

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

NOV 27 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hearthstone

and/or common The Castle, Parks' Castle

2. Location

street & number 18 Brushy Hill Road N/A not for publication

city, town Danbury N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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
N/A	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 City of Danbury

street & number 155 Deer Hill Avenue

city, town Danbury N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 155 Deer Hill Ave.

city, town Danbury state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 So. Prospect St.

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hearthstone Castle is a well-preserved but deteriorating three-story, sixteen-room stone castle with associated outbuildings built between 1895 and 1899. It is located in a wooded setting at the crest of a hill to the east of Brushy Hill Road in Danbury, Connecticut. The complex is centered on the castle, which is essentially early Norman in form but incorporates elements of many periods of castle architecture as well as features commonly associated with styles of the late nineteenth century. Outbuildings, all Shingle style, include a caretaker's cottage, carriage house, pumphouse, barn, woodshed and water tower, clustered on higher ground to the south of the main building. All of them contribute to its significance. The boundaries of the nominated property provide an adequate setting for the complex, encompassing the grounds and approach.

Photographs were taken in 1985 but reflect current conditions, except that furniture has been removed.

The eminence upon which Hearthstone Castle is built is approximately 650' above sea level and commands panoramic views to the north and east. A pair of large granite gateposts with globe finials stand at the entrance to the property, on the east side of largely rural and undeveloped Brushy Hill Road. A steep 800'-long gravel driveway ascends to the buildings, which cannot be seen from the road. The hillside to either side of the drive is thickly forested with hemlock and other trees, including rhododendron which borders the lawn areas near the castle.

The castle occupies the brow of the hill. Its east wall is built upon a retaining wall which is a direct continuation of the steep hillside, and then curves across the north side. The castle is rectangular in shape, constructed of unfinished local granite over a core of brick. Its dimensions are approximately 45' x 83' and it has a flat composition roof, which is surrounded by a parapet with battlements created by pointed, upturned stones. The main or front section of the building features D-ended towers at the northeast corner and beyond the northernmost bay of the west elevation. The end bay of the north facade, located between these two towers, is bevelled. An 11'-wide veranda on a stone base extends from the south end of the east elevation around the north facade to terminate at a stone porte-cochere to the north of the D-ended tower on the west elevation. Its roof is supported by stone piers which rise above it, and it features a denticulated cornice. The porte-cochere has a flat roof and three pointed-arched openings, with buttresses suggested on the outer piers. In addition to the two towers, there are corbelled bartizans on the southeast corner and on the north facade, and a square chimney on the southeast corner. The corners of the building are reinforced with large stones, some of which resemble quoins. Bands of vertically set stones project below the parapets on the towers. Segmentally arched openings at ground level admit light to the basement, and ventilate the area beneath the veranda.

The windows on the lower two stories are trabeated, with granite slab lintels and sills, while the third story is lighted by pointed and round-arched two over two windows. Fenestration is irregular, with large

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hearthstone Castle
Danbury, Conn.

Section number 7 Page 2

triple windows in the south and east elevations on the first and second stories and in the second story of the north facade. On the east and west elevations, other windows are narrow but irregular in size, and are placed diagonally to light interior staircases. There is a slit-like window in the south elevation, and in the west elevation a narrow window with bull's eye art glass. (Photographs 1, 2).

The rear of the building is a two-story, flat-roofed kitchen wing, 18' x 23', which contains a rear entry (Photograph 2).

The front entry is trabeated with a granite lintel and features a double-leaf, semi-glazed door with carved Gothic tracery and sidelights which opens onto an entry hall. The hall features panelled wainscoting, cased and studded beams carried on consoles with carved scrolls, and a fireplace with a denticulated and modillioned mantelpiece carried on consoles carved in the shape of lions, all in oak (Photographs 3,4). To the east of the entry hall is the music room, which has molded door and window surrounds and a peach-colored marble Neo-Classical fireplace with cable molding, a central carved scallop, and a denticulated mantelpiece carried on consoles. (Photograph 5). The music room opens onto the dining room to the south. The dining room features cased beams, molded door and window surrounds, panelled doors, and vertical wainscoting, all in pine. The room is lighted by a large triple window in the south elevation (Photograph 6). It has a Georgian fireplace of green glazed brick, with a central panel with dentils and modillions. To the west of the dining room is the library, with oak door and window surrounds and a red brick fireplace with a denticulated mantel with a diamond motif. To the rear is the kitchen.

A grand staircase ascends from the entry hall to the second story. It is panelled in oak and edged with bead-and-reel molding. Its first landing is lighted by a large triple window set in the curving wall of the west tower. In the upper panes of the window are stained glass panels which depict the Sanford coat-of-arms (Photograph 7). Facing the second floor landing is a full-length fireplace of dark green glazed brick, rimmed with studded iron bands and with bead-and-reel and egg-and-dart moldings at the ceiling. In the chimney breast is a niche, also rimmed with studded iron bands, and the lining of the fireplace is cast iron in a pattern of interwoven bands (Photograph 8). All of the doors on the second floor are panelled, and the entry to the hallway is arched. There is a second library with fireplace with oak surround and five bedrooms on the floor, including the large master bedroom in the curving north tower. The five servants' bedrooms on the third floor are unornamented.

The outbuildings are located on a slight rise to the south of the castle. They include the one-story, four-room, hip-roofed caretaker's cottage (Photograph 9); a hip-roofed carriage house; a hip-roofed water tower; a woodshed, pumphouse, and barn, all clad in wood shingles.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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)

(Criterion C)

Specific dates	1895-1899	Builder/Architect	Ernest G. W. Dietrich
-----------------------	-----------	--------------------------	-----------------------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hearthstone Castle is significant as a well-preserved, late nineteenth century country estate centered on an architect's interpretation of a medieval castle. (Criterion C).

Hearthstone Castle and its related Shingle-style outbuildings, which include a caretaker's cottage, carriage house, water tower, pumphouse and sheds, were constructed as a summer estate between 1895 and 1899 for Elias Starr Sanford and his wife, Emma. Sanford, a Danbury native, achieved success and a national reputation as a society portrait photographer in New York City as a partner in the firm of Davis & Sanford. Following the dissolution of the firm in the early twentieth century, Sanford conducted studios in New Haven, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Greenwich and Texas.¹ In 1895, at the height of his success, Sanford purchased eighteen acres of woodland at "Mountain End," a rocky promontory that overlooks the southern part of the city of Danbury. Two acres were cleared but the property was left ungraded except in the immediate vicinity of the building. Construction of the castle commenced in the fall of 1895 and was completed in June, 1899. Stone for the castle was quarried on the property and at Collins' quarry to the south on Brushy Hill Road, and was transported to the construction site by means of a narrow-gauge railroad (Figure 1).

The castle's architect was Ernest G. W. Dietrich of New York. A Danbury Evening News article of October 7, 1895, outlines his initial plan for the castle as a seventeen-room, 80' x 100' building, with its upper story of wood. The same article mentions a 38' x 48' barn to be constructed with architectural features "corresponding to those of the house," and makes no mention of any other outbuildings.² That plans were changed during the course of construction is confirmed by the building of the second story of the castle in stone, with a memorial stone bearing the date "1897" set in the middle of the west elevation, and by the fact that the dimensions of both the castle and the present carriage house are smaller than those stated in the article. A mechanics' lien filed in the Danbury land records by Charles Crossley, a local architect and builder, cites "services rendered" between May, 1897, and June, 1899.³ However, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that Crossley or a second architect contributed to the castle's design. Moreover, Dietrich is known to have worked in the Shingle style of the outbuildings, and is noted for his residential architecture. Among his commissions is the Luther Turner House at 213 Migeon Avenue in Torrington.

Liens remained on the property until the Sanfords sold it in 1902 to Victor Buck, a retired New York businessman. Mrs. Sanford is reported to have disliked the castle.⁴ The Bucks used it as a summer residence until 1923, which it was sold again to Charles Darling Parks. Parks,

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.2

Quadrangle name Danbury

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 18 6 29 44 10 4 5 82 6 80
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 William E. Devlin, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Danbury Preservation Trust date March, 1987

street & number P. O. Box 2201 telephone 744-6202

city or town Danbury state Connecticut

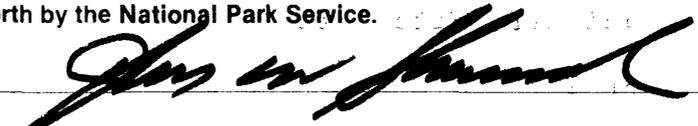
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

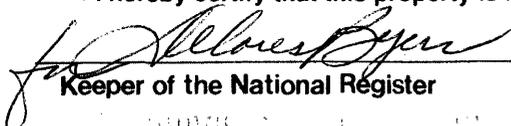


title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date October 27, 1987

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

date 12-31-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hearthstone Castle
Danbury, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

president of the American Hatters and Furriers Co. and owner of the Tarrywile estate directly to the west of Hearthstone on Brushy Hill Road, is said to have purchased it for his daughter, Irene Parks Jennings Rathmell. Mrs. Rathmell occupied the castle until her death in 1976.

Hearthstone Castle is significant not only for its design, which anticipates the better-known castle built in Hadlyme by William Gillette by almost two decades, but for its fine construction and its exceptional preservation as an estate, with all of its major outbuildings intact.

It reflects a nineteenth-century taste among newly rich Americans for papatial country residences, as well as a late Romantic taste for rusticity and exoticism. The estate's grounds were left largely in their natural state, and the castle itself is referred to in the deed from the Sanfords to the Bucks as "the Lodge."⁵ The rough quality of the castle's fieldstone exterior and the wood-shingled walls of the outbuildings reinforce this emphasis on natural textures and on a harmonious relationship with the wooded, mountaintop site. The spacious, open veranda, from which towns far to the north could be sighted, provided a setting as well for summer parties.

The castle incorporates elements from diverse periods in castle architecture. Its rectangular shape and D-ended towers strongly resemble the early Norman "great tower" castles of Chepstow and Colchester, both of which date from the late eleventh century. The use of corbelled bartizans was common to Scottish castles of the twelfth century. The arched openings of the porte-cochere and the windows appear primitive in part because of their construction, but they also vary in shape from distinctly pointed to distinctly round. The fenestration as a whole represents a compromise between authenticity and modernity. A few narrow medieval-style window slits are irregularly placed diagonally across the west elevation, but large Chicago-style triple windows prevail, and a bull's eye art glass window is even featured in one of the slits. (Photograph 1)

The interior also represents a compromise between the medieval theme and the nineteenth century. A medieval feeling is carried out fully in the entry hall and grand staircase, but the fireplace and panelled wall treatment are essentially Elizabethan. The rooms receive individual treatments which reach to a Georgian feeling in the dining room (Photograph 6), and a restrained Classicism in the music room. (Photograph 5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hearthstone Castle
Danbury, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 3

ENDNOTES

1. Danbury News, July 18, 1917, p. 4
2. Danbury Evening News, October 7, 1895, p. 4
3. Danbury Land Records, Vol. 115, p. 214
4. Interview with Charles Jennings, April, 1985;
Lorraine O'Hara, September, 1985; Jean Parks Davis, November, 1986
5. Danbury Land Records, Vol. 118, p. 361

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hearthstone Castle
Danbury, Connecticut

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRINTED WORKS:

Fry, Plantagenet S., The David & Charles Book of Castles, London:
David & Charles, 1980.

Herger, Peter, "Is It Really A Castle? The Answer Is Yes,"
Renews, Spring, 1986.

Sancha, Sheila, The Castle Story, New York: Harper & Row, 1984.

Sanford, Carlton E., Thomas Sanford, the Emigrant to New England,
Ancestry, Life, and Descendants, Rutland, Vermont:
Tuttle Co., 1911.

Withey, Henry F. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects
Deceased, Los Angeles; 1970.

OTHER SOURCES:

Danbury Evening News and Danbury News: July 6, October 7, 1895;
July 18, 1917; September 14, 1929.

Danbury Land Records: 107:331, 115:214, 118:361; 116:56

Interviews: Peter Jennings, April, 1985
Lorraine O'Hara, September, 1985
Donald and Jean Parks Davis, November, 1986

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

Hearthstone Castle
18 Brushy Hill Road
Danbury, Connecticut

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Boundary Description:

Hearthstone Castle and its associated grounds and outbuildings are located on the property identified on the accompanying copy of the Danbury Tax Assessor's Map as Parcel 117024. The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the Castle, outbuildings, grounds and approach that have historically been part of Hearthstone Castle and that maintain historic integrity.

