

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 4 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic John Cook House

and/or common John Cook House

2. Location

street & number 35 Elm Street n/a not for publication

city, town New Haven n/a vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county New Haven code 009

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 checked="" 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
	n/a	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Harry A. Lundblad, Carl O. Erickson, Jr.

street & number 35 Elm Street, P. O. Box 1609

city, town New Haven n/a vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Clerk's Office

street & number 200 Orange Street

city, town New Haven state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records CT Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect St.

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 John Cook House, constructed ca.1807, is a two-story, stone, Federal-style structure located in one of the city's oldest upper-income residential sections along Elm Street within the original nine squares of central New Haven. The property is situated one block northeast of the city's government center, and one-half block west of State Street. The house is flanked to the east by the Caroline Nicoll House, a late-Federal-style residence constructed in 1828 and listed in the National Register in 1983 (photograph #1). Although taken in 1980, all photographs reflect the current appearance of the property. No original landscape features are extant, caused in part by the lowering of Elm Street and by construction north and west. The front yard is now terraced above the sidewalk on a wall of red-sandstone blocks. A Federal-style carriage house (constructed ca.1815), originally located northwest of the house, was demolished ca.1965.

Exterior

The building is a simple rectangular block with a smaller two-story rear ell and a later addition next to the ell (photograph #5). The house and ell are constructed of locally quarried red-sandstone ashlar blocks which have been stuccoed. The blocks are exposed for details such as corner quoins, window surrounds and a water table above the basement. The roof covering is asphalt shingle; the original material was probably slate. There is a slight eave overhang on all sides (photograph #2). Except for the dormers, the plain gabled roofline is unbroken--original double-end chimneys were removed ca.1880.

The five-bay facade is symmetrical with a central bay slightly wider than the other four, reflecting the center-hall plan. Although the facade is articulated by windows, entrance portico and corner quoins, the polychromatic contrast between the sandstone details and the flat, stuccoed wall provides the exterior with an unusually bold and lively presence within the streetscape. The Federal-style central entrance is original, while the first-floor Greek Revival porch was added ca.1840 (photograph #3). The single Victorian entrance door replaced, ca.1860, an original door of the same size. The door is framed by slim engaged colonnettes carrying an abbreviated entablature, and is flanked by frosted side lights with molded panels below. Above is a finely proportioned elliptical fanlight of wood and glass. Five sandstone steps leading down from the entrance appear original; the lowest step curves beyond the others on each side, and each end of the treads is incised with a scroll motif. The porch is formed by two slim, fluted Ionic columns rising from the fourth step, supporting a plain architrave, blank frieze, cornice and low-hipped porch roof. A Victorian entrance on the west elevation replaced an original window ca.1880 (photograph #4). In contrast to the rest of the exterior, the highly ornamental composition features a tall, segmental-arched doorway (now blocked up) deeply set within a thick paneled frame topped by a projecting broken pediment decorated with rows of dentils inside the gable and below the cornice, all carried on a pair of decoratively carved and elongated scroll consoles.

Identical six-over-six-light double-hung sash are framed by narrow sandstone sills and wide lintels treated as flat arches. The third-floor and attic windows of both end walls create a pattern of varied shapes under the gables, typical of the Federal style: a sandstone-framed attic

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 checked="" 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)

Criteria A, B, C

Specific dates ca.1807, 1815 **Builder/Architect** David Hoadley: third-floor ballroom.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Cook House, one of the earliest known (ca.1807) masonry residences constructed in New Haven, possesses exceptional historical and architectural significance for the city of New Haven (Criterion C). The house is among the best examples of a Federal-style residence in the city, retaining a high degree of architectural significance despite changing uses and a succession of prominent owners. Constructed by John Cook, local tailor and merchant, the property was purchased in 1814 by Capt. James Goodrich. Goodrich is said to have retained master carpenter David Hoadley to design and build the outstanding third-floor ballroom, the only extant Federal-style ballroom in the city. In addition to Capt. Goodrich, other prominent individuals associated with the property during the nineteenth century included Charles Atwater, Jr., businessman and politician; and Dr. Charles A. Lindsley, medical leader and founder of the Connecticut State Board of Health (Criterion B). The house served as headquarters for the State Board of Health from 1885 to 1906. Its association with public health was perpetuated following its purchase in 1919 by the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of New Haven. An important element in the history of women in New Haven, the VNA's involvement with health care is an example of a vital community service provided to thousands of the city's residents during the twentieth century (Criterion A).

Historical Background

John Cook, successful merchant and tailor, purchased house lots on Elm Street in 1805 and in 1806. The only existing indication of a construction date is a mortgage which Cook took out on the property in 1807. The house was probably one of the earliest stone residences constructed in the city, confirmed by a statement made by Yale president Dwight in 1800 that "there were no buildings of rock-stone in the city except a small powder house, and but two buildings of Free Stone."¹ By 1811 at least forty other masonry residences had been constructed.² Cook sold the property in 1814 to Capt. James Goodrich. The property remained in the Goodrich family for forty-five years. Goodrich, commander of a privateer during the War of 1812, was a merchantman after 1815, active in the West India Trade.³ He cultivated extensive gardens and orchards north and west of the house, and constructed a carriage house on the grounds ca.1815. Local histories indicate that he engaged master carpenter David Hoadley in 1815 to design and build the third-floor ballroom. After retirement Goodrich remained an active citizen in the region's cultural and mercantile affairs. In 1844 he formed the Pomological Society of Connecticut and served as its first president. He also served as president of the Canal Railroad, which superseded in 1848 the Farmington Canal.

Following Capt. Goodrich's death in 1858, the property was sold to Charles Atwater, Jr., graduate of Yale and the Princeton Theological Seminary. Atwater chose to pursue a career in the iron and hardware business, and to become active in state politics. He became an important local political figure as well as a financial entrepreneur during the 1860s and 1870s. He served as treasurer of the New Haven and Derby Railroad; and president of the New Haven

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ash, Terrence J.A. "Historical Report on 35 Elm Street." Unpublished document.
Filed at New Haven Colony Historical Society, 114 Whitney Ave.,
New Haven, CT. 1968.

(continued on p.5)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.4

Quadrangle name New Haven

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

As recorded and identified on New Haven City Assessor's Map as Block 258,
Parcel 20.

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 Jack A. Gold, Susan E. Ryan Architectural Historians -
Jack A. Gold edited by John Herzan, National Register
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date March 1983 Coordinator

street & number 50 Hubinger Street telephone 203 389 4590

city or town New Haven state CT

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date September 23, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register date 11/3/83

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

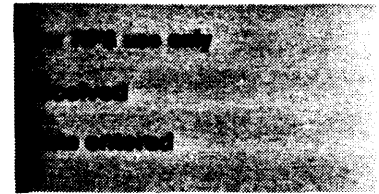
Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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JOHN COOK HOUSE, New Haven, CT



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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) (third-floor ballroom only). 1970, Federal. Survey deposited at New Haven Colony Historical Society, 114 Whitney Avenue, New Haven.

New Haven Historic Resources Inventory, Phase I. New Haven Preservation Trust. 1981, Local. Survey deposited at New Haven Colony Historical Society, 114 Whitney Avenue, New Haven.

7. DESCRIPTION

fanlight surmounts a pair of rectangular windows which are flanked by a pair of narrow, half-circle-arched lights, also accented with sandstone trim (photograph #2). The three hipped-roof dormers on the facade, constructed ca.1880, are entirely glass--sections of small panes are set in skeletal frames of wood on three sides. On the north (rear) elevation are two shed-roof dormers (ca.1880), each with simple rectangular windows (photograph #5).

The two-story gabled-roof rear ell (east side) is probably original with construction of the house. It has exposed sandstone quoining on its rear corners identical to that of the main block, and the basement walls appear to be continuous with the main block. The ell, probably the original kitchen, has a tall brick chimney rising from the interior end of its rear wall (photograph #5). A two-story, flat-roof addition west of the original ell replaced (ca.1880) an earlier single-story shed in this area. The flat-roof addition was extended an additional bay ca.1930.

Interior

The interior of the main block retains most of its original plan on the first floor; the second floor has been renovated for offices; the third floor is almost entirely original; and the two floors of the rear ells are substantially altered. On the first floor, the entrance opens into an arched foyer and a central hall with a dog-leg staircase to the upper floors (photograph #6). The archway (original) is framed by paneled, engaged, square columns terminating in capitals with sunburst motifs supporting projecting square shelves from which springs a low arch trimmed by a frame detail with a repeating pattern of paired circles carved in wood. The detail of this archway appears again in other parts of the interior. Inside the entrance wall, the combination of colonnettes flanking the door and architrave above echoes that of the exterior entrance. A pair of heavy consoles at each side of the fanlight, below the ceiling, probably date to 1860, when a bathroom was installed in a room above the entrance. (The bathroom is said to be the oldest second-floor bathroom in the city with running water. It was totally removed in 1919.) The stair to the second floor has original molded handrail and square-cut balusters.

The two west rooms on the first floor feature windows deeply set within splayed jambs decorated with molded panels, and are contemporary with construction of the house. The fireplace mantelpieces in these rooms, however, are Victorian, and date to the creation of the medical offices ca.1880.

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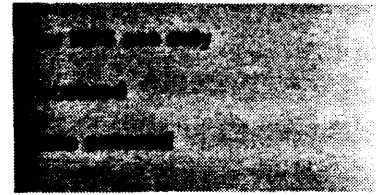
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7. DESCRIPTION

A marble, arched fireplace (ca.1860) with an ornamental decorative keystone carved with a grape cluster is situated in the southwest room (photograph #7), and an iron hearth surrounded by stamped iron tiles below a bracketed mantel is located in the northwest room. The east rooms on the first floor originally comprised two connecting parlors and a dining room at the rear adjoining the ell. The rooms, now partitioned into office suites, retain original paneled wainscot and two Federal-style mantelpieces ornamented with slender, fluted pilasters with elliptical sunburst motifs. The mantelpieces are identical to those of the third-floor ballroom (photograph #9). The second floor, renovated in 1979 for office use, retains original trim such as splayed window jambs and original mantelpieces.

The finely proportioned third-floor ballroom, finished ca.1815 and altered only slightly in the 1880s with the addition of dormers, is remarkably well preserved despite its present use for offices. The ballroom is entered from the stairhall through an opening framed by engaged columns and divided in the center by slender double columns, the detail of which matches the first-floor archway and Federal-style mantelpieces. The long, barrel-vaulted ceiling runs from one end of the room to the other under the gable, and features projecting cornices with oversized, perforated dentils at the base of the plaster vault. A configuration of windows and architraves within each arch-shaped end wall forms a Palladian motif. The end-wall mantelpieces (photograph #9) are identical to those on the first-floor east rooms. The room has wainscot with sunken square panels terminating in a molded chairrail. The four corners of the third floor, under the eaves, contain small rooms with simple detail. The northeast room, converted to a kitchenette in 1906, has a large Edwardian buffet with three stages of cupboards with paneled doors built into the south wall.

The original rear ell (east side) features interior window trim identical to the first-floor trim of the main block. The attic over the ell contains an original smoke room with iron hooks. Now sealed off from the rest of the ell, the smokeroom was last inspected by the present owners during the renovation of 1979. The two-story addition (ca.1880) on the west side of the rear elevation of the main block contains on the second floor a Victorian fireplace frame of varnished wood, with a bracketed mantelshelf and a small, four-shelf side cupboard.

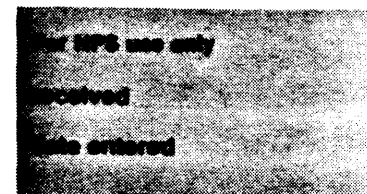
8. SIGNIFICANCE

Rolling Mill, East Haven Wire Mill, and Birmingham Iron and Steel Works. He was elected state representative in 1861 and state senator in 1862. Atwater encountered financial difficulties during the 1870s and was forced to sell the house and grounds in 1877. Following its purchase in 1877 by Dr. Charles A. Lindsley, the house began a ninety-year association with the development of public health programs in New Haven and the state of Connecticut. Lindsley and his son established separate medical practices on the first floor of the house. In 1878 Lindsley co-founded the Connecticut Department of Health, organized for the purpose of promoting preventive methods for public health.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

⁴Terrence J.A. Ash. "Historical Report on 35 Elm Street."
Unpublished manuscript filed at New Haven Colony Historical Society,
1960, p. 4.

⁵Baker, op cit., p.55.

⁶Visiting Nurse Association, Annual Report, 1906, p.2.
Filed at New Haven Colony Historical Society.

⁷Jack A. Gold. Interview with Linda Colesberry, Executive
Director, Visiting Nurse Association, March 24, 1983.

⁸Elizabeth Mills Brown. New Haven: A Guide to Architecture
and Urban Design. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1976, p.4.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atwater, E.E. History of the City of New Haven. New York: W.W. Munsell
and Company, 1887.

Baker, Christina H. A Porringer of Cockiney. New Haven: The Visiting
Nurse Association, 1930.

Brown, Elizabeth Mills. New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban
Design. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1976.

Dwight, Timothy. A Statistical Account of the City of New Haven.
New Haven: Connecticut Academy of the Arts and Sciences, 1811.
Vol.1, no.1.

Seymour, George Dudley. David Hoadley. Waterbury: Mattatuck Historical
Society, 1928.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Lindsley was appointed in 1878 along with six other physicians to the newly organized State Board of Health. He was selected in 1884 as treasurer of the Board, and a year later installed as permanent secretary and Superintendent of Registration of Vital Statistics. Board offices were moved in 1885 to the John Cook House, and the third-floor ballroom was converted for office use. The dormers were added at this time for the addition of light and storage space, and it has been suggested that Lindsley was also responsible for the removal of the four chimneys as a symbolic gesture against air pollution in the city.⁴ The Board concerned itself with public hygiene, and through Lindsley's efforts, a course in the subject was offered for the first time at the Yale Medical School. The Board published health leaflets which advocated clean water supplies and controls on air pollution from local industry. Appointed city Health Officer in 1873 (under the New Haven Board of Health), Dr. Lindsley advocated abolition of privies and cesspools adjacent to open wells, a common occurrence in both affluent and poor sections of the city.⁵ Following Dr. Lindsley's death in 1906, the house was sold to Dr. Mary P. Dole and Charlotte H. Wolff of New Haven. During the period 1906-1919 the ballroom was converted to an apartment.

The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) purchased the property in 1919. Founded in 1905 by Miss Lillian E. Prudden (first president), Mrs. Thomas E. Bennett, and Mrs. Theodore Munger, the VNA was instrumental in providing home health care and in raising health-care standards in the city. Originally headquartered on Orange Street, the small organization grew substantially at its new location during the 1920s and 1930s. Its organizational purpose during these early years was "the benefit and assistance of those otherwise unable to secure skilled assistance in time of sickness; the instruction as to care of the sick and the laws of wholesome living and the dissemination of information as to spread of contagious diseases."⁶ As a community service organization, the VNA provided skilled nursing care for the sick who could not be sent to hospitals, and cooperated with physicians in providing patient care. Its major areas of concern were influenza, tuberculosis and infant mortality. The Annual Report of 1939 listed forty-two nurses and seventy-six student nurses, as well as an education director, a tuberculosis director, a maternity consultant and a mental hygiene consultant. Over half of the VNA's income was derived from the Community Chest; the balance came from endowment income, fees, and the city. The VNA moved from the John Cook House to its present location on State Street in 1967. Its current programs focus on care of the ill at home.⁷ Women have constituted 95 per cent of the VNA's organization throughout its 76-year history. Its significant role in the provision of home health care represents an important humanitarian and social service during the twentieth century.

Architecture

The house is an excellent and well preserved example of a Federal-style residence constructed in downtown New Haven. Its distinctive and finely proportioned stuccoed-brick elevations, which incorporate a rare example of sandstone quoining, distinguish the house from other Federal-style residences constructed in the area during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Its architectural significance was enriched in 1815 following renovation of the third-floor attic as a ballroom, and ca.1880 with the addition of dormers, the Victorian side entrance on the first floor, and the addition of interior trim such as the marble fireplace mantelpieces.

Design and construction of the third-floor ballroom has been attributed to David Hoadley, although there is no written record to verify this assumption. The style and quality of execution of the room bear definite resemblance to Hoadley's work during the period. Hoadley (1779-1839), variously described as carpenter, master carpenter, builder and architect, is probably most closely associated with the role of master carpenter (through the practice of borrowing existing designs and plans, and incorporating them into construction projects). Hoadley moved his practice from Waterbury to New Haven in 1814, and during the next ten years received several important commissions, including responsibility for construction of the North (United Congregational) Church on the Green, the John Cook House ballroom, and the Tontine Hotel. A once popular phenomenon in early nineteenth-century upper-income New Haven townhouses, the third-floor ballroom in the John Cook House is the only extant one of its kind in the city, and it remains remarkably well preserved. In addition to the finely detailed ceiling cornice and mantelpieces, the room exhibits remarkable spatial interest, established by the long barrel-vaulted ceiling, the diameter of which is less than the width of the room. Hoadley's work maximized use of the volume of the pitched attic space. He incorporated the side-wall fenestration to create a stylish Palladian motif, a composition which appears totally congruous with the interior finish of the lower two floors.

The house features a number of highly significant Federal-style architectural details which distinguish it from other residences constructed in New Haven during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The exterior is significant as one of the earliest known stone residences in the city, and the first known stuccoed building in the city, incorporating as well a sophisticated example of sandstone quoining. Although the plan of the first and second floors has been changed considerably over the past one-hundred years, most original trim remains intact, conveying a strong sense of the Federal-period influence in the design of the two main floors. Use of paneled, engage columns, molded wainscot panels and pilastered mantelpieces are characteristically Federal in stylistic derivation, executed in the John Cook House in an extremely refined manner.

NOTES

¹Christina H. Baker. A Porringer of Cockiney. New Haven: The Visiting Nurse Association, 1930, p.29.

²Baker, p.29.

³Baker, p.35.