Although the district generally lacks such structures, the Our Lady of Sorrows Church on New Park Avenue is one of the few such buildings of note as the Late Gothic Revival style building is one of the best examples of the form in Hartford (Photographs 48). Erected at 71 New Park Avenue between 1922 and 1925, Our Lady of Sorrows Church was designed by the Boston architectural firm of O’Connell and Shaw and constructed by local builders McIntyre and Ahearn. The building measures 80 feet wide by 170 wide and has ashlar granite block walls constructed of granite drawn from the Duncan-Rusk quarries at West Townsend, Massachusetts. Typical of Late Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical designs, the building has a central nave flanked by towers, side aisles, and transepts; pointed-arch fenestration, stepped buttresses, a forty-foot steel and copper pinnacle, and a front-facing gable roof with slate sheathing. The church’s façade is dominated by a three-story pointed-arch portal with detailed archivolt and trefoil tracery. The primary entry is centered on the façade and consists of an enclosed entry porch with pointed-arch opening, heavy wood doors, and stone pinnacles.

Although a limited number of institutional buildings are located in the Parkville Industrial Historic District, the area does contain a notable number of architecturally significant structures representing typical nineteenth- and early twentieth-century industrial designs. These buildings generally reflect standard brick mill construction methods and the utilitarian designs limit the presence of architectural flourishes beyond brick cornices and decorative entryways. The factories at 30 Bartholomew Avenue and 34-56 Arbor Street, built in 1903 for the Hartford Rubber Works Company and 1917 for the Underwood Computing Machine Company, respectively, are among the district’s best examples (Photographs 26 and 19). These possess numerous aspects of general nineteenth- and early twentieth-century factory design such as multi-story brick-pier construction; long, narrow proportions; large, plentiful windows; stair-towers; and a flat roofs. These features provided open workspaces, plentiful light, and a relative degree of fire resistance, as well as facilitated easy movement in and out of the buildings during shift changes and emergencies. Notable additional
details of the aforementioned factories include the prominent castellated entry tower at 30 Bartholomew Avenue, and the pair of four-and-a-half-story towers with brownstone quoins, copper-capped cornices, and slate shingle roofs at 34-56 Arbor Street. The four-story brick mill-style building erected by the Hart Manufacturing Company at 110 Bartholomew Avenue in 1910 is another good example of the form, this being simpler in its design than either the Hartford Rubber Works Company or Underwood Computing Machine Company plants (Photograph 30).

Several notable non-brick mill style factory buildings can also be found in the district. These are reinforced concrete and steel structures showing expansive window bays and towering concrete piers. This includes the four-story plant at 16-30 Arbor Street, which was built by the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company in two phases, these taking place in 1912 and 1925 (Photograph 20). The four-story Late Gothic Revival style building is more highly detailed than most of the district’s industrial resources and its heavy concrete piers rise into a prominent concrete cornice with a crenellated brick parapet wall above. The four-story bays created by the piers throughout the structure are divided on each floor by large, multi-pane, steel-frame hopper windows separated by red-brick spandrel panels, the large window openings being a detail not possible with traditional brick mill construction methods. This advantage is also visible in the six-story, flat-slab, reinforced concrete and steel factory building erected at the northeast corner of the intersection of Park Street and Bartholomew Avenue for the United States Rubber Company in 1920 (Photograph 24). The Art Deco-inspired building is dominated by stepped concrete piers that frame six-story arcaded bays on all sides of the factory. The bays are filled with large multi-pane hopper windows separated by yellow-brick spandrel panels and concrete sills and lintels, these rising to a stepped yellow-brick parapet running along the roofline. Although the building’s large windows allow copious amounts of light to enter the building, its substantial width prevents natural illumination from reaching the interior. As such, it is quite clear that the architects, Lockwood, Green and Company of Boston, Massachusetts, intended for the building to be lit with electric lighting, a feature common among industrial buildings of this vintage.

1 “Map of the City of Hartford.” Surveyed and drawn by Marcus Smith, 1850.
3 McKegg Road was named after a family of that name which lived on the south side of Park Street in the vicinity of what is presently Rowe Avenue.
5 “Map of the City of Hartford.” Surveyed and drawn by Marcus Smith, 1850.
11 The Parkville railroad depot was originally located on the west side of Francis Avenue, just south of Park Street, yet was removed by 1950.
22 Grant, Yankee Dreamers and Doers, 256. Bruce Epperson, “Failed Colossus,” 303.
24 Epperson, 312. Grant, Yankee Dreamers and Doers, 258.
25 The Hartford Rubber Works Company was also a critical partner in Pope’s efforts to develop and popularize single-tube pneumatic tires, the likes of which today seen on automobiles. While Pope was an ardent proponent of single-tube tires as early as 1892, at the time of the 1895 Chicago cycle show there was only one vendor with a single-tube tire on display besides the Hartford Rubber Works Company. By 1896, however, nearly every vendor present at the aforementioned show had a single-tube tire on display. Cleveland Moffett, “Great: The Marvels of Bicycle Making; A Visit to the Hartford Rubber Works,” McClure’s Magazine, April 1897, Vol. VIII, No. 0, p. 6.
31 “Parkville Now a Flourishing Place: Progress and Peace in Place of Old Time Rowdyism,” Hartford Courant, April 15, 1912, p. 14; “Grace Chapel, Parkville,” Hartford Courant, November 12, 1887, p. 5; “College of La Salle,” Hartford Courant, August 1, 1894, p. 4.
37 The Hartford Post, Hartford in 1912; Story of the Capital City, Present and Prospective (Hartford: R.S. Peck & Co., 1912), 230.

39 “Building permits for Sisson Avenue and Arbor Street”, City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk’s Office.

40 Geer’s Hartford City Directories, Hartford: Elihu Geer, 1848-1930.


42 “Want Passenger and Freight Depot: Parkville Residents Think They Need A New Station,” Hartford Courant, October 22, 1912, p. 7; “After Parkville Freight Station: Board of Trade Asks Council’s Aid for Project,” Hartford Courant, September 24, 1912, p. 11; “Site Selected For New Freight Station: Railroad Has Option in Parkville,” Hartford Courant, October 29, 1912, p. 12.


46 “Hartford Building Permits”, City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk’s Office.


48 “Hartford Building Permits”, City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk’s Office.


53 Hartford Architecture: Volume 2, South Neighborhoods (Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980); “Hartford Building Permits”, City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk’s Office.
Bibliography:

Texts:


**Atlases and Insurance Maps:**


**Newspapers:**


**National Register Nominations:**


Directories:

Geer’s Hartford City Directories, Hartford: Elihu Geer, 1848-1930.


Public Records:


“Hartford Building Permits”, City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk’s Office.
Name of Property: Parkville Industrial Historic District
County and State: Hartford, CT

Section number: 10   Page: 1

UTM References:

A: 18.690610.4625743
B: 18.690688.4625818
C: 18.691016.4625885
D: 18.691138.4625754
E: 18.691118.4625487
F: 18.691086.4624963
G: 18.690970.4624777
H: 18.690849.4624820
I: 18.690738.4624598
J: 18.690483.4624553
K: 18.690615.4624821
L: 18.690472.4624893
M: 18.690359.4624688
N: 18.690306.4624717
O: 18.690330.4624899
P: 18.690472.4624943
Q: 18.690418.4624998
R: 18.690451.4625102
S: 18.690505.4625099
T: 18.690514.4625163
U: 18.690627.4625183
V: 18.690694.4625395
W: 18.690636.4625389
National Register of Historic Places
Parkville Industrial Historic District; Hartford, Connecticut

Proposed District Boundaries:
Proposed District Boundaries:
National Register of Historic Places
Parkville Industrial Historic District; Hartford, Connecticut
Photo Directions (page 1 of 2):
National Register of Historic Places
Parkville Industrial Historic District; Hartford, Connecticut

Photo Directions (page 2 of 2):

---

- Proposed Parkville Industrial Historic District (South of Park Street)
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 788-790, 792-794, 798-800, 804-806, 808-810, 814-816, and 818-820 Capitol Avenue (1911, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1911, 1911, and 1911). Camera facing northeast. Photograph 1 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 858-860, 864-866, and 868-870 Capitol Avenue (1910).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 2 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of (from left to right) 867-869, 871-873, 877-879, and 881-883 Capitol Avenue (1910, 1910, 1911, and 1910). Camera facing southwest. Photograph 3 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 77, 79-81, 83-85, 87-89, and 91-99 Sisson Avenue (1898, 1896, 1897, 1909, and 1909/1906).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 4 of 59.
Streetscape of the intersection of Capitol Avenue and Arbor Street. From left to right, 789-791 Capitol Avenue (1912), 12-14 Arbor Street (1913), 16-30 Arbor Street (1912, 1925), 34-56 Arbor Street (1917, 1936), and 15-17 Arbor Street (1913). Camera facing south.

Photograph 5 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 84 ½-86 Sisson Avenue (1905, 1925), showing façade, roof, window, and storefront details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 6 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 74-76 and 78-80 Sisson Avenue (1907 and 1909).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 7 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 Sisson Avenue (1909).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 8 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 57 and 59-61 Sisson Avenue (1902 and 1907).
Camera facing northwest.
Photograph 9 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 79-81 and 83-85 Sisson Avenue (1896 and 1897).
Camera facing northwest.
Photograph 10 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 19 and 21 Sisson Avenue (c. 1878 and c. 1875).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 11 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 34 Sisson Avenue (c. 1885).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 12 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 82 Hazel Street (1930).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 13 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 59-61, 63-65, and 67-69 Hazel Street (1906, 1906, and 1911).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 14 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 72 and 76-78 Hazel Street (1900 and 1902). Camera facing northeast. Photograph 15 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 31-33, 27-29, 23-25, and 19-21 Orange Street (1924, 1925, 1912, and 1925).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 16 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 63-65, 67-69, and 71 Orange Street (1913, 1911, and 1912).

Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 17 of 59.
Landscape view of George H. Day Park, 19 Arbor Street (c. 1920).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 18 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 16-30 and 34-56 Arbor Street (1912 and 1925, and 1917 and 1936). Camera facing northeast. Photograph 19 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 16-30 Arbor Street (1912 and 1925). Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 20 of 59.
West (front) elevation of 16-30 Arbor Street (1912).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 21 of 59.
West (front) elevation of 34-56 Arbor Street (1917 and 1936).
Camera facing east.
Photograph 22 of 59.
Landscape view from 34-56 Arbor Street (1917 and 1936) towards.
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 23 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of 1429 Park Street (1920).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 24 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 1477 Park Street (1895 and 1910).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 25 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 30 Bartholomew Avenue (1903).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 26 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 50 Bartholomew Avenue (1922).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 27 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 45 Bartholomew Avenue (1912). Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 28 of 59.
East (side) elevation of 81-99 Bartholomew Avenue (1895).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 29 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 110 Bartholomew Avenue (1912, listed in Hartford Assessor’s records as 250 Hamilton Avenue).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 30 of 59.
Photograph 31 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 169 Bartholomew Avenue (1919, 1923, 1939, and 1941). Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 32 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of (from right to left) 206-208, 210-212, and 214 Hamilton Street (1924, 1914, and 1912).
Camera facing northwest.
Photograph 33 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 191 and 197 Hamilton Street (1893 and 1890). 
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 34 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from right to left) 34 and 38-40 Rose Street (c. 1900 and 1907). Camera facing northeast. Photograph 35 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of (from left to right) 160-162 and 164-166 Bartholomew Avenue (1907).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 36 of 59.
South (front) and west (side) elevations of (from right to left) 36-38 and 42-44 Belmont Street (1918). Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 37 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 17-21 Francis Avenue (1920).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 38 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of (from right to left) 49-51 and 53 Francis Avenue (c. 1920 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northwest.
Photograph 39 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 61 Francis Avenue (c. 1875).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 40 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 105-107, 109-11, and 113 Francis Avenue (c. 1871). Camera facing southwest. Photograph 41 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 133-135, 137-139, and 141-143 Francis Avenue (1913, 1896, 1896).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 42 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1585-1591 and 1597-1599 Park Street (1913).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 43 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1605-1615, 1619-1625, and 1631-1637 Park Street (c. 1890, 1910, c. 1890).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 44 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of (from right to left) 1608-1610 and 1618 Park Street (1912 and 1896). Camera facing northwest. Photograph 45 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 32-34 and 38 New Park Avenue (1898 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 46 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 78-80 and 82-86 New Park Avenue (c. 1900 and c. 1875).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 47 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of 71 New Park Avenue (1922-1925). Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 48 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of 85 New Park Avenue (1894 and 1907). Camera facing northwest. Photograph 49 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of (from left to right) 1405-1409 and 1429 Park Street (1920).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 50 of 59.
North (front) and east (side) elevations of 1651-1663 Park Street (1922).
Camera facing east.
Photograph 51 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 68-72 New Park Avenue (1924).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 52 of 59.
South (front) and east (side) elevations of 784-786 Capitol Avenue (1926).
Camera facing northwest.
Photograph 53 of 59.
South (side) and east (rear) elevations of 101 Pope Park Highway No. 4 (1930).
Camera facing south.
Photograph 54 of 59.
West (front) and south (side) elevations of (from left to right) 46 and 50 New Park Avenue (c. 1880). Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 55 of 59.
East (front) and south (side) elevations of 85-87 Francis Avenue (c. 1890).
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 56 of 59.
East (front) and north (side) elevations of (from right to left) 26-28 and 30-32 Sisson Avenue (1896 and 1910).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 57 of 59.
North (front) and west (side) elevations of 821 Capitol Avenue (left, 1915) and west (front) and north (side) elevations of 80 Orange Street (right, 1915).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 58 of 59.
West (front) and north (side) elevations of 88-90 Sisson Avenue (1915).
Camera facing southeast.
Photograph 59 of 59.