

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

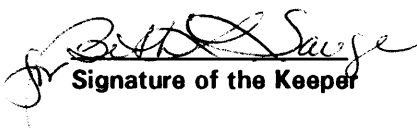
NRIS Reference Number: 93001246 Date Listed: 12/02/93

Simpson, Dr. Frank T., House      Hartford      CT  
Property Name                      County                      State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/2/93  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Criteria and Consideration(s)**

Criteria exception g. is applicable and justified, Criterion A is not.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

1375

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Dr. Frank T. Simpson House

Other Name/Site Number: NA

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 27 Keney Terrace Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Hartford Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: Hartford Code: 003 Zip Code: 06112

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: x

Public-local:    

Public-State:    

Public-Federal:    

Category of Property

Building(s): x

District:    

Site:    

Structure:    

Object:    

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

2

Noncontributing

    buildings

    sites

    structures

    objects

0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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.

[Signature] 10/14/93  
Signature of Certifying Official Date  
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

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 Coral D. Shull 12-2-93
- Determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register
- Determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register
- Removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Coral D. Shull for 12-2-93  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: SINGLE DWELLING  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current: DOMESTIC Sub: SINGLE DWELLING  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: LATE-19TH- AND 20TH-CENTURY REVIVALS, Tudor Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Materials: Foundation: BRICK  
Walls: STUCCO  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof: ASPHALT  
Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Dr. Frank T. Simpson House is a 2-story gable-roofed Tudor Revival stucco structure. Facing north, it was built in 1913, one-half block east of Keney Park, which had been laid out in 1896 and was still in course of construction. Other houses on the street are of similar age and size.

In the front (north) elevation, the gable roof of the front porch to the left balances the roof of the central bay. Both roofs are supported by wooden brackets, and the roof of the bay is half-timbered. At the second floor, the three sections of a tripartite window are glazed in an 8-over-1 pattern, but the width of the upper-sash panes in the central window is wider than in the flanking windows, making the central window itself wider than the others. At the third floor, the recessed gable end is half-timbered around a central 8-over-1 window. (Photographs 1, 2)

The dominant feature of the east side elevation is an arcaded porch with high gable roof. The intersections of this roof with the front porch roof and the roofs of the front and side main gables at the northeast corner of the house is complex. (Photograph 2) There are windows at first and second floors south of the porch and in the internal angle at the southeast corner. The attic gable repeats the front gable. The openings to the side porch have railings in the pattern of a classical cross, seasonal glazed panels, and convex-shaped upper corners. (Photograph 4) The eaves treatment is typical of the house as a whole, with modillion-like course, triangular brackets, and broad roof overhang. (Photograph 5)

The rear (south) elevation is plain, except for a shed-roofed rear entryway. (Photographs 3, 6) The west side elevation has a central door at grade, paired windows to the rear, a window at mid height to light the stairway, and an external chimney toward the front. The chimney penetrates the roof overhang. The attic gable end repeats the front and east-side gable treatment. (Photographs 1, 6) The one-car detached garage is stucco, like the house, and has a hipped roof. (Photograph 7)

Four concrete risers between brick piers lead to the front door of the side porch. The front door to the house is toward the rear of the porch, opening into the living room. (See Figure 1.)

The living room takes full advantage of the front bay, with bookcases under the window shelf. The trim of the window is dark wood (oak) fashioned in a pattern of three low peaks over the windows. Four small horizontal/vertical wooden decorative features in the trim over the windows define the divisions. The bay is flanked by original double wall sconces. (Photograph 8) The fireplace at the west end of the living room is yellow brick. Its dark wood mantel shelf is supported by large wooden brackets. On the shelf the two small lamps with hipped shades are original. To the left of the fireplace the stair with a heavy picket railing rises to a landing over a paneled dado. A bench in front of the dado suggests an inglenook. (Photograph 9) Overall, the living room owes much to the Arts and Crafts movement. The dining room continues the dark oak trim with the addition of a beamed ceiling. (Photograph 10)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:\_\_\_ Statewide: x Locally:\_\_\_

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B x C x D\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A\_\_\_ B\_\_\_ C\_\_\_ D\_\_\_ E\_\_\_ F\_\_\_ G\_\_\_

Table with 3 columns: Areas of Significance, Period(s) of Significance, Significant Dates. Rows include ARCHITECTURE, SOCIAL HISTORY, and blank entries.

Significant Person(s): Dr. Frank T. Simpson

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: W. Foster Wright

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Dr. Frank T. Simpson House is significant historically because Dr. Simpson played an important role in the development of civil rights in post-World War II Connecticut. (Criterion A) He was the first staff person of the first Inter-Racial Commission in the history of Connecticut. (Criterion B) The house is significant architecturally because it is a good example of pre-World War I Tudor Revival-style architecture, with Arts and Crafts overtones. (Criterion C)

Dr. Frank T. Simpson's Contribution to the Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Frank T. Simpson (1907 - March 28, 1974) was born in Florence, Alabama. He graduated from Tougaloo College in Mississippi before coming to Hartford in 1929. Dr. Simpson held two master's degrees from the Hartford Seminary Foundation and an honorary doctorate from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina.

The first civil rights work that Simpson did in Hartford was as an employee of the Independent Social Worker, a North Hartford agency. On January 19, 1944, he became the

first paid staff person of the new Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission, which was one of the first state civil rights commissions in the country. (In 1951 the agency was replaced by the Connecticut Commission on Civil Rights, and in 1967 the name became the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.) The Commission was established in 1943 by the General Assembly, House Bill 1361, sponsored by William H. Mortensen, later mayor of Hartford. Governor Raymond E. Baldwin appointed ten persons to serve as members. The chairman was the Reverend Walter H. Gray (later Rt. Rev. Walter H. Gray, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut). The Commission adopted as a policy the statement that "The Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission believes that the so called 'race problem' is not insoluble..." (Report of the Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission, September 8, 1944, p. 5) The budget for the first year was \$6,000.

The Commission in analyzing its task identified problem areas as follows:

- A. Race Tensions in Industrial Employment
- B. Race Tensions in Educational Opportunity
- C. Race Tensions Resulting from Inadequacy of Housing
- D. Race Frictions in Use of Public Facilities
- E. Rumors (malicious)

Experience under Problem Area B, Educational Opportunity, is illuminating. The Commission wrote to schools of nursing requesting "qualifications of admission to your school and if you accept Negro students for training." (1944 Report, page 14) Replies were received as follows:

Hartford Hospital - no response

Saint Francis Hospital, Hartford - Students are admitted without regard to creed or color provided they meet requirements for admission.

Meriden - Will take up the matter at the next meeting.

Middlesex Hospital, Middletown - "Negro students would be most unhappy in our set-up."

New Britain General - "Never admitted Negro students. There seems to be little need or demand for schools in Connecticut to admit colored students."

Waterbury - "It is the policy of the hospital not to accept colored students."

The foregoing statements can be considered in the context of Connecticut's 1940 census population which was:

Total	-	1,709,242
White	-	1,675,407
Negro	-	32,992
Other	-	843

Dr. Simpson continued with the Commission to 1959, by which time his title was Executive Secretary, and the annual expenditures were \$82,994.85. Over the years his accomplishments included the opening of a large construction union to black workers and the employment of the first black saleswomen by downtown Hartford department stores.

In 1960 Dr. Simpson became executive assistant to the State Welfare Commissioner. He traveled widely throughout the United States as a consultant to state governments and educational institutions, advocating desegregation. He was an active member of, or

honored by, a number of groups, including the United Negro College Fund, Greater Hartford Inter-Racial Scholarship Committee, Hartford Housing Authority, National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, Lions Club of Hartford, Prince Hall Masonic Chapter of New England, Delta Sigma Theta Fraternity, Beta Sigma Dambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Carpe Diem Fraternity, and Faith Congregational Church. The Waverly School, 55 Waverly Street, Hartford, was renamed the Frank T. Simpson School in his honor.

A prominent civil rights leader in Hartford and Connecticut in the post-World War II era, Dr. Simpson was instrumental in establishing the respected position of the civil rights commission in the community and state. He worked toward rational lowering of barriers in education, jobs, housing, and other vital areas as components of his significant contribution to the social history of the city and state.

### Architecture

The Dr. Frank T. Simpson House displays the stucco building material and half-timbered gables typical of urban and suburban Tudor Revival-style houses which were popular in America in the first quarter of the 20th century. Sometimes called "Stock Broker Tudor," the style was fashionable for several decades. The Simpson House is a well-executed example, consistent throughout its details such as brackets, multiple gables, and half timbering.

The Arts and Crafts movement, which fostered interest in natural materials and individual workmanship, is also represented in the house's architecture. The exposed brick chimney and triangular brackets to support the roof overhang are exterior features in the mode, while on the interior the bay with bookshelf, simple but embellished window and door trim, brick fireplace surround, inglenook bench, and picket stair railing articulate the mode in a thorough fashion.

The house is in an exceptionally good state of preservation, having been well maintained but little altered since it was built.

The land in this neighborhood near Keney Park was bought by James M. Grant, who presumably saw an opportunity for real estate development prompted by creation of the new park. He laid out the lots for 2 1/2 square blocks. On June 5, 1912, Grant sold the parcel that was to become 27 Keney Terrace to W. Foster Wright with the condition that "for 18 years after June 5, 1912, no dwelling should be erected on said land other than a one or two family house at a cost for a one family house of not less than \$4500 and for a two family house of not less than \$6000." (Hartford Land Records, volume 378, page 123)

Hartford Building Permit Application 405, dated April 30, 1912, was filed by Wright "of Waterbury," as owner, for a dwelling to cost \$5000, with the spaces on the form for architect and builder regrettably left blank. But the Waterbury City Directory of 1913 lists W. Foster Wright as manager of Wright Building Company, carpenters and builders. So, presumably, Wright was the builder. The property changed hands several times before being purchased in 1952 by Frank T. and Marie A. Simpson. Mrs. Simpson continues to own and reside in the house.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Assessor, Hartford. Field card for 27 Keney Terrace.

Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission, Report of. September 8, 1944.

Hartford, City of. Building Permit Application 405, April 30, 1905.

Hartford Land Records, Volume 378, page 123, 383/438, 469/192, 497/605, 505/61, 691/204, 698/443, 889/594, 894/282, 1168/2345, 1472/255.

Simpson, Dr. Frank T. Obituary, Hartford Times, March 30, 1974, 4:1.

Simpson, Marie A. (Mrs. Frank T.). Interview, March 3, 1993.

Waterbury City Directory, 1913.

White, David O. "Frank Simpson," Heroes, Southern New England Telephone Company, 1986, p. 8.

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, Connecticut State Library
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4628546</u>	<u>692000</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____
E	___	_____	_____	F	___	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described a Hartford Land Records, volume 1472, page 255.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes land that has gone with the house since it was built.

████████████████████  
11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom; edited by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: May 26, 1993

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005

Photographs

Photographs were taken in March 1993 by David F. Ransom. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1  
View southeast

Photograph 2  
View southwest

Photograph 3  
View northwest

Photograph 4  
Detail of Photograph 3  
Porch Opening  
View northwest

Photograph 5  
Detail of Photograph 3  
Eaves at southeast corner  
View southwest

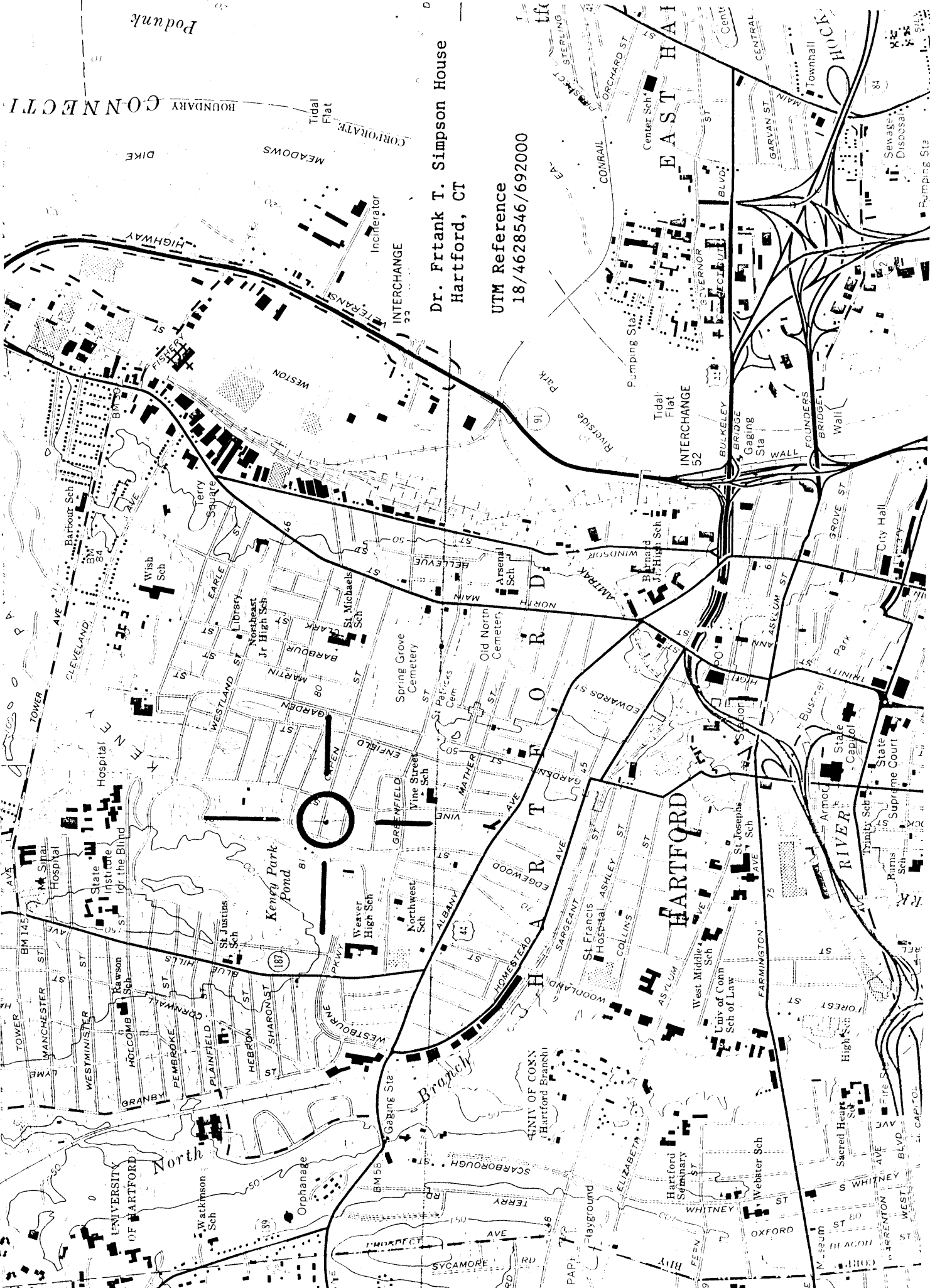
Photograph 6  
View northeast

Photograph 7  
Garage, view southwest

Photograph 8  
Living Room  
View northeast

Photograph 9  
Living room  
View southwest

Photograph 10  
Dining room  
View southeast



Podunk

BOUNDARY CONNECTICUT

DIKE

MEADOWS

CORPORATE  
Tidal Flat

Dr. Frtank T. Simpson House  
Hartford, CT

UTM Reference  
18/4628546/692000

EAST HAI

CHOCK

HIGHWAY

WESTON

INTERCHANGE  
Incinerator

Park

Riverside

Pumping Sta.

INTERCHANGE  
Tidal Flat

INTERCHANGE  
Gaging Sta.

BULKELEY  
BRIDGE

FOUNDERS  
BRIDGE

Wall

Townhall

Pumping Sta.

Barbour Sch

Wish Sch

Terry Square

Earle Sch

North East Jr High Sch

St Michaels Sch

Arsenal Sch

Old North Cemetery

St Patricks Cem

Spring Grove Cemetery

Vine Street Sch

St Josephs Sch

St Josephs Sch

Trinity Sch

State Capitol

State Supreme Court

City Hall

State Capitol

Hospital

State Institute for the Blind

Kenney Park Pond

Weaver High Sch

Northwest Sch

Greenfield Ave

Vine St

Mather St

Edgewood St

St Francis Hospital

St Josephs Sch

West Middle Sch

Unit of Conn Sch of Law

St Josephs Sch

Trinity Sch

State Capitol

State Supreme Court

State Capitol

State Institute for the Blind

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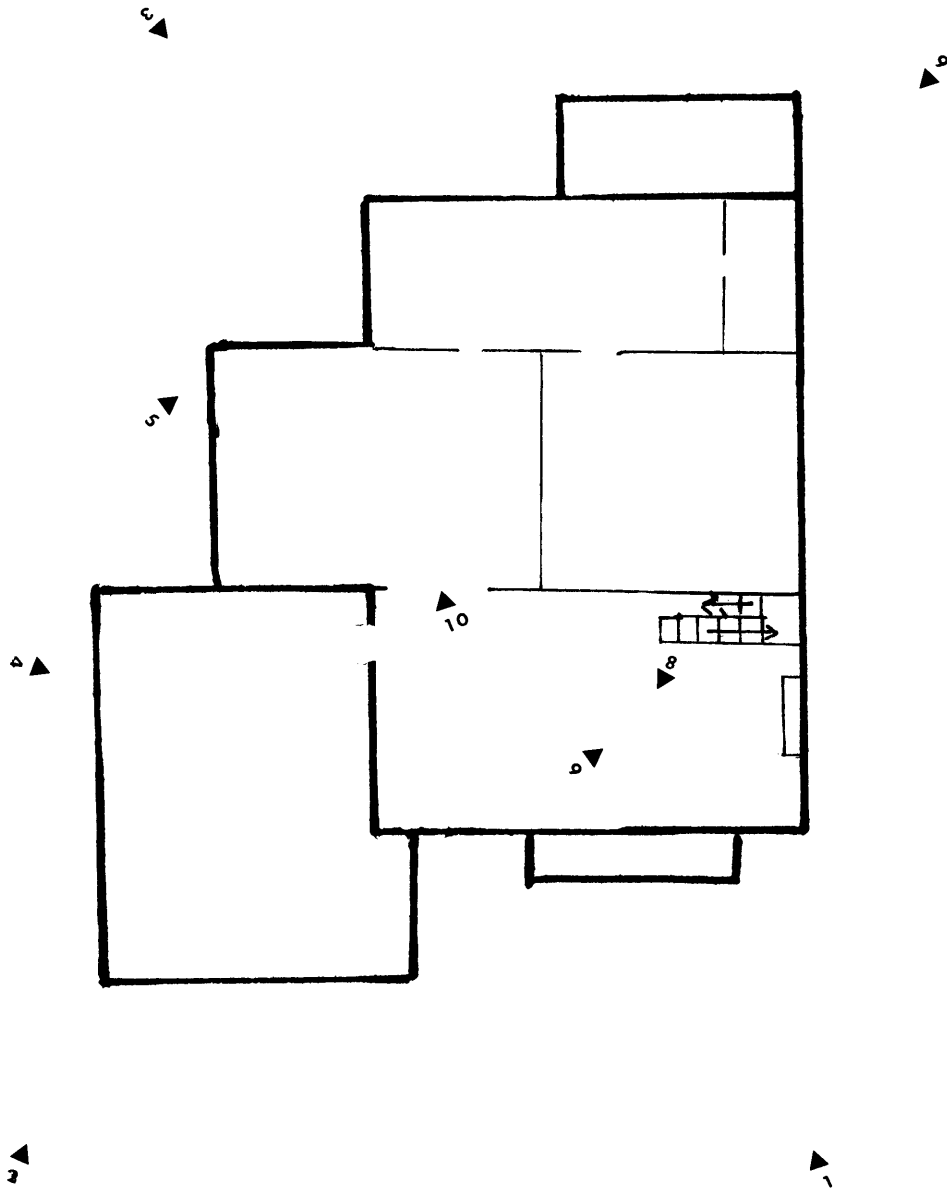


Figure 1  
Dr. Frank T. Simpson House  
Hartford, CT  
Scale: 1" = 10'

