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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cato Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Cato Hill

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Within the area bounded by Arnold Street, Railroad Street, Blackstone Street, Monument Square and Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Woonsocket

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

#1 Fernand J. St. Germain

STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY

CODE

007

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Clerk's Office - City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

69 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Woonsocket

Rhode Island

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Woonsocket, Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Report P-W-1

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED. DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cato Hill Historic District is a well-defined section of an urban working-class neighborhood. Located on a hilltop site in the center of Woonsocket, its outer bounds are defined topographically by steep slopes descending to the commercial/industrial zone along Railroad Street to the south, and the business district on Main Street and Monument Square to the east. Lesser grades descend to Blackstone Street and Arnold Street (both major thoroughfares) on the north and west. The district consists of two rather narrow, crooked streets, Cato and Church, linked by Boyden Street and Clarkin Lane; Holder Lane constitutes a district subsection of the neighborhood. With but few exceptions, all structures within the area being nominated to the Register face these streets (see verbal description of district boundaries, Section 10, for an exact definition of the area being nominated).

Cato Hill was laid out in small house lots in about 1840 which, when possible, followed the 50 by 100 foot model standard for urban residential neighborhoods. Almost all lots were occupied by the 1890's. The only significant open space in the area was a cemetery southeast of Cato and Arnold Streets, but this was gone by 1895; 162 and 200 Cato Street now occupy the site. In general, Cato Hill remains densely built up. The density and, more importantly, the scale of the neighborhood has been somewhat eroded by 20th century development at the perimeter along Arnold Street and the northeast end of Church Street. In the heart of the Cato and Church streetscapes, however, there are few "holes". Lacunae formerly occupied by 19th century structures exist between 62 and 96 Cato Street, between 96 and 118 Cato, between 151 and 175 Cato, and between 116-118 and 138-142 Church Street.

Typically, buildings are located close to the street, but the setback from building to building is very irregular. Similarly, though these rectangular, gable-roofed, one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half story structures are alike in shape and size, the orientation of building to street has no uniformity -- flank to street, gable to street, even at angle to the street. The present jumbled effect -- compounded by the crooked street pattern and changes in grade -- was once more structured. Picket fences and trees defined the special continuity of the street corridors and moderated the impact of disparate setbacks and building orientation. Despite these changes, Cato Hill remains a unit visually, and has great vitality as well.

In architectural character, Cato Hill is unpretentious, small-scale and mid-nineteenth century. Fifty-six of the eighty-seven buildings in the area date between c.1840 and c.1875; only ten buildings date from the twentieth century. All nineteenth century structures are of frame construction, originally clapboard clad and trimmed with the simplest late Federal, Greek Revival, Bracketed, or Queen Anne detailing.

(See continuation Sheet 1)

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The essentials of Greek Revival articulation persisted very late in this neighborhood, however, and most buildings pre-dating 1875 partake of this style. The building stock is all residential and ranges from one-and-a-half story single-family houses to four and six family two-and-a-half story tenements (see building inventory at the end of this section for a description of each structure in the area).

The earliest buildings are Greek Revival cottages. Only one, the William Kelley House (c.1840) at 132 Cato Street, has a fully developed, if diminutive, temple form facade. There the first story is recessed across the front of the house to create a porch with the gable roof carried over it; the gable is framed with heavy mouldings to achieve the look of a classical pediment, and is supported on four slender columns. Originally, all Greek Revival buildings in the area were cased with corner pilasters and wide plank entablatures, and the window and door treatment is equally bold. 113 Church Street (c.1863) is a late example of the Greek Revival cottage type.

Cato Hill buildings constructed in the 1860's and early '70's were by and large basically Greek Revival, but a few showed the influence of the newer, more picturesque aesthetic of the bracketed style. A fine example stands at 77 Church Street, an otherwise plain clapboard affair dressed up with a heavy bracketed entrance hood and busy, dentil-like modillions carried around the roof cornice and across each window architrave.

In the late '70's the Greek Revival mode was abandoned, and new houses, mostly multi-family tenements, displayed bracketed detail sparingly applied. Examples of this fashion stand at 151 Cato Street, 163 Church Street and 65 Boyden Street. The several large, multi-family dwellings put up in the neighborhood during the late 1880's and early '90's, like 162 Cato Street and 20 Boyden Street, are finished with simple Queen Anne ornamentation.

Cato Hill is an intact residential enclave in the midst of a medium-sized industrial city. It has suffered few new or out-of-scale intrusions, its buildings are in fairly good condition and are reasonably well preserved.

(See continuation Sheet 2)

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Cato Hill Building Inventory

The following inventory is organized alphabetically by street and then numerically by street address; all buildings within the proposed National Register district (except minor outbuildings) are listed. The following period or style abbreviations are used in the inventory entries: "F" - Federal or Early Republican style; "GR" - Greek Revival; "EV" - Early Victorian; "LV" - Late Victorian; "ET" - Early Twentieth century; "MT" - Mid-twentieth century. Most dates appearing in the text (e.g. 1851, 1870, 1875) are the dates of maps which depict the area and, occasionally, give information on ownership or occupancy; further information on owners and occupants comes from 1850 census records and Woonsocket directories.

Arnold Street

- 401 1-story MT coffee shop bakery; this site was a cemetery at least through 1875.
- 415-423 1-story ET garage/body shop.
- 433 1-story ET garage.
- 471 1-story MT gas station.

Blackstone Street

- 128 2½-story LV bracketed house (c.1872), larger and more pretentious than houses in the heart of Cato Hill, this building is on the edge of the district and in terms of architectural and social history is more related to developments outside the area. Still, it functions as a landmark at a major entrance to the district and contributes positively to it. Gable and cross gable roof, projected central entrance pavilion in 3-bay facade, heavy bracketed detailing.
- 150 1½-story, end-gable LV cottage; 3-bay facade with side-hall entrance under a heavy bracketed hood.
- 160 1½-story, end-gable LV bracketed cottage; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance under a heavy bracketed hood; 1-story square bay window flanks entrance.

(See continuation Sheet 3)

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Boyden Street

- 5 2½-story, gable-roofed Federal Style dwelling with later alterations and additions; in 1851 one of several dwellings in the area belonging to William Andrews.
- 20 Large 2½-story, gable and cross-gable LV tenement set flank to street, 5-bay facade with 2-story bay windows flanking central entrance, bracketed cornice detailing; building is similar to 162 Cato Street.
- 54 2½-story, gable-roofed LV dwelling set gable to street with modest Queen Anne detailing, 2-story bay window on south side, spindle-trimmed porch in sidehall plan, 2-bay facade.
- 62 2½-story, late GR tenement, 7-bay facade with central entrance, now clad with wood shingle.
- 65 2½-story, LV bracketed, gable-roofed double house with 2-bay facade; sidehall, hooded entrance flanked by 2-story bay window; built as a group with 145, 151 and 163 Church Street.
- 72 2½-story GR dwelling; gable-roofed, set end to street, 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; a delicate 2-story LV porch now fronts the building; set behind 62 Boyden.
- 73 Much-altered LV 2-story house with 3-bay facade, central entrance.

Cato Lane

- 17 Simple 1½-story LV cottage.

Cato Street

- 29 1-story MT garage/office.
- 47-51 3½-story LV block, gable-roofed, set flank to street with stores on the ground floor and tenement housing above, one of two original iron bracket-supported balconies remain, running the full width of the front of the building; very simple "styleless" trim derives from late Greek Revival motifs.

(See continuation Sheet 4)

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Cato Street (continued)

- 50 Nondescript ET 1-story brick warehouse, now used as a clubhouse.
- 57 Small 2½-story LV block, gable-roofed set end to street, with a projected groundfloor storefront with balcony above, good late GR/bracketed trim.
- 61 Small 2½-story mid-nineteenth century block with gambrel roof set end to street; above the ground floor storefronts is a bracket-supported balcony.
- 62 Altered 2½-story GR dwelling, gable-roofed, set flank to street with 5-bay, central entrance facade.
- 67 2-story, flat-roofed LV tenement with 2-story porch, possibly a much-altered earlier building.
- 79 The Charles Dean House. 2½-story GR house with 2-story LV addition across the front; in 1851 the property of Charles Dean, harness maker.
- 96 Small 1½-story Federal style cottage with full exposed basement story at rear of building.
- 99 GR house with extensive LV alterations; now 3 stories with flat roof, bracket-supported 1-story porch across front at second-story level; property of owner Kelley or Kelly in 1851.
- 117-119 2½-story, gable-roofed LV house, set end to street on an elevated site; 2-story porch across front; stands on site of E. C. Arnold's home, here in 1851.
- 118 1½-story GR cottage set flank to street, typical heavy GR central entrance and plank cornices and corner pilasters; original 5-bay fenestration somewhat altered; the first house in the neighborhood stood on or near this site by 1838.
- 132 The William Kelley House  
1½-story GR cottage set end to street -- "temple-front" treatment of facade with recessed porch, four slender posts supporting heavy entablature and pediment; in 1851 the property of William Kelley, a mariner turned mason, and, in 1870, of Margaret Kelly, milliner.
- 134 Small 1½-story LV house, gable and cross-gable roof, set flank to street on a back lot behind 132 and 140.
- 135 Large 2½-story LV bracketed tenement, gable and cross gable roof, set flank to street, 7-bay facade with central entrance; similar to 151.

(See continuation Sheet 5)

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(Cato Street (continued))

- 140 The Alfred Sheldon Tenement  
Remodelled 2½-story, gable-roofed GR tenement set  
flank to street; central entrance in 7-bay facade;  
in 1851 the property of Alfred Sheldon of Law and  
Sheldon, sash manufacturers.
- 141 The Robert Clarkin House  
Altered 1½-story GR cottage, set gable-end to street;  
3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; by 1850 it was  
the property of Robert Clarkin, a 27-year-old Irish-  
born stone mason; the house was valued at the time  
at \$1,000.
- 148 The William Greenman House  
Altered 1½-story Federal or GR cottage, set gable-end  
to street, 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; in 1851  
the property of William Greenman, a blacksmith; later  
it was occupied by Henry Greenman, cardstripper.
- 151 Large 2½-story LV bracketed tenement, set flank to  
street, with a gable and cross gable roof; 7-bay facade  
with central entrance; similar to 135.
- 162 Large 2½-story LV tenement set blank to street, gable  
and cross-gable roof; 5-bay facade with central en-  
trance flanked by 2-story bay windows; somewhat altered,  
but retaining simple Queen Anne style trim; building  
is same basic type as 20 Boyden Street; building site  
is on the eastern edge of what had been planned to be  
a cemetery up at least until the mid-1870's.
- 171 1½-story GR cottage, 5-bay facade with central entrance;  
house moved to present back lot site behind 175 Cato  
between 1875 and 1895, when 175 Cato was built; by 1857  
the property of Edward Cassidy, watchman.
- 175 2½-story LV bracketed 2-family dwelling, set gable end  
to street with side cross gables; 2-bay facade has  
sidehall entrance with a bracketed porch flanked by  
a square 2-story bay window.
- 179 Altered, 2-story hip-roofed house, LV or possibly  
earlier.
- 200 2-story MT cinderblock warehouse, and a metal quonset  
hut warehouse; both on what was planned to be a  
cemetery at least through 1875.
- 211 Much-altered 2½-story LV tenement; 5-bay facade with  
central entrance.

(See continuation Sheet 6)

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Cato Street (continued)

- 221 Late GR style 2½-story tenement with gable roof, set flank to street; 7-bay facade with central entrance; full, simple and heavy GR trim; by 1870 the property of a Mrs. Dorary.
- 231 Large altered 2½-story LV tenement, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with 2 story bay window to left of central entrance.
- 241 Small 1½-story EV cottage on high foundation providing full basement on western, downhill side; L-plan with entrance at interior angle of L protected by a very simple porch; trim basically GR; by 1870, the property of James A. Greenhagh.

Church Street

- 28-30 Well preserved 1½-story GR double house set flank to street; double central entrance flanked by paired windows; by 1857 this house was occupied by Alvah Vose, a top roller coverer, and Monico D. Vose; proprietor of the Woonsocket Baking Company (which stood on the corner of Church and Main Streets).
- 42 Altered 1½-story LV bracketed cottage, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance.
- 46 ET brick 3-decker with fine galleried porches surrounding building on 2 sides.
- 48 The Benedict Roys House  
1½-story GR cottage, set gable-end to street, but with entrance on assymetrical 4 bay west side of building; large LV bay window on street front; by 1851 the property of Benedict Roys, a blacksmith who soon became a gasfitter.
- 61 The Alvah Vose House  
2½-story LV bracketed house with side ell, set gable-end to street, situated on an elevated site with retaining walls and picket fence on street, carriage house in rear, 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance and bracketed hood; essentially very much like a GR house but elaborated with bracketed trim; unusual small brackets trim the windows; Alvah Vose, owner of this house by 1870, was a top roller coverer.

(See continuation Sheet 7)

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Church Street (continued)

- 62 2½-story GR gable-roofed house, set flank to street; 5-bay facade with central entrance; well-preserved, simple GR trim; this house, larger than most other early dwellings on Cato Hill, may have been the home of George Wilder, a grocer.
- 70 The Martha Kimball House  
This (originally) 1½-story GR cottage with side ell was raised and made into a 2½-story house between 1870 and 1875; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; LV bracketed entrance hood; house belonged to a Mrs. Kimball in 1851.
- 75 2½-story L-plan LV house with 2-story porch across front; sited behind 77 Church.
- 77 2½-story house, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; transitional late GR/LV bracketed trim similar to that of 61 Church, next door.
- 84 1½-story late GR cottage, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; the bracketed trim, which is very good, may be original, but more probably was added a few years after the house was built -- it adds much to the visual appeal of the house.
- 85 Small, very simple LV cottage, set gable-end to street.
- 93 Small, very simple LV cottage, set gable-end to street; altered with ET shop windows flanking a central entrance.
- 94 Tall, narrow 3½-story LV bracketed tenement, set gable-end to street with entrance on west side; delicate, transitional GR/LV trim similar to that of 77 Church.
- 98 Tall, narrow 3½-story LV tenement, set gable-end to street, devoid of any but the barest trim.
- 99 Altered 1½-story LV cottage, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance; simple remaining trim is essentially GR in character.
- 108 2½-story LV tenement on high basement, set flank to street; entrance in rear off Clarkin Lane; simple trim is essentially GR in character.
- 111 2½-story tenement, set flank to street behind 113 Church; 5-bay facade and central entrance with simple GR-type trim.

(See continuation Sheet 8)

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Church Street (continued)

- 113 1½-story GR cottage, set gable-end to street; asymmetrical facade has sidehall entrance with good, simple detailing.
- 116-118 Large 2½-story LV tenement with Queen Anne detailing set gable end to street; 2-story spindlework porch flanks a 2-story bay window on facade.
- 121 & 133 Two near identical 2½-story transitional GR/LV tenements built between 1870 and 1875; set flank to street; gable roof; 7-bay facades with central entrances; trim is basically GR with diminutive brackets in entrance entablatures.
- 125 The William McKenna House  
Small, somewhat altered LV 1½-story cottage situated behind 133 Church Street; by 1870 the property of William McKenna.
- 133 (See 121)
- 138-142 Transitional GR/LV 2½-story tenement, set flank to street; simple 6-bay facade with two entrances, one in each of the outer bays of the facade.
- 145 2½-story LV bracketed tenement, set gable-end to street; built in conjunction with 151 and 163 Church Street and 65 Boyden Street.
- 146 Much-altered 1½-story cottage, LV or possibly GR, probably moved back from Church Street; now situated behind 150 Church.
- 150 Large, altered 2½-story LV tenement set gable-end to street.
- 151 2½-story LV bracketed two-family dwelling, set gable-end to street; 2-bay facade with sidehall entrance flanked by 2-story bay window (see 145 Church).
- 158 Much-altered 2-story LV/E20 dwelling; by 1870 a house stood here, occupied by Frank Haig.
- 163 2½-story LV-bracketed house, set gable-end to street, 2-bay facade with sidehall entrance (see 145 Church).
- 168 1-story ET bungalow style former "ward room", later the Ukrainian-American Veterans Association.
- 186 Large 2½-story LV bracketed tenement; gable and cross-gable roof set flank to street; central entrance in 5-bay facade.

(See continuation Sheet 9)

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Church Street (continued)

- 194 Altered 3½-story GR/LV tenement, set flank to street at back of lot; simple GR type trim; by 1870 this tenement belonged to a Mrs. Dorary.
- 197 1½-story GR cottage, set flank to street with LV porch across front, moved to this site before 1895.
- 206 McSoley's Tenement  
2½-story bracketed tenement, set flank to street with delicate 2-story porch across front; by 1870 the property of Patrick McSoley, a hairdresser with his shop (and home) on Main Street.
- 214-216 Altered GR/LV tenement, set flank to street. Gable roof and 1-story addition across front.
- 232 Somewhat altered 1½-story LV bracketed cottage, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance.

Clarkin Lane

- 7 1½-story Federal-style cottage, moved here before 1875.
- 11 2-story, gable-roofed LV tenement with very chaste detailing, set gable-end to street; 3-bay facade with sidehall entrance.
- 12 2-story LV house, somewhat altered, set gable-end to street.

Holder Lane

- 14-20 Benjamin Burt's Tenements
- 16-18 Two 2½-story Late GR tenements -- gable roofed, 7-bay facades with central entrances, very simple GR trim; by 1870 the property of Benjamin Burt, a farmer with a house at the corner of North Main and Snow Streets.
- 17 & 21 Horton's Tenements  
Two rather altered 2-story late GR tenements with 5-bay facades and central entrances; by 1870 the property of Abby or Andrew Horton.

James Street

- 38-42 Much-altered large 3½-story LV mansard-roofed block, with stores on the ground floor and tenements above.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c.1845-c.1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cato Hill is a representative mid-nineteenth century working class neighborhood of the sort developed in a rather informal fashion by individual property owners who built small houses for themselves or inexpensive tenements to rent out, and peopled by waves of immigrant families drawn to American industrial cities by the opportunity find work. Though poised above Woonsocket's business center, it is remarkably intact. Through its layout and architectural fabric, Cato Hill evokes a sense of place, purpose and history.

The area derives its name from Cato Aldrich, a Black, who bought the property from the Arnold family - seventeenth century founders of the city. The neighborhood's development parallels, chronologically, the growth of Woonsocket as Rhode Island's third largest industrial center. By the 1840's Woonsocket was a rapidly growing community with an economy based on textile manufacturing, and Cato Hill came into being as a convenient center-city neighborhood financially accessible to mill hands and laborers.

Using a series of dated maps as a guide, we can determine the period in which the eighty-seven extant buildings were built and through this data suggest how the area grew. Only one building had been erected in the area before 1838, and most dwellings were constructed between 1838 and 1875: fifteen between 1838 and 1851, five between 1851 and 1862, eighteen between 1862 and 1870, seventeen between 1870 and 1875. Most lots were occupied by 1875 and, consequently, relatively few new buildings went up after that. Twenty buildings were constructed between 1875 and about 1900, some replacing earlier dwellings. In such cases the old house was either demolished or moved to the back of the lot and the new house was put up on the street front. Five of the ten twentieth century buildings in the area are warehouses or garages and are found on or near Arnold Street, an indication of that thoroughfare's automobile-oriented commercial character, established in the last half-century. Clearly, the two significant eras of growth for Cato Hill were the 1840's and the Civil War and post-Civil War period, 1862-1875. Not surprisingly, these were years of major industrial expansion in Woonsocket, and with it, a growth in the working-class population of the city. New workers needed new homes, and this was the impetus for Cato Hill development.

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Woonsocket's labor force in the 1840's and '50's was made up of two groups -- old-time Yankees and Irish immigrants. On Cato Hill the Irish predominated. Over half the residents of the area were Irish, employed in the mills, as laborers, or as tradesmen. The industrial expansion of the Civil War period brought in a new group of immigrant workers -- French Canadians -- and it was they who occupied the new tenements erected in the late '60's and early '70's. By the 1880's, Cato Hill was largely a French-Canadian neighborhood. In the early twentieth century a third wave of immigrant industrial workers settled here, altering the ethnic make up of the neighborhood but having little impact on its physical development. Many newly-arrived Central Europeans came to Woonsocket, and a Ukrainian community flourished on Cato Hill. The ward hall built in about 1905 at 168 Church Street to serve the area was later used for many years by the Ukrainian-American Veterans Association. In recent years, however, Cato Hill has been losing its distinctive ethnic character..

Cato Hill's dwellings -- described by one observer as "just plain, nice old buildings" -- convey a sense of stability and utility with which one can readily identify. This vernacular architectural fabric creates an unspectacular, yet pleasing visual context, enlivened by the variety resulting from irregularities of siting and topography. Though individual structures are straightforward in design, the area as a whole is picturesque. Writing in 1842, A. S. Daniels had much the same comment to make concerning the entire city: "Woonsocket, though badly laid out (the buildings being set in all directions and fronting every way), when viewed from the surrounding hills, presents one of the most picturesque and novel scenes imaginable."\* The scenic potential of most of the rest of Woonsocket is now largely unrealized, but Cato Hill has kept its striking visual integrity.

\*Daniels, H. S., Statistics of the Village of Woonsocket, Woonsocket, 1842.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

11

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

1

192, 194, 197, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203, 205 (only the Cato Street frontage),  
210, 226, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242,  
243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258,  
264, 265, 267, 268, 270, 271, 272, 273, 280, 303, 304, 306, 307, 312,  
318, 319, 325, 332, 333, 335, 340, 343, 345 (only the Cato Street frontage),  
348, 349, 360, 378, 379, 381, 385, 399, 408, 410, & 411.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chase, David, Woonsocket, Rhode Island; Statewide Historic Preservation Report, P-W-1, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 11

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	29,1860	4,615,320,0	B	19	29,172,0	4,615,30,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	19	29,148,0	4,615,32,0,0	D	19	29,158,0	4,615,33,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The general boundaries of the district are Arnold Street, Blackstone Street, Monument Square, Main Street and Railroad Street. But within that general area, only the following specific properties are included in this district nomination: Plat 13, lots: 35, 37, 38, 39, 101, 132, & 136; Plat 14, lots: 17, 66, 74, 179, 181, 187, 189, 190,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Chase

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

April 26, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

(401) 277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



79 Cato Street  
Cato Hill Historic District  
Woonsocket, R. I.

Photographer: David Chase  
April, 1976

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, R. I.

Facade of 79 Cato Street, looking northeast.

#4



CATO HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Photographer: David Chase

Date of Photograph: April, 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View up Church Street from Main Street

#2



132 Cato Street  
Cato Hill Historic District  
Woonsocket, R. I.

Photographer: David Chase  
April, 1976

Negative: R. I. Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, R. I.

View of temple front of 132 Cato Street,  
looking west up Cato Street

#3



20 Boyden Street  
Cato Hill Historic District  
Woonsocket, R. I.

Photographer: David Chase  
April, 1976

Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, R. I.

View of 20 Boyden Street (showing 211 Cato Street  
to rear) looking south on Boyden Street.

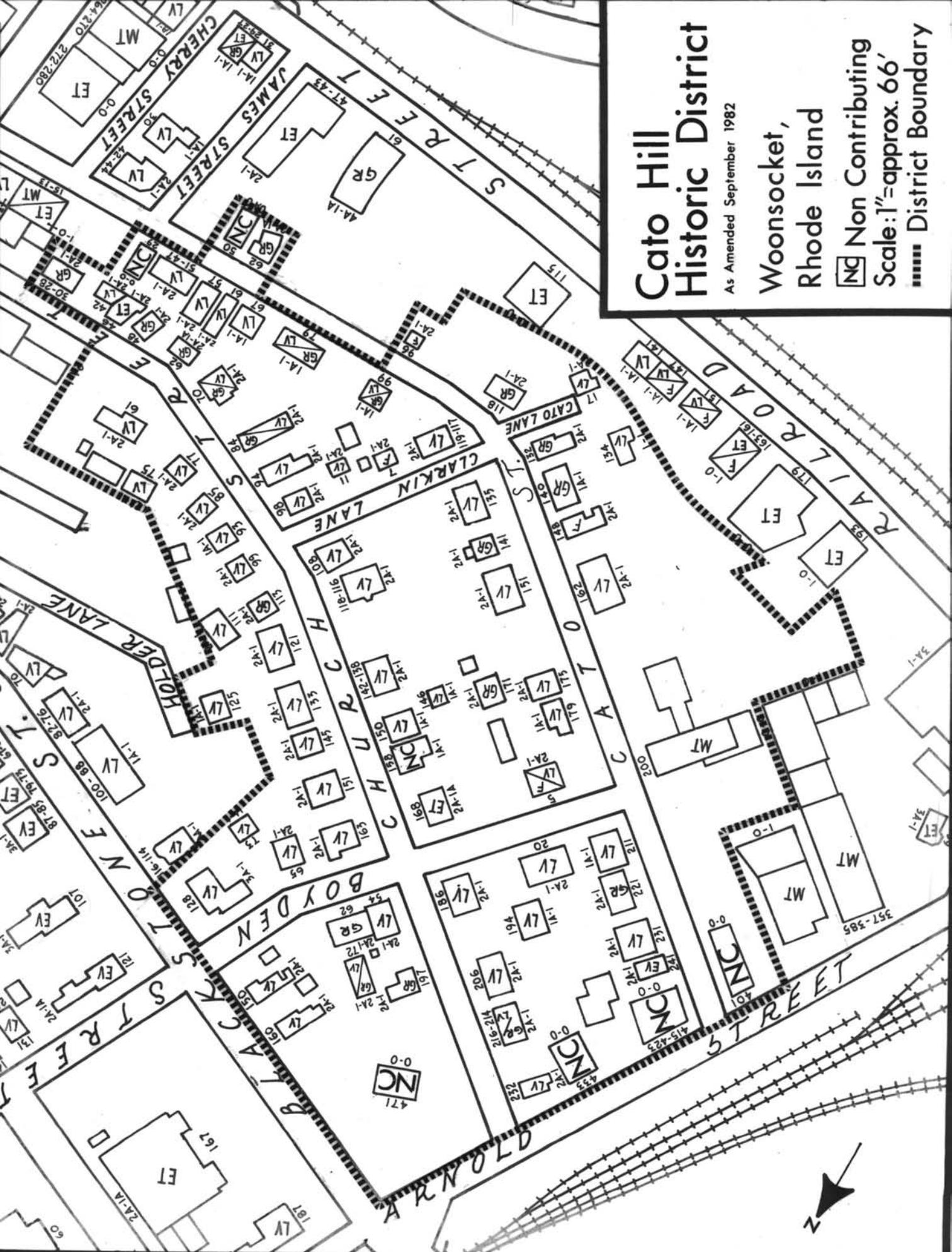
#5

# Cato Hill Historic District

As Amended September 1982

Woonsocket,  
Rhode Island

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



Cato Hill Historic District  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

A	19	291860	4653200
B	19	291720	4653020
C	19	291480	4653200
D	19	291580	4653340

