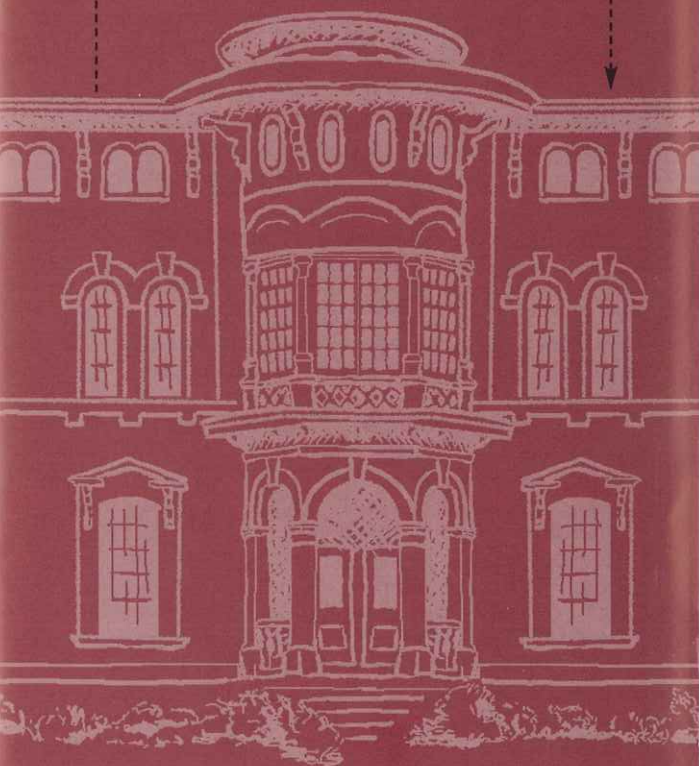




Walking Guide to Historic

Broadway & Union Street

NORWICH • CT



Approximate length • 1.5 miles
Estimated time to complete • 1 hour

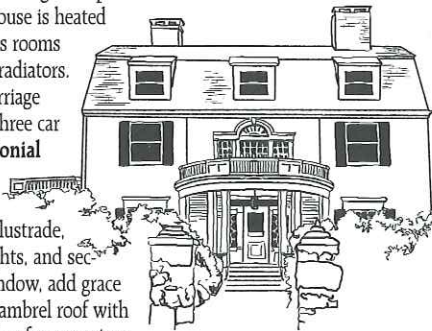
Throughout the nineteenth century, Norwich enjoyed noteworthy success as a lively industrial center. Many of its wealthiest entrepreneurs and mill owners built their homes along the shady sidewalks of Broadway. This street became a desirable location for the homes of the industrial magnates because it was one of the main arteries (along with Washington Street) into the commercial centers of downtown and the harbor area.

As the years passed, the Broadway area continued to expand. Norwich Free Academy was incorporated in 1854, and today is one of the finest high schools in the country. Two beautiful churches, Park Congregational and St. Patrick's Cathedral were erected on Broadway late in the century.— The homes listed in this brochure reflect Norwich's golden years as an industrial giant. Firearms manufacturing was centered in Norwich both during and after the Civil War, and textile production attracted legions of immigrants to work in its mills. Norwich was the third largest city in Connecticut in 1830, exceeded in population only by New Haven and Hartford. These structures provide a window into Norwich's illustrious past and are remarkable examples of Victorian styles of architecture. They attest to the City's position as premier trade center in Southeastern Connecticut.

This brochure is a guide to some of the particularly fine examples of building styles in the mid-1800s to the turn of the century. Numerous beautiful homes exist on nearby streets. After walking along Broadway, venture to smaller side streets and observe the colorful, interesting, and often whimsical Victorian styles of architecture as they are exemplified in quiet neighborhoods.

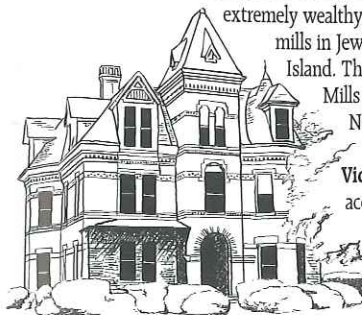
280 Broadway - Mitchell-Lucas House - c. 1896

Built on property once owned by William Slater, the home was later owned by Harriet Mitchell. She was the widow of Porteous Mitchell, owner of a large department store. This 20-room home now belongs to a local attorney. Each of the eight fireplaces has a different marble or wood design. The house is heated by steam which reaches rooms via intricately detailed radiators. In the rear is a large carriage house (now used as a three car garage) and a pool. **Colonial Revival** - Mixture of Georgian and Federal styles. The rounded balustrade, tracery on the entry lights, and second story Palladian window, add grace to this stately home. Gambrel roof with triple shed dormers allow for a spacious third floor.



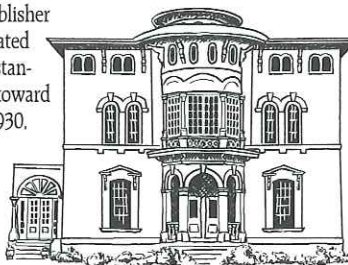
274 Broadway - The Slater-Bishop's Residence - c.1870

William A. Slater resided in this house during the late 1800s. The Slaters were an extremely wealthy and powerful family who owned textile mills in Jewett City, Connecticut and Slatteryville, Rhode Island. They were principal investors in the Ponemah Mills in Taftville. The Catholic Diocese of Norwich purchased the house in the 1950s for use as a residence for this area's Bishop. **Victorian Gothic** - White string courses accenting the building and white dental work under the eaves combine to make this house resemble a gaily wrapped package. Also note the intricate masonry work and how no two sides are identical.



270 Broadway - Bill House - c.1856

Henry Bill was a successful book publisher who made his fortune selling illustrated bibles. After the war, he gave a substantial amount of his time and money toward the education of former slaves. In 1930, the Norwich Free Academy purchased the house and used it for Home Economics classes. The current owners have painstakingly renovated the exterior of the home and professionally landscaped the grounds. **Italianate** - Note the unusual entrance. The circular shapes extend to each story, culminating with the cupola atop the house. A lovely glassed-in porch looks out on manicured gardens and lawn.



262 Broadway - Judge Brown House - 1913

This home was built for State Supreme Court Judge, Allen L. Brown. It has had numerous additions. In 1927, on the south end of the structure, the Browns added a second living room and a library. Above the first floor extension, a dressing room was created. The present owners, upon purchase of the house, renovated and remodeled it. In 1991, a Great Room was incorporated into the rear of the house and in 1994, a conservatory was added to the south wing. **Colonial Revival** - Gabled dormers with tracery, small central Palladian window, and symmetry of design are features of this building style. From 1910 to the present, home builders have tried to capture the simple elegance of Colonial architecture. At the same time, decorative features borrowed from the Victorian era, such as tracery and large windows, have been pared down and incorporated into the house design.



242 Broadway - Hubbard-Porteous House - c.1865

Charles L. Hubbard was president and treasurer of the H.A. Hubbard Company, a paper factory once located on Tenth Street. Late in the nineteenth century, Mr. Hubbard sold the house to John Porteous, who was president of the Hislop,



Porteous, and Mitchell dry goods store in Norwich. The store was very successful and eventually the company expanded, opening branches in New London, New York State, Maine, and Michigan. Mr. Hislop and Mr. Mitchell ran

the various branches, while Mr. Porteous tended to the general interests of the firm. **French Second Empire with Gothic Revival Details** - This mansion is a myriad of architectural styles; Italianate door and window details; French Second Empire Mansard roof; Gothic quatrefoil gable windows.

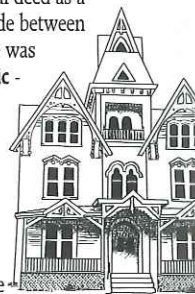
214 Broadway - William M. Williams House - c.1878

The original owner, William M. Williams, Esq. erected this house on May 29, 1878. He was a partner of the Amos W. Prentice & Co., a former hardware store located on Commerce Street in downtown Norwich. **Mixture of Queen Anne, Stick, and Second Empire** - Note the circle motif, and spool-like ballisters of the porch which are Queen Anne style details. The woodwork in the porch gable is reminiscent of the Stick style, while the Mansard roof and double front doors are characteristic of French Second Empire architecture.



210 Broadway - Rev. Frank Norton House - c. 1876

The Reverend Frank L. Norton is described in the original deed as a resident of Troy, New York. No connection has been made between the Reverend and any Norwich church. It is assumed, he was retired when he moved into this house. **Victorian Gothic** - Note the decorative molded rakeboard on the front gables, and how each story's window decorations vary. The Belvedere Tower is tucked between the two front gables. The tower provided a clear vantage point for the street activity below.



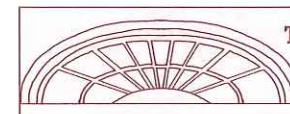
110 Union St. - c.1864

This house was built for Jonathan W. Hooker. In 1891, he was listed as a real estate agent. **Italianate** - The long, thin windows, especially on the first floor are characteristic of this style. The pavilion attached to the porch with the conical roof adds to the beauty of this Italianate style home.



96 Union St. - c.1800

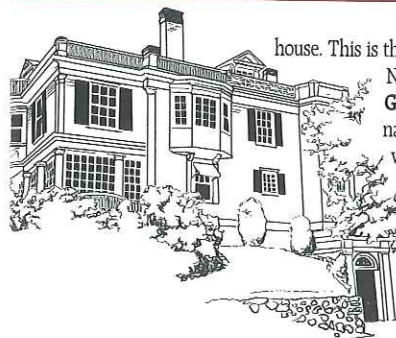
The original owner of this house was Gilbert Brewster, owner of the Union Hotel in downtown Norwich and builder of a small steamship, the "Eagle," in 1817. Around 1910, the ABC Elevator Company installed an elevator that services the basement, first and second floors of the



Tracery



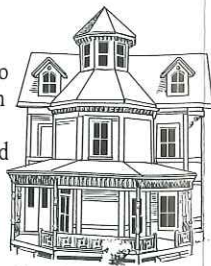
Belvedere Tower



house. This is the only house, of this period in Norwich, that has an elevator. **Georgian Revival** - House was originally built in the Federal style, but was remodeled in the early twentieth century in the Georgian Revival Style. Note the bay window and Tuscan pilasters, characteristic of the Georgian Revival, while the balustrade and lower entry are more Federal in flavor.

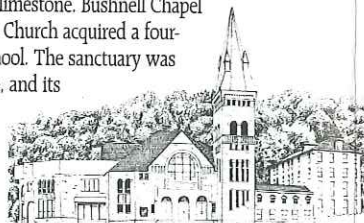
93 Union St. - c.1880

Queen Anne - The hexagonal tower with its octagonal lantern-top cupola is centered rather than being placed off to one side, which is the usual position for a tower on a Queen Anne house. Many details, such as the cutout pattern and spindles along the railings, the turned posts with knobs, and the fan-like brackets add decoration to this home.



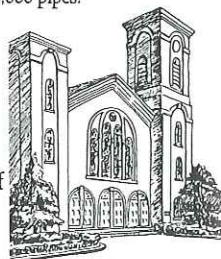
2 Union Square - Central Baptist Church - 1891

The Church's second place of worship was erected in a Romanesque style designed by M. L. Hubbard of Utica, NY, and employing select Berlin, CT bricks trimmed with Indiana limestone. Bushnell Chapel was completed in 1896, and in 1925 the Church acquired a four-story residence to use for its Sunday School. The sanctuary was severely damaged by the 1938 hurricane, and its theater style interior was replaced with one along colonial lines. Bushnell Chapel was modernized in 1974 to meet needs of Church and community.



87 Broadway - United Congregational Church - 1857

The church was gathered in 1842 and moved to this site after its original meeting house on Main St. burned. The current meeting house was built in 1857 and originally included a spire that was more than 200' high. The spire was struck by lightning in 1898 and removed. The meeting house is built of brick with free-stone dressing in the Romanesque style of architecture. Notable member Connecticut Governor William Buckingham donated its pipe organ in 1858. The organ was built by E. G. Hook of Boston and has over 2,000 pipes. Buckingham is also believed to have brought Abraham Lincoln to visit the church. The church has many portraits on its walls of famous Norwich forbears, including Governor Buckingham, Rev. John Gulliver, former pastor of the church and founder of Norwich Free Academy and Roberts Raikes, founder of the Sunday School movement. Most of the portraits are the work of Alexander H. Emmons, a 19th century Norwich artist.



Rakeboard

Quatrefoil



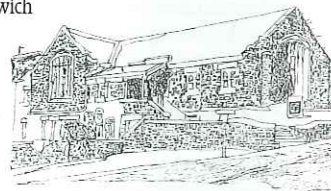
As the block narrows, with City Hall stationed at the point, there are a number of **Greek Revival** homes. The term Greek Revival is used for two styles of houses built between 1770-1860. The temple-like houses have giant porticoes supported by columns. The more simple structures, are two storied with the front door to one side and gable end towards the street. Often the peak has a decorative window shaped like a fan, circle, split fan or square.

100 Broadway - City Hall - 1873

See *Guide to Historic Norwich* for more information.

148 Broadway - Unitarian Universalist Church - 1910

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Norwich was founded as the Society of United Christian Friends in 1820. The church built a brick building facing Franklin Square in 1842. This building was demolished for the Chelsea Savings Bank and the present church on Broadway built in 1910. The church is in a modified Romanesque Revival style. It is also known as the Church of the Good Shepherd for its stained glass window.



160 Broadway - c.1870

The lot on which this house stands was purchased in 1869 by Edward N. Gibbs. Gibbs was then an officer in the Thames National Bank (no longer in existence), as well as a life insurance officer and incorporator of the Dime Savings Bank. **French Second Empire with Gothic Details** - The house combines Gothic Revival details such as the quatrefoil designs in the lower porch, triangular headed attic window, and a rakeboard in the center gable outlining the pointed arch. The Mansard roof is typical of the French Second Empire architecture.



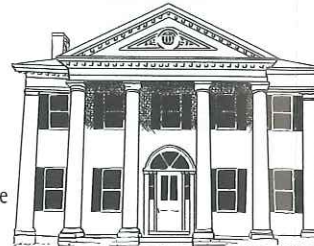
161 Broadway - Russell Hubbard House - 1826

This house was built in 1826 for Russell Hubbard. Hubbard was publisher of the *Norwich Courier* for twenty years. He and his brother, Amos H. Hubbard, were involved in the manufacture of paper at the Yantic Falls from about 1837-1857. Russell was also one of the founders of the Norwich Free Academy. **Federal** - The second story glassed-in porch as well as the porch of the front entry way are later additions. The relative simplicity of the house's design is illustrative of the Federal style.



167 Broadway - Ripley-Woodhull House - c.1830

William D. Ripley was listed as a commission merchant in the Stedman's 1846 *Norwich Directory* and an incorporator of The Norwich Savings Society. He apparently shared the house with the Woodhull family, who later owned it.



Roman Classicism - Note how the monumental portico employs Roman Doric columns and the arched window over the front door, distinguishing this house from the Greek Revival style.

172 Broadway - Jedidiah Levens House - c.1800

Jedidiah Levens was an iron manufacturer and coal dealer in partnership with James M. Huntington. **Greek Revival** - This house takes an unusual spin on the Greek Revival style. The orientation of the house, with its gable end and entrance to the side, is different from other Greek Revival homes in Norwich. In most cases, the entrance would be at the street. Other unique features are the square columns on the porch, since most other Greek Revival houses employ rounded Ionic columns.



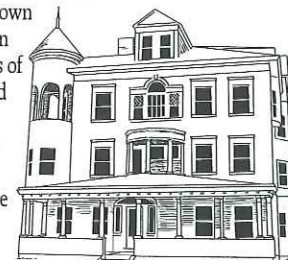
171 Broadway - John Johnson House - c.1845

The original owner of this large home was probably John Johnson, a bachelor whose father was president of the Norwich Bank. Commercial banking first came to Norwich in 1796 with the opening of the Norwich Bank. The bank had several locations before settling on Main Street, where in 1865 it changed its name to Norwich National Bank. In 1889 its assets were acquired by Thames National Bank. This bank later closed as well. **Greek Revival** - The four fluted Ionic columns supporting the two story portico dominate the front view of the house.



170 Broadway - The Huntington - 1906

This home is located in an area once known as the Huntington Flats. The Huntington family figured prominently in all aspects of Norwich society from the colonial period to the turn of the century. Elizabeth Huntington sold the land on which this home was built in 1906 to Charles D. Gallup. It is unclear if Mr. Gallup was the original owner of this home.



175 Broadway - Amasa C. Hall House - c. 1860s

Industrialist Amasa C. Hall lived in this impressive brick home. A man of many interests and talents, Hall was president of the Pequot Machine Company, a grocer, and steamboat agent. The house is a good example of the affluent dwellings preferred by Norwich's wealthy in the post-Civil War era. **French Second Empire** - The Mansard roof, and symmetry of the design are primary characteristics of the French Second Empire, but the porch details and dual columns are of Italianate flavor.



The triangular plot of land enclosed by a cast-iron fence is known as **Little Plain**. It was bequeathed to the City of Norwich in 1811 by Hezekiah Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington. The Victorians were aware that cities needed "open spaces" and when designing urban centers included park areas. Central Park in New York and Hyde Park in London are early examples of planned public spaces which helped to minimize the unpleasant aspects of city living. Little Plain, Mohegan Park, and the many "greens" of Norwich are local examples of this same sentiment.

181 Broadway - Thomas Coit - Deacon Jabez Huntington House - c.1782

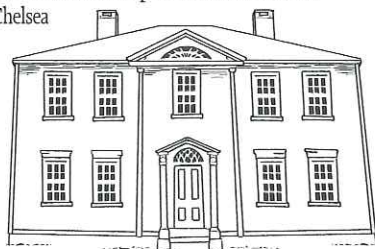
Thomas Coit, the original owner, was closely associated with Norwich entrepreneur Christopher Leffingwell. Coit was a partner in Howard & Coit Co., a major privateering firm during the Revolutionary War. He purchased the lot, on which this house stands, from Leffingwell

in 1782. In 1784, when Leffingwell was appointed the First Naval Officer of Norwich, Coit was appointed Collector of Revenue, serving under him. In 1798, Coit moved to Canterbury where he continued as a merchant. The house was sold to Deacon Jabez Huntington, an original incorporator of Norwich Savings Society. **Late Georgian** - The monumental portico, the use of paneled wooden keystones over the first floor windows, and the gambrel roof are all characteristic of the Georgian style. The first story balustrade may be an addition in the 1890s compatible with the Colonial Revival style.



185 Broadway - Perkins House - c.1789

Sea Captain Hezekiah Perkins was the original owner and occupant of this house. He was active in the West Indian and European trades. He and his nephews helped to found the Chelsea Grammar School in 1806 (no longer exists). Perkins also worked as a cashier at the Norwich Bank in 1796. In 1811, Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington donated a triangular plot of land across from the house for use as a public park, now known as Little Plain. **Federal** - This house's design with its hip roof and symmetrical window placements are accented by the fanlights in pediments in the small gable and above the door.



189 Broadway - Burnham-Dewitt House - c.1789

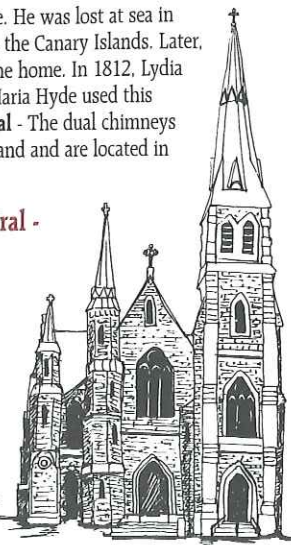
Captain Zebulon Perkins Burnham, the original owner, was the nephew of Hezekiah Perkins who lived next door. The two houses were built at the same time, and share a remarkable resemblance.



Burnham was a sea captain, as was his uncle. He was lost at sea in 1810, while on a trade voyage to Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Later, another sea captain, Jacob DeWitt, owned the home. In 1812, Lydia Huntley (later Mrs. Sigourney) and Nancy Maria Hyde used this building as a school for young ladies. **Federal** - The dual chimneys are for fireplaces that extend to both floors and are located in the corner of every room.

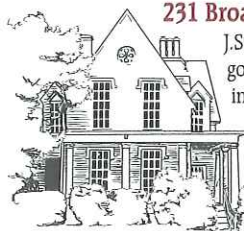
213 Broadway - St. Patrick Cathedral - 1870

This Gothic granite building is a testament to the Irish Catholic community of Norwich, who helped construct it. Work began on Good Friday in 1871, and the first mass was held on St. Patrick's Day, 1879. **Gothic Revival** - The building is dominated by a massive tower balanced by two smaller spires. Its soaring lines move the eyes skyward, a basic property of Gothic architecture. See Guide to Historic Norwich for more information.



231 Broadway - J.S. Ely House - c.1850

J.S. Ely was owner of Ely & Company, a dry goods store formerly located at 97 Main Street in Norwich. **Gothic Revival** - Note the steeply pitched roof typical of the Gothic Revival. The polygonal chimney pots and the decorative window quatrefoil are also typical of the style.



253 Broadway - Briggs House - 1891

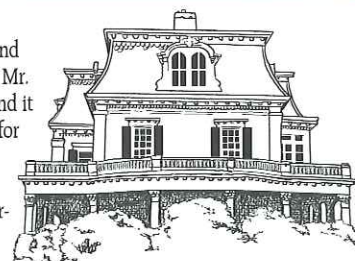
This three story home belonged to the Briggs family. In 1915, Mary Briggs bought the house from Jennie Reid, the widow of Adam Reid, founder of the Reid and Hughes Co. (The Boston Store). Mary's husband, Lucius, was president of the Chappel Coal Company, which was located on the land now occupied by the Americus Marina. The young couple held many gala events at the house. The house was known simply as "253" by the Briggs family and their neighbors. **Shingle Style** - This commodious shingle style home was built for comfort, with a covered recessed porch on the first floor, an open recessed porch on the second, and a large gable on the third. The many angles of the porches and bays, rich detail and asymmetry make this house visually interesting.



257 Broadway - Carroll-Phillips House - 1850

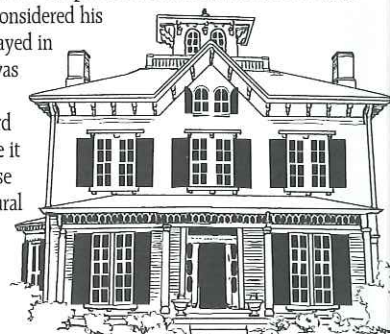
Lucius Wyman Carroll was a prominent figure in the textile industry, owning such companies as L.W. Carroll & Sons, Wequonnoc Woolen Mills, and Griswold Cotton Co. Mr. Carroll also had influence in local banking circles, and

was president of the Quinebaug and First National Banks for 25 years. Mr. Carroll built this house in 1850, and it remained with the Carroll family for 133 years. In 1983, the Phillips family purchased the house, and added a large chandelier to the formal living room. A family heirloom, it was one of four chandeliers to grace the rooftop ballroom of the Mohican Hotel, in downtown New London. **French Second Empire with Greek Revival Details** - This three-story wood house has a striking Mansard roof and a bowed-front wrap-around porch. Note the elaborately framed dormers on the third floor and the richness of detail along the roof line, eaves, corner pilasters, and window cornices. The scrolled cast-iron fence adds to the elegance of this superb structure.



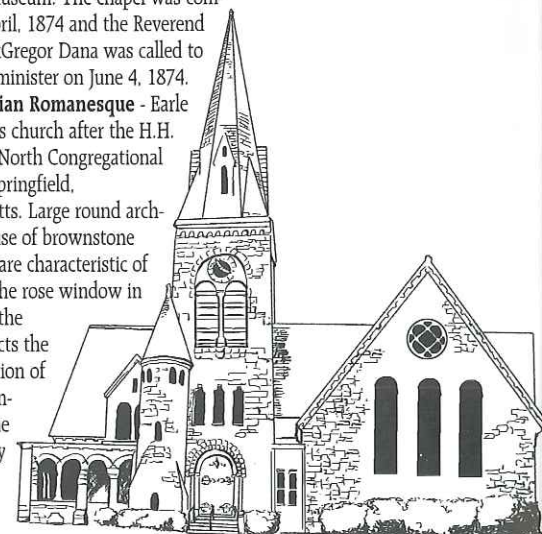
269 Broadway Chapman-Sullivan House 1850

Gurdon Chapman, the original owner of this house, was the twelfth mayor of Norwich, from 1843-1845. When Mr. Chapman died in 1859, he left the house to his niece, Rosalie, whom he considered his adopted daughter. The house stayed in the family until 1946, when it was sold to the Sullivan family. The present owners are only the third family to occupy the house since it was built. **Italianate** - This house exhibits classic Italianate structural details, such as eaves brackets, cupola, rounded roof windows, peaked gable, bay window, and the ornate porch trim.



283 Broadway - Park Congregational Church - 1874

This church was designed by Stephen C. Earle, who also designed Slater Memorial Museum. The chapel was completed in April, 1874 and the Reverend Malcolm McGregor Dana was called to be the first minister on June 4, 1874. **Richardsonian Romanesque** - Earle modeled this church after the H.H. Richardson North Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts. Large round arches and the use of brownstone and granite are characteristic of this style. The rose window in the back of the church depicts the Transfiguration of Christ as conceived by the 16th century artist, Raphael.



Norwich Free Academy - 305 Broadway - Incorporated in 1854

The Norwich Free Academy is a privately governed, endowed, regional independent high school. In 1853, Dr. John P. Gulliver, pastor of the Broadway Congregational Church, garnered the support of the wealthy of the community to build a secondary school which would be open to any young men in the area who could pass the entrance examination. The Academy, would be, in his own words, "dedicated...to the provision of adequate training for all the children of the community." Norwich Free Academy opened its doors in 1856. Set on 49 acres, the NFA campus has grown to include an observatory, 11 academic buildings, and athletic fields. The diversity of topics offered within the curriculum include technology, business, and fine arts education, as well as advanced placement classes. It is the second largest high school in Connecticut and is one of only two public high schools in the United States that has an art museum.

108 Crescent St. - Slater Memorial Museum - 1886

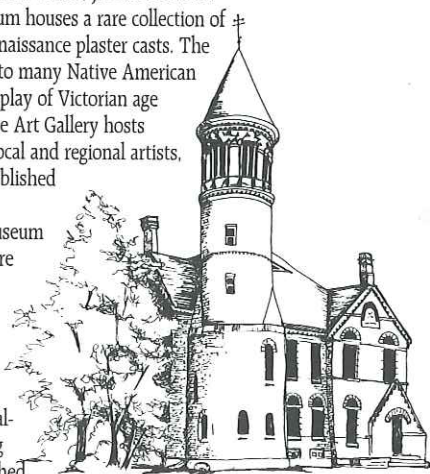
Slater Memorial Museum, designed by architect Stephen C. Earle, was constructed at the bequest of William A. Slater, a prominent Norwich businessman and named in honor of his father, John Fox Slater.

Slater Memorial Museum houses a rare collection of Roman, Greek, and Renaissance plaster casts. The museum is also home to many Native American artifacts, and a fine display of Victorian age furniture. The Converse Art Gallery hosts changing exhibits by local and regional artists, as well as from its established private collection. The Gaultieri Children's Museum delights visitors who are young at heart.

Richardsonian

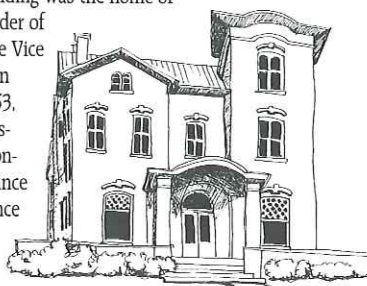
Romanesque - Note

the many intricate details in the brown-stone structure, especially the owl, symbolizing wisdom, which is perched over the front entrance. Intricate masonry leaf-work is found on the molding of the front entrance.



The Latham Science and Information Center - Lafayette Foster House - c. 1850s

The original structure of this building was the home of Lafayette Foster, who, as the leader of the United States Senate, became Vice President when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. In 1953, the Norwich Free Academy transformed the house into the Norton-Peck Library. The building has since become part of the Latham Science and Information Center. The center was named for Allen



Latham, Sr., who taught science at the Academy from 1902 - 1919. His son, Allen Latham, Jr., an alumnus of the Class of 1926, donated \$1 million in honor of his father to further scientific studies at the Academy. Completed in the fall of 1993, the state-of-the-art facility includes four laboratories, a computerized writing lab, and extensive library. Italianate - Recognizing that the Foster House is both an architecturally and historically significant part of Norwich's heritage, N.F.A. officials dedicated themselves to maintaining and refurbishing the buildings Italianate features. Note the rose and bees in the stained glass window over the front entrance.

Broadway & Union Street Walking Map

