

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 4, 2000

The Honorable Michael Peters Municipal Building City Hall 550 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mayor Peters:

It is a great pleasure to inform you that the Homestead Avenue Historic District in Hartford, Connecticut, was listed on the State Register of Historic Places by the Connecticut Historical Commission at their meeting on May 3, 2000.

The State Register of Historic Places is an honorary designation established by the General Statutes. Although the designation does not prevent a property owner from demolishing a structure, the State Register guides local officials, State agencies, and the general public in identifying historic properties.

It is my sincere hope that this designation will serve to encourage the preservation and reuse of this important historic resource. We appreciate your concern for historic preservation.

If you have any questions, or if this office can be of assistance, please call or write John Herzan, State Register Coordinator.

Sincerely,

ohn W. Shannahan

Director

Enclosure



P.O. Box 230272 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06123-0273 "Seeking to revitalize Hartford and its neighborhoods through the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartford's unique architectural heritage."

27 March 2000

APPLICATION FOR CONNECTICUT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DESIGNATION

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT HARTFORD, CT

- 1. DISTRICT STREETS & PROPERTIES
- 2. MAP WITH BOUNDARIES
- 3. DESCRIPTION
- 4. INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS
- 5. PHOTOGRAPHS
- 6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Development Architectural Significance



P.O. Box 230272 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06123-0273 "Seeking to revitalize Hartford and its neighborhoods through the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartford's unique architectural heritage."

28 February 2000

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT DISTRICT STREETS & PROPERTIES

Cabot Street: 14-16, 15, 17-19, 18-20, 21-23, 22-24, 25-27, 26, 29-31, 30-32, 33-35, 34-36, 37-39, 38-40, 41-43, 42-44, 45-47, 46-48, 49-51, 50-52, 54-56, 58-60.

Edgewood Street: 7-9, 14,15,18-20, 19, 21, 22-24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30-32, 31, 36-38, 40-42, 41-43, 44, 45-47, 48, 49-51, 50, 53-55, 54, 57-59, 58-60, 61-63, 62-64.

Homestead Avenue: 139-141, 140-146, 143-145, 147-149, 150, 151-153, 154-156, 155-157, 158-160, 159-161, 162-164, 163-165, 166-168, 167-169, 171-173, 175-177, 179-191, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 193, 195-197, 196-198, 199-201, 200-202, 203-205, 204-206, 210-216 (aka 4-6 Sterling Street).

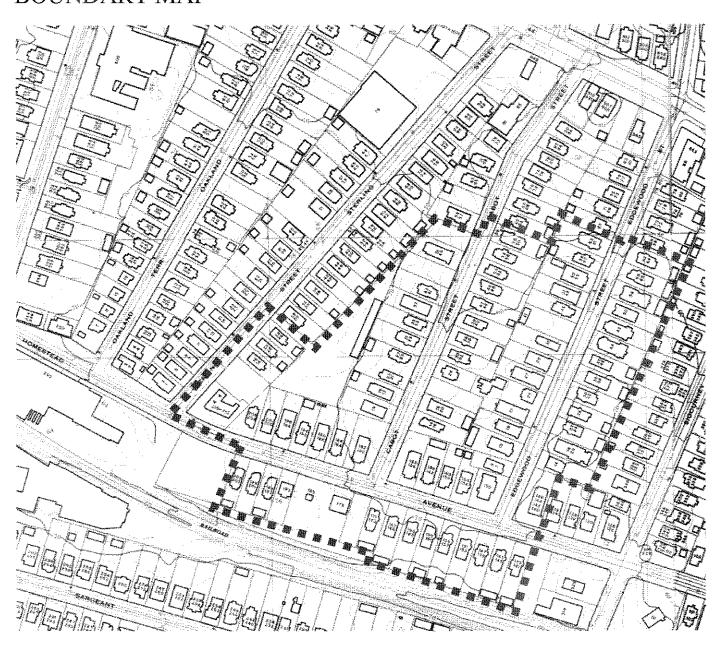
Sterling Street: 8-14, 16H, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26.

"Seeking to revitalize Hartford and its neighborhoods through the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartford's unique architectural heritage."

P.O. Box 230272 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06123-0273

28 February 2000

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP





P.O. Box 230272 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06123-0273 "Seeking to revitalize Hartford and its neighborhoods through the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartford's unique architectural heritage."

24 March 2000

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Homestead Avenue Historic District includes 76 residential buildings on Homestead Avenue between Sterling Street and Edgewood Street (street numbers 139-255), Edgewood Street from Homestead to just south of Albany Avenue (street numbers 7-64), Cabot Street from Homestead to just south of Albany Avenue (street numbers 14-60), and the first four buildings on the east side of Sterling Street from Homestead Avenue (street numbers 16-26). See map for boundaries.

The area is bounded on the west, north, and east by the Upper Albany National Register Historic District, and on the south side by an existing railroad right-of-way. The Upper Albany National Register Historic District is generally made up of early 1900s wood frame one and two-family homes in the Queen Anne style.

Homestead Avenue is a busy secondary feeder street which together with Walnut Street extends from downtown Hartford out to Albany Avenue near the western boundary of Hartford. Edgewood, Cabot, and Sterling are quiet, narrow streets that connect Homestead north to the main thoroughfare, Albany Avenue. The district is flat, with buildings set well back from the streets and many large trees lining the streets. Buildings are closely spaced, with some lots vacant where buildings were recently demolished.

Buildings in the Homestead Avenue Historic District are handsome and historic, dating from the early 1900s. All 78 existing buildings but three are residential, erected between 1900 and 1925. Most date from 1907 to 1915. One building dates to 1860, and two adjacent buildings on the south side of Homestead Avenue are nondescript modern commercial buildings.

District buildings are examples of common types and styles utilized in Hartford for worker housing during the city's rapid development in the early 1900s.

- Brick triple-decker three-family and Perfect Six six-family buildings, with large classic cornices and window lintels of the Italianate Style. Many have bay windows and threestory wood porches on the front. There are approximately 40 buildings of this type in the district, the most common type.
- Brick three-story flat-front small apartment blocks, most with Colonial Revival features such as large cornices and arched entrances, and some with wood porches in front. There are approximately 20 of this type, including two exceptional Georgian Revival buildings on Edgewood Street (see Statement of Significance).
- Wood frame two and three-family houses, some triple-deckers and some with gable roofs and other features of the Neo-Classicical Revival and Queen Anne styles.

Page 2, Homestead Avenue Historic District, Description, 24 March 2000

In addition to these main styles, there are a few other building types in the district, including several small two-story brick residences (i.e., the c1860 Greek Revival house at 14 Edgewood Street).

Styles and building types are dispersed in the area, but small clusters of one style appear in many cases, presumably constructed by one builder at one time.

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT November 9, 1999

			4	November 9, 1999		***************************************	The second secon	CALL THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY	helius object of the cold by t
Address	Parcel#	Date	Architect/builder (if known)	Style/period	# of fils	Roof type	Materials	Owner	Photo #
			HON	HOMESTEAD AVENUE					
139-141 Homestead Ave.	800-100-909	6061		Queen Anne	2.1/2	gable	red brick	Carlton Mitchell	#13
140-146 Homestead Ave.	606-003-001	1912	George Zunner, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	4	shed	red brick	Jack Ross	#1
143-145 Homestead Ave.	606-001-007	1909		Half Six (Late Italianate)	æ	hip	red brick	Silvan A. & Cyrilene Blake	#13
147-149 Homestead Ave.	900-100-909	1908		Queen Anne	21/2	gable	red brick	Roosevelt Cooper	#13
150 Homestead Ave.	606-002-044	1910		Queen Anne	21/2	gable	red brick	Byles S. Nelson	#1, #10
151-153 Homestead Ave.	606-001-005	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	did	red brick	Michael Chambers	#13
154-156 Homestead Ave.	606-002-045	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	'n	ці́р	red brick	Herbert & Leleka Genus	#1
155-157 Homestead Ave.	606-001-004	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	Э	hip	red brick	Mavis Creary	#13
158-160 Homestead Ave.	606-002-046	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	ъ	did	red brick	John H. Upshaw	#1
159-161 Homestead Ave.	606-001-003	1910	THE CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF TH	Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Leon & Willie Asberry	#13
162-164 Homestead Ave.	606-002-047	1913	George Zunner, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	ന	shed	red brick	Harold & Olive Thomas	#2
163-165 Homestead Ave.	606-001-002	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	رب د	hip	red brick	Joseph A. & Deloris France	#13
166-168 Homestead Ave.	606-002-001	1912		Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	· C	shed	red brick	Harold & Olive Thomas	#2
167-169 Homestead Ave.	606-001-001	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	8	hip	red brick	Guy & Malvina Wellington	#13
171-173 Homestead Ave.	601-001-010	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	dih	red brick	Vernon & Alva Forde	#13
175-177 Homestead Ave.	601-001-009	vacant		e H	ļ	THE STATE OF THE S		Baco Burner Supply, Inc.	Titus comments of the comments
179-191 Homestead Ave. (2 structures)	601-001-008	c1925			T	flat	red brick (1) concrete (1)	Baco Burner Supply, Inc.	CA HOTTOGOMANA TO THE TOTAL

Address	Parcel#	Date	Architect/builder (if known)	Style/period	# of fls	Roof type	Materials	Owner	Photo #
180-182 Homestead Ave.	601004043	1912	George Zunner, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	3	pəys	red brick	Zezzo House Corp.	#2
184-186 Homestead Ave.	601-004-044	vacant	leage Zunner	-		-	in t	ONE CHANE, Inc.	
188-190 Homestead Ave.	601-004-045	1912	George Zunner, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	3	shed	red brick	Zezzo House Corp.	#3
192-194 Homestead Ave.	601-004-046	1912	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Austin D. & Yvette D. Drakes	#3
193 Homestead Ave.	601-001-007	1914		Neo-Classical Revival	3	hip	red brick	Alliance Petroleum Industries	#14
195-197 Homestead Ave.	601-001-006	1914		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Nixon Smith	#14
196-198 Homestead Ave.	601~004~047	1911		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)	3	shed	red brick	Byron G., Sybil M. & Patricia Tyrell	#3
199-201 Homestead Ave.	601-001-005	1915		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Dorothy Fleming	#14
200-202 Homestead Ave.	601-004-049	1912		Half Six (Late Italianate)	8	hip	red brick	Naomi Mitchell	
203-205 Homestead Ave.	601-001-004	1913		Half Six (Late Italianate)	£	hip	red brick	Benjamin & Rubila Paxi	#14
204-206 Homestead Ave.	601-004-050	1914	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Gloria Jordan	
210-216 Homestead Ave./ 4-6 Sterling St.	601-004-001	1925		Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Winston Haynes	#15
			EDG	EDGEWOOD STREET	***************************************				STATE OF THE STATE
7.9 Edgewood St.	606-002-043	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Lambert B. Givens	#10
14 Edgewood St.	606~003~002	c1860		Greek Revival	2	flat	shingle (synthetic)	Joseph Gartrell	#7
15 Edgewood St.	606-002-042	1908	Fred C. Walz, Hartford	Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)		shed	red brick	Rexeton Wright	#10
18-20 Edgewood St.	606-003-003	1924	George Zunner, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Joseph Gartrell	#4
19 Edgewood St.	606-002-041	1913	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	٤,	shed	red brick	Edgewood St. Associates, Inc.	#10
21 Edgewood St.	606-002-040	1919	Daniel A. Guerriero, Hartford	Georgian Revival	3	shed	red brick	Kenneth Palmer/Pearl Nelson	#10

Address	Parcel #	Date	Architect/builder (if known)	Style/period	# of fils	Roof type	Materials	Owner	Photo #
22-24 Edgewood St.	606-003-004	1907		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Joshua S. & Darlene E. Hayles	#4
25 Edgewood St. (including carriage house)	606-002-039	1908	Fred C. Walz, Hartford	Colonial Revival	21/2	hip	red brick	Emeriah Morgan	#10, #11
27 Edgewood St.	606-002-038	1919	Daniel A. Guerriero, Hartford	Georgian Revival	æ	shed	red brick	Kenneth L. Palmer	#10, #11
28 Edgewood St.	606-003-005	1907		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hipc	red brick	Arthur & Vioris Mantle	
29 Edgewood St.	606-002-037	1911		Neo-Classical Revival	æ	flat	red brick	Edgewood St. Associates, Inc.	#11
30-32 Edgewood St.	900-003-006	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Josue Laura A. Ortiz	
31 Edgewood St.	606-002-036	c1900			2	hip	red brick	Isaac & Mariette McCrory	and the second
36-38 Edgewood St.	606-003-007	1925		Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Estelle Bastiany	
40-42 Edgewood St.	900-003-008	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	. ro	hip	red brick	Gladstone & Joycelen Foreshaw	
41-43 Edgewood St.	606-002-035	to an an an		Garage only on site	4 6	fa as	3 1	James C. Chalwell	
44 Edgewood St.	606-003-009	1910		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)	3	parls	red brick	Edgewood Associates	#5
45-47 Edgewood St.	606-002-034	6061		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	James C. Chalwell	#12
48 Edgewood St.	606-003-010	1910		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)	က	shed	red brick	Vine Associates	#2
49-51 Edgewood St.	606-002-033	0161	Fred C. Walz, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	æ	flat	red brick	Thomas J. & Maria E. Connors	#12
50 Edgewood St.	606~003~011	1907		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)	8	shed	red brick	Percival G. McNeil	#2
53-55 Edgewood St.	606-002-032	1909		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)	c	shed	red brick	Equity One, Inc.	#12
54 Edgewood St.	606-003-012	1910		Perfect Six (Neo- Classical Revival)		shed	red brick	John B. Givens	#2
57-59 Edgewood St.	606-002-031	1910		Half Six (Late Italianate)	т	hip	red brick	Reuben H. & Evan E. Hall	#12

Address	Parcel #	Date	Architect/builder (if known)	Style/period	sĮJ Jo #	Roof type	Materials	Owner	Photo #
58-60 Edgewood St.	606-003-013	1910	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Hartford Housing Authority	
61-63 Edgewood St.	606-002-030	1909	Ademicia (Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno Ann	Half Six (Late Italianate)	Э	hip	red brick	Joyce P. Jackson	
62-64 Edgewood St.	606-003-014	1909	THE PROPERTY AND THE PR	Half Six (Late Italianate)	æ	hip	red brick	Virta M. Keen	9#
			C	CABOT STREET					The state of the s
14-16 Cabot St.	606-002-002	1912	Julius Berenson, Hartford	Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	Cabot St. Co-Operative Association	996020200000000000000000000000000000000
15 Cabot St.	601-004-042	1913		Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	3	shed	red brick	Cabot St. Co-Operative Association	6#
17-19 Cabot St.	601-004-041	1926		Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Michael Chambers/Hicksbert Grant	
18-20 Cabot St.	606-002-003	1915	Berenson & Goodrich, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	3	shed	red brick	Cabot St. Co-Operative Association	8#
21-23 Cabot St.	601-004-040	1914		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	qiq	shingle (synthetic)	Vinette Wesley	6#
22-24 Cabot St.	606-002-004	1913		Queen Anne	21/2	gable	clapboard (synthetic)	Hyacinth & Charles Bewry	8#
25-27 Cabot St.	601-004-038	1913		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	clapboard (synthetic)	Breton Chambers	6#
26 Cabot St.	606-002-005	1915	Daniel A. Guerriero, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival	3	hip	red brick	Ria Baboolal	8#
29-31 Cabot St.	601-004-037	1912		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hipo	clapboard (synthetic)	Wilston & Deborah D. Scott	6#
30-32 Cabot St.	900-200-909	1913		Half Six (Late Italianate)	9	hip	red brick	Stanley Harriam	8#
33-35 Cabot St.	601-004-036	1914	en elementario e especial de especial per especial de especial de especial de especial de especial de especial	Neo-Classical Revival	3	flat	yellow brick	Errol E. Thomas	6#
34-36 Cabot St.	606-002-007	vacant	МА. — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	electrosycle i nast y di proposopo este este de distribucioni de plut del processo de la constitució de la condiciona del con	THE THE STATE OF T		***	Paul Evans Huntly	#8
37-39 Cabot St.	601-004-035	1914	A COURT	Neo-Classical Revival	ж	hip	yellow brick	Vine Associates	6#
38-40 Cabot St.	606-002-008	1914		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	híp	red brick	Lascel A. & Lillie M. Webley	8#
41-43 Cabot St.	601-004-034	1912	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Half Six (Late Italianate)	8	hip	red brick	Joseph E. Clarke	6#

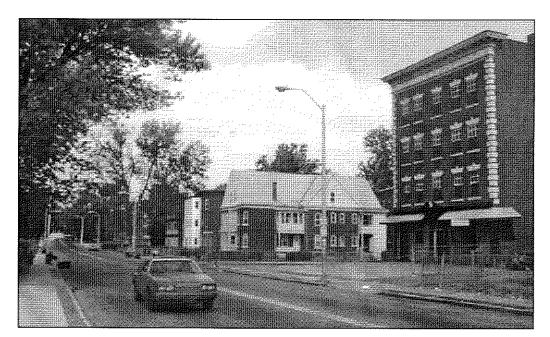
Address	Parcel #	Date	Architect/builder (if known)	Style/period	# of fls	Roof type	Materials	Owner	Photo #
42-44 Cabot St.	606-002-009	1912		Queen Anne	2,72	gable	clapboard (synthetic)	June Wright	8#
45-47 Cabot St.	601-004-033	vacant		I E	-	-	W 16	Community Renewal Team	
46-48 Cabot St.	606-002-010	1914		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	clapboard (synthetic)	Kenneth & Ivy Gordon	A L
49-51 Cabot St.	601-004-032	1912		Neo-Classical Revival (1900's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Hartford Housing Authority	The control of the co
50-52 Cabot St.	606-002-011	1914	Marchetti & D'Avino, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival	3	ďjų	red brick	Hubert & Joyce E. Wiggs	
53-55 Cabot St.	601-004-031	vacant		-	Į.		-	Hartford Housing Authority	and the state of t
54-56 Cabot St.	606-002-012	1911		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	yellow brick	Federal Natl. Mortgage Assn.	
58-60 Cabot St.	606-002-013	1912		Half Six (Late Italianate)	3	hip	red brick	George & Mary Giscombe	000
			STI	STERLING STREET	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER			
8-14 Sterling St.	601-004-002	vacant			-	Jan 10		Mikal A. & Cerise Abdullah	
16-18 Sterling St.	601-004-003	1922		Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Ronald G. Pollack	<i>L#</i>
16H Sterling St.	601-004-048	vacant		L B	;	į	-	Byron G. & Sybil M. Tyrell	NO CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO
20-22 Sterling St.	601-004-004	c1925		Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Ronald G. Pollack	1,4
24-26 Sterling St.	601-004-005	1922	Burton A. Sellew, Hartford	Neo-Classical Revival (1920's apartment)	3	shed	yellow brick	Ronald G. Pollack	<i>L#</i>
									•



40-54 Edgewood Street, 1907-10

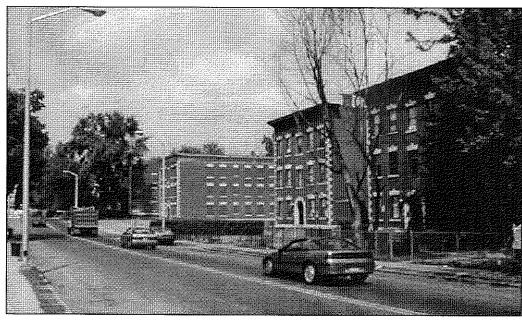
While the three-family houses relate closely to single homes in design, triple deckers like 40-54 Edgewood Street look more like apartment houses. Built in 1907-10, the brick blocks have flat roofs and wide, ornamental cornices at the rooflines. The triple-decker arrangement, with three large flats per building, was often doubled to form the "perfect six." Like most of the neighborhood, the houses have Colonial Revival touches: porches and decorative cornices have balustrades, dentil courses and wreath-ornamented friezes similar to those on the wood-frame houses of the same period. Most of the original residents were factory workers. Many were Irish, like Michael Murphy, who lived at number 50.

By 1926, all of Upper Albany's streets were filled in with houses. One of the last streets to be built up was Westbourne Parkway. Joseph Gelman designed the houses at 120-134 Westbourne Parkway in 1923 and 1924. They are two-family homes with compact, sunny plans, in the typical, simple Colonial Revival style of the twenties. The only decorative detailing appears at the entrance porticos, which have door hoods in a variety of roof shapes: flat, round-arched and gabled. One early resident of the

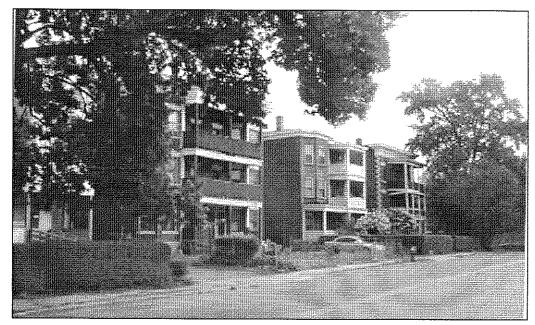


Photograph #1 North Side of Homestead Avenue at Intersection with Edgewood Street

140-160 Homestead Avenue.

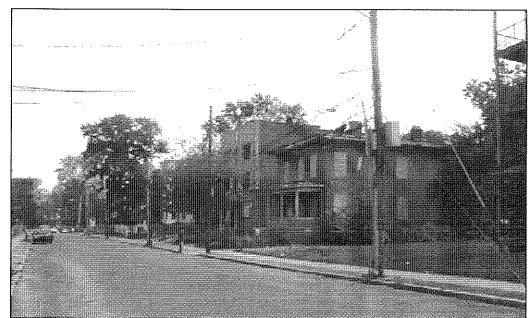


Photograph #2
North Side of Homestead
Avenue Between Cabot Street
and Edgewood Street
162-182 Homestead Avenue.



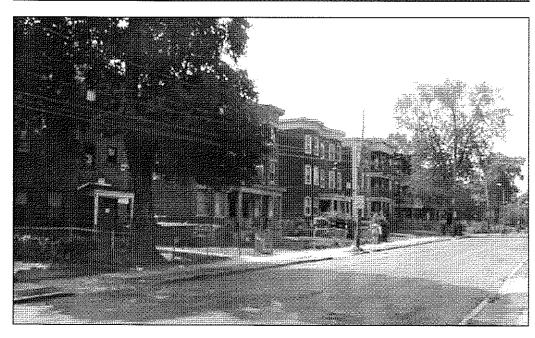
Photograph #3 North Side of Homestead Avenue Between Sterling Street and Cabot Street

198-188 Homestead Avenue.

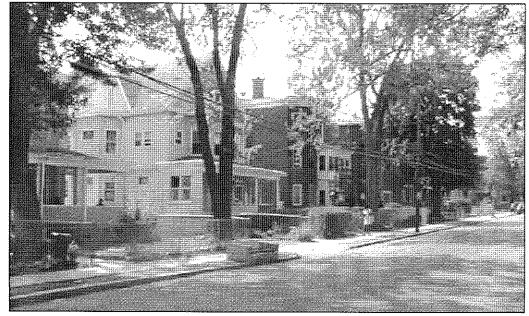


Photograph #4 East Side of Edgewood Street Near Homestead Avenue 14-24 Edgewood Street.

House in foreground is 14 Edgewood Street (c1860).



Photograph #5
East Side of Edgewood Street
Midway Between Homestead
Avenue and Albany Avenue
54-44 Edgewood Street.

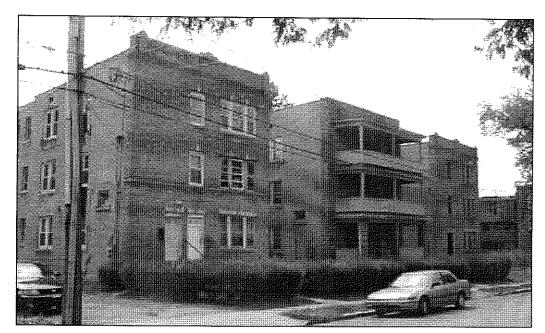


Photograph #6

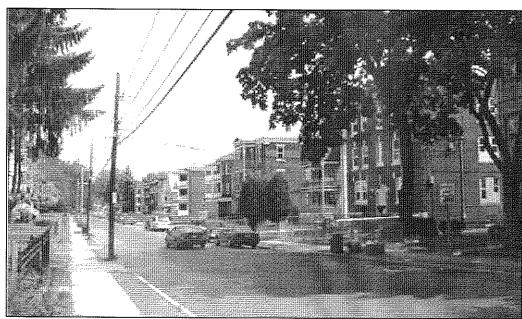
East Side of Edgewood Street Near Albany Avenue

62-64 Edgewood Street.

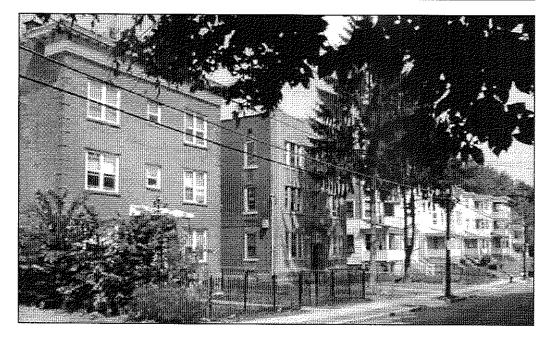
Wood frame house in foreground is in Upper Albany National Register Historic District.



Photograph #7
East Side of Sterling Street
Near Homestead Avenue
26-16 Sterling Street.

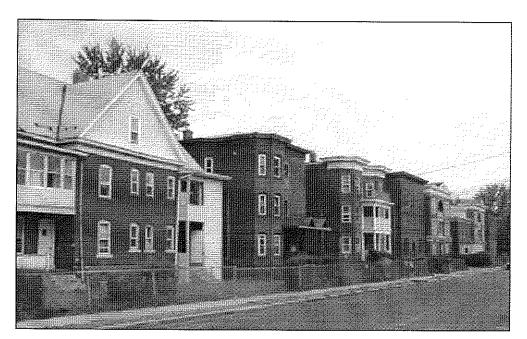


Photograph #8
East Side of Cabot Street
Near Homestead Avenue
18-44 Cabot Street.



Photograph #9 West Side of Cabot Street Near Homestead Avenue

15-43 Cabot Street.



Photograph #10

West Side of Edgewood Street Near Homestead Avenue

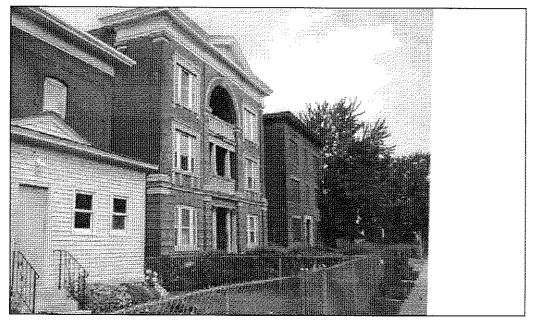
150 Homestead Avenue and 7-27 Edgewood Street.

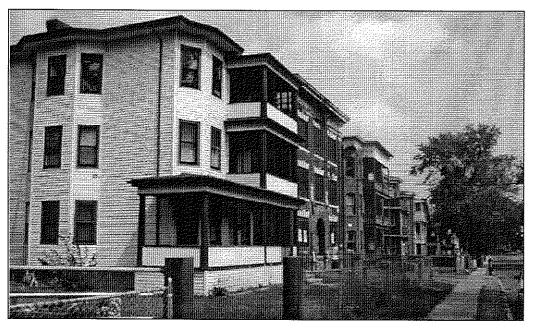


West Side of Edgewood Street Midway Between Homestead Avenue and Albany Avenue

The center building is 27 Edgewood Street, one of only 2 identical Georgian Revival apartment buildings in this block.

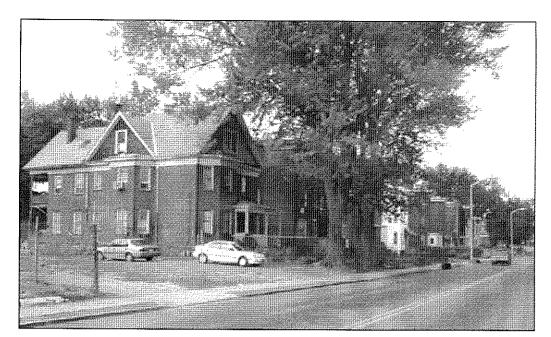
25-29 Edgewood Street.





Photograph #12
West Side of Edgewood
Street Near Albany Avenue

45-59 Edgewood Street.



Photograph #13

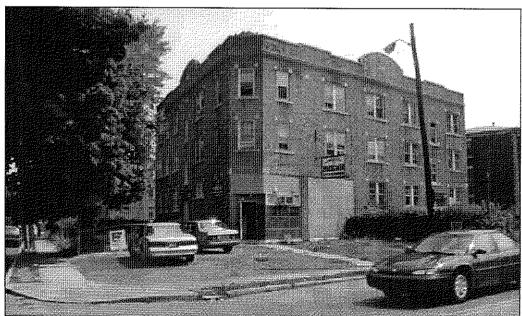
South Side of Homestead
Avenue Near Cabot and
Edgewood Streets

135-173 Homestead Avenue.



Photograph #14
South Side of Homestead
Avenue Near Oakland and
Sterling Streets

205-193 Homestead Avenue.



Photograph #15

Northeast Corner of
Intersection at Homestead
Avenue and Sterling Street

210-216 Homestead Avenue.



"Seeking to revitalize Hartford and its neighborhoods through the preservation and rehabilitation of Hartford's unique architectural heritage."

P.O. Box 230272 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06123-0273

26 March 2000

HOMESTEAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The area of the proposed Homestead Avenue Historic District was developed during the important rapid period of expansion and prosperity in Hartford's history, in the first two decades of the 1900s. The district was part of the expansion resulting from development of the trolley line on Albany Avenue in 1886.

Prior to the 1890s, the land in the district was occupied by family farms or by large estates associated with some of Hartford's leading families, including the Goodwins and the Battersons. In 1871, construction of the Connecticut and Western Railroad (along the southern boundary of the district) attracted some industry to the area, but the land generally remained undeveloped. Shortly before 1900, three events occurred that led to the rapid development of the area: the growth of industry and commerce in Hartford; an accompanying increase in immigration; and the extension of the electric streetcar line up Albany Avenue. The streetcar line made the area attractive for development, and prosperity and immigration created demand for housing.

Unprecedented industrial growth in Hartford was taking place, driven by an industrial revolution in precision machining. For several years in a row, for example, new factory space increased by 300,000 square feet per year, creating great demand for worker housing. Thus, the Homestead Avenue area rapidly expanded during the 1900-1920 period.

The area which constitutes the Homestead Avenue Historic District was assembled and subdivided by the Homestead Park Development Corporation (formed in 1905). Homestead Avenue and the adjacent side streets were constructed at this time. Most buildings in the area of the proposed district were erected between 1907 and 1915. While earlier development was mostly one- and two-family middle-class homes around Albany Avenue and north toward Keney Park, during this later period development was apartment buildings for the working class south of Albany Avenue toward the industrial area along Homestead Avenue. The apartments were built mostly for immigrants coming to Hartford to work in the factories.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the number of African American families in the district gradually increased, and by 1960 they had become the largest ethnic population in the area.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Homestead Avenue Historic District is significant for the following reasons:

1. THE DISTRICT IS HISTORICALLY CONSISTENT AND ARCHITECTURALLY COHESIVE – 98 percent the buildings belong to one 20-year period in Hartford's history, offering a unique opportunity to experience the physical environment of that time.

- 2. THE DISTRICT IS HISTORICALLY "INTACT" Very few of the historic structures have been demolished, and there are only two non-historic buildings in the district, so the area still appears much the way it did 75 to 100 years ago. It is an unusually large concentration of historic structures in a relatively small geographic area.
- 3. THE BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT ARE EXCELLENT **EXAMPLES** ARCHITECTURE FROM THE PERIOD 1900-1920- The buildings embody forms, materials, stylistic references, and architectural details typical of multi-family building types in Hartford during the important Victorian Era of Hartford development. There are good examples of triple-deckers (Half Sixes), Perfect Sixes, Queen Anne houses, and apartment blocks with Neo-Classical Revival and Jacobethan Revival features. In particular, there are two identical Georgian Revival apartment blocks on Edgewood Street (#21 and #27) that exhibit unusual creativity for this otherwise common Hartford building type: rusticated bases, three-story-high arched openings in the center with recessed porches, and triangular pediments over the large cornices at the roof. One other building in the district requires special mention: a small two-story brick c1860 Greek Revival house on Edgewood Street (#14) with full-width intact wood porch, one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood. Older than other buildings in the district, it was undoubtedly the home of a farm family which lived in the area before residential real estate boomed.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING UPPER ALBANY AVENUE DISTRICT

While the buildings in the proposed Homestead Avenue Historic District were built at approximately the same time as much of the Upper Albany Avenue District to its immediate north, there are several aspects of the proposed district which clearly distinguish it from the adjacent Upper Albany district. In particular, the Homestead Avenue district reflects the improved quality of housing for workers in the decade before the United States entered World War I.

Unlike the houses near Albany Avenue in the Upper Albany district, which are commonly one- and two-family wood frame buildings, the buildings in the proposed Homestead Avenue Historic District are nearly all red brick and built as either three- or six-family apartment houses. The Homestead Avenue district is thus a rental district, not an ownership district. Moreover, whereas a worker might previously have rented a room in a single-family house, the construction of these solid buildings on and near Homestead Avenue reflected the increased prosperity of workers, who could now afford substantial separate apartments. In a sense, the change signaled a progressive development in the upgrading of working-class housing in Hartford.

The working-class nature of the district can also be seen in its growth along the railroad tracks to the south of Homestead Avenue. Unlike Albany Avenue, a main retail thoroughfare, Homestead Avenue is abutted to the south and southwest by railroad tracks and by buildings which are industrial, not commercial. These less desirable (in terms of residential proximity) adjacent uses reflect the working-class, rather than middle-class, nature of the district. Taken together, these architectural and social elements, combined into a cohesive and intact area, make the Homestead Avenue district an entity easily distinguishable from the surrounding districts. In addition, the Homestead Avenue district, while not totally unique in Hartford, is one of a small number of areas not currently in State Register districts which represent this type of triple-decker brick architecture. It is compact, consistent, cohesive, and largely intact (Capitol Avenue to the east of Sisson Avenue is a similar district). Describing the portion of Edgewood Street in the proposed district, Gregory E. Andrews and David

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F. Ransom noted that "Edgewood Street is one of the few [streets] in the neighborhood to have a long row of three- and six-family brick buildings, creating a denser urban character than on the blocks of Double Deckers [along Magnolia Street]." A similar rhythmic uniformity of design is evident in the portion of the district on the south side of Homestead Avenue. The Homestead Avenue Historic District constitutes a significant surviving example of this important type of Hartford architecture and neighborhood.

¹ Gregory E. Andrews and David F. Ransom, *Structures and Styles: Guided Tours of Hartford Architecture* (Hartford: 1988), p. 114. The authors also note how "the buildings' uniform scale, front bays, and heavy sheet-metal cornices with classical swags create a strong rhythm," *ibid*.