

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 if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

address 250 and 254 Washington Street _____ not for publication

city/town Providence _____ vicinity

state Rhode Island ^{cod} RI _e county Providence ^{cod} 007 _e zip code 02903

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

Director, RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register

see continuation sheet

other (explain below)

Name of Property _____

City/Town _____

County, State _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL/civic

1

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY/Gothic Revival

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK, STONE

walls: BRICK, STONE, STEEL

roof: SLATE, ASPHALT, SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing elements 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

This proposed amendment to the Downtown Providence Historic District is located at the southwest edge of the existing district and consists of two buildings on the small block bounded by Washington Street, Jackson Street, Garden Street and Greene Street. These properties were built during the Period of Significance of the existing district and are similar in purpose, scale, and use to those in the district.

Note: The two adjoining parcels proposed for this amendment are bordered by the existing district on the northeast. The street grid of the historic district is generally rectilinear but not precisely oriented on a north-south axis. For the purposes of this nomination, Washington Street and Garden Street are considered oriented east-west and Greene and Jackson Streets are north-south.

Inventory

Contributing elements within the Downtown Providence Historic District are defined as those sites, buildings, structures, and objects that relate visually and historically to the district's areas of significance between 1800 and 1940, the period in which Downtown Providence substantially achieved its present form.

Washington Street

250 First Universalist Church (1872): Edwin O. Howland, architect, from designs by Henry Hudson Holly.

A High Victorian Gothic church built of brick and stone, set on a high basement, with a tower and spire on its northeast corner. The building is simply articulated, with vestigial buttresses and pointed-arch windows with voussoirs of brown and tan stone. The entrance (east) front on Greene Street has as its central feature the high gable end of the nave, which, above two very small pointed-arch windows at basement level, has a set of five joined pointed -arch windows separated by short reddish marble columns with foliate capitals. Above these windows a belt course of tan stone stretches across the facade, and above this is a large pointed-arch opening containing two tall pointed windows and a roundel. The tower on the northeast has entry portals on its north and east faces; on the southeast corner, a shorter and narrower spire, with only a small niche in its base, flanks a half-gabled extension that contains another portal with a small, almost triangular pointed-arch window above. While this rather imaginative and varied facade treatment gives the building an asymmetrical appearance, the main body of the church follows the traditional ground plan of a nave, or auditorium running east-west with projecting transepts and a shallow chancel. The handsome though austere auditorium has dark wainscoting, clustered colonnettes with foliate capitals, Eastlake-inspired furnishings, and fine stained glass windows from Henry Sharp of New York. The church, which covers the majority of its lot, has a small border of lawn with shrubs enclosed by an iron picket fence. This, like other remaining churches downtown, is a remnant of the 19th-century residential

neighborhood in this area. The church today is largely surrounded by commercial, institutional and high-rise residential buildings.¹

- 254 Young Women's Christian Association, now 1890 House (1905-6): Hoppin & Ely, architects. A six-story, brick-clad, stone trimmed, steel-frame building set on a high basement with regular fenestration, an ornate pedimented front entrance and a bold, decorative cornice. The YWCA Building was begun early in 1905 and dedicated 3 December 1906. It housed YWCA activities until it was sold and converted into fifty-two units of housing for the elderly in the mid-1970s. The YWCA Building is typical of simpler turn-of-the-century Downtown structures. Though not lavishly detailed, it achieves a monumental presence through the straightforward articulation of its well-proportioned masonry walls, which includes a rounded corner at the corner of Washington and Jackson Streets, a rusticated first story bounded by a granite watertable and a beltcourse incised with a meander, and a top story that features raised panels between the windows.² [End of Section 7]

¹ This description draws heavily from the 1977 National Register nomination for the First Universalist Church by Richard Harrington.

² This description draws heavily from Edward Sanderson and William Mackenzie Woodward, *Providence: A Citywide Survey of Historic Resources* (1986).

Name of Property

City/Town

County, State

Document page number 5

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from NPS instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1872, 1906

Significant Dates

1872, 1906

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Henry Hudson Holly, Edwin Howland (First Universalist Church)

Hoppin & Ely (YWCA)

Period of Significance justification

These buildings date from 1872 and 1906, which is within the Period of Significance of the Downtown Providence Historic District.

Criteria Considerations (If considerations have been checked, explain them here)

The First Universalist Church is in active use by the founding congregation. It contributes to the Downtown Providence Historic District by virtue of its architectural significance and its history as one of the social institutions that were an integral feature in the district's development.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Begin with a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria. Provide at least one additional paragraph for each area of significance. Include additional historic context or developmental history as appropriate).

Summary Paragraph

It is proposed to expand the boundary of the Downtown Providence Historic District to include: First Universalist Church, 250 Washington Street and the Young Women's Christian Association Building, 254 Washington Street. These buildings are consistent architecturally and historically with other buildings in the Downtown Providence Historic District and are within the city's Downtown Providence Design Review District. The area bounded by Greene, Washington, Franklin, and Broad Streets was known historically as Weybosset Hill. This roughly 590-acre area, once a stable, middle-class urban quarter, declined in the twentieth century and—adjacent to the newly laid-out interstate highway--was targeted as an urban redevelopment district by the City of Providence in the 1950s. Most of the neighborhood was cleared and redeveloped beginning in the early 1960s, primarily with high-rise residential buildings. These two buildings, along with the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, are significant survivals. Their presence provides a highly visible anchor at the western end of Washington Street, one of the principal thoroughfares in the downtown historic district.

The First Universalist Church, designed by Rhode Island architect Edwin Howland after a design by New York architect, Henry Hudson Holly and built in 1872, is similar to other high-style churches in the Downtown Historic District in scale, massing, and materials. Among these are Grace Episcopal Church (1845-6, 1916) and Mathewson Street Methodist Church (1895-1951). The church was individually listed in the National Register in 1977. The Summary of Significance of this nomination states:

The significance of the First Universalist Church in Providence is twofold. As the third home of the First Universalist Society of Providence, founded in 1821, it has served as a focus for that society's services of worship and social outreach programs since its completion in 1872. The church is architecturally significant as the work of Rhode Island architect Edwin L. Howland, as a handsome example of post Civil War Gothic Revival building in Rhode Island, and as a survivor of what was, in 1872, and is no longer, an upper middle class residential neighborhood.

Like the other remaining churches downtown, First Universalist is a remnant of the 19th-century residential neighborhood in this area. The First Universalist Society of Providence, founded in 1821, occupied two successive structures at the corner of Westminster and Union Streets until expanding commercial pressure made the location so valuable and business-oriented that the Society retreated west to Weybosset Hill which was then still a residential district. The considerable profit that the Society was able to realize from the sale of their second church enabled them to build a new edifice

of considerable architectural quality. Items in the Society archives confirm that H. Hudson Holly of New York provided the original plans for the church, but the building committee chose to engage local architect Edwin Howland to carry out the project. Holly protested and ultimately received \$250 from the Society.³ The Society remains an active congregation in this edifice.

The Young Women's Christian Association Building (1905-6) is similar in scale, use, and materials to other buildings dedicated to the social welfare of Providence residents at the turn of the twentieth century. Among these are: the Diocese House (1911), the Providence Athletic Association (1894, 1901), and the Masonic Temple (1897, 1980). The Providence branch of the Women's Christian Association, later the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), was organized in 1867, within a decade of the country's first branches in New York and Boston. Dedicated to the welfare of single women, primarily students, teachers, shop clerks and factory workers, who were becoming a major part of the city's population, the YWCA established a boarding house at 66 Fountain Street in 1873, which eventually accommodated 45 boarders. The city's continued expansion led the YWCA to build a new larger facility on the western end of the downtown. The construction of the new building, which began in 1905, was made possible through community pledges; the organization was long able to rely on the support of city business leaders whose wives served on Association board. Completed in 1906, the building housed the YWCA offices, a clubroom and residential facilities until the organization decided to sell the building in 1971. Midland Housing Specialists acquired the building and converted it to elderly apartments, a use which continues today, under the name of the 1890 House.

[End of Section 8]

³ Jennifer Lee Cadere-Gillette, "Henry Sharp in Pre-Opalescent America," *Stained Glass Quarterly*, Vol. 85, No.2, P. 131.

Downtown Providence Historic District
Amendment

Providence

Providence, Rhode Island

Name of Property

City/Town

County, State

Document page number 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67
has been requested)

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other — name of repository

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Bayles, Richard M., ed. *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*, Vol. 1. New York: W.W. Preston & Co.;
1891.

Cadero-Gillette, Jennifer Lee, "Henry Sharp in Pre-Opalescent America," *Stained Glass Quarterly*, Vol. 85, No.
2, Pp. 130-136. (Summer 1990)

Harrington, Richard, *First Universalist Church* National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.
RI Historical Preservation Commission, 1977.

Sanderson, Edward and William Mackenzie Woodward, *Providence: A Citywide Survey of Historic Resources*.
Providence: RI Historical Preservation Commission, 1986.

Woodward, William Mackenzie, *Downtown Providence Historic District* National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Form. RI Historical Preservation Commission, 1983.

Obituary of Edwin L. Howland. *American Architect and Building News* (4 November 1876).

[End of Section 9]

Name of Property

City/Town

County, State

Document page number 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property (do not include previously listed acreage) Approximately .5 acres

UTM References

1	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>299720</u> Easting	<u>463336</u> Northing
2	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>300080</u> Easting	<u>4632750</u> Northing
3	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>299540</u> Easting	<u>4632240</u> Northing
4	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>299060</u> Easting	<u>4632860</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The properties to be added to the Downtown Providence Historic District through this amendment are identified by the Providence Assessor's Office as:

Map 25 Parcel 428 (250 Washington Street)

Map 25 Parcel 277 (254 Washington Street)

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries, which directly adjoin the existing historic district, include the contributing resources on their historical parcels bounded by Greene, Washington, Jackson and Garden Streets, while excluding any non-contributing resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Connors

organization Edward Connors & Associates

date April 2012

street & number 39 Dyer Avenue

telephone 401 595-0699

city/town East Providence

state RI

zip code 02915

Downtown Providence Historic District
Amendment

Providence

Providence, Rhode Island

Name of Property

City/Town

County, State

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

A **map** (to scale or sketch) for historic districts or properties having large acreage and/or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Continuation Sheets (if necessary)

Additional items Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items they require.

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Downtown Providence Historic District Boundary Amendment

City: Providence

County: Providence State: Rhode Island

Photographer and Date: Photo 3 -Edward Connors, March 2, 2012; Photos 1,2 and 4 – Richard Greenwood, April 24, 2012

1. View easterly on Washington Street at Jackson Street showing the YWCA, First Universalist Church and the Telephone Building on the right with the City Hall dome in center background.
2. View southerly showing front (north) and west elevations, YWCA Building.
3. View southerly showing front entrance, YWCA Building.
4. View southwesterly of the east (front) and north elevations, First Universalist Church.

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Joseph Caffey, OMNI Development (Former YWCA Building)

street & number 810 Eddy Street

telephone _____

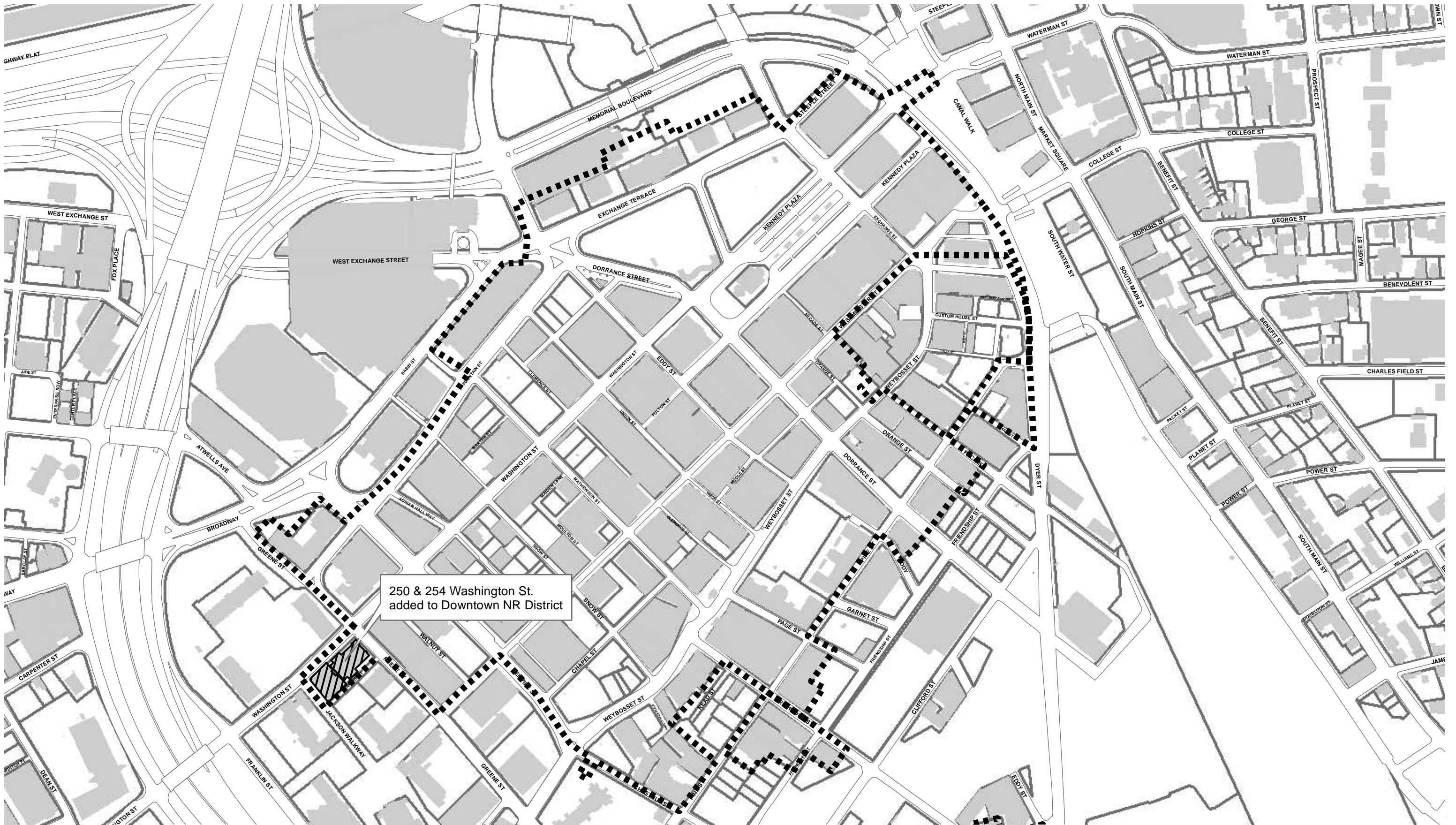
city or town Providence

state RI

zip code 02905

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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



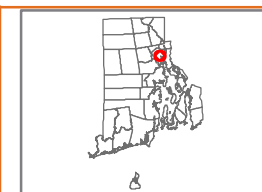
250 & 254 Washington St.
added to Downtown NR District

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by the Providence Planning and Development GIS Lab.
400 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I. 02903

Data Sources:
Providence Geographic Information System
Date: 4/26/2012

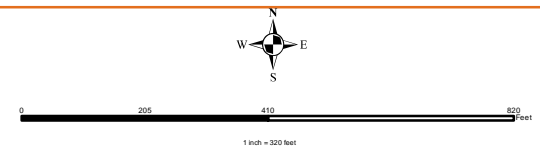
Path: Y:\Projects_2010\Downtown_NationalRegister\ProjectFiles\2012_NR_Amendments_AND_B_Landscape.mxd



Legend

--- Existing National Register Boundary

▨ 2012 NR Amendments



**DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**
2012 AMENDMENTS

PROVIDENCE THE CREATIVE CAPITAL

Department of Planning and Development
Angel Taveras, Mayor | Thomas E. Deller, AICP, Director







1890 HOUSE

254







*35
50'
*33
*32

DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
AMENDMENT
PROVIDENCE CTY, RI
A. 19,299720.463336
B. 19,300080.462750
*33 C. 19,299540.4632240
D. 19,299060.4632860