

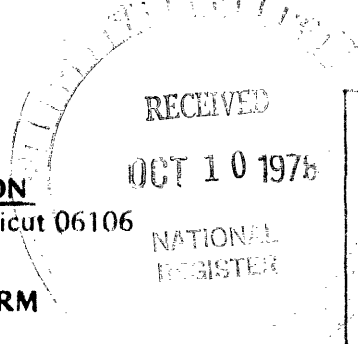
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: John and Isabella Hooker House Historic: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Hartford VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Hartford
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 140 Hawthorn Street
- 4. OWNER(S): \_\_\_\_\_ PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Multiple apartment Historic: Single-family residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Villa DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1861
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 clapboard  asbestos siding  brick  
 wood shingle  asphalt siding  fieldstone  
 board & batten  stucco  cobblestone  
 aluminum siding  concrete: type: \_\_\_\_\_  cut stone: type: brownstone  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_ foundation/window trim
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 wood frame:  post and beam  balloon  
 load bearing masonry  structural iron or steel  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ROOF: type:  
 gable  flat  mansard  monitor  sawtooth  
 gambrel  shed  hip  round  other \_\_\_\_\_  
material:  
 wood shingle  roll asphalt  tin  slate  
 asphalt shingle  built up  tile  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 55' x 50'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: 1906-Floor added to form 2<sup>nd</sup> story;  
1924-Porte-cochere added
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
 carriage house  shop  garden \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 open land  woodland  residential  scattered buildings visible from site  
 commercial  industrial  rural  high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Totally surrounded by ca. 1950 apartment units, the Hooker House is barely visible from the road, but retains some shrubbery immediately surrounding the house.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

The Hooker House is a typical Gothic villa of the type popularized in the mid-nineteenth century by the books of Calvert Vaux and Andrew Jackson Downing. The steep slate roof is interrupted by gables and high dormers decorated with sawn verge boards and lit by lancet windows. The verge boards continue under the horizontal eaves as well so that the house is entirely encircled by verge boards. Construction is brick with brownstone trim. Later addition of a Collegiate Gothic porte-cochere (1924) confuses the facade but the 1906 renovation, in which the entire roof was raised and a second story added, is in sympathy with the verticality of the structure, and preserve the feeling of the original.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Octavius Jordan Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

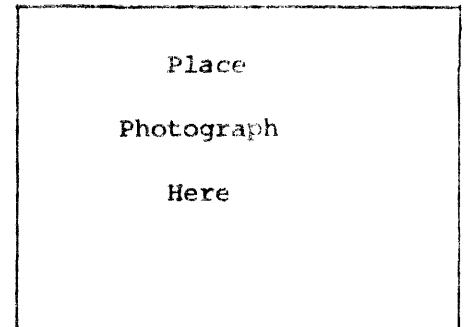
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The Hookers started this house soon after the purchase of the Inlay Farm by John Hooker and Francis Gillette, in 1853. In the early 1860's, Octavius Jordan, an architect of English origin, was engaged to enlarge the house; its present appearance dates from Jordan's work. Two similar villas were designed by Jordan in Asylum Hill, one, now demolished, for Isabella Hooker's sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The first house constructed on the Nook Farm tract, the Hooker House serves as focal point and inspiration for the eventual development of that section of Asylum Hill. It is to this house that every other house built in Nook Farm owes its origin. The Hooker-Beecher family connections helped establish the area as an enclave of literate and well-to-do Hartford notables.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: \_\_\_\_\_  
date: \_\_\_\_\_ view: \_\_\_\_\_  
negative on file: \_\_\_\_\_



COMPILED BY:

name: David Ranson, Sarah Zimmer date: May 1, 1978  
organization: Hartford Architecture Conservancy  
address: 65 Gathersfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114

19. SOURCES:

Isabella Hooker Collection, Stowe-Day Library, 77 Forest St., Hartford CT  
Joseph Van Why, Nook Farm, Hartford, Stowe-Day Foundation, 1975.  
Mrs. M.B. Landon, 6 Stratford Road, West Hartford, CT- Telephone interview  
by David Ranson. Mrs. Landon (nee Harrow) was born in the house.

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

\_\_\_none known \_\_\_highways \_\_\_vandalism \_\_\_developers \_\_\_other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_renewal \_\_\_private \_\_\_deterioration \_\_\_zoning \_\_\_explanation: \_\_\_\_\_