

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000759

Date Listed: 05/24/90

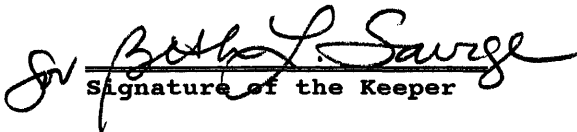
Pike, Gustavus and
Sarah T., House
Property Name

Fairfield
County

CT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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

05/24/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period & Level of Significance

The significant date of 1880 is intended as the period of significance as well.

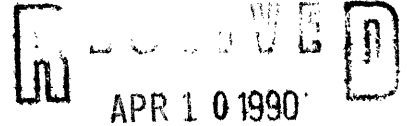
This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

759

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pike, Gustavus and Sarah T., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 164 Fairfield Avenue not for publication
city, town Stamford vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06902

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

John W. Shannahan 4/6/90
Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

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.

other, (explain:) _____

Beth J. Savage 5/24/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERGE/office building

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne-Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

shingle

roof asphalt shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Gustavus and Sarah T. Pike House is a large (38' x 64') Queen Anne residence located near the crest of a hill in southwest Stamford at the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Perry Street. Unlike its more modest neighbors in this turn-of-the-century residential neighborhood, the house is set well back from the street, with a full open lot between the facade (west elevation) and Fairfield Avenue (Photograph #1). Perry Street, laid out some time after the house was built, runs within 30 feet of the north elevation.

This section of Stamford was still farmland as late as the Civil War, separated from the downtown by the west branch of the Rippowam River. Less than five houses were scattered through the area, including a Colonial which stood directly across Perry Street from the Pike House. It has been replaced with a small brick apartment house. By 1879 plans to subdivide the neighborhood for house lots had begun.¹ The Pike House was one the first to be built in an area then called Richmond Hill. Most of the rest of the later houses built in the area are much smaller in scale and generally vernacular examples of turn-of-the-century styles. Other changes to the neighborhood include some twentieth-century industrial development, scattered through the area, especially further down the hill to the southeast towards Stamford Harbor. The Connecticut Thruway (Interstate 95) passes a few blocks to the south of the house, as does the railroad right-of-way for Metro North, formerly the New York, New Haven Railroad, laid out in 1848.

The main block of the Pike House, essentially rectangular in plan with a narrower extension to the east, rests on a rough quarried stone foundation (Photograph #s 2, 3, 4). See Exhibit A for the plan of the building. An open Eastlake-style porch carries around three sides of the main block with entrances on the south, west, and north elevations. The porch, supported by brick piers, features a latticed skirt, chamfered posts, flat-arched spandrels, and a bracketed cornice. The pattern of small squares found in the lattice above the spandrels and repeated in the balustrade just below the handrail is a decorative architectural motif found throughout the house.

An intricate roofing system, originally wood-shingled, now sheathed in asphalt, includes double cross-gables and hipped dormers. There are shallow brackets under the eaves of the main roof and larger scrolled brackets at the corner of each gable. Different treatments of each gable include the jerkinhead of the main facade gable and the closed apex of the north gable. Banded bargeboards with applied bullseyes, along with diagonal sheathing, further ornament the gables. Seven rows of imbricated shingles in a fishscale pattern form a string course around the building at the second story above the windows. The shingles break on the facade to form hood molds for the second-story

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pike House, Stamford, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

windows. The wide main entrance door on the west side contains a panelled "Dutch" door with a leaded glass transom and is flanked by leaded glass panels; the leading is a pattern of small squares (Photograph #5). With the exception of several windows in the rear northeast corner which have one-over-one replacement wood sash, all the sash is original and typical of the Queen Anne style with the upper portion bordered by small square lights.

Original fabric remains throughout the interior of the house. The first-floor rooms are distinguished by "matchstick" oak wainscot, an effect achieved by the close-set narrow vertical beading of the wainscot boards and the shallow, incised bands of the wide chair rail (Photograph #s 6, 7). Heavy door and window trim is set off by bullseye corner blocks throughout the first floor and the hallway of the second floor. The corner blocks are omitted inside the second-floor rooms. Narrow matched maple (?) floor boards are found on the first level and in the upper hall. Square-edge long-leaf yellow pine is used in the rooms of the second floor, probably originally covered with narrow-loom carpet.

The large center entrance hall contains a wooden staircase which extends up to the attic floor. An exceptional example of Eastlake design, it has massive newels and a geometrically-patterned balustrade (Photograph #s 8, 9). Most of the balustrade is intact except for one missing section at the second-floor hallway which has standard turned replacement balusters. Wainscot runs up the inside wall of the staircase through to the attic floor. Narrow boards, set at a diagonal, are found under the staircase in the front hall and on the ceiling of the stairwell.

Six fireplaces, each with a wooden overmantel and surround of different design, are found in the principal rooms of the first and second floors (Photograph #s 6, 7). With the exception of the corner fireplace in the northwest parlor which appears to have replacement tile around the opening, all have their original encaustic tile surrounds. The fireplace of the original dining room at the southeast corner has an unusual round-arched opening set off by projecting faceted tiles. All of the fireboxes are lined with pressed metal in a variety of designs.

Several changes were made to the house during its recent and ongoing restoration. An appropriate Victorian paint scheme was carried out on the exterior to emphasize the various decorative elements. A badly deteriorated enclosed exterior balcony at the attic level below the gable of the rear elevation was removed and probably will be replaced. Interior changes were generally limited to the removal of several partitions to return to the original floor plan, including the one enclosing the main staircase. Panelled pocket doors that separate the rooms of the first floor were made operative. Sound plaster over lath was restored, or replaced with gypsum board where deteriorated, a procedure used mainly on the walls and ceilings of the upper floors which had suffered water damage. The only other change to the interior was the opening up of the stairwell at the attic level. The ceiling above the stairs there was removed and a skylight installed in the roof above.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1880

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Waldo Fuller (builder)

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

The Gustavus and Sarah T. Pike House is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne style in Stamford, retaining most of its original features, including the floor plan and the well-crafted architectural detail, especially the Eastlake spindlework. In addition to its exceptional design and superior integrity, it derives added significance as an exemplary demonstration of late-nineteenth-century trends: the pattern book as a design source and the impact of technology on residential construction.

Historical Background

The present setting of the Pike House, almost hidden in its densely settled residential neighborhood, differs markedly from its original surroundings and can only be understood by examining the history of this area. It was built shortly after the Richmond Hill section of West Stamford was subdivided. Although there are one or two other houses that are equivalent in style and size nearby, it is apparent that Richmond Hill did not become the upper-middle-class enclave envisioned by the original developers. They had hoped to capitalize on the nearness of New York and the availability of passenger train service to attract New York businessmen. For a number of reasons, not the least of which was the inefficiency of the early commuter service, they were premature in anticipating a trend which did not take hold in Fairfield County until the early twentieth century. The area did develop after 1900, but as a working-class neighborhood. Instead of grand houses on large lots, like the Pike House, the houses are small and closely sited along a network of streets extending off Fairfield Avenue.

The house was apparently built on speculation by builder/developer Waldo Fuller of Brooklyn, New York, who purchased the land in April, 1880. By October of that year the two-acre lot was sold with the house to Sarah T. Pike, the wife of the Reverend Gustavus Pike, also of Brooklyn. A graduate of Dartmouth, Pike had been a Congregational minister in Nashua, New Hampshire, before moving to Brooklyn. There he became the District Secretary of the American Missionary Association and the leader of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a Black choir associated with the Fisk School (later university), in Nashville, Tennessee, which first specialized in singing Negro spirituals. Under Pike's leadership, they successfully toured Europe in 1873.² In 1886 the Pikes left Stamford for Massachusetts, selling the property to Jane E. Pomeroy, wife of William

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Stamford, Connecticut and Environs. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1879.
Four Cities and Towns of Connecticut: The Manufacturers & Men of Mark. New York: Acme Publishing & Engraving Co., 1890.
Holly, H.H. Modern Dwellings. Stamford, 1878.
Miller. Map of Stamford and Greenwich, c. 1892.
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. Vol. 57. New York, 1926.
Stamford Advocate. Tercentary Edition, 1941.
Stamford City Directories.
Stamford Historic Resource Survey. Stamford Community Development Program, 1977, 1985.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2

UTM References

A

1	8
---	---

2	6	0	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	4	4	6	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in Book 2538, Page 344 of the land records of Stamford, Connecticut, which are located in the Stamford Government Center, Stamford, Connecticut.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the remaining land and buildings associated with Gustavus and Sarah T. Pike at the date of significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant Reviewed by John Herzan, National
 organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 12/14/89 Register Coordinator
 street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072
 city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pike House, Stamford, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

L. Pomeroy, a New York businessman. Frederic Mather (1844-1925) bought the house in 1905. A descendant of Cotton Mather, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Also a Dartmouth graduate, he practiced law in Cleveland until he moved to Stamford, living in the house until his death. Mather was president of the Stamford Historical Society from 1911 to 1923. The property reverted to the mortgage holder, the Citizen's Savings Bank of Stamford, after Mather's death and was not sold by them until 1940. It has had several owners since that time, and was successively owned by two Italian-American families between 1940 and 1948. By this time the neighborhood was predominately Italian-American, second and third generation descendants of the early immigrants in Stamford. The current owners and restorers of the house bought the property in 1985 after it had been used for about ten years as a nursing home.

Architectural Significance

The Pike House is a superior early example of the Queen Anne style, especially one so influenced by Eastlake. Exceptionally well-preserved, retaining essentially all of its fine architectural detail, it is distinguished by the quality of its craftsmanship and the elaborate use of different surface textures. The restrained elegance of its design is exceptionally well integrated, especially for a pattern-book house, so often simply the sum of the parts, or an overdone demonstration of the Victorian preference for elaborated surfaces. It is evident from the scope of the detailing of every elevation that originally this house could be viewed from all sides. The continuous band of intricate shingles is a particularly effective design feature as it echoes the broad horizontal sweep of the porch and ties together the variety of gables, offsetting their verticality. Further design coherence is achieved by the repetition of similar architectural motifs, especially the reoccurring use of small squares, and the similarities between the balustrades of the porch and the central staircase.

The Pike House is also an exceptional demonstration of late-nineteenth-century developments in residential construction. The first of these is the pattern book, more commonly used to design smaller, mass-produced houses in this period. According to the Stamford architectural survey, it appears to be based on a popular pattern book published in Stamford in 1878, Modern Dwellings, by H.H. Holly. Although it possible that Holly, a practicing architect in the city until his death in 1892, was actually the architect, the designs of the coved gable end, the Eastlake porch, and the bargeboard decorations appear in this book. Secondly, the elaborate detailing and prodigious variety of the Queen Anne style, so ably demonstrated in the Pike House, were made possible because of the major advances being made in machine technology. The fine millwork of the interior, especially the wainscot, could only be produced with improved milling machines and dies. The more efficient steam-powered wood lathes of the period were needed to produce the spindle detailing found in the fireplace surrounds and the balustrades, and especially the massive newel posts of the main staircase.

End Notes:

1. Atlas of Stamford, Connecticut and Environs, (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1879).
2. The Jubilee Singers added classical music to their repertoire and raised \$150,000 for the school on a successful seven-year tour of Europe after 1875. The money was used to purchase buildings, including Jubilee Hall, the first on the university campus.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pike House, Stamford, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Property: Pike House, Stamford, Connecticut

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 12/89

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. House and site
Facing: E | 2. North & west elevations
Facing: SE |
| 3. Rear elevation
Facing: N | 4. Facade (west elevation)
Facing: E |
| 5. Front hall and stairs
Facing: NW | 6. Northeast parlor
Facing: SE |
| 7. Northwest corner room, 1st floor
Facing: SE | 8. Staircase
Facing: NE |
| 9. Staircase from upper hall
Facing: NW | |

Perry Street ↑

2

4

1

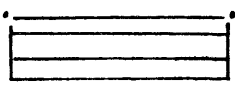
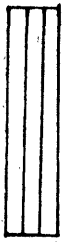
7

6

8

5

3



Fairfield Avenue

Gustavus and Sarah T. Pike House
Stamford, Connecticut
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1'