

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



487

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Morschauser, Charles House

other names/site number House on the Hill

2. Location

street & number 115 Hooker Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Poughkeepsie [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Dutchess code 027 zip code 12601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Paula A. Peipert *DBHPO*

6/16/14

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper date of action *8-18-14*

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3		TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

DOMESTIC / secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

DOMESTIC / secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone, Shingle

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Law

Period of Significance:

1902-1926

Significant Dates:

1902

Significant Person:

Charles Morschauer

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

William J. Beardsley (architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: _____

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.42 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 589891 4615951
Zone Easting Northing

3 18 Easting Northing

2 18 Easting Northing

4 18 Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Wahlberg (Design Historian), edited by Jennifer Betsworth (NY SHPO)

organization date April 17, 2014

street & number 35 Garfield Place telephone

city or town Poughkeepsie state NY zip code 12601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Nancy Cozean and Don Jacob

street & number 115 Hooker Avenue telephone 845-486-1283

city or town Poughkeepsie state NY zip code 12601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Morschauser, Charles House
Name of Property
Dutchess County, New York
County and State

Narrative Description of Property

The Charles Morschauser house is located at 115 Hooker Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County. Hooker Avenue runs southeast from Montgomery Street, near Poughkeepsie's commercial core. The direction of the road changes slightly just before the hill where the Morschauser house is located; this appears to correspond to the historic city line as well as local geography. A sparsely developed location just outside the city limits through the turn of the twentieth century, this side of town had attracted substantial suburban development by mid-century. The base of the hill is bounded by five streets, all of which are lined with early twentieth century homes with a consistent setback. The Morschauser house is set back at the top of the hill, far from Hooker Avenue. It is accessed by a slightly sloping and curved tree-lined driveway; its entrance is marked by two stone pillars topped by cast-iron balls. The lot is covered by mature trees, and its southern boundary is marked by a stone wall that predates the house. The nominated parcel is the lot historically associated with the Morschauser house.

The Morschauser house, built in 1902, is a two-and-a-half story residence with a hipped roof and a projecting, offset front gable. Stylistically, its transitional design reflects elements of both the fading Queen Anne style and the popular Colonial Revival style. The first story has brick walls covered in a rock-faced, randomly laid St. Lawrence marble. The upper stories are of frame construction. The façade features a one-story, flat-roofed porch supported by simple square columns with inset rectangular grooves; the columns are connected by a simple balustrade. The L-shaped front porch wraps around the projecting front-gabled section on the façade. An uncovered patio and balustrade connects the front porch to a similar porch on the west elevation. The front porch covers a wide one-over-one window in the projecting gable and a chestnut entrance door capped by a stone lintel. The door has two narrow vertical wood panels at the base and eight narrow panes of glass at the top; it is flanked by matching wood panels and sidelights. Two one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills light the east end of the façade. A slightly flaring band of shingles runs between the first and second floors all the way around the house; the second floor is covered in weatherboard. A one-over-one window is located in the projecting section on the second story. A thin cornice line and large broken cornice highlight the front gable. It has a central semicircular window and is filled with shingles. A wide one-over-one window is centrally located on the second story and is flanked by two one-over-one windows to the east. A wide cornice band runs under the roofline. A pyramidal-roofed dormer covered in shingles with a one-over-one window projects from the roofline.

On the east elevation, a one-bay, flat-roofed, enclosed entry porch projects from the northernmost bay. Three one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills are located on the first floor, and four one-over-one windows are on the second floor. A central stone chimney and a pyramidal roofed dormer covered in shingles with a central one-over-one window are visible over the roofline. On the west elevation, a one-story, flat-roofed, enclosed porch supported by simple square columns covers the two northernmost bays; it covers two one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills. An additional one-over-one window and an enclosed window opening with stone lintels and sills are visible on the first floor; three one-over-one windows are visible on the second floor. A hipped-roof dormer is visible over the roofline. On the rear (south) elevation, a ca. 1980 one-story, shed-roofed kitchen addition projects from the original building. The addition was designed to match the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

original building, and has a band of shingles under its roofline to match the central band of shingles on the house. It is also supported by square stone columns that match the original stone. The spaces between the stone columns are filled with large panes of plate glass capped by horizontal bands of shingles. A patio with short, square posts and a decorative metal balustrade surrounds the kitchen addition. Four one-over-one windows are located on the second story. A gable dormer filled with shingles and a one-over-one window projects through the roofline.

On the interior, the first floor is divided into a central hallway, large sitting room, dining room, office, and kitchen. The wide central hallway has an oak staircase with a simple, Arts and Crafts-style newel post with inset panels and a turned balustrade. After they obtained the property in 1996, the current owners painstakingly removed paint from the staircase and front door. The large sitting room, located to the west, retains its original trim and flooring. A small plaster medallion highlights the light fixture on the ceiling. Two inset, arched niches are located on either side of the window on the north wall. To the east of the hallway, a set of decorative French doors with central arched panes and a transom with a circle and square pattern leads to the dining room. The dining room retains its original egg and dart molding, trim, and flooring. A marble fireplace, which was added by the current owners, is located on the south wall. The office is located to the south of the dining room; the original kitchen was likely in this location. The kitchen addition is accessible via the end of the hallway or the set of French doors at the rear of the sitting room. The second floor has a central hallway, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a linen closet, and a maid's room. The bedrooms retain their original trim and flooring. The bathroom was updated ca. 1928 by the second owner of the home; it has a glass block and red tile shower. The attic has been simply finished with horizontal wood paneling.

A one-and-a-half story, side-gabled, frame carriage house is located to the southeast of the house. The primary (west) elevation has a garage door on the first floor and a large through-cornice, front-gabled dormer with a one-over-one sash window. Cornice returns extend around to the north and south elevations. These elevations have two one-over-one windows on the first floor and one one-over-one window in the gable ends.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Morschauser, Charles House
Name of Property
Dutchess County, New York
County and State

Statement of Significance

The Charles Morschauser house, built in 1902, is significant under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Charles Morschauser, one of Dutchess County's most prominent trial lawyers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Morschauser, a Poughkeepsie native and son of German immigrants, was trained in law locally. He stayed in Poughkeepsie and became a prominent and well-respected trial lawyer and was active in Democratic politics. Through his involvement as counsel in the local, but scandalous and well-publicized Tower divorce trial and the nationally-followed trial of Harry K. Thaw, accused of killing Stanford White, Morschauser gained recognition on a wider scale as a clever lawyer skilled at managing media sensationalism. The Charles Morschauser house is also significant under Criterion C as a good local example of a "Free Classic Queen Anne" residence designed by Poughkeepsie architect William Beardsley. The style, which represents a transition between the ostentatious Queen Anne and the more subdued Colonial Revival, was well-suited to the large lot Morschauser purchased for his country seat. Though Beardsley later became well known statewide for his civic and institutional commissions, the house is representative of his early work in Poughkeepsie.

Early history of Poughkeepsie

One of the oldest communities along the Hudson River, Poughkeepsie was initially settled during the late seventeenth century. Though it grew slowly, it was well situated near the major transportation routes of the Hudson River and Albany Post Road and was named the county seat in 1717. The village became a center of commerce and trade and by the nineteenth century its economy came to be dominated by industry and manufacturing; this was spurred by the completion of the Hudson River railroad to Poughkeepsie in 1849. After the city was incorporated in 1854, local leaders focused on adding amenities like gas lights and a water works. New residential and institutional development followed, and the city's second major period of growth was in full swing by 1870. The vibrant community offered opportunities for new immigrants, as well as established residents, and attracted families like the Morschausers to work in its industrial and commercial sectors.¹

Early Life and Career

Joseph and Henriette Morschauser were a young married couple when they immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1855. They settled in Poughkeepsie where Mrs. Morschauser's father, Henry Rottmann was already established as the foreman at a carriage manufacturer. Like many first-generation immigrants, the Morschausers worked hard to establish themselves; Joseph worked as a cigar maker, a custodian and a park attendant in Poughkeepsie. Henriette devoted herself to her nine children and was fiercely proud of her boys. They raised their family in homes on Zimmer and Winnakee Avenues. Charles, the oldest of the nine children, was born in 1858. As he grew up in a family of humble means, Charles Morschauser attended public schools

¹ Frank Hasbrouck, ed., *The History of Dutchess County* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: S.A. Matthieu, 1909), 200-208, 221-223 ; Larson Fisher Associates, "Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York: Reconnaissance-level Historic Resource Survey Update," prepared by Larson Fisher Associates, Woodstock, New York, for the Town of Poughkeepsie Historical Commission, Poughkeepsie, New York, September 2011, IV-6, 19, 29, 31-35.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

rather than private academies but obtained a place studying law in the office of Hackett and Williams. In 1879, he was admitted to the bar.²

Charles Morschauser first worked as a trial lawyer in William D. Thorne's office. Over the next twenty years, he occasionally maintained his own practice but usually worked with a partner. His first partnership was with Seward Baker, who later left Poughkeepsie to be a New York City magistrate. He later established partnerships with William Wood, George Wood, and Willet E. Hoysradt. As a young lawyer, Charles worked on a variety of cases for people from all walks of life. Newspaper accounts report that he represented switchmen, union workers, glassblowers, constables, and police officers and that he worked for both defendants and plaintiffs in such cases as theft, assault, highway robbery, libel, insubordination and land disputes. Charles also became well known and respected for his willingness to do free legal work for the poor.³

In addition to his practice, Charles was involved in and strongly supported the local Democratic Party. These ties helped him to obtain a position as the Poughkeepsie City Recorder in 1890. He held the position until 1894, and then ran for Dutchess County surrogate. He lost the race and continued working as a trial lawyer. Charles Morschauser's younger brother Joseph also became a very successful attorney and spent most of his career in public positions. Elected under the Republican ticket, he served terms as Poughkeepsie City Recorder, City Judge, Dutchess County Judge, and New York State Supreme Court Justice.⁴

William Beardsley and the Morschauser House

William Beardsley was born in Poughkeepsie in 1872 and later became one of the city's most important architects. As the son of one of Poughkeepsie's leading sash and blind manufacturers, Beardsley grew up immersed in the world of carpentry and building parts. At 18, he left for New York to study architecture for two years – although it is unknown which firm employed him. By 1892, local papers described Beardsley as the architect for many of the fine buildings of Millbrook and celebrated him as “a rising young architect and builder...already taking a high rank in the profession.” In 1893, Beardsley opened an office in Poughkeepsie. He soon began to make a name for himself by designing houses for local and regional clients. Some of his earlier commissions include the Henry Schwartzwalder mansion in Rhinebeck and 119 Academy Street in Poughkeepsie, both of which date to 1898. The Italianate Dutchess County Courthouse, built in 1902-1903, was one of his first major projects. As professionals living in the same city, Beardsley and Morschauser likely were

² Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1860 [database online], (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); “Death of Joseph Morschauser,” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, December 3, 1887; “Death of Joseph Morschauser,” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 2, 1887; “Mrs. Henriette Morschauser Dies in 85th Year,” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, September 25, 1916; “Charles Morschauser Dies of Apoplexy at Red Hook,” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926.

³ “Charles Morschauser Dies of Apoplexy at Red Hook,” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926; *Cold Spring Recorder*, January 7, 1898; Some examples of cases include: *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* July 27, 1889; January 21, 1890; January 23, 1890; October 7, 1891; March 6, 1894; May 13, 1900.

⁴ “Charles Morschauser Dies of Apoplexy at Red Hook,” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926; Hasbrouck, ed., *The History of Dutchess County*, 749-750.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

familiar with each other. In 1899, Charles Morschauser represented William Beardsley in bidding on a foreclosed residence on Academy Street.⁵

By the late nineteenth century, Poughkeepsie had a well-developed central business district, a substantial industrial economy, and a growing population. Wealthy families began establishing country homes and suburban seats in the area around the city. Most country homes were located along the river, while suburban seats were often located just outside of the city to facilitate easier travel to downtown businesses and offices. By the last quarter of the century, a small group of suburban seats had developed on Hooker Avenue just outside of the city. The property Morschauser would buy was part of a large estate called Mountain View in 1875. The street continued to be lightly developed with suburban seats through 1902, when Charles Morschauser purchased the land for his own suburban home.⁶

From the outset, 115 Hooker Avenue was considered a special house by the Poughkeepsie community. Its unusually large lot with hilltop structures set back from the street presented an estate-like grandeur to the passerby. As the work of a well known local architect who was designing for a popular and highly regarded local attorney, all eyes were on its construction.⁷

The Queen Anne style was a popular American residential architectural style from roughly 1880 through 1920. The eclectic style was created by British architects who melded the Tudor, Gothic, and Renaissance styles. In the United States, architects merged it freely with the Colonial Revival and Shingle styles. Queen Anne quickly became known for its emphasis on ornament and lack of rigor and rules, which allowed architects to indulge their creativity.

Beardsley's design for the Morschauser house reflects the waning days of the Queen Anne style's popularity when many of this style's architectural traits were being used with an increasingly greater restraint. Beardsley dispensed with the style's earlier hallmarks, particularly the busyness of elaborate scrollwork, spindles and brackets. He incorporated ideas from the Colonial Revival and Shingle styles and created a subtler version of the Queen Anne that could be described as "Free Classic Queen Anne." He primarily limited decoration to wall surfaces and gave them subtle visual richness through using different materials on each floor: rough-faced stonework on the ground floor with clapboards covering the second floor and a narrow shingled band separating the two. More shingles were repeated in the front gable and on the hipped roof dormers at attic level. The simple square paneled porch columns on stone piers, the elegant cornice return and fanlight on the front gable and an

⁵ "An Office Has Been Opened," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, January 8, 1893; "A Rising Young Architect," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, January 4, 1893; *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, February 18, 1895; *Rhinebeck Gazette*, September 21, 1898; "William J. Beardsley," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, March 16, 1899; National Register of Historic Places. Academy Street Historic District nomination, Dutchess County, New York (90NR00380); Joyce C. Ghee and Joan Spence, *Poughkeepsie: Halfway up the Hudson* (Dover, N.H.: Arcadia, 1997), 16; *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, March 27, 1899.

⁶ Reading Publishing Company, *New Illustrated Atlas of Dutchess County*, New York (Reading, PA: Reading Publishing Company, 1876); United States Geological Survey, "Poughkeepsie," 15' x 15' map, 1903; Larson Fisher Associates, "Town of Poughkeepsie," IV-31-35.

⁷ "To Build a Large Residence," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 5, 1902; Plans Have Been Prepared by Beardsley," *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, April 6, 1902.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

extensive wraparound two part porch linked by an open terrace help create a simple dignity and particularly handsome effect.

Newspaper accounts of the construction of the house underscore the fact that Charles Morschauser had achieved local prominence by 1902. The *Poughkeepsie News Telegraph* commented that “It is a beautiful spot and Mr. Morschauser has instructed William J. Beardsley, the architect, to make plans for a fine house which is to be built of stone and is to be a model home of beauty and comfort. Mr. Morschauser proposes to make his home there, and to its comforts, restful surroundings and delightful scenery he will take the best wishes of a city and county full of friends.”⁸

The *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier* published a drawing of the house and stated that “the structure will be dignified, depending on its proportions and coloring for good appearance. The first story from the grade to the second story will be built of St. Lawrence marble, rock faced, laid random. There will be a shingled band between the first and second story windows and above that the sides will be of clapboards mitred at the corners. The dormers will be shingled and the chimneys will be of stone. The building is to be hip roofed; there will be front and side porches connected by a terrace.”⁹

Later in his career, William J. Beardsley became a prolific architect and was especially known for his institutional commissions. In 1909, he won an architectural competition for his design for the proposed Bear Mountain prison. Though that project was never started (as the proposed scenic site was saved for state park use), he did modify his design for use at the Wingdale prison (1911). He also designed jails in 24 New York counties, including the Montgomery County jail (1914), Rensselaer County jail, the Utica jail (1927) and the Attica state prison. He designed 10 courthouses over the course of his career, tuberculosis hospitals in Oneida and Nassau County, and a welfare home in Erie County. Additionally, Beardsley designed dozens of schools, churches, hospitals, office buildings, and fire houses locally and across New York State. He maintained his primary office in Poughkeepsie, employing a staff of 40 at the height of his career. He continued to do local commissions, including the Bardavon house renovation (1905), the O.H. Booth Hose Company (1908; NR 1982), the St. Peters Parish House (1918; NR 2002), and the Hotel Windsor (1919). He continued to take on major projects until his death in 1934.¹⁰

Morschauser’s most prominent cases: the Tower divorce and Thaw trial

⁸ “Mr. Morschauser’s New House,” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, April 12, 1902.

⁹ “Mr. Morschauser’s New House,” *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, August 10, 1902.

¹⁰ ArchINform, “William Beardsley, 1872-1934,” <<http://eng.archinform.net/arch/24580.htm>>; “Hotel Windsor, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.,” *Architecture and Building* 50 (1919): Plate 108; Ghee, *Poughkeepsie*, 17; Board of Supervisors, *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County for the year 1913* (Amsterdam, N.Y.: The Morning Sentinel, 1914), 47; National Register of Historic Places, O.H. Booth Hose Company, Dutchess County, New York (90NR00385) ; “Bids Received,” *Municipal Journal & Engineer* (1908), 276; *Daily Sentinel (Rome)* March 16, 1927; *Troy Times*, March 30, 1934; *New York Times*, September 14, 1909; *Cold Spring Recorder*, July 18, 1911; *Poughkeepsie Daily Enterprise*, May 8, 1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

As an attorney, Morschauser was most noted for exhibiting a special kind of genius before juries – a genius that combined humor, incisive legal thinking and a deep understanding of human nature with a merciless and clever cross-examination technique. His performance in the court room was described as “almost irresistible.” Morschauser stepped on to the national stage from 1907 through 1909 when he became embroiled in two particularly scandalous legal hearings that riveted national public attention.

The first of these cases, the Tower divorce, was the result of a Poughkeepsie “Cinderella” story gone wrong. In 1902, Poughkeepsie millionaire Albert E. Tower’s wife murdered their teenage son then killed herself. Within three months, Tower shocked the community by marrying a pretty young Poughkeepsie telephone operator named Mary Bogardus. Newspaper articles across the northeast reported the love story, stating that her “sweet hello” over the telephone line must have captured the heart of the iron manufacturer. It surprised very few locals, however, when the marriage fell apart one salacious headline at a time.¹¹

After Albert unabashedly pursued another married woman while on a yacht trip with friends, Mary hired Charles Morschauser to act as counsel in January 1907. Charles helped Mary effectively manage the legal aspects of her trial, as well as the case for public opinion that was being waged in newspapers across the country. Charles helped Mary present the image of a devoted but spurned wife, rather than a “gold digger” in a loveless marriage; he made sure to tell reporters that she had rejected two large sums of money to encourage her to consent to a divorce. However, the relationship had clearly deteriorated by January 1908, despite a “second honeymoon” and attempts to rehabilitate the relationship. Mr. and Mrs. Tower and Charles Morschauser once again found themselves in the newspapers as they went through the divorce and debated who was at fault and how much Mary Tower should receive as an appropriate living allowance. Morschauser’s effectiveness in the Tower divorce case proved that he could withstand intense media sensationalism while also rehabilitating the dubious reputation of a client.¹²

In 1908, two years into the explosive Harry K. Thaw trial, Charles Morschauser was hired as the lead attorney for the controversial millionaire playboy. In 1906, Thaw had murdered well-known architect Stanford White in front of hundreds of horrified people at the Madison Square Garden rooftop theater. Thaw famously claimed to have committed the murder to avenge his wife, the great international beauty Evelyn Nesbit whom architect Stanford White had befriended then sexually assaulted three years earlier when Nesbit was just 16 years old.¹³

The lurid details surrounding this crime exposed White’s decadent private life, particularly his fondness for plying innocent young virgins with champagne, watching them frolic on a red velvet swing hanging from the

¹¹ “Home of Albert E. Tower Scene of Pathetic Tragedy,” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, April 19, 1902; “‘Hello’ Girl to Wed Millions,” *The New York Press* July 27, 1902; “Her Sweet ‘Hello’ Won Millionaire Ironmaster,” *New York Herald Sunday*, August 17, 1902.

¹² “Sought Divorce to Wed a Millionaire,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 28, 1907; “Millionaire Tower and Wife Kiss and End their Quarrel,” *Utica Herald Dispatch*, March 23, 1907; “Wants \$100,000 from Tower,” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, August 30, 1907; *Troy Times*, January 3, 1908; *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, January 5, 1908.

¹³ Paula Uruburu, *American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the “It” Girl, and the Crime of the Century* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2008).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

ceiling, then “deflowering” them in a mirrored bedroom. But the trial also revealed murderer Harry Thaw’s own history as a sadomasochistic, often maniacal, and not very bright heir to a huge American fortune that allowed him to indulge his own particular penchant for dog whips, brothels and cocaine. At the center of this dramatic “love triangle” was a young photographer’s model and show girl, Evelyn Nesbit, described by her biographer as “America’s first bona fide sex goddess.” Her paradoxical blend of waif-like innocence and voluptuous sensuality made “women want to be her and men want to have her.”¹⁴

For two years, America followed headline after shocking headline in what was described as the “trial of the century.” The story continued to fascinate following generations as well, and its seamy details along with its larger societal implications were explored in the 1955 movie *Girl in the Red Velvet Swing* and again in the 1975 novel *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow (which was also made into a movie and a Broadway play).

In the dramatic trial that followed the murder of Stanford White, Thaw’s attorneys sought to save their client from the electric chair by using a defense informally known as “the unwritten law” (defined as a man’s implicit right and duty to defend his wife’s honor). This defense, although not completely successful, did result in a hung jury and Thaw’s retrial. With another opportunity to free their client before them, Thaw’s attorneys switched to a safer strategy and tried to prove Thaw had been temporarily insane at the time of the murder – having had what they called a “brainstorm” – the first use of this term. This tactic resulted in Thaw’s acquittal by reason of insanity; however, he was then declared a dangerous “lunatic” and committed to the Matteawan Asylum for the Criminally Insane (now the Fishkill Correctional Facility).¹⁵

Thaw’s attorneys immediately sought to overturn this committal with proof that Thaw was perfectly sane. What followed is surely one of the great ironies in Dutchess County’s legal history, since it was Charles Morschauser’s younger brother, Joseph, a New York State Supreme Court Justice, who presided over Thaw’s first sanity hearing and denied Thaw his freedom. The Thaw family proceeded to hire Charles as their new attorney; Charles then launched another round of proceedings that would seek to overturn his brother Joseph’s judicial decision. Thaw was placed in the Dutchess County Jail (then on the third floor of the county courthouse) to await his fate. Perhaps Charles Morschauser was selected by the Thaws as a slap at Supreme Court Justice Joseph Morschauser, who had initially committed Thaw to Matteawan. Charles may also have been hired because of his skillful handling of the sensational Tower divorce case.

As Thaw settled in at the Dutchess County Jail (with meals delivered three times a day from the Nelson House and special private quarters that consumed 13 cells and a jail corridor), he met a number of Poughkeepsie citizens: doctors, barbers, ministers, jailors, a newspaperman (who brought him a portable typewriter), even Poughkeepsie’s most revered citizen, W.W. Smith, came to speak with Thaw. Once the sanity hearing began, Morschauser subpoenaed these Poughkeepsie citizens to testify that, in their opinion, Thaw appeared completely

¹⁴ Paula Uruburu, *American Eve*.

¹⁵ Paula Uruburu, *American Eve*; “Thaw Lays Killing to a Brainstorm,” *New York Times*, July 30, 1909; “Thaw Tells Jerome he never was crazy,” *New York Times*, July 29, 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

rational and lucid in chats covering an astonishing array of topics including poetry, the Stone Age, hydraulics, the Catskill watershed, atmospheric pressure, cigars, electricity, the Pope, Presbyterianism, climbing the Matterhorn, opera singer Enrico Caruso, and coal.¹⁶

In another interesting legal turn of events, Morschauser's future Poughkeepsie law partner, John Mack (then the county district attorney) was brought in to undermine Morschauser's use of these lay opinions from Poughkeepsie citizens - citizens that he knew as well as Charles Morschauser did. The hearing then returned to professional psychiatric testimony and here, Morschauser certainly had no easy job. His client had a history of abnormal behavior since childhood; Morschauser dismissed this as only misunderstood boyish pranks. Thaw had shot a man to death in front of 900 people under the delusion that he was ridding the world of a fiend. Morschauser here argued that if the district attorney had done his job by breaking up Stanford White's "den" of depravity, Thaw would not have had to commit murder. Morschauser finally resorted to evoking pity for Thaw's mother and angling for Thaw's placement at a facility other than the dreaded Matteawan insane asylum. As Thaw's mother sobbed, Morschauser himself began to "tear up" when he ended his closing arguments with the statement, "Within the madhouse, within the den of degenerates, surrounded by criminals of the lowest order, you put him back. And if he is not a madman, he certainly will be. And at the same time, you will crush the heart of the most loyal of mothers that ever lived."¹⁷

The court was not convinced. As Evelyn Nesbit had been saying all along, it was impossible to accept "that a man could be sane all his life and a lunatic for the space of three minutes. He belongs in the bughouse." Despite this failure to free his client, Morschauser was kept on the Thaw family payroll and continued to seek either Thaw's transfer to a "less dangerous" facility or yet another sanity hearing.¹⁸

Perhaps it was also Morschauser's experience with Poughkeepsie's young Mary Bogardus Tower that made him (at least privately) sympathetic to Evelyn Nesbit. In one of Nesbit's autobiographical accounts of her life story, she relates a private meeting with Charles Morschauser who had been sent by the Thaw family to cut off her funds: "A brother of Judge Morschauser, representing the Thaws, called at the cheap hotel where I was now staying. He regretfully informed me I could expect no more support from my husband. 'Mrs. Thaw, it is a most unpleasant job I have on my hands, but my instructions are to advise you that from now on no more money will be paid you by your husband or his family.' 'How am I to live?' I protested. 'I can't go to work. I can't return to the stage. Notoriety has closed every avenue. What am I to do?' 'That's precisely it,' said Mr. Morschauser. 'Harry's mother feels that without money, you will land in the gutter and thereby gain sympathy for her son.'

¹⁶ "Thaw's Witnesses all say he's sane," *New York Times*, July 13, 1909; Helen Myers, "Woman Sent Flowers to Thaw when he was in Jail Here," *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, March 2, 1947.

¹⁷ "Thaw Evidence In; Summing up Today," *New York Times*, July 13, 1909; "Judge Sets a Limit to the Thaw Case," *New York Times*, August 5, 1909.

¹⁸ "Thaw's Insanity Hearing at End; Case is Argued," *Los Angeles Herald*, August 8, 1909; "Mother May Visit Thaw in Poughkeepsie," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, August 12, 1909; "Harry Thaw Back in State Asylum," *New York Times*, August 18, 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

‘Personally,’ he continued, ‘I hope you fool them. Have courage. You are very young. Your whole life is before you.’ ‘I can’t feel that way,’ I replied slowly. ‘It seems to me my whole life is behind me.’¹⁹

Political Involvement and Later Career

After wrapping up the Thaw case, Charles entered into the last legal partnership of his career. From 1910 to 1918, he worked with John Mack. Mack later founded the law firm of McCabe and Mack, which continues to exist in Poughkeepsie. Charles retired from active practice in 1918, but continued to play a role in Poughkeepsie’s legal circle.

While designing the house at 115 Hooker Avenue, if not sooner, Charles Morschauser and William Beardsley had become good friends. Perhaps desiring some relaxation after several years of high-profile work, Charles began looking for a summer place. In 1909, Morschauser and Beardsley purchased property on Lake Champlain in North Hero, Vermont to create a small summer colony. Beardsley designed bungalows for the property, and it soon became a summer enclave for some of Poughkeepsie’s most prominent citizens. Local newspapers report their frequent summer trips to North Hero for boating and relaxation; the two men even braved below-zero temperatures to oversee the filling of the camp’s ice house.²⁰

Throughout his life, Charles Morschauser was active in the leadership circles of the Democratic Party. He was one of the four Poughkeepsie men who Franklin Delano Roosevelt credited with awakening his taste for politics while he was still a young lawyer from Hyde Park. FDR later recounted the memory of a fateful hot Saturday morning in August of 1910 when he met his friends Charles Morschauser, John Mack, George Spratt and C.W.H. Arnold in front of the Dutchess County Courthouse: “I had only intended to stay in town for a few minutes to do some errands, but they kidnapped me – one of the first cases of deliberate kidnapping on record – and took me out to the policemen’s picnic in Fairview. On that joyous occasion of clams and sauerkraut and real beer – on that great occasion I made my first political speech.”

In 1918, Charles Morschauser was the Democratic nominee for New York State Attorney General. John Mack, who had by then been Morschauser’s law partner for eight years, introduced Morschauser’s name into nomination at the state convention with the joke that perhaps Morschauser’s only flaw as a candidate was the unpronounceable nature of his last name: “The only complaint I ever heard made of my genial partner is as to the unpronouncibility of his name, and it is told of him, he having no children of his own, [that he] bade God speed to his two nephew namesakes on their way to France where they are now engaged in the battle for humanity and democracy... ‘Good bye, boys, [he said]. I pray you come back safe, but don’t come back until you win and the world is safe for democracy. When you meet the minions of the Kaiser, fight them with all your might and main and with all your arms and ammunition but if all are exhausted, then as a last resort take your

¹⁹ Evelyn Nesbit, *Prodigal Days: the Untold Story* (New York: J. Messner, 1934).

²⁰ “Morschauser and Beardsley Buy Site for Summer Cottages,” *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, December 12, 1909; *Brewster Standard*, February 28, 1913; *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, June 3, 1911; August 23, 1918; August 6, 1921; *Red Hook Journal*, July 2, 1915.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 9

name of Morschauser, wrap it up in a compact though necessarily large parcel, heave it at the heads of the Kaiser's followers and I assure you the result will be the entire rout of the enemy."²¹

The *Poughkeepsie Star and Evening Enterprise* noted that Morschauser was more than ready for the state-wide political stage: "No better barrister can be found in New York state today than this Poughkeepsian who grew up with his town; who had time to be a successful lawyer and a warm friend; a clever financier and a willing help to the needy; a large holder of real property and yet the best of neighbors. There is many a man in old Dutchess for whom Charles Morschauser has won justice and many a guilty wretch whom he has punished...Mr. Morschauser, like his Republican brother Joseph of Supreme Court distinction, long ago ceased to be merely of local repute, for his fame as a lawyer is more than statewide." Morschauser's tongue in cheek election ads pointed out that the last time a Dutchess County man had been elected New York State Attorney General was a century ago. "Dutchess County is entitled to an attorney general at least once a century," the ad suggested coyly. Dutchess County must have agreed because Morschauser was in fact the only Democrat to carry Dutchess County in 1918, although he lost in the statewide vote.²²

Two years later, in 1920, Morschauser got his reward for loyally serving his party when he was appointed by Governor Alfred E. Smith to the bench of the New York State Court of Claims. News of his appointment was whispered to him in the middle of a court case as he finished his cross examination. According to witnesses, "a broad smile overspread the features of the lawyer" but Morschauser went right on with the case. Within a half hour, the news had reached the judge trying Morschauser's case, and it was the judge who stopped the trial and made this statement: "Gentlemen of the bar and citizens of Dutchess here present, I am very sorry to convey to you some bad news. The governor of the state has seen fit to remove from the bar one of your most distinguished lawyers..." The court paused and then resumed: "by placing him upon the bench of the state court of claims. But it really is too bad to remove from practice a man upon whom so many people, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, depend for legal advice and assistance. I am sorry for 'Charlie,' as we must no longer call him, for he will be obliged to give up a lucrative practice and frugally attempt to live on a small salary like the rest of us – sometimes asking a friend to endorse a note and struggling to make both ends meet. But I congratulate the people of the state. They are getting one of the best lawyers, one of the most competent men in the whole state to occupy this high place."²³

In 1926, Morschauser died of a stroke at the age of 67. Forty-two cars formed his funeral procession. For several days, friends, acquaintances, and fellow professionals published short memorials to Charles Morschauser in local newspapers. Many were moved to try to put into words Morschauser's special character: "No matter how many metropolitan attorneys he vanquished, he was always a country lawyer at heart," said one editorial. Many noted his devotion to helping young attorneys find their way. Others remarked upon his almost child-like

²¹ "Morschauser Designated," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 5, 1902.

²² "Our Favorite Son of Dutchess," editorial, *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, October 31, 1918; "Morschauser Won Dutchess by 541 Votes," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, November 7, 1918.

²³ "Honor from Governor announced to Local Lawyer," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, January 22, 1920; "Charles Morschauser," editorial, *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, January 22, 1920; "Morschauser Appointed Judge in Court of Claims," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, January 23, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 10

simplicity as a person. Almost without exception, he was remembered as someone possessing a relentless work ethic. To many of his contemporaries, his rise from an immigrant family to the pinnacle of his profession was a symbol of American opportunity.²⁴

Beardsley's remarks at the time of Morschauser's death are powerful in their simple sincerity: "Charles Morschauser was my friend and I was his. I knew him for more than 40 years. We hunted together, fished together, traveled together, did business together, fought together, and helped people out of their troubles together. There was never anything I wanted or needed that Charlie Morschauser wouldn't do for me – and there was never anything I wouldn't do for him. Nobody ever went to him for help and asked in vain."²⁵

As the Morschausers' only child had died at age six, the house passed out of the Morschauser family after his widow Emma's death in 1927. The property has in the hands of a series of owners, who have maintained the property well. Over the past century, the large lot has become used as an informal local park; it is unknown if this tradition was started by the Morschausers, but such an invitation would not have been out of Charles Morschauser's character.²⁶

Through its architecture, estate-like setting, and landscape, the Charles Morschauser house represents the end of the period when prominent local residents built suburban seats on the edges of the city. It was one of William J. Beardsley's last residential commissions on this scale before he began transitioning almost exclusively to civic and institutional work. Built when he was well-established within his career, the house also reflects Morschauser's rise from the son of German immigrants to a successful local lawyer. In addition to his importance within the regional and state law community, Morschauser is notable for his skilled management of the sensational regional and national newspaper accounts of his most prominent cases.

²⁴ "Charles Morschauser Dies Suddenly," *New York Times*, December 31, 1926; "Charles Morschauser dies of Apoplexy in Red Hook," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926; "Morschauser Dies Suddenly," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 30, 1926; "Morschauser Lauded in Supreme Court," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 30, 1927; "Morschauser Rites," *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 31, 1926; "Charles Morschauser," editorial, *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926; "Friends Honor Morschauser at Last Rites," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, January 4, 1907.

²⁵ "A Great Lawyer – A Better Friend," editorial, *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 31, 1926.

²⁶ "Charles Morschauser Heir," *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, December 25, 1918; "Mrs. Morschauser Funeral Monday," *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 9, 1927; "Westchester County Man Purchaser of Judge Morschauser's House," *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, July 10, 1927; "Sadlier, Morschauser Sites Sold to Local Physicians," *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, May 3, 1943.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Bibliography:

“A Great Lawyer – A Better Friend.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 31, 1926.

“A Rising Young Architect.” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, January 4, 1893.

“An Office Has Been Opened.” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, January 8, 1893.

ArchINform. “William Beardsley, 1872-1934.” <<http://eng.archinform.net/arch/24580.htm>>

“Bids Received.” *Municipal Journal & Engineer*, 1908.

Board of Supervisors. *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County for the year 1913*.
Amsterdam, N.Y.: The Morning Sentinel, 1914.

Brewster Standard, February 28, 1913.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 5, 1908.

“Charles Morschauser.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926.

“Charles Morschauser.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, January 22, 1920.

“Charles Morschauser Dies of Apoplexy at Red Hook.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926.

“Charles Morschauser dies of Apoplexy in Red Hook.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 31, 1926.

“Charles Morschauser Dies Suddenly.” *New York Times*, December 31, 1926.

“Charles Morschauser Heir.” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, December 25, 1918.

“Death of Joseph Morschauser.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, December 2, 1887.

Cold Spring Recorder, January 7, 1898; July 18, 1911.

Daily Sentinel (Rome) March 16, 1927.

“Death of Joseph Morschauser.” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, December 3, 1887.

“Friends Honor Morschauser at Last Rites.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, January 4, 1907.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Ghee, Joyce C. and Joan Spence. *Poughkeepsie: Halfway up the Hudson*. Dover, N.H.: Arcadia, 1997.

“Harry Thaw Back in State Asylum.” *New York Times*, August 18, 1909.

Hasbrouck, Frank ed. *The History of Dutchess County*. Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: S.A. Matthieu, 1909.

“‘Hello’ Girl to Wed Millions.” *The New York Press* July 27, 1902.

“Her Sweet ‘Hello’ Won Millionaire Ironmaster.” *New York Herald Sunday*, August 17, 1902.

“Home of Albert E. Tower Scene of Pathetic Tragedy.” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, April 19, 1902.

“Honor from Governor announced to Local Lawyer.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, January 22, 1920.

“Hotel Windsor, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.” *Architecture and Building* 50 (1919): Plate 108.

“Judge Sets a Limit to the Thaw Case.” *New York Times*, August 5, 1909.

Larson Fisher Associates. “Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York: Reconnaissance-level Historic Resource Survey Update.” Prepared by Larson Fisher Associates, Woodstock, New York, for the Town of Poughkeepsie Historical Commission, Poughkeepsie, New York, September 2011.

“Millionaire Tower and Wife Kiss and End their Quarrel.” *Utica Herald Dispatch*, March 23, 1907.

“Morschauser and Beardsley Buy Site for Summer Cottages.” *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, December 12, 1909.

“Morschauser Appointed Judge in Court of Claims.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, January 23, 1920.

“Morschauser Designated.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 5, 1902.

“Morschauser Dies Suddenly.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 30, 1926.

“Morschauser Lauded in Supreme Court.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 30, 1927.

“Morschauser Rites.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, December 31, 1926.

“Morschauser Won Dutchess by 541 Votes.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, November 7, 1918.

“Mother May Visit Thaw in Poughkeepsie.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, August 12, 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

“Mr. Morschauser’s New House.” *Poughkeepsie News-Telegraph*, April 12, 1902.

“Mrs. Henriette Morschauser Dies in 85th Year.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, September 25, 1916.

“Mrs. Morschauser Funeral Monday.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 9, 1927.

Myers, Helen. “Woman Sent Flowers to Thaw when he was in Jail Here.” *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, March 2, 1947.

National Register of Historic Places. Academy Street Historic District, Dutchess County, New York (90NR00380)

National Register of Historic Places. O.H. Booth Hose Company, Dutchess County, New York (90NR00385).

Nesbit, Evelyn. *Prodigal Days: the Untold Story*. New York: J. Messner, 1934.

New York, Federal Census, 1860 [database online]. <www.ancestry.com>.

New York Times, September 14, 1909.

“Our Favorite Son of Dutchess.” *Poughkeepsie Evening Star and Enterprise*, October 31, 1918.

“Plans Have Been Prepared by Beardsley.” *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, April 6, 1902.

Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle, July 27, 1889; January 21, 1890; January 23, 1890; October 7, 1891; March 6, 1894; February 18, 1895; March 27, 1899; May 13, 1900; June 3, 1911; August 23, 1918; August 6, 1921.

Poughkeepsie Daily Enterprise, May 8, 1911.

Reading Publishing Company. *New Illustrated Atlas of Dutchess County, New York*. Reading, PA: Reading Publishing Company, 1876.

Red Hook Journal, July 2, 1915.

Rhinebeck Gazette, September 21, 1898

“Sadlier, Morschauser Sites Sold to Local Physicians.” *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, May 3, 1943.

“Sought Divorce to Wed a Millionaire.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 28, 1907.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

“Thaw Evidence In; Summing up Today.” *New York Times*, July 13, 1909.

“Thaw Lays Killing to a Brainstorm.” *New York Times*, July 30, 1909.

“Thaw Tells Jerome he never was crazy.” *New York Times*, July 29, 1909.

“Thaw’s Insanity Hearing at End; Case is Argued.” *Los Angeles Herald*, August 8, 1909.

“Thaw’s Witnesses all say he’s sane.” *New York Times*, July 13, 1909.

“To Build a Large Residence.” *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 5, 1902.

Troy Times, January 3, 1908; March 30, 1934.

“Wants \$100,000 from Tower.” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, August 30, 1907.

“Westchester County Man Purchaser of Judge Morschauser’s House.” *Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier*, July 10, 1927.

“William J. Beardsley.” *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, March 16, 1899.

Uruburu, Paula. *American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the “It” Girl, and the Crime of the Century*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2008.

United States Geological Survey. “Poughkeepsie.” 15’ x 15’ map, 1903.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Morschauser, Charles House
Name of Property
Dutchess County, New York
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the parcel historically associated with the Morschauser House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

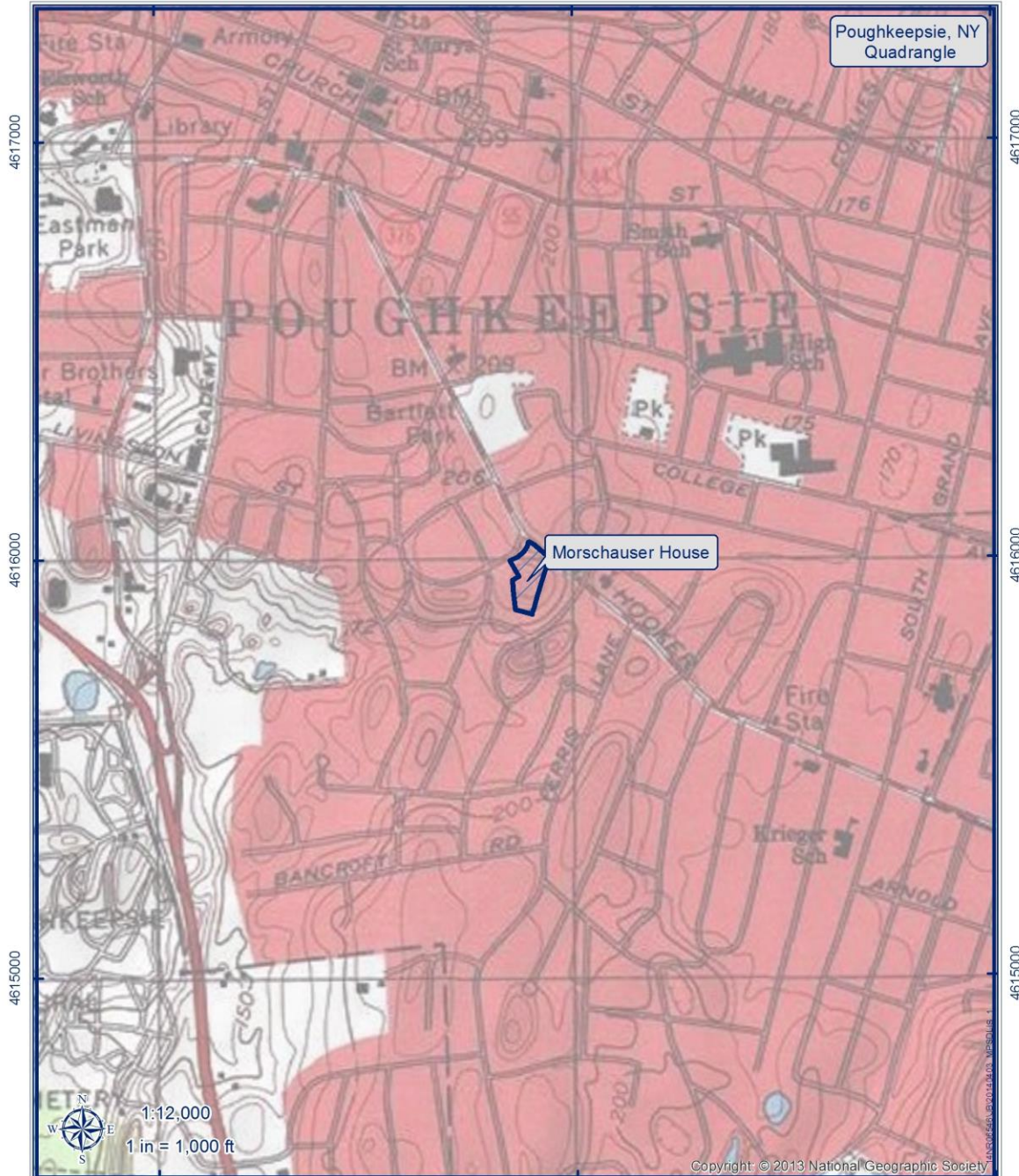
Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Morschauser House
City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY

115 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Morschauser House

Tax Parcel Data:
Dutchess Co, RPS
co.dutchess.ny.us



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

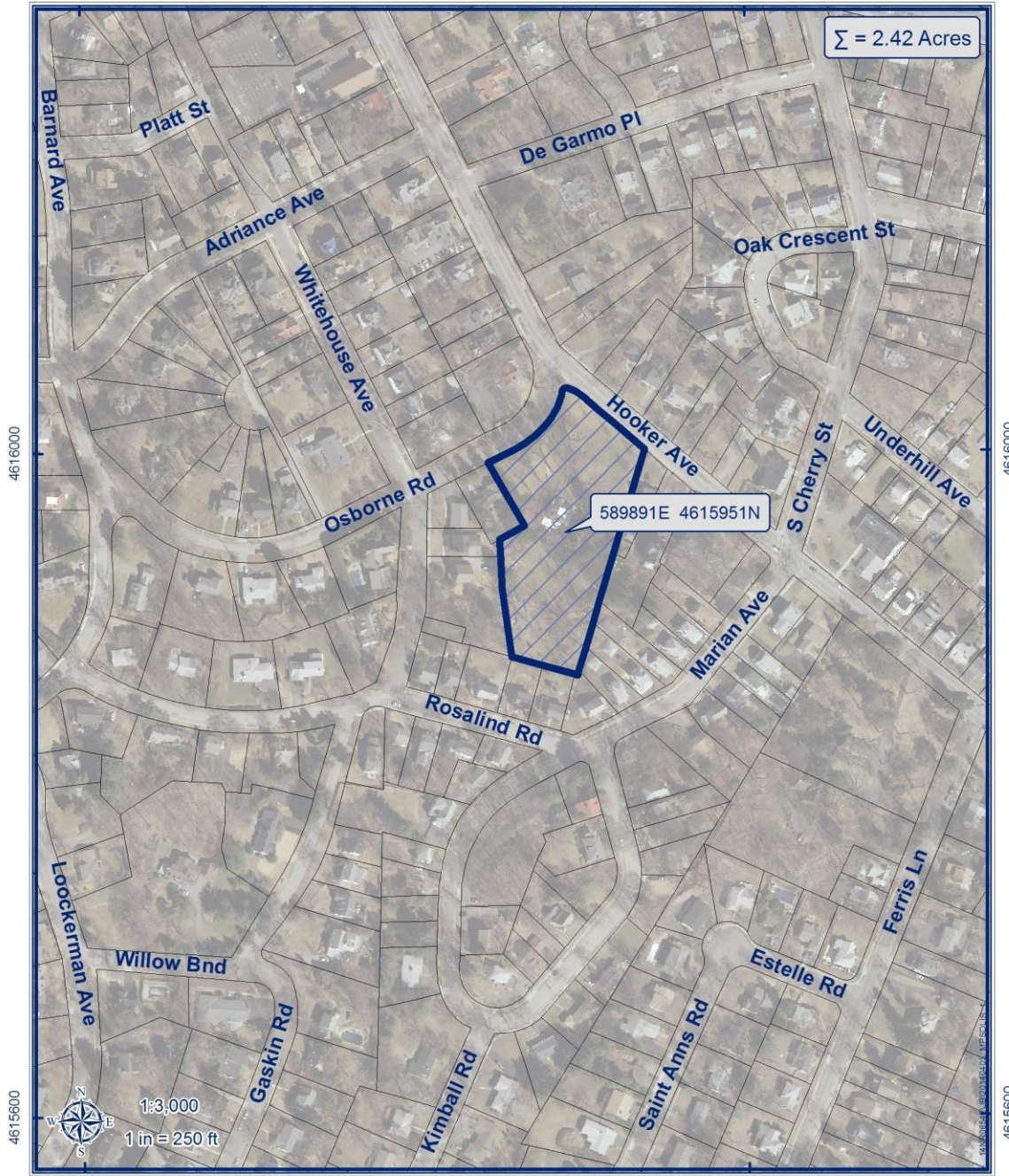
Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 3

Morschauser House
City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY

115 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Morschauser House

Tax Parcel Data:
Dutchess Co. RPS
co.dutchess.ny.us



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information

Name of Property:	Morschauser, Charles House
City:	Poughkeepsie
County:	Dutchess
State:	NY
Name of Photographer:	Jennifer Betsworth
Date of Photographs:	April 8, 2014
Location of Original Digital Files:	NY SHPO

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0001

Façade, garage, and site, facing southeast

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0002

Façade and west elevation, facing south

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0003

West elevation, facing southeast

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0004

Rear (south) elevation, facing north

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0005

Garage, facing south

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0006

Landscape, facing south

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0007

Stair hall, facing northeast

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0008

Parlor, facing northeast

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0009

Dining room, facing northeast

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0010

Second floor hallway, facing northeast

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 2

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State

NY_DutchessCo_MorschauserHouse_0011
Bedroom, facing east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 3

Morschauser, Charles House

Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York

County and State



Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier, August 10, 1902























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Morschauser, Charles, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Dutchess

DATE RECEIVED: 6/30/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/04/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/19/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000487

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.18.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643



19 June 2014

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following two National Register nominations, both on discs, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Charles Morschauser House, Dutchess County
Corlies-Ritter-Hart House, Dutchess County

Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office