UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: Hartford

1. NAME

COMMON: Day House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 77 Forest St.
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford
STATE: Connecticut

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☐ District ☑ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☐ Public ☐ Private ☑ Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:

☐ In Process ☑ Being Considered

STATUS

☒ Occupied ☑ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Yes: ☑ Restricted ☑ Unrestricted ☑ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☑ Government ☑ Park
☐ Commercial ☑ Industrial ☑ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☑ Military ☑ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☑ Museum ☑ Scientific
☐ Transportation ☑ Other (Specify) ☑ Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER’S NAME: Stowe-Day Foundation
STREET AND NUMBER: 77 Forest Street
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford
STATE: Connecticut

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford
STATE: Connecticut

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: 75 Elm Street
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford
STATE: Connecticut

For NPS Use Only
The plan of the Day house is irregular with projecting bays and porches and a two-story wing to the west.

The exterior has a variety of complex and interrelated contrasts of shape and color. These eclectic and ornate elements are integrated into a pleasing aesthetic unity: (1) The limestone of the exterior walls is organized in patterns by string courses of brownstone and below the eaves by a chequered pattern of blue and pink limestone. (2) The dormers in the roof and the over-hanging gables are covered by scalloped shingles which are deep red (Originally the shingles of the roof were also this color). (3) The columns, railings, scrolled brackets, pierced work, consoles, and moldings about window frames and dormers are painted a deep brown similar to the color of the brownstone. (4) The single half-timbered gable has the pattern of the tree of life. On the front porch gable is a carved design of birds and leaves painted in gold and blue which is the same color as the blue limestone under the eaves.

The exterior has recently been sandblasted and efforts have been made to restore the building to its 1884 form. Only the shingles of the roof—now a pink red—fail to duplicate what is known of the original color. These were a deep red. This change notable affects the appearance of the house. If it were the same color as the scalloped shingles the building would appear to be both more coherent and more top-heavy.

The interior is typical of the period. Fireplaces on the ground floor have elaborately carved mantels. The fireplace openings are framed with tiles which have colorful patterns. Some rooms have plaster cornices with complicated patterns in low relief.
6. SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

- 1884

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation

- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music

- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation

[ ] Urban Planning
[ ] Other (Specify)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Day House is significant as a paradigm of the Queen Anne style which was introduced in England in 1864 by Richard Norman Shaw. The house was designed by Francis Kimball, and completed in 1884. The owner was Franklin Chamberlin and he was also the builder of the Stowe House just to the west.

The building is situated on the corner of Forest Street and Farmington Avenue between the Stowe House and the Mark Twain House. It is believed that the house was built by Chamberlain to rival the Mark Twain House which was built ten years earlier. During the period 1870-90 Nook Farm was a vital intellectual center, and although Chamberlin was not part of that intellectual circle his house is evidence of the attraction which intellectual and cultural distinction has for men whose only virtue is material wealth.

Chamberlin's home is called the Day House because it was purchased in 1940 by Harriet Beecher Stowe's grand-niece Katharine Seymour Day in order to protect the environment of the Stowe House. In 1941 Miss Day established the Stowe-Day Memorial Library and Historical Foundation to which she bequeathed her entire estate.

---

1 On the western edge of Hartford, Connecticut, a wide meander of the Park River once embraced a heavily wooded tract long known as the Nook. In this area there developed a neighborhood of interrelated families and friends whose wide range of interests and accomplishments made Nook Farm a cultural center and a mecca for distinguished visitors during the second half of the nineteenth century. Its two foremost residents, Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) and Samuel L. Clemens (1835-1910), attained international fame.

Visitor's folder—Harriet Beecher Stowe's House in Nook Farm, Stowe-Day Library and Foundation.

Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximate acreage of nominated property: 2

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

State: Code

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name and Title: Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

Organization: Connecticut Historical Commission

Street and Number: 75 Elm Street

City or Town: Hartford

State: Code

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [X]

Name: State Liaison Officer and Chairman

Date: November 13, 1970

11. NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 16 1971

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

MAR 17 1971