

## **United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Hyde-St. John House in Hartford County, Connecticut, reference number 77001422, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 10/06/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7441. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

1/24/2009

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Form 10-300 Rev. 6-72)	UNITED STATE	TIONAL PARK SERV	THE INT	ERIOR		Connecti	cut	
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	25 Charter	• Oak Avenue	е					
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7.	DESCRIPTION			1999 (Mar. 1999)					
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	CONDITION	X Excellent	🗆 Good	📋 Fair	Det	eriorated	C Ruins	Unexposed	
			(Check One)			(Che	ck One)		
				X Unaltered			Moved	A Original Site	

The square three story brick house is constructed in the Italianate manner with three bays on the north (front) facade and also on the side (east and west) facades. All windows have brownstone lintels and sills. At the back of the house is a square two-bay ell constructed of the same materials and in the same manner as the main block. A small room has been added, perhaps at the turn of the century, at the southwest corner of the main block incorporating a side entrance adjacent to the driveway. An original side entrance is at the southeast corner of the main block and is connected to the street by a flagstone walk.

Immediately noticed are the roof and the porch (Photo A). The flat roof has prominent overhang which is supported by sturdy wooden brackets arranged in pairs over the windows and at the corners. The porch runs the full width of the house and projects in bow shape at either side. Forch roof is supported by paired wooden columns standing on molded plinths.

Chief architectural embellishment of the house is its handsome doorway (Photo B). The door has long side lights to left and right under decorative lunette window, the whole surrounded by molded architrave. The side lights are separated from the door by narrow pilasters leading up to the molded entablature with fine dentil course. In the spandrels of the window arch are unusual carved wood leaves motifs (Photo C).

Also of decomative significance is the brownstone string course which runs around four sides of the house just below the round headed third floor windows. Just below the roof consoles at the springing line of the window arches is a wooden molding.

In addition to the six wooden steps which initially led from grade up to the porch, there are now six concrete steps installed at a time when the street level was lowered so that the porch level is now fifteen steps above grade. The brownstone foundations (the top course of which has pecked finish) originally were laid quite high with result that the cellar ceiling is of unusual height and the house as a whole occupies a somewhat elevated position.

Inside the front door is a small foyer leading to central hall with rooms on either side. A narrow stairway with two turned balusters per tread has a straight run at the rear of the west side of the hallway. The walls of the hallway have an unusual six foot high metal wall covering embossed in a stylized floral design.

(See continuation sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Connecticut
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Hartford
	INVENTORY - ROMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
	(Continuation Sheet)	EATHY AGADEN

Description cont'd

25 Charter Oak Avenue

The two rooms to the left (east) of the hall have interesting fireplaces as do the bedrooms. The fireplaces have green glazed tile hearths and surrounds. On the ground floor one of the fireplaces has a metal egg and dart molding. One of the bedrooms has a carved wooden design executed in the form of grapes (Photo D) under shield in the form of a coat of arms.

Adjacent to the house to the west is Temple Beth Israel, a brick synagogue designed in 1876 by George Keller (1842-1935). Hartford's leading 19th century architect (nomination to the National Register of Historic Places pending). Charter Oak Avenue itself is the northern boundary of the Charter Oak Area and currently under study for restoration by Hartford Redevelopment Agency. A few feet east of the house at the intersection of Charter Oak Avenue with Charter Oak Place is a monument memorializing the location of Connecticut's historic Charter Oak. Charter Oak Place was one of the town's leading residential streets in late 19th century. Many of these fine homes continue to stand on the street and are now the subject of restoration efforts. Visible to the north one block away is the restored eighteenth century Bull brick town house which houses Connecticut Historical Commission, in turn adjacent to the Butler-McCook property (Hartford's oldest standing house) and the new Pulaski equestrian statue and mall. Also in the immediate neighborhood are St. Hargarut'b-Church and the Polish National Home Spirits Cynil and Methodius

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (II Applicab	le and Known) C. 18	58	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	ack One or More as Appropri-	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
Historic	🗋 Industry	losophy	Adaptive use
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscope	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	1 Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are three reasons for nomination of this house to the National Register of Historic Places, first, its architectural significance, second, the historic and neighborhood associations of its most prominent owner, third, the outstanding fusion of diverse elements in its present adaptive use.

For a century and a quarter the house has stood in its original condition, well maintained, and without major alterations. The stone and brick work is in first rate condition with the possible exception of some deterioration of sandstone foundations which appears to be damaging only to appearances. The simple but effective square Italianate design with distinctive decorative embellishments make the house an unusual specimen of its era. The house is in unusually clean condition both inside and out having recently been spruced up but with structural repairs needed only in support of the front porch.

From 1881 to 1896 the house was the residence of William Waldo Hyde (1854-1915), a prominent attorney who like his father and grandfather before him and his son after him was a member of Hartford's oldest practicing law firm known in his years as Hyde, Gross and Hyde, and now Gross, Hyde and Williams. William Waldo Hyde served the city as superintendent of schools 1885-1891, president of Board of Street Commissioners 1890-1891 and as Mayor 1892-1894. The Waldo and Hyde family also owned and lived in a large home around the corner on Charter Oak Place with the yards of the two homes abutting one another. Thus the Hyde family pursued a distinguished career in this fashionable neighborhood and in the legal and political life of the city for several generations.

In the twentleth century Pollsh Americans have become prominent along Charter Oak Avenue. Their presence is visible in the attendance at St. Margaret's Church, in the use of Pollsh National Home, and more recently in the new mall and Pulaski equestrian statue adjoining the Butler-McCook house. The Liszka Travel Agency is a well established business which has

(See continuation sheet)

INSTRUCTIONS

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History of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1633 – 1928, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928, Vol. III, p. 56.         10. CEOGRAPHICAL DATA         LATITUDE AND LONGTUDE COORDINATES         CORNER         LATITUDE AND LONGTUDE COORDINATES         DEFINING AND LONGTUDE COORDINATES         CORNER         LATITUDE         NE         O         LATITUDE         NE         O         LATITUDE         NE         O         LATITUDE         NUMINATE ACREACE OF NOMINATES PROPERTY:         OR fifth acre         LISTATES AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES         STATE:         COUNTY	RTY				
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	CODE				
STATE: CODE COUNTY:	CODE				
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NAME AND TITLE:					
David F. Ransom, Secretary					
ORGANIZATION DATE					
Hartford Architecture Conservancy 22 Dec. 1	1976				
STREET AND NUMBER:					
65 Wethersfield Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: STATE	CODE				
Hartford Connecticut 06114					
STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-					
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law I hereby certify that this property is included in	I hereby certify that this property is included in the				
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion National Register.					
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	Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation				
level of significance of this nomination is:					
National 🗌 State 🔄 Local 🗌					
Date					
Name ATTEST:					
Title					
Title Keeper of The National Register					

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