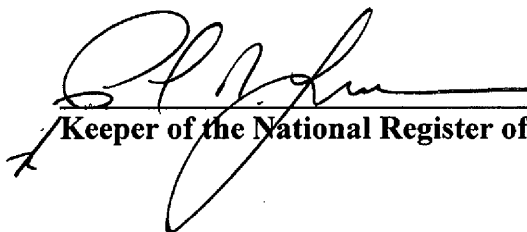


United States Department of the Interior

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

1/26/2009
Date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Connecticut
COUNTY:	Hartford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Liszka Travel Agency

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hyde - St. John House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Charter Oak Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:

COUNTY:
Hartford

CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Comments _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Edmund & Laura W. Liszka, Liszka Travel Agency

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Charter Oak Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hartford Land Records, Town Clerk, Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
550 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE
COUNTY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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. Porch 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 decorative 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)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Description cont'd

7. #1

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. Margaret's Church~~ and the Polish National Home

St. Cyril and Methodius Church

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Adaptive use</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

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 twentieth century Polish Americans have become prominent along Charter Oak Avenue. Their presence is visible in the attendance at St. Margaret's Church, in the use of Polish 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)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1633 - 1928,
Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928, Vol. III,
p. 56.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NE	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .		
SE	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .		
SW	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .	° ' " .		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one fifth acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
David F. Ransom, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Hartford Architecture Conservancy DATE: 22 Dec. 1976

STREET AND NUMBER:
65 Wethersfield Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06114

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

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S