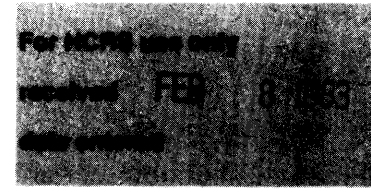


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

1. Name

historic WIDOWS' HOME

and/or common Widows' Home

2. Location

street & number 1846-1860 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Widows' Home Limited Partnership

street & number c/o BLVM Company
2074 Park Street

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of state CT 06103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hartford City and Town Clerk

street & number Municipal Building, Main Street

city, town Hartford state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state CT

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Widows' Home, constructed in 1864 and 1865, consists of two nearly identical brick buildings facing west along Main Street in Hartford, and situated across from North Cemetery in the Clay Hill/South Arsenal neighborhood of the city. The property is now bounded on the north and south by empty land parcels, and to the east by modern housing projects. A small heavily wooded lot at the rear of the property once served for recreational use. Though now quite isolated from other historic buildings, the Widows' Home formerly had a fine visual complement in the U.S. Arsenal, a three-and-a-half story stuccoed-brick structure built in 1805 a few hundred feet north of the site of the Home; it was demolished in 1909.

The two three-and-a-half-story brick buildings are five bays wide and three bays deep and rest on cut-brownstone, raised-basement foundation walls (photographs 1 and 2). Exterior brick walls are finished in common bond with Flemish variation brickwork. Fenestration consists of six-over-six-light double-hung sash enframed by brownstone sills and lintels. The flanking-gable slate roofs are defined by continuous cornices which form pediments on the side elevations. On the south (side) elevation of the south building, the raked roof cornice has only partial returns, representing the only visible difference between the two structures (photograph 3). Two substantial chimneys are spaced along each ridge. The central entranceways of each building are embellished with carved trim. Each of the two single-leaf, four-paneled entrance doors is framed by sidelights and a transom; above the transoms are heavy brackets with carved anthemia. Each of the two doors is sheltered by a heavy hood with a finely detailed cornice resting on large curved brackets.

The interior plan of the two main floors of each building consists of a center hall running the full depth of the structure and providing access to four main living rooms (see floor plan). Original millwork survives throughout the south building; the north building retains only a portion of its original interior finish. Doors and window openings are finished with flat-faced beaded architraves with heavy, molded backbands (photographs 4,5,8 and 10). Each of the two single-run staircases features spooled banisters and newel posts (photograph 6). The most interesting decorative feature of the interiors is the small-scale, modestly detailed fireplace mantelpieces. Each mantel features pilasters supporting a flat frieze in the form of a four-point arch, surmounted by a shallow shelf (photographs 7 and 9).

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 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, C

Specific dates	1864-65 - built	Builder/Architect	unknown
-----------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	---------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Widows' Home, constructed in 1864 and 1865, is a rare local example of institutional architecture from the mid-nineteenth century. It has substantial historical significance as a physical embodiment of the 19th-century approach to social problems, which was to rely almost entirely on private philanthropy (Criterion A). One of several charitable facilities established in Hartford in the nineteenth century, the Widows' Home is distinguished by the fact that its buildings survive with much of their historical appearance intact. Despite changing uses and recent neglect, the property retains a high level of architectural integrity, featuring a well-preserved combination of vernacular design elements (Criterion C). After the 1843 Mather Homestead, the Widows' Home is the second oldest building in Hartford's North End.

The citizens of nineteenth-century Hartford conceived of their city as one of the leaders in the establishment of charitable institutions. From 1821 through the end of the century, organizations were created to address a wide variety of social needs. Some of these, such as the American School for the Deaf and the Retreat for the Insane, became nationally known and established Hartford's reputation as a benevolent community. But many more organizations were small ones with limited aims. In addition to the Widows' Home, well-to-do citizens set up an orphan asylum, Hartford Hospital, the Hartford Home Missionary, and an Old People's Home.

These charities were with few exceptions set up by private donations and operated by churches or benevolent societies. The Widows' Home was constructed from funds donated by Lawson C. Ives (1804-1867), a wool merchant and prominent Hartford citizen. Ives was president of Ives, Hooker & Company, a textiles sales firm, and was active in the civic, mercantile and religious affairs of the city. In 1851, Ives became a founding member of the Pearl Street Congregational Church.¹ In 1864, Ives decided to provide for indigent widows in his will, and arranged for the transfer of the North Main Street property to the Pearl Street church.² The south building was constructed in 1864, and the north building followed in 1865. Ives was thus able to see the fruits of his philanthropy in the two years prior to his death in 1867. The Widows' Home was operated by a committee of the Pearl Street church and its successor congregation until 1969, when rising maintenance costs and neighborhood instability caused the church to sell the property to the city of Hartford.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ives, Lawson C. Last will and testament. Filed at Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

Pearl Street Congregational Church. Records. Connecticut State Library.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Hartford North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	6	93	1	20	4	62	6	66	0
Zone	Easting		Northing							

B

Zone	Easting		Northing							

C

Zone	Easting		Northing							

D

Zone	Easting		Northing							

E

Zone	Easting		Northing							

F

Zone	Easting		Northing							

G

Zone	Easting		Northing							

H

Zone	Easting		Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is as described in Hartford Land Records, Volume 1346, page 218.

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, Historic Preservation Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Hartford Architecture Conservancy date October 1982

street & number 130 Washington Street telephone (203) 525-0279

city or town Hartford state CT

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

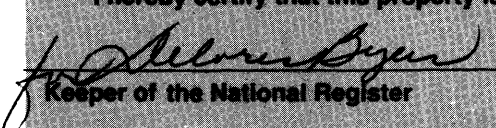
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date February 3, 1983

For HCRS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/10/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Widows' Home
 Hartford, CT

Item number 6

Page 1

Representation in Existing Surveys (continued):

Hartford Historic Sites Survey

1980 - Local (Hartford Architecture Conservancy)

Records filed with Stowe-Day Foundation
 Hartford, Connecticut

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

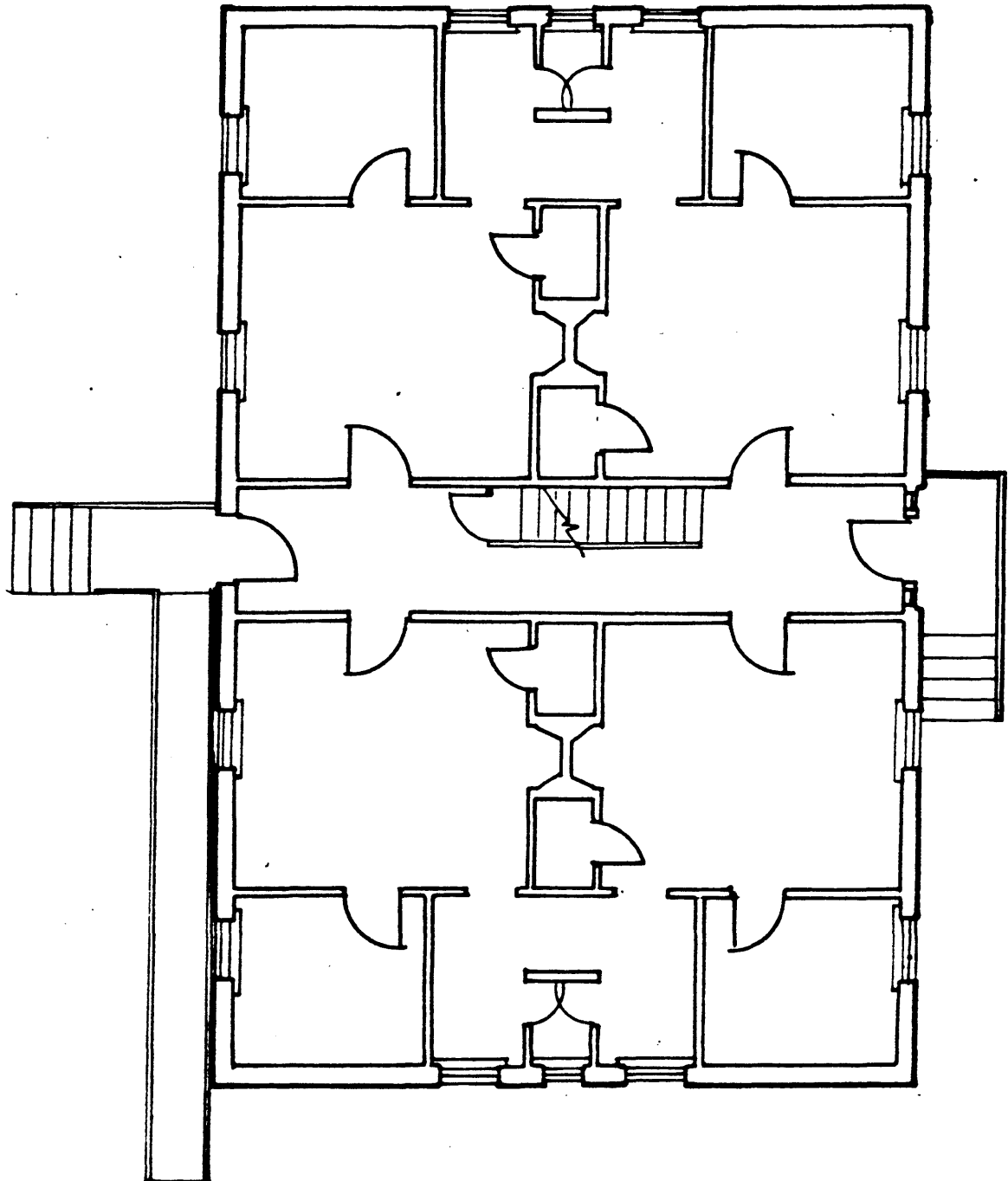
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Widows' Home
Hartford, CT

Item number 7

Page 2



Front Entry

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Widows' Home, Hartford
Southern-most building



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Widows' Home
 Hartford, CT

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography (continued):

South Arsenal Neighborhood Development Corporation. Pamphlet, Hartford, n.d.

U.S. Census Office, manuscript population schedules, Hartford, 1850,
Vol. 1, p. 393.

Wells City Directory. Hartford: J. Gaylord Wells, 1850.

Widows' Home of the Pearl Street Congregational Church. Cash Book,
1874-1924. Connecticut State Library, Hartford.