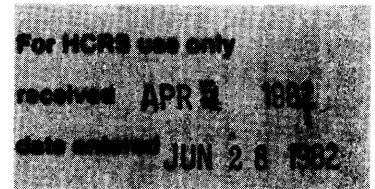


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum

and/or common Children's Village

2. Location

street & number 1680 Albany Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Soc. Services</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Children's Services of Connecticut

street & number 1680 Albany Avenue

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City and Town Clerk, Municipal Building, Room 104

street & number 550 Main Street

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Register of Historic Places
title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum (now Child and Family Services, Inc.), consists of eight buildings clustered about a central rectangular green on a northwest/southeast axis. (Map 1). Situated in a park-like setting at the corner of Albany and Bloomfield Avenues in Hartford, the property undulates gently downhill to the Park River. The component buildings are roughly rectangular in plan. Construction materials are of red brick in a variation of the American or stretcher bond, relieved by an occasional blue or dark-colored brick. Gable roofs, covered with large rectangular shingles of gray-green slate, are broken by varying combinations of transverse gables and shed dormers, creating a striking appearance. (Photograph 1). An access road encircles the complex with the exception of the Keeney House to the northwards. A tree-lined drive allows vehicular traffic to enter the grounds from Albany Avenue on the southeast.

Fenestration throughout the Children's Village is complex. Windows are of double-hung sash, with either 6-over-1, 6-over-6, 9-over-1, or 3-over-6 light combinations. Windows are placed either singly, or in groups of two or three. Shutters are embellished with pierced designs of rabbits, stars, potted trees, or sailboats, one design being used consistently for each house or cottage. The overall effect is picturesque in combination with the roof treatment.

The Trumbull-Robinson House, formerly the Administration building, closes the green at the southeast end. (Map 1, Building A). A gable roof with rounded dormers is intersected at either end by wings with gable roofs. A porch occupies the space between these two wings. To the south, an addition designed in 1948 by Schultz and Goodwin, architects, continues the roofline of the main building. Attached to the roof of this wing is a shed dormer faced in slate. (Photograph 2). An auditorium in the central portion of the building has an elaborate half-timbered ceiling with original lighting fixtures. (Photograph 3).

Proceeding in a clockwise direction from the Trumbull-Robinson House, the first building on the western side of the Green is the Hillyer House. (Map 1, Building B). The Hillyer House roof has a shed dormer with projecting gables of differing size. The dormer is faced in the same slate material as the roof. (Photograph 4). The entry, which faces the green, is derived from Adam Style models. Sidelights with leaded glass panes and pilasters supporting an open-bed pediment and an arch with keystone and fan design, distinguish this doorway. The door is panelled, with leaded glass windows. (Photograph 5). A wing at the rear has a gable-roofed portico over the entrance repeating many of these characteristics, with the addition of an elliptical fanlight over the door. The door itself has been replaced. (Photograph 6). The interior retains an original fireplace and mantelpiece in the Director's office. (Photograph 7).

Jewell House and Ferkins House define the remainder of the western side of the green. (Map 1, Buildings G and F). The roof of the Jewell House has a

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small shed dormer with gables at either end, slate-faced. An open porch surrounds the entry. (Photograph 8). The Perkins House is differentiated by a much longer shed dormer pierced by a projecting gable in the center and flanked by larger gables at either end. The central gable has an attractive blind arch above its window, decorated with a radiating fan design in wood. An enclosed entry projects slightly from the building to the left of center. (Photograph 9).

Closing the northwest corner of the green is the Cooley-Williams House, a convalescent cottage built in 1928. (Map 1, building E). A large, gable-roofed central section is flanked on either side by gable-roofed wings. A shed dormer along the inside of both wings and center, is broken only by a bay window with hipped roof above the entrance. The entrance itself is within an arcade. At the outside of the wings, shed dormers are pierced by gables. enclosed sun porches are placed on wings extending from either end. (Photograph 10). Lanterns of open metal lattice-work light the porch enclosed by the arcade. (Photograph 11).

On the eastern side, the green is boarded by the Goodwin and Brainard Houses. (Map 1, buildings C and D). The Goodwin House is almost a duplicate of the Perkins House across the green, with a shed dormer flanked by large gables and interrupted by a central gable. (Photograph 12). The Brainard House is similar, though different in detail. The shed dormer has projecting gables at either end, the northern one protruding farther. No central gable is present. At the south end of the building is an open porch and a small gable. A brick addition of 1963 is unobtrusive. (Photograph 13). The doorway of the Brainard House is quite distinct from those of the other houses, although utilizing many of the same details. (Photograph 14). Window shutters are pierced with a rabbit-shaped design, differing from the star, potted tree, and sailboat patterns which are used on the other cottages. (Photograph 15).

The Keeney House is not on the green, but is located to the northwards of the others. The expanse of the roof is penetrated only by small dormers and a small gable roof over the entrance. Inside, a large room similar to the auditorium, but without half-timbering, currently serves as a gymnasium. (Photograph 16). (Map 1, building L).

The Children's Village is set in large open grounds with wide expanses of grass. The green, enclosed by buildings on all sides, has two rows of maple trees ranged along the northwest/southeast axis. Planted close to the buildings are numerous ornamental trees and shrubs. (Photograph 17). Outside of the Trumbull-Robinson House, a signpost greets visitors, bearing a sheet-metal representation of the Children's Village with decorative wrought-iron scrollwork. (Photograph 18). The impression created is that of a self-contained, rural community.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1923-1925, 1928 **Builder/Architect** Grosvenor Atterbury

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum was constructed at the height of popularity of the "cottage system" or plan for the care of dependent children, and articulates this philosophy in its design. In contrast to the earlier "congregate system," which emphasized communal living arrangements, the "cottage system" stressed individual treatment of children in an atmosphere as home-like as possible. The provision of cottages in a village setting met this need. While on a much smaller scale than Children's Villages in New York state, the Hartford Children's Village came nearer to the conceptual ideal. (Criterion A). The work of Grosvenor Atterbury, a town planner and architect, the village complex utilizes designs based on English vernacular country architecture. While using similar architectural elements, each building in the village is distinct in design. Unity is expressed through the use of common materials, brick and slate, and a common modest, residential scale. The overall effect of the village is harmonious and aesthetic. (Criterion C). (Photographs 1 and 17).

The current institution operating the Children's Village, Child and Family Services, Inc., is the product of a series of mergers between various agencies concerned with the welfare of children. Its origins may be traced to the Female Beneficent Society, founded in 1819 for the welfare of female children, and the Hartford Orphan Asylum, chartered in 1833 for the care of male children.¹ Both organizations relied on local protestant churches for support, and stressed religious instruction. In 1836, a former school building on Washington Street in Hartford was donated to the Hartford Orphan Asylum. The Female Beneficent Society and the Hartford Orphan Asylum merged in 1865 under the latter name, and continued to use the Washington Street orphan asylum.²

The orphan asylum in Hartford was part of widespread, international social reforms in the 19th-century. Formerly, orphaned children were relegated to poorhouses or almshouses where they mingled with paupers, the mentally ill, the deaf, and the blind. By the early 19th-century, such practices were beginning to be recognized as a social evil. The solution was to create separate institutions for different groups: Orphan Asylums, Insane Asylums, schools for the deaf and blind, etc. The Hartford Institution for the Deaf in 1817, and the Hartford Orphan Asylum were both products of this reform movement, providing alternatives to placement in almshouses. ³

The orphan asylum not only catered to the needs of children who had lost both parents, but also assisted single-parent families when the surviving spouse proved incapable of providing for the children. Even complete family units suffering economic hardship could avail themselves of the services of an

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum, Hartford (1926)
 May, Charles C., "Indian Hill: An Industrial Village at Worcester, Massachusetts," Architectural Record, 41, Jan. 17, 1917, pages 21-35.
 Thurston, Henry . The Independent Child. New York: Columbia University Press, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 32.32

Quadrangle name Hartford North Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

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Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	6	9	0	3	8	0	4	6	2	8	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

1	8	6	9	0	4	3	0	4	6	2	8	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

1	8	6	8	9	9	8	0	4	6	2	8	4	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary descriptions may be found in Hartford Land Records, Vol. 488, page 227, Dec. 20, 1919, and Vol 581, page 444, June 4, 1925.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nominations Consultant

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date 9/29/80

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 566-3005

city or town Hartford state Connecticut

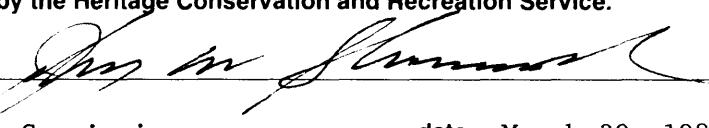
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date March 30, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/29/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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orphan asylum. The Civil War, the stresses of a cyclical economy, and rapid urban growth, combined to supply ample numbers of children to the asylum. 4. Release was made either to the family when judged capable of caring for the child, or to local tradesmen or craftsmen through the apprenticeship system for males. Female children were often indentured to families as domestic servants. 5.

In 1879, overcrowding at the Washington Street asylum led to the construction of a new facility on Putnam Street. A large brick building in the Queen Anne style, the new asylum offered accommodations for 150 boys and girls. Dormitory living, segregated by sex, and communal dining were provided by this "congregate" institution. Unlike the earlier asylum on Washington Street, however, children were sent to a public school nearby to lessen the effects of institutionalization. 6.

By the turn of the century, the "cottage system" was introduced into the United States as an alternative to the "congregate system" used in asylums throughout the country. Based on European and English models, the cottage system sought to minimize the effects of institutionalization by placing children in small units similar to homes. Children's Villages, consisting of clusters of individual cottages, were constructed in New York at Hastings-on-Hudson about 1900, and at Dobb's Ferry beginning about 1904.⁸ Both grew to large assemblages containing dozens of cottages. The attention of the child welfare community was drawn to the cottage plan through the publications of Dr. H.H.Reeder and H.H.Hart, How Two Hundred Children Live and Learn, and Cottage and Congregate Institutions, respectively. 9.

Encouraged by favorable reports on the cottage system, the trustees of the Hartford Orphan Asylum in 1911 built a cottage for girls at the Putnam Street asylum. The success of this experiment with the cottage plan led the trustees to endorse the system and plan a new orphan asylum built on the cottage plan. In 1919, property on the outskirts of Hartford was acquired. New York architect and town planner Grosvenor Atterbury was chosen to design the Children's Village, perhaps on the advice of H.H.Hart, with whom correspondence was carried on in 1922. Ground was broken in 1923, and the village completed by 1925, with the exception of the Cooley-Williams House, or Convalescent Cottage, built in 1928. 10.

Atterbury had had useful experience in the design of planned communities, most notable of which was Indian Hill, built for the Norton Company of Worcester, Massachusetts during 1915-1916 and in the succeeding years. 11. Some design features at the Children's Village in Hartford also appear in Worcester: steeply pitched, slate roofs with shed dormers. A contemporary description is revealing of the aesthetic principles:

"Slate was chosen for the roofing material because of its economy, its fire-resisting qualities, and because the color is good in itself. The roof material is the same throughout, as we have said, to bring unity into the composition. Where a collection of houses can be seen all together and from a distance, this common bond between the indi-

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vidual units is of the greatest value; it is like the family resemblance that marks them all one kindred: it is like the soldier cap that transforms the gang of boys into a regiment. Only by this and similar evidences of collective planning can there be produced dignity and carrying power in an aggregation of which the units taken singly, must be too small or too insignificant to be effective. 12.

The slate roofs of the Hartford Children's Village perform a similar unifying effect. The expanse of steeply pitched roofs dominate the appearance of the village as seen from a distance. (Photograph 1). Reinforcing the unity and harmony of composition is the use of brick and the relatively modest residential scale of the cottages or houses. Skillful use of variations on the same design theme- transverse gables and gabled dormers intersecting the roofline and shed dormers- differentiates the cottages from one another. In sunlight, the projecting architectural elements and their shadows contrast vividly with the bright slate roofs. In the tension between the unifying effect of materials and scale and the fragmentation caused by the interplay of light and shade from the gables, an aesthetic result is achieved.

The architect has responded to the challenge of creating a home-like environment by evoking the illusion of individual homes in the context of a village setting. The use of a revival style derived from English rural domestic architecture intensifies the illusion. This style, with its use of brick and slate building materials, is common throughout the suburban areas fringing Hartford. A popular choice among homeowners of the 1920s, it is appropriate for the Children's Village, strengthening its impression of domesticity. This is further enhanced by spacious grounds, which serve to demarcate the village clearly. The Park River, Albany and Bloomfield Avenues form natural boundaries within which open fields surround the village on all sides, heightening the sense of a rural community.

In smaller details, each cottage is distinct: doors and fittings, shutters with pierced designs, porches and exterior lights, all reflect individualized treatment. Many such details are indebted to the principles of the Handicraft movement, inspired by the English artist William Morris. (See Photographs 3, 11, and 15). In America, the Roycrofters and others led the Handicraft movement, affecting the design of many utilitarian objects.

The Children's Village explicates well the purposes of its founders. Stressing individual care and treatment for each child, the "cottage system" implied the creation of dwelling units as small as practicable, to duplicate the conditions of a home. In the small scale of its houses and of the village itself it succeeds in conveying this impression. In contrast to the enormous Children's Villages of New York, with populations of several hundred or more, the Hartford facility's average daily population was less than 100. Children were sent to

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public school and allowed to participate in outside activities such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, in order to integrate them into the community at large. 13. Grosvenor Atterbury, the architect of the Children's Village, has devised varied treatment of the cottages to provide individual identities for each. High quality of design and workmanship is evident in the construction of the Children's Village. Moreover, the impact of the ensemble of buildings has been carefully thought out, yielding a result which transcends the component parts.

Footnotes.

1. The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum. Hartford: no imprint or date (1926), page 11.
2. Ibid, pages 11-12.
3. Thurston, Henry W. The Dependent Child. New York: Columbia University Press, 1930, pages 36-37.
4. Smith, Virginia T., "The History of Child-Saving Work in Connecticut," in History of Child Saving in the United States, Report of the Committee on the History of Child-Saving Work to the Twentieth National Conference of Charities and Corrections, Boston: George H. Ellis, 1893, page 116.
5. Thurston, op.cit., pages 57-59.
6. Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum, pages 11-12.
7. Dependent and Neglected Children, Report of the Committee on Socially Handicapped-Dependency and Neglect to White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. New York: D.Appleton-Century Co., 1933, page 61:

"So far as it may be found necessary temporarily or permanently to care for certain classes of children in institutions, these institutions should be conducted on the cottage plan, in order that routine and impersonal care may not unduly suppress individuality and initiative. The cottage unite should not be larger than will permit effective personal relations between the adult caretaker or caretakers of each cottage and each child therein."

8. Thurston, op.cit., page 53. Also The Children's Village Seventy-Seventh Annual Report. Dobb's Ferry-on-Hudson, New York: Children's Village School of Printing, 1929, pages 84-85.
9. Keeder, Dr. R.R. How Two Hundred Children Live and Learn. New York: Noble & Noble, 1917. Also, Hart, H.H. Cottage and Congregate Institutions for Children. New York: New York Charities Publications Committee, Russell Sage Foundation, 1910.
10. Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum, page 13.
11. May, Charles C., "Indian Hill: An Industrial Village at Worcester, Massachusetts," Architectural Record, 41, Jan. 17, 19017, pages 21-35.
12. Ibid, page 25.
13. Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum, 15, 19, 21.