

PLEASANT STREET ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Pleasant Street Neighborhood includes the properties on both sides of the street from Route 1/Stanwood Street to Maine Street. This neighborhood is one of six neighborhoods that comprise the Village Review District in Brunswick. The neighborhood is one of the primary gateways into downtown Brunswick.

The variety of building types along Pleasant Street indicates that a significant amount of change and growth has occurred through the years. Union Street is an important delineation point as the character of the buildings begins to change at the intersection of Union and Pleasant. Therefore, Pleasant Street can be broken down into two sections: Maine Street to Union Street and Union Street to Route One/Stanwood Street.

Between Maine Street and Union Street, there is a mix of civic, religious and commercial uses as well as building forms. Significant civic or religious buildings of various architectural styles contribute to the street's character, including the Curtis Memorial Library (Colonial Revival, c. 1904), the Unitarian Universalist Church (Queen Anne, c. 1886), St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Gothic Revival, c. 1845) and the United States Post Office (Colonial Revival, c. 1932). The importance of these community landmarks is reflected, in some cases, by the use of masonry, a more substantial and expensive building material. Over the years, the commercial activities of Maine Street have crept around the corner onto this section of Pleasant Street. As a result, many of the nineteenth-century residences have been converted to commercial use, which has significantly impacted their architectural integrity. While setbacks are generally consistent in this area, the variation in building form, materials and use creates a busy visual environment.

From Union Street to Route 1/Stanwood Street, Pleasant Street begins to take on a less commercial feel. Between Union and Cushing Streets there is still a mix of residential and institutional buildings. St. John's Catholic Church and its related buildings anchor the southwest corner of Pleasant and Union Streets and mark the end of the religious landmarks along Pleasant Street. Numerous businesses, such as the Chamber of Commerce, inhabit residential buildings. For the most part, this results in preserving the residential scale and character of the street. While there are a few early 19th century buildings, the

prevalence of late 19th century architectural styles reflects the later development of this section of Pleasant Street. These styles include Queen Anne, Stick Style and Colonial Revival.

The tremendous width of Pleasant Street (two lanes of traffic plus one lane of parking) dominates the streetscape and diminishes the pedestrian feel of the neighborhood. Curbs, sidewalks and trees establish a formal streetscape pattern.

While Maine Street represents the commercial center of Brunswick, Pleasant Street is the hub of civic and religious activities. The buildings along Pleasant Street portray a significant part of Brunswick's commercial, residential and religious history.



Above: Pleasant Street's character is defined, in part, by the breadth of the road.

