

429 Farmington Avenue

1907-1923 Second Renaissance Revival

Little Hollywood

So-called because of the high concentration of attractive young working women who rented in the neighborhood, the streets are named for Frederick Denison Owen, who owned the land. The oldest buildings in the Little Hollywood Historic District are located on Farmington Avenue and date from the period 1907-1919 (Numbers 402-404, 412, 416, 422, 429-431, 435, 439-441 and 445). These three- and four-story, light and dark brick buildings stand on broad, tree-shaded lawns. Designed as upper-income apartment buildings, according to established building codes, these buildings vary considerably in their facade treatments. Falling into the broad category of the second Renaissance Revival style, they range in their detail treatment from Florentine arched windows (Number 402-404), to a Palladian porch, (Number 422). During the 1920s, two Jacobethan Revival buildings (Numbers 419-421 and 429-431) and a modernistic building (Number 408) were added to the Farmington Avenue group in the Little Hollywood District. The Farmington Avenue buildings contain the largest apartment units in the Little Hollywood Historic District, with one- and two-bedroom suites, some with fireplaces, arranged along central hallways. Many of these buildings have undergone interior alterations to increase the number of units, but few have witnessed exterior modification.

The two Jacobethan apartment buildings, (Numbers 419-421 and 429-431) on Farmington Avenue by their positions on either side of Owen Street, form a gate onto Owen Street. These structures establish the building height, set-back and shaped parapet roofline theme for the buildings on Owen, Frederick and Denison Streets. Variations of the Second Renaissance Revival and Jacobethan Revival styles are well represented on these streets. Swiss Chalet, (17-19 Owen Street), Mission style (35 Owen Street) and Baroque (21-23 Frederick Street) architectural elements are also found. Built between 1919 and 1923, the Owen, Frederick and Denison streets buildings have less ornate facades and stand on smaller lawns than do those on Farmington Avenue. A number have been grouped around central courtyards as at 23-27 Owen Street and 24-26-28 Owen Street. The floor plans of the Owen, Frederick and Denison Street structures are generally for one-bedroom units, with combined dining and kitchen areas.

83 Oxford Street

1855 Greek Revival

According to Hartford Architecture (Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980), Sylvanus Cone began farming at the foot of Prospect Hill Road in the mid 1800s and completed his Greek Revival house at 83 Oxford Street by 1855. "Its proportions and detailing follow the ancient Greek Doric order quite closely, showing the carpenter-builder to be well acquainted with one of the published builders' manuals that brought the Greek Revival style into the popular taste. Pilasters at

the corners support a heavy Doric entablature at the roofline, while the entrance portico repeats the same motif in the fluted columns and porch roof. This square blocky plan, with its classical entrance portico, was to become widespread in Hartford during the 1860s and 1870s, and as fashions changed, Italianate or Second-Empire-style details would be substituted for the Greek" 83 Oxford Street is the second-oldest house in the West End.

155 Sisson Aveue

1906 Colonia Revival

According to Hartford Architecture (Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980), "During the teens, many of the builders of fine individual homes also put up two- and three-family houses in the West End, especially in the southern part of the neighborhood. William H. Scoville's firm designed those at 155-169 Sisson Avenue in 1915. Colossal columns support triple-decker porches, giving an unusual air of monumentality to Hartford's standard working- and middle-class house type. Their columns, balustrades, moldings and crowning pediments are Colonial Revival elements employed with Scoville's characteristic play on scale and proportion. "

64 Tremont Street

1875 Second Empire

Two 1-story, Second Empire houses on Tremont Street date from about 1875 and are nearly identical in their massing: centered, front and rear projecting pavilions, mansard cross roofs with concave sides and dormers, and side porches. 38 Tremont Street has clapboard siding, tall, paired front windows and picturesque porch detailing composed of turned posts and sawn braces. #64 is simpler, with stucco walls, paired, square posts on its porch, and a single, large front window with a stained glass transom.

38 Tremont Street

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68 Tremont Street

1906

William H. Scoville (1869-1932), prominent Hartford architect-builder, was responsible for quite a number of houses in the West End South Historic District, particularly on Tremont Street, and his creative combination of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles is distinctive and readily identifiable. 150 Warrenton Avenue (1900) typifies his work, with its flared, hipped roof and deep soffits; large, front dormer gable with an unusual, 2-sided, diagonal window that has its own small, flared roof; and large, shingled brackets. His adjoining rows on Tremont Street of seven single-family houses (#68-80), all built in 1906, and nine 2-family houses (#2-4 to 14-16, #40-42, #44-46, #52-54 to #60, and #52-54), built in 1906 and 1908, are equally distinctive. Using the same basic, plan for each differently sized house, Scoville varied their exterior appearances widely to achieve a streetscape of much texture and diversity. For example, while each single-family house has a front porch, its appearance differs greatly from its neighbor: #68 has a pitched roof porch with partial cornice returns and paired, square posts; #70, on the other hand, has a porch with a flat roof, brackets, and arched, square posts with paneled spandrels. Other characteristic features of Scoville's houses are first-floor oriel windows, paneling between the front, second-floor windows, and flared, projecting roofs, whether pitched, hipped, or gambrel. Perhaps his most unusual architectural features are the oversized front dormer gable at #74 that projects over a third-floor Palladian window, and the third-floor oriel window at #72 with its small, overhanging polygonal roof at the peak of the front gable of the gambrel roof. His adjacent row of 2-family houses demonstrates a somewhat lesser degree of originality.

43 Tremont Street

Colonial Revival

3 Regent Street

1910 Foursquare

5 Regent Street

1900 Shingle

61 Oxford Street

1875            Italianate

56 Oxford Street

1890            Gothic Revival

56-58 Oxford Street, a 2-story frame house of 1890, combines Gothic Revival details, particularly evident in its cross gables and the small trefoils in the pierced gable screens and porch braces, with a central hipped roof that is more Victorian Gothic.

217 Beacon Street

1890

210 Beacon Street

1900            Shingle Style

200 Beacon Street

1875            Gothic Revival

200 Beacon Street (c.1875), a 1-1/2-story, L-plan frame house, has the steeply pitched cross gables, overhanging eaves, hood molds and sawn brackets and porch braces characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. The jerkin head dormers, restrained detailing of the gable and dormer bargeboards, and the gable cross braces with pendants, all suggest the transition to the Stick style.

188 Beacon Street

1875            Colonial Revival

The plainness of 188 Beacon Street . . . built around 1875, almost defies classification, although its rather simple porch frieze with quatrefoils is Gothic Revival inspired and its pyramidal roof anticipates the Colonial Revival.

161 Beacon Street

15 Warrenton Avenue

1898

17 Warrenton Avenue

1905

117 Warrenton Avenue

1900

126 Warrenton Avenue

1895

34 Evergreen Avenue

1900

170 Sisson Avenue

1865

According to Hartford Architecture (Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980), "An example of Hartford's popular Italianate style is the Albert Sisson House at 170 Sisson Avenue, built between 1865 and 1867. The rich classical detailing was modeled after Renaissance Italy and includes Corinthian columns, arched and triangular window pediments of brownstone, and elaborate brackets supporting the cornice. Cast-iron balconies and a cupola crowning the roof peak are other features typical of the Italianate. Many wood, stone and cast-iron elements could, by then, be made by machine, opening the way for the ornamental styles popular after the Civil War.

Albert Sisson made his fortune trading in leaf tobacco, one of the Connecticut Valley's most important agricultural products. His estate was a rural one, in keeping with the district and included extensive grounds, a carriage house (still standing) and barns.

The estate, which later became the campus of the House of the Good Shepherd, an institution for girls, was built at the end of the rural period in the West End. Shortly after Sisson completed his house, the

first steps were made toward suburban development.

461 Farmington Avenue

1907

573 Farmington Avenue

1904

94 Evergreen Avenue

1908