THE REFORM OF
PUBLIC SPACE
IN HARTFORD,
1850–1930

DOMESTICATING THE STREET

Domesticating the Street

The Reform
of Public Space
in Hartford,
1850–1930

Peter C. Baldwin

Ohio State University Press, Columbus
Contents

List of Illustrations vi
Acknowledgments viii
Introduction: The View from State House Square 1
1 Horace Bushnell and the Origins of Segregated Space 11
2 Purifying the City 34
3 The Fight against the Vice District 64
4 Saving the Newsies 93
5 Segregating the Parks 116
6 “The Children Are Off the Streets” 147
7 Expressmen and Peddlers 177
8 Creating a Traffic System 201
9 City Plans 230
10 Of Hartford Seen in a Different Light 261
   Notes 267
   Index 349
Illustrations

Main Street at State House Square, mid-1920s  2
Honoe Bushnell  13
Site of Bushnell Park  21
Central Hartford, 1854  23
Seth Marsh's 1858 plan for Bushnell Park  27
Hartford, 1895  36
Main Street, 1899  41
Charles Street, 1906  43
Washington Street  46
Dotha Bushnell Hillyer  49
Signs on a building on Main Street, ca. 1900  61
Part of the East Side, 1909  67
The River House, ca. 1900  68
Gold Street before clearance, 1890s  72
Emily S. G. Holcombe, 1900  73
Katharine Houghton Hepburn, ca. 1914  82
Fusco's saloon, ca. 1913  85
Boys scavenging, 1918  96
A young newsboy selling papers downtown, 1909  97
Newsboys entering a saloon, 1909  99
Newsboys in an alley, 1909  109
George A. Parker, 1912  136
Elizabeth Park rose garden, 1921  138
Outdoor dancing at Colt Park, 1918  143
The Boys' Reading Room, 1876  150
Children playing in State Street, 1906  155