

PH 363162

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 29 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 26 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Charles Ives*
The Ives House

AND/OR COMMON
Charles Ives Birthplace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
7 Mountainville Avenue

CITY, TOWN Danbury
STATE Connecticut
VICINITY OF CODE 09
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #5-Ronald A. Sarasin
COUNTY CODE
Fairfield 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum & Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER 43 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Danbury STATE Connecticut
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall, Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER 155 Deer Hill Avenue

CITY, TOWN Danbury STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN 59 South Prospect, Hartford, Connecticut STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is a one and a half story gambrel-roofed frame building with a small central columnar front entrance (possibly added later than the building of the original house; they are typical of the early 19th century), having a gabled portion supported by two square fluted columns with fluted capitals; and joined to the house by two corinthian pilasters. This portico has a closed pediment and dentil course with half-round moulding. The exterior is done in clapboard with the corner boards beaded, and the windows double-hung, six panes over six. The original portion of the house is the gambreled main section, built circa 1780. Viewed from the gables, there are two windows at the half-story. Above the half-story is a small four-paned window in the attic. The cornice has a narrow rake, the eaves projecting one foot with a dentil course.

Viewed from the front, this section has two equal-sized, centrally placed windows on either side of the portion. Also at the front of the house are three dormer windows on the lower slant of the roof, added by the Ives family when the house was first moved in 1924 to Chapel Place. Over each of these windows there are small semicircular fanlights. A similar semielliptical fanlight is over the front door. In line with the door is the large rectangular central chimney. The present visible chimneys are replacements and will be restored as they appeared in the 18th century.

To the rear and left of the house, a wing had been added in the 19th century, making the L shaped building that exists today, and that existed during most of the occupancy of the Ives family. This portion of the house has a straight-pitched roof, the left side (or south side) being longer than the right. The left side of this roof has a double-windowed dormer without a fanlight, and there are five double-hung windows across the width of the half-story. At the first floor is a small porch (probably a Victorian addition) attached straddling the original portion of the house. This open porch is supported by two square fluted columns similar to the ones under the portico. The rear wing also has a central chimney, but half the size of the one at the front of the house. At the gable end of this wind is a door placed off center on the first floor, and two windows also off center at the half-story. Above these is another small four-paned window in the attic.

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In the elbow of the two wings is a small rectangular addition roofed at the first floor ceiling line. This contains three equal-sized windows on the north side, and a door on the west side. Over this has been added a large dormer attached to the rear wing, with a flat slanted roof.

The exterior of the house is in its original condition (the condition at the time of occupancy by the Ives family) as shown in period photographs. The architectural alteration consists of three dormer windows added by the Ives family to the gambrel roof of the front section. Alterations by the Scott-Fanton Museum consist of the enlargement of a large dormer to the rear wing of the house to complete a caretaker's apartment on the second floor.

The house was moved from its original site on Main Street in Danbury by the Ives family in 1924, to property on Chapel Place, just behind the Main Street site. It was moved again in 1967 to the present site of the Rogers Park Junior High School, and again to its present site on property adjoining Rogers Park in 1971. The building was moved originally to make way for the Danbury National Bank. The second time it was moved because the Fairfield County Trust Co. needed room to expand, at which time the house was given to the Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum. Museum property at 43 Main Street was not sufficient to accommodate the Ives Homestead. It was necessary to purchase fourteen acres in Rogers Park to provide an immediate site for the house.

The present site of the Ives house adjoins a city park (Rogers Park) on property bought by the Museum for this purpose in 1967. Soon after, the city needed the 14-acre site on which the house stood to build the Rogers Park Junior High. The city bought the property from the Museum and leased seven of those acres to the Museum as a 99 year lease with a renewal option. It is on these seven acres that the Ives house now stands, bordered by the Junior High property and Mountainville Avenue.

The interior of the house has been greatly altered; little or no original fabric is apparent. Interior woodwork consists of plain Victorian moldings, mantels and doors. The floor is composed of uniform width tongue and groove boards. The interior walls appear to be plaster over machine sawed lathe.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Ives Homestead achieves its principle significance as the birthplace of Charles Edward Ives (1874-1954) recognized as America's most original and outstanding composer, the creator of modern American music, there are few houses now standing in Danbury that have been more closely associated with the history and growth of the city.

The house was built soon after the Revolutionary War by Thomas Tucker who purchased the land in 1780. He erected the original house (gambrelled section) and conducted a private school there. The house came into the possession of Isaac Ives (born Jan. 13, 1764) in 1828 and remained in the possession of the Ives family until 1962. Isaac's son, George White Ives, was very active in the early growth and development of Danbury and was foremost in many community enterprises. He was one of the original incorporators and first treasurer of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad; one of the organizers of the Danbury Gas Company; laid out the Wooster Cemetery (1851); and founded the Savings Bank of Danbury in the parlor of the Ives home (1849).

All of these enterprises in which George White Ives had a hand were generated during informal gatherings at the Ives homestead. The "north parlor" served as a convenient meeting place located as it was in the center of town. Later on, during the occupancy of Lyman Brewster who had married an Ives, this same parlor served as the study in which much of the work involved in drafting one of the landmark acts in the field of American jurisprudence--the Negotiable Instruments Act, carried out by Judge Brewster as Chairman of the Commission on Uniform Laws of the American Bar Association, together with Woodrow Wilson, a fellow member of the Commission. They met on several occasions at 210 Main St. to work out the details of drafting the proposed law.

There were five children born to George W. and his wife Sarah, one of which died in childhood. Joseph Moss Ives was active too in community enterprises and served on the Board of Directors of the Danbury Agricultural Fair. Mrs. Joseph Ives (Sarah Cooley Merritt) served as Director of the Danbury Hospital founded in 1890. Another son, George Edward, was born in 1845 and served as cashier and Director

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, J.M., History of Danbury, 1896.

Scott-Fanton Museum, historical reference archives.

Wooldridge, David, From the Steeples and Mountains: A Study of Charles Ives, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one (1)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	6 3 0 0 0 0	4 5 8 2 1 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Dorothy T. Schling, Director

ORGANIZATION Scott-Fanton Museum & Historical Society DATE Feb. 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 43 Main St. TELEPHONE _____


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.

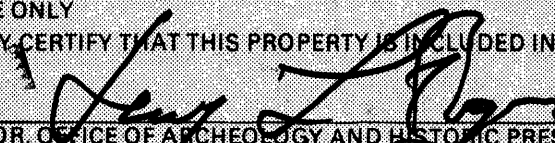
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE John W. Shannahan DATE 3/18/76


State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

 DATE 4/26/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:  DATE 4-23-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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of the Savings Bank and at the request of Col. Nelson L. White founded the Connecticut Volunteer Bank and served in the Civil War with the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery.

Charles Edward Ives was born on October 20, 1874 in the Ives homestead. With his father, a music teacher, and his mother, a Church soloist, Charles grew up in an atmosphere saturated with marches, Church hymns, sentimental meolodies, and barn-dance fiddling. Many an evening in the family parlor was devoted to the music of Bach, Handel, and Beethoven.

Charles Ives moved out of his birthplace to a house on Stevens Street with his parents and brother when his Aunt Amelia came home with her husband Lyman Brewster to take care of Charles' aged grandmother Mrs. George W. Ives. Amelia insisted that her brothers get out of the house, but according to family members, there was never a day that the family did not gather at the old homestead. Charles and his brother continued to spend most of their time in the backyard playing grocery store in a small building directly behind the old house.

After a few years on Stevens St. in 1879 the George E. Ives family moved to 10 Chapel Place behind the Main Street house. According to Bigelow Ives, the family from then on were in the Main St. house more than at home and the Chapel Place house was considered an annex to the homestead since it was on adjoining property.

In 1894 Ives entered Yale. There he studied music under Horatio Parker. Ives became an accomplished organist and composed music as a career. He continued to write until 1930 when, because of a heart condition, he retired to his home in West Redding, Connecticut.

Ives' music includes four symphonies, six sonatas, orchestral works, and nearly two hundred songs. Public recognition came late. Few of his works were performed in his lifetime, but he did receive great satisfaction from a performance of the Second Symphony by Leonard Bernstein in 1951.

His rugged dissonances, his quartertones and conflicting rythms were a new music for America. "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," heard in the Second Symphony, becomes a masterpiece with a firecracker 4th of July explosiveness. On one of his scores, Ives write a note for the copier: "Don't fix anything. Every wrong note is right!"

Charles was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the most distinguished musical composition performed in 1946. He died at his West Redding home in 1954.

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Charles went to New Haven in 1893 first to prep school and then to Yale and did not really return to Danbury to live thereafter. However, when he did return, it was always to the Homestead. His mother returned to live in the house after Amelia died. Her sister lived there with her until Mrs. Ives died in 1929. It was during this period that the house was first moved. Charles and J. Moss, his brother decided to move the house because it was being completely surrounded by business and had lost its "aura" that had inspired Ives music. The two elderly ladies objected and in fact stayed right in the house when it was moved a few rods up the hill off the business street.

After Charles Ives' death and the death of his sister-in-law, who was the last family occupant of the house, the family sold the property to the Fairfield County Bank which wanted to expand its parking lot. It was entirely surrounded by business and the bank arranged for it to be taken over by the Historical Society which moved it to a site adjoining a city park hoping to recapture the essence about the house that Charles had loved and remembered in his musical composition.

The house had great meaning to Danburians because of its significance in town history. The people who occupied it including Charles, were important to the growth of the community; it represents the past to Danbury as no other house does. Townspeople regretted the necessity of moving the house, but are not disturbed on that account since they know that the building wouldn't be in existence otherwise. They do not connect the Ives family of Charles with any other house in town.

As far as houses Ives was associated with during his lifetime, the Redding House was a dearly loved residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ives, but they did not live in it during his productive years, nor did it provide any inspiration or background material for his music.

The two houses in Hartsdale, New York where he lived during his most productive years are no longer in existence.

He lived in eight places in New York City, but they are more associated with Ives' business career than with his music. He wrote much of his music on the commuter trains, which were more important than his home to his life as a musician.

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Charles Ives Remembered: An Oral History, by Vivian Perlis, 1974.

Charles E. Ives Memos, edited by John Kirkpatrick, 1972.

Charles Ives and His Music, by Henry & Sidney Cowell, 1955.