

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

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

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number along Friendship, Pine, and Richmond Streets not for publication

city or town Providence vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward Sanderson 8/27/2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain)	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

7	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
7	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: music facility

WORK IN PROGRESS

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE; BRICK

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT, SYNTHETICS

other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

[X] 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.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C a birthplace or grave.

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[] F a commemorative property.

[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1888-1889; 1923-1925; 1928

Significant Dates

1888-1889; 1923-1925; 1928

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[X] Other

Name of repository

Providence Preservation Society Revolving Fund

Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment
Name of Property

Providence County, Rhode Island
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	2	9	9	6	4	2	4	6	3	2	4	1	6
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susanna E. Prull

organization Providence Preservation Society Revolving Fund date November 2006

street & number 24 Meeting Street telephone 401.272.2760

city or town Providence state Rhode Island zip code 02903

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20500

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment

Providence

Providence County, RI

Name of Property

City/Town

County and State

Section Number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

This proposed amendment to the Downtown Providence Historic District is located at the southeast edge of the existing district and consists of seven buildings along Friendship, Pine, and Richmond Streets. These properties are contemporary with those already included in the district, and like their counterparts, are ample and stylish early twentieth-century commercial buildings. All seven buildings are two- or three-story, brick, commercial buildings with cast concrete ornament.

The block of buildings to be included in the district is bordered by the existing district on the west and north, Interstate 195 on the east, and vacant lots and modern buildings on the south. Two of the buildings stand alone on two separate blocks flanking one block which contains the other five clustered buildings.

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.

Friendship Street

127 Central Garage (ca. 1925-1926): A long, rectangular, one-story, three-bay, flat-roofed, brick building that runs along the back of assessor's lots 514 and 515. The building has a yellow-gold brick veneer exterior over a steel beam frame. It has two entrances, each made of modern metal materials, one on Pine Street and one on Friendship Street. Both facades have parapets with an ornamental white brick rectangular box in each bay. The Pine Street facade has two decorative black diamonds outlined in white brick in the center bay. The modern Pine Street entrance is set in a recessed, infilled garage door opening, and consists of textured, fixed glass panels surrounding a centered, double-leaf door. Flanking the entrance bay and set on the angled side walls of the recessed entrance are single doors of the same materials and design. To either side of the center bay are modern storefront windows made up of two, large, fixed panes with black metal panels below and decorative pressed glass panes in the transom, all set in aluminum frames. On the Friendship Street façade, the original, large, recessed center-bay garage door opening is filled-in with modern, metal grate material. Centered within this is a modern, wood, double-leaf door. Set on the angled wall to the right is a single, modern wood door. The tall, rectangular window openings that flank the central bay are also filled-in with metal grate.

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Friendship Street, continued

A 1921 Sanborn Insurance map shows that this lot was occupied by a small, two-story building with several one story additions. By 1926, the *Providence City Atlas Book* shows a large, long, brick building fronting on Pine and Friendship Streets and labeled Central Garage. This business was first listed in the *1927-1928 City Directory* as the Central Garage at 172 Pine Street. The *1937 Providence City Atlas Book* shows that this building had become Central Auto Service. A 1951 Sanborn Insurance map shows the building as a parking garage. By 1956, the building was used for auto sales and repair, a use which remained into at least the 1970s. The building is currently occupied by a nightclub.

Pine Street

- 160 (aka 59 Richmond Street) Rosemac Building (1926-1928): This long, three-story, three-by-seven bay, brick, commercial block has a flat roof and a decorative parapet accented by concrete, Art Deco-inspired ornament. Above the first floor windows is a long, wide, continuous lintel that runs the length of the windows. Above this lintel is a gently projecting cornice-like beltcourse. There are six, evenly-spaced Chicago windows (a single plate glass window flanked by double-hung sash windows) on each of the Richmond and Pine Street elevations. The rear elevation of the building has double-hung, two-over-two windows. The building has a clipped corner bay which contains a modern entrance door, flanked by sidelights, in a metal frame entrance. Also on the corner bay are windows on the two upper stories and a cast concrete panel on the parapet that is inscribed "Rosemac Building."

This building does not appear in the 1926 *Providence City Atlas Book*. However, the addresses for this lot were listed as vacant in the *1927-28 City Directory*, suggesting that a new building may have been under construction during this time. The owner of this lot from 1912 to 1930 was Rose J. MacManus, after whom the building was named. New occupants slowly filled the Rosemac Building from 1929 to 1932. The building provided offices for members of the jewelry industry and other businesses, including: J&R Jewelry Manufacturing Company, the National Clothing Shop, and the First Light Infantry Veterans. Since its construction in 1926-28 the Rosemac Building has acted as a transitional commercial building between the Downtown and the Jewelry District. This building is currently occupied by the Providence Public Defenders Office.

- 180 Boston Radiator/Rock and Englebrook Bowling Building (ca. 1925-1926): A large, rectangular, two-story, flat-roofed, brick and concrete building. A simple parapet crowns the façade, and two cornices, one above the first story and the other above the second story windows, visually divide the façade of this massive building. The first floor façade has been altered from its original design, making it difficult to

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Pine Street, continued

determine the original entrance and window locations. Below the first-story cornice is a low relief, decorative, concrete overlay that forms eight arched bays. The two center arched bays contain modern, fixed, single-pane, metal sash windows and there are several modern, metal-framed doors recessed within the bays. The two end bays do not have openings. The second story of the façade has four large, rectangular window openings, all of which are filled in with concrete blocks and a concrete skimcoat. The window openings on the south and north elevations of the building have also been filled in. A non-historic fire escape ascends along the south façade to a second story exit. There are skylights on the northwest and southwest corners of the roof which indicate stairwells below. The exterior walls are painted orange-yellow with a multicolored, wave-like band running around the west and south elevations.

Prior to the construction of the extant building, two buildings were located on this site: a private residence at 182 Pine Street, and a boardinghouse and the Boston Radiator Works at 180 Pine Street. The addresses 180 and 182 Pine Street do not appear in city directories in 1925 and 1926, perhaps indicating that the buildings had been demolished in preparation for the construction of the Boston Radiator/Rock and Englebrook Bowling Building. This single, large, brick building appears in the *1926 Providence City Atlas Book*. From 1927 to 1928 the building at 180 Pine Street was occupied by Boston Radiator and Rock and Englebrook Bowling. From 1929 to 1937, the building was occupied by Casino Amusement Company and Casino Bowling Alley. By 1951, the only use shown on a Sanborn Fire Insurance map is a bowling alley. It remained as such through the 1970s, and is currently occupied by a nightclub. The 182 Pine Street address never returned to the city directory.

Richmond Street

- 35 Rogers Company Building (ca. 1923–1925): This two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular-plan building has a buff brick veneer façade and rough brick on the east, west, and south elevations where attached buildings have been removed. The building is three bays wide, its center bay wider than the two flanking bays. The storefront is a modern replacement with a recessed center entrance, panels in the east bay, and a multi-pane window in the west. A row of seven modern, fixed sash windows is set at the top edge of the first story, well above the door and window level. The second floor has two large windows flanking a larger center-bay window. These are made up of a large, plate-glass pane with smaller panes above – two each on the flanking bays and three above the center plate glass window. The façade has a decorative metal cornice below a simple parapet, and the piers that flank the windows on the second floor are designed to appear as decorative excised columns with simple, cast stone capitals. Decorative

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Richmond Street, continued

bases on the piers that flank the larger center-bay window are integrated into the cast stone sill band that runs across the three bays. The building is surrounded on three sides by parking lots.

The extant building was constructed on the site of a smaller, one-and-one-half-story building. In 1921, this earlier building housed a tailor and a barber shop. The extant brick building was built ca. 1923–1925 and appears in the *1926 Providence Atlas Book* as Rogers Company, Inc. This clothing company was first listed in the *1925 City Directory* at 37 Richmond Street. This building was most likely built by Samuel Neuberger, who purchased the lot in 1923, two years before the Rogers Company occupied the building. In 1933, Neuberger sold the building to the Rogers Company. The building shared a party wall to the east with a branch of the Providence Public Library, which was a part of the Sherwood Block (demolished) at the corner of Pine and Richmond Streets. The building at 35 Richmond Street is currently occupied by a bar.

71–73 Commercial Building (ca. 1924–1926): A square, three-story, five-bay, flat roofed, brick building with a decorative concrete beltcourse that visually divides the first floor from the second. The large storefront windows on the first floor have been boarded over with a small section exposed at the top, over which hang cloth awnings. The second and third floors have groups of four windows in each bay. Above the first floor entrance is a single window with a decorative concrete lintel. A concrete cornice, integrated with the third floor lintels, underlines four, evenly-spaced, decorative concrete medallions on the parapet.

This building does not appear on the 1920–21 Sanborn Insurance map, but does appear in the *1926 Providence Atlas Book* with the address 71–79. The *Providence Directory* books from 1919 to 1924 list a single address, 75 Richmond Street. In the 1925–26 edition, however, the address was listed 71–79, as marked on the 1926 atlas map. This suggests that this three-story brick building may have been constructed between 1924 and 1926. The occupants at that time were the Franklin Premium Company (71), Peter Boboras Lunch (73), and Lazarus Brothers Clothing (77–79) (75 Richmond was listed as vacant). The building continued to be occupied by commercial offices, tailors, barbers, and several clothing and shoe stores. Today, the first and second floors are nightclubs and the third floor is a tattoo parlor.

81–85 Commercial Building (ca. 1889–1899): A small, rectangular, three-story, two-by-three bay, flat-roofed, brick building. The third story of the building is set back from the plane of the first and second story exterior walls. Fenestration of the building consists of aluminum sash, Chicago windows with cast

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Richmond Street, continued

concrete sills and keystone-ornamented lintels. There are three entrances to the building: one on the Friendship Street elevation and two on the Richmond Street elevation. All entrances consist of modern doors: either glass with an aluminum frame, or patterned steel. A band of soldier-coursed brick and a decorative concrete beltcourse just above visually divide the first floor from the second.

On the *1920-21 Sanborn Map* this building is shown as it appears today, with two-and-one-half stories and the smaller, third story set back. The building was occupied by a post office until 1956, when the National Maritime Union of America moved in. Several businesses, including shoe shops, a realty company, and a cleaning company occupied the office units. The first floor is occupied by a restaurant with a residential or commercial unit on the second floor.

- 101 Morris Clothes Shoppe (ca. 1926–1928): This building is a large, rectangular, two-story, five-by-five bay, flat roofed, brick building with a pale-yellow brick veneer façade. There are several recessed entrances along Richmond and Friendship Streets with various types of modern metal and wood doors with fixed window panes. The original storefront windows with transoms above have been blacked out, covered over with wood, or replaced with modern, metal-framed windows. Below the storefront windows are green marble and wood panels that cover the brick foundation and basement windows. The primary entrance has a modern, metal door flanked by two, fixed-pane windows and is set back within a clipped corner bay at the intersection of Friendship and Richmond Streets. At each entrance, there is a decorative, green and white hexagon-tile floor, in some of which the tiles have been set to say *Morris' 101*. A small, recessed entrance on Friendship Street appears to have an original, fixed, square, multi-pane transom. The building has a decorative parapet and cornice with dentils that extend around the Richmond and Friendship Street elevations. A decorative concrete cornice above the first story storefront bays visually divides the first floor from the second. Between each pair of windows on the second floor is a decorative concrete capital at the cornice. There is a large, modern fire escape on the east elevation that ascends to the second floor.

This building appears in the *1926 Providence Atlas Book* as 101 Richmond Street, Morris Clothes Shoppe. However, in the *1926–27 City Directory*, Morris Clothes Shoppe is shown as occupying 91 and 93 Richmond Street. By *1927–28*, neither 91 nor 93 Richmond Street, on the corner of Richmond and Friendship Streets, was listed. This suggests that these buildings were removed for the construction of the new Morris Clothes Shoppe at 101 Richmond Street. In January 1923, Morris Beranbaum, of Morris Clothes Shoppe, purchased this lot. He most likely built 101 Richmond Street between 1926 and 1928. This building is currently occupied by several nightclubs and bars.

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Photographic Information

The information for numbers 1 through 5 below is the same for all photographs:

1. Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment
2. Providence County, Rhode Island
3. Jeffrey D. Emidy, photographer
4. July 2007
5. Original digital files stored at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

The information for numbers 6 and 7 for each photograph follows:

6. Streetscape along Richmond Street - view facing west, showing (left to right): 101 Richmond Street, 81-85 Richmond Street, 71-73 Richmond Street, 160 Pine Street (aka 59 Richmond Street), and 35 Richmond Street, north elevations
7. Photograph #1
6. 101 Richmond Street (Morris Clothes Shoppe), north and west elevations - view facing southeast
7. Photograph #2
6. 81-85 Richmond Street, east and north elevations - view facing southwest
7. Photograph #3
6. 71-73 Richmond Street, north elevation - view facing southwest
7. Photograph #4
6. 160 Pine Street (Rosemac Building), north and west elevations - view facing southeast
7. Photograph #5
6. 35 Richmond Street, east and north elevations - view facing southwest
7. Photograph #6
6. 127 Friendship Street (Central Garage), east elevation - view facing southwest
7. Photograph #7

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- 6. 127 Friendship Street (Central Garage), west elevation (faces Pine Street) – view facing southeast
- 7. Photograph #8

- 6. 180 Pine Street (Boston Radiator/Rock and Englebrook Bowling Building), west elevation – view facing east
- 7. Photograph #9

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SIGNIFICANCE

It is proposed to expand the boundary of the Downtown Providence Historic District to include: Central Garage, at 127 Friendship Street; the Rosemac Building, at 160 Pine Street; the Boston Radiator/Rock and Englebrook Bowling Building, at 180 Pine Street; the Rogers Company Building, at 35 Richmond Street; two commercial buildings at 71-73 and 81-85 Richmond Street; and the Morris Clothes Shoppe Building, at 101 Richmond Street. These one- to three-story brick buildings are consistent architecturally and historically with other buildings on the fringe of the Downtown Providence Historic District. This area of buildings is currently within the City of Providence's Downtown Providence Design Review District.

These buildings are examples of the type of early 20th century commercial buildings that were constructed to replace the houses and small commercial shops as the downtown expanded in this former middle-and-upper-class neighborhood. When constructed in the mid-to-late 1920s, these buildings were occupied by businesses that included retail clothing shops, auto garages, and offices for jewelry manufacturers. Many of the businesses provided services to the other downtown tenants. These businesses created a transition between the downtown and the factories in the neighboring jewelry district. Although some of the original storefronts and facades of these buildings have been altered, these changes appear to be reversible. Most original materials and decorative elements remain.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Providence City Atlas Books. On file at Providence City Archives, City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.
1918, Plate 2
1926, Plate 2
1937, Plate 2

Providence Business Directory. On file at Providence City Archives, City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.
Multiple volumes, 1922–1946.

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps. ProQuest Information and Learning's Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970,
Providence Public Library, Providence, Rhode Island.
1905, 1920-21, 1937, 1951.

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Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment

Providence

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

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

- Map 24 Parcel 516 (127 Friendship Street)
- Map 24 Parcel 514 (160 Pine Street)
- Map 24 Parcel 655 (180 Pine Street)
- Map 24 Parcel 494 (35 Richmond Street)
- Map 24 Parcel 515 (71 Richmond Street)
- Map 24 Parcel 515 (81 Richmond)
- Map 24 Parcel 555 (101 Richmond Street).

Boundary Justification

The properties to be added to the Downtown Providence Historic District through this amendment conform to the historic and architectural contexts of the existing district. The boundary includes a complete cluster of buildings adjacent to the existing district and separated from other buildings in the area by physical elements including elevated roads and parking lots.

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Downtown Providence Historic District, Amendment

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Providence County, RI

Name of Property

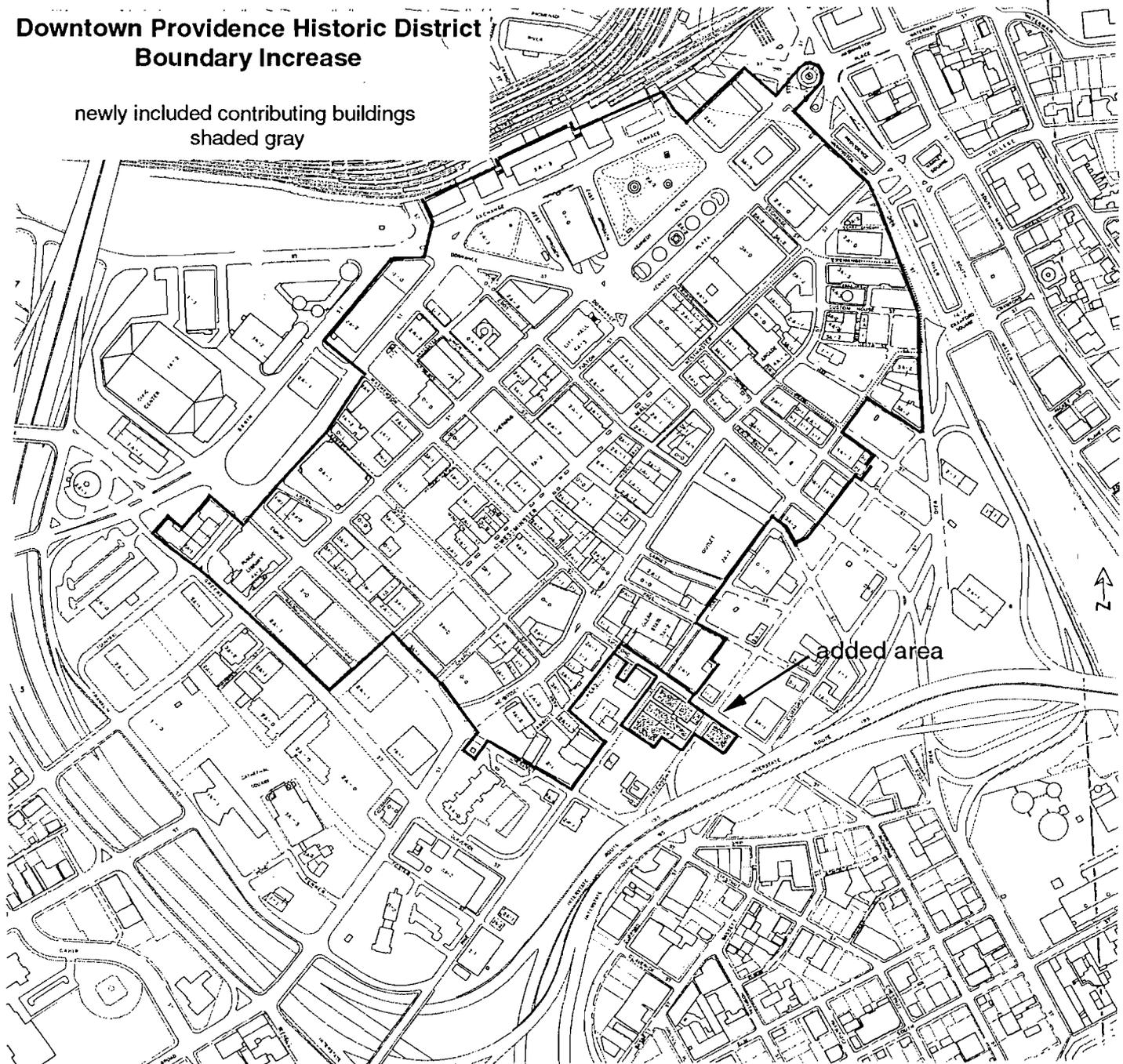
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**Downtown Providence Historic District
Boundary Increase**

newly included contributing buildings
shaded gray





ultra
the night club





XM IS HERE!

Ultra U
the new sound





THE COMPLEX







BAM

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76



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