Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: John W. Draper House

AND/OR COMMON: Draper Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 407 Broadway

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Hastings-on-Hudson __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 23rd

STATE: New York CODE: 36

COUNTY: Westchester CODE: 119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: American Scenic and Historic Preservation Scoiety

STREET & NUMBER: 18 Dellwood Road

CITY, TOWN: Yonkers-Bronxville__ VICINITY OF

STATE: New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Lands and Deeds Office

STREET & NUMBER: Couty Office Building

CITY, TOWN: White Plains

STATE: New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John W. Draper's home at Draper's Park in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, was probably built around 1840. The simple house is a two story frame cottage with attic built in the venacular style of the period. Although the flued eaves with brackets at the first story as well as the vertical and horizontal boarding are interesting, the house is of no particular architectural importance.

The integrity of the exterior and interior is whole. The original house as well as a small brick extension on the west side date from the Draper period. No significant interior or exterior alterations have been made since Draper's granddaughter donated the house to the American Scenic and Preservation Society.

John W. Draper moved to Hastings-on-Houdson in 1840 and lived there until his death in 1882. At one time an observatory, which was used by both Draper and his son Henry, was located on the property, but it is no longer extant.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	X SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John W. Draper was born May 5, 1811, near Liverpool, England. The son of a Methodist minister, Draper was educated in mathematics and the classics at Woodhouse, a small Wesleyan institution. In 1829 he entered London University where he majored in chemistry. Draper's education was cut short by the death of his father in 1831. In 1832 his mother decided to emigrate to the United States to join relatives living in Christianville, Virginia. In 1835, with funds saved by his devoted sister Dorothy, Draper entered the University of Pennsylvania to complete his education. In Philadelphia he had the opportunity to study with Robert Hare, the foremost American scientist of the period.

After graduating in 1836 Draper accepted a teaching position as professor of natural history at Hampden-Sidney College in Virginia. He remained there two years. In 1838 he answered a call to the University of the City of New York. Here he taught classes in chemistry and physiology. In 1850 Draper helped organize a medical school and became its first president. He remained associated with the school until his death on January 4, 1882.

As a student of natural history during the middle years of the nineteenth century, Draper made contributions to many areas which later become individual physical and biological sciences. Popularly he is best remembered for his work in photochemistry. Draper improved the Daguerre process by speeding up the exposure time. He became the first person to photograph the moon and the solar spectrum, the first person to take photomicrographs, and, incidentially, the first person to take true portrait photographs. His most significant contribution to basic science was in the field of chemistry and physics. During his researchs on photochemistry, Draper discovered that light brought about chemical reactions. This discovery led to the formulation of the concept of the "Draper point," i.e. that substances heated to the point of 525 degrees C glow a dull red and when heated above this Draper point they become white. Draper's work as a pioneer in radiant energy was an important step on the road to the study of light diffraction and spectrum analysis.

In addition to this work in chemistry, Draper cultivated an expertise in physiology. His book on the subject, Human Physiology, Statical and Dynamical (1856) was the leading physiology textbook of its period. It contained the first photomicrographs ever published.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Issac Asimov, Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (Garden City, 1964).
"John William Draper," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 5 (New York, 1930).
Nathan Reingold, editor, Science in Nineteenth Century America (New York, 1964).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	519238	4138180
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
James Sheire, Historian

DATE
March 1975

ORGANIZATION
OAHP-Historic Sites Survey-National Park Service

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

STATE

CITY OR TOWN
Washington
D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(12)

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Statement of Significance: Draper Park

During the 1850's Draper also developed an interest in history. In 1863 he published a major work in intellectual history titled History of the Intellectual Development of Europe. The book's basic conceptual approach was derived from the Lamarckian theory of evolution. According to famous French naturalist, Jean Pierre Lamarck, evolution was based on the inheritance of characteristics which were formed by an organism's environment. Draper applied this theory to intellectual history by claiming that ideas were also determined by environment and evolved from one generation to another. The work was very well received and was translated into many languages. Its significance rested in the attempt to employ a concept of the biological sciences to interpret intellectual history. Between 1867 and 1870 Draper wrote a three volume history of the American Civil War. The work, which Gen. William T. Sherman read before publication, was one of the first significant histories of the conflict. In 1874 Draper returned to intellectual history in History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science. The critics liked the work.

John W. Draper's significance in the history of science in America is twofold. First, his basic research in photochemistry and spectrum analysis made real contributions to the advancement of science. Second, in his role as historian he attempted to apply the concepts of science to a traditional liberal arts discipline. Although Draper was universially admired in his day, the next generation of scientists viewed him as something of an amateur. These scientists were all specialists. They failed to recognize that Draper was a product and witness to a period when the state of scientific knowledge was such that one man could master several fields. In his Science in Nineteenth-Century America, Nathan Reingold defends both Draper and his son Henry against the amateur charge. "They," Reingold writes, "were clearly more than amateurs...They were in the mainstream of research in physics." Draper's significance was that he was one of the last American scientists who could conduct important pure science research and at the same time engage his energies in other disciplines such as intellectual history. A so-called two cultures did not exist at the middle of the nineteenth century. By the time Draper died in 1882, the study of natural history was dead. It had become almost impossible to be simultaneously a chemist, physicist, physiologist, and historian. Science was in the process of fragmenting nature into regions where only the expert willing to devote all his energies and concentration to a single field dared tread.