

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1577

1. Name of Property

historic name: Sloper-Wesoly House

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 27 Grove Hill Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: New Britain vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Hartford code: 008 zip code: 06054

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Individual

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

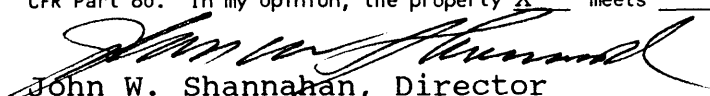
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

  
John W. Shannahan, Director  
Signature of certifying official

11/30/98  
Date

Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

     See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

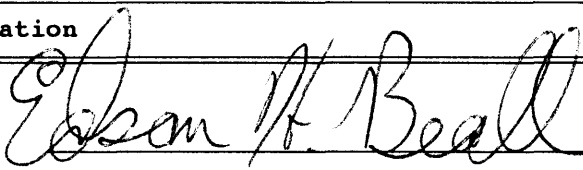
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register



1-7-99

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_



Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current: Domestic, commerce

Sub: single dwelling, professional

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian/Queen Anne

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Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Stone/brownstone roof asphalt  
walls Brick other \_\_\_\_\_  
Wood/shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locallyApplicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Architecture,  
Health  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Period(s) of Significance: 1887-1946 \_\_\_\_\_Significant Dates: 1887 1946 \_\_\_\_\_Significant Person(s): Andrew Jackson Sloper (1849-1933)  
Dr. Andrew S. Wesoly (1911-1994)

Cultural Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: George Dutton Rand (1833-1910)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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Description

The Sloper-Wesoly House is a substantial brick and wood-shingled Queen Anne house located on a quasi-residential street in close proximity to Route 72, a major interstate highway. The house is set back from the street sidewalk to the west within grounds of mature plantings. The highway is depressed in a deep cut to the north. The property encompasses approximately 3/4 of an acre with a side drive leading to a rear parking area and attached garage. At the time of its construction and until the late 1970s, the Sloper-Wesoly House stood in an estate area with large Victorian wood and brick mansions to the north and across Grove Hill to the west. The house is now one of two mansions surviving on the street in a residential setting.

Exterior features of the house include a gabled front entry porch, a round brick turret with conical roof in the southwest corner, large gabled dormers with paired or three-part windows, and a massive corbeled brick chimney. The brick is trimmed with brownstone and the foundation is of rough-faced brownstone ashlar with a wide, hammered watertable. On the south elevation is a brick and stone, flat-roofed extension with a round-arched door opening once used as conservatory. Other exterior details of the house include imbricated (or fish scale) shingle work in the gables, multi-paned window sash (in the attics) and terracotta medallions. The front porch has five column supports with spiral fluting. Carved woodwork is used for other decorative embellishments in the porch entry pediment.

In addition to the exterior, the interior of the house survives with considerable integrity. Little has been altered since construction of the house, except for a limited modernization of the kitchen and bathrooms. The primary features of the interior are a large central hall and relatively open, centrally focused circulation plan. The hall is dominated by a large central, fully exposed brick chimney with a staircase mounting behind to the second floor. The north wall of the hall is dominated by a large round-arched Romanesque window. The hall has panelled and varnished oak wainscotting and lincrusta-clad walls, wood floors, and a naturally finished beamed ceiling. Wall fixtures, a ceiling chandelier, call buttons, and other fixtures are original including locally made "Russwin" door hardware manufactured by the New Britain-based Russell and Erwin Company. The chimney breast has decorative glazed tiles and terracotta medallions. The hall is accessed from the front entrance through a pair of double-leafed vestibule doors (with stained glass) and a small interior circulation space or anteroom (as described on the original floor plans) Within this space, the wide entrance to the hall is framed by elaborate spool work. All of the wood finishes are natural. Off the anteroom are two small reception rooms; a library located within the southwest turret base, and a parlor to the northwest. The latter has painted wood trim and door surfaces. The library has built-in glass and naturally finished wood

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bookcases and a tiled fireplace. Other principal first-floor rooms include a dining room with paneled wainscotting, fireplace, and built-in sideboard. This south-facing room has access to the hall via a double-leafed pocket door and features a deep window alcove with a round-headed window flanked by twin conservatories. There are intact pantries with paneled cupboards and drawers connecting the dining room with the kitchen and off the kitchen itself.

The second floor is characterized by four principal bedrooms off a central hall running from the back of the house to the front. The front bedroom in the turret (known as the family chamber in the architect's plans) is connected to a smaller bedroom shown in the plans as the children's chamber. The connecting area includes a decorative fireplace in each room and a walk-through closet with small sink and cupboards. At the top of the principal stairhall is a wood-paneled bathroom with built-in tub and wardrobe.

The house has a cellar-to-attic back stairhall with direct access to the cellar storage and service rooms, first-floor side entrance, kitchen and pantry, second-floor hall and cook's room (and bath), and attic staff room, staff lounge, and storage rooms.

**Photograph List:**

Photograph 1 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View looking northeast

Photograph 2 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View looking north

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Photograph 3 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior front vestibule

Photograph 4 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior stair in hall

Photograph 5 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior washroom

Photograph 6 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior hall

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Photograph 7 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior hall fireplace and chimney breast

Photograph 8 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior hall to dining room, looking south

Photograph 9 of 9

- 1) Sloper-Wesoly House
- 2) New Britain, Hartford County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) March 1998
- 5) Negative located at New Britain Public Library Local History Room, New Britain, CT.
- 6) View of interior hall window, looking north

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Significance

The Sloper-Wesoly House is significant as an intact representative example of Queen Anne-style architecture in New Britain and the acquired taste of one of New Britain's leading industrial entrepreneurs and financial officers (National Register Criterion C). The house survives with considerable interior and exterior architectural integrity as a remnant of the large and impressive houses and mansions that once stood nearby in the Grove Hill neighborhood.

According to wishes of the widow of the original owner, Mrs. Andrew Jackson Sloper, quasi-public use of the house began in the mid-20th century and continued until the 1980s under the stewardship of Dr. Andrew S. Wesoly and his family. Use of the house as a medical office for Dr. Andrew S. Wesoly, whose family practice included the predominant Polish population of New Britain, ensured preservation, limited public use of the first floor, and a long-term association with the city's hard-working ethnic population.

The house was completed in 1887 to designs by Boston architect George Dutton Rand (1833-1910) for prominent New Britain resident Andrew Jackson Sloper (1849-1933). Rand was known in the Boston area, notably suburban Winchester, for his residential work incorporating the popular Ruskinian Gothic, Romanesque, and Queen Anne tastes of the late Victorian period in domestic architecture. This work was sited within grounds inspired by the romantic revivalists of the mid-late 19th century, including Andrew Jackson Downing, whom Rand admired. An example of Rand's work along these lines is the small community of Rangeley in Winchester completed by 1880, seven years before the Sloper-Wesoly House.

The Sloper-Wesoly House embodies the influence of the work of Henry Hobson Richardson in Rand's portfolio with its massing, masonry first floor, and impressive wide-arched window openings. A similar design of Rand's was published in *American Architecture and Building News*, April 30, 1887. Rand was known for his innovative and socially progressive design work in the Boston area. In 1872, while a partner with architect Frank Weston (c1844-1911), Rand's work included a model apartment block known as the Hotel Agassiz. The Rangeley project in Winchester reflected the concept of shared or cooperative living arrangements with its central dining and social hall. These were innovative design concepts in the late 19th century which complemented the interests of Rand's New Britain client.

The Sloper-Wesoly House was built for Andrew Jackson Sloper, a self-made industrialist and banker who was president of the New Britain National Bank from 1895-1928. Sloper was a protege of Cornelius B. Erwin, founder of the internationally known hardware firm of Russell and Erwin, and one of New Britain's leading businessmen and a benefactor of the city.



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Sloper rose through the ranks under Erwin's patronage. As a foreign exchange and steamship ticket agent, Sloper sponsored the immigration of and located local employment for hundreds of Europeans in New Britain at the turn of the century, providing for their welfare. He was a director of several New Britain manufacturing companies, including Russell and Erwin; Landers, Frary and Clark; North and Judd; the New Britain Machine Company; and Corbin Motor Vehicle Co. As chairman of the New Britain Park Commission, Sloper contributed to the development of Walnut Hill Park nearby, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.

Sloper's widow and heir sold the house in 1946 to Dr. Andrew S. Wesoly (1911-1994), and his wife Cecelia Kremiski Wesoly, New Britain natives and civic leaders of Polish decent. Dr. Wesoly, a New Britain physician, proposed use of the house as living quarters and for an office for his general practice in family medicine. Mrs. Sloper intended for the house to be used in a manner to help the citizenry of New Britain. For the next 50 years, the house served as Dr. Wesoly's base for care to the first, second, and third generation immigrant Polish community in the city. The principal rooms of the first floor were used as reception and treatment rooms. No change to the original configuration or architecture was undertaken. This public use of the house, based upon Mrs. Sloper's wish, was instrumental and pivotal in the remarkable preservation of original floor spaces, original interior surfaces, and other features which is evident today.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: approximately 3/4 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>683860</u>	<u>4614900</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

The nominated property is located on Assessor's Map #464, Lot 5.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

The nominated property and its garden are contained fully within Assessor's Map #464, Lot 5.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Richard C. Youngken, reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, Connecticut Historical Commission

Organization: Newport Collaborative Architects Date: July 31, 1998

Street & Number: 14 Pelham Street Telephone: 401-846-9583

City or Town: Newport State: RI ZIP: 02840

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Sketch Map of the location of  
the Sloper-Wesoly House,  
27 Grove Hill,  
New Britain, CT

