

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 14 1979

SEP 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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

The C. J. Starr Barn ^{anal} Carriage House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 Strawberry Hill Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stamford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th-Stewart B. McKinney

STATE

Connecticut

___ VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

Fairfield

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

___ DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
___ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Sisters of St. Joseph Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

c/o 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Stamford

STATE

Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Old Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

175 Atlantic Street

CITY, TOWN

Stamford

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1979

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

Connecticut STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The C. J. Starr Barn-Carriage House, a large one and one half story vernacular structure, with Gothic Revival and Italianate elements, is located approximately one mile north of Stamford's central business district on Strawberry Hill Avenue, (see Photos #1 & 2). Strawberry Hill is one of several hills which encircle the city's center. The thirteen acre site is owned by Sacred Heart Academy, a women's parochial school. The building, situated towards the rear of the property, is bordered to the north by Fifth Street, a public roadway, and to the south, east and west by the property in its entirety. The picturesque site consists of well landscaped fields, with a small apple orchard. Access drives wind between the centrally placed academic and residential facilities. The academic and residential facilities date from the 1920's and the 1960's and are not included in the nomination as they do not relate in style or scale to the barn-carriage house. In addition, there are two late nineteenth century caretaker's cottages on the property (see map marked Site: Location and Plan).

The smaller section of the barn-carriage house is a one and one half story structure of wood frame construction. It rests on a rough fieldstone foundation, 24'x30'. The exterior is sheathed with board and batten siding. Small ornamental scrollwork brackets appear under the slightly projecting eaves of a shallow pitched gable roof. The south elevation reveals a pair of double-hung sash windows, two over two, flanking a central entrance (see Photo #2). The north elevation has a steeply pitched cross-gable prominently projecting over a round arched loft door. The west elevation has been remodelled to accommodate an overhead garage door. All other known exterior alterations are indicated on the sheets marked "Description of Known Alterations". The interior of this section has also been remodelled and no original features remain.

The larger section of the C.J. Starr Barn-Carriage House, 40'x75' in plan, is also of wood frame construction resting on a rough fieldstone foundation. The board and batten siding is also repeated. The south elevation is distinguished by twin steeply pitched cross-gables which project over round arched loft doors (see Photo #2). Large ornamental scrollwork brackets, which repeat the curvilinear design of the smaller brackets, appear under the wide overhanging eaves of the shallow pitched gable roof. The north elevation reveals a central carriage entrance with an arched enframement. Surmounting this entrance is a round arched loft door protected by yet another steeply pitched, projecting cross-gable. A second carriage entrance, to the west, retains its original double barn doors. A single doorway, to the east, is also noted.

The east elevation has a single "bull's-eye" gable end window. The two doorways are later additions. The ramp, now paved over, would indicate the presence of another carriage entrance, obviously no longer extant. Again, any further alterations are noted on the sheets marked "Description of Known Alterations".

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET - #1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| | |
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| DATE ENTERED | SEP 14 1979 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

In 1889 Henry K. McHarg, a wealthy New York businessman, took title to the property and immediately "modernized both the main house and the outbuildings in the style of the day. The results of this remodelling remain in the ornamental shingled wainscot at the base of the first story. The shingled ventilating cupola, rectangular with a shallow hipped roof resting on classical corner pilaster, may be of a slightly later date.

In 1928, after the property was donated to the Sisters, the interior of the larger section was converted for use as a gymnasium. At that time a large portion of the loft was removed to provide the height necessary for such a facility. Further renovations included residing the interior walls and ceiling with horizontal tongue and groove pine boarding. A hardwood floor was also installed (see Photo #3). The most intact interior space is a rear saddle room-stall area (visable through the doorway in Photo #3). As shown in Photos #4 & 5, one horse stall with its "turned" iron cresting and original tile floor serve to provide us with a reminder of this structure's original function.

Condition

Most of the alterations to the building's exterior occurred in 1975. At that time, several windows were enclosed and additional fire exits added. A projecting shed to the east of the concrete ramp (south elevation) was demolished. It is important to note that every effort was made on the part of the owners to keep the use of unsympathetic materials to a minimum. The molded battens and ornamental shingles were carefully reproduced to match the original fabric, thereby preserving the architectural integrity of the structure. In all, the C.J. Starr Barn-Carriage House is in excellent structural condition and shows no sign of deterioration or neglect.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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|------------------|
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| DATE ENTERED |

11 SEP 1979
SEP 14 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

C.J. Starr Barn/Carriage House
200 Strawberry Hill Avenue
Stamford, Connecticut

Additional Statement of Significance

The recently completed Historic Resources Inventory of Stamford, a listing of nearly 3000 structures, determined no other barn/carriage house-type building to be of comparable architectural, stylistic and physical significance. Many late 19th century examples of vernacular one and two stall structures, some with lofts above, were noted, but were not considered as important a structure as the C.J. Starr Barn/Carriage House.

Historically, Strawberry Hill Avenue was the home for many of Stamford's most prominent citizens. Their stature in the community was reflected in the large estates they constructed along the Avenue. However, in recent years, almost all of these large tracts have been purchased and redeveloped for condominiums, in an attempt to meet the needs of a critical housing shortage. The Sacred Heart Academy site is unique on the Avenue as it retains all of its nearly twelve acre site with open fields, small apple orchard, caretaker's cottages and the main barn/carriage house. This structure is significant firstly, as an isolated building, unique in size, scale and detailing. More than that though, it is the sole remaining structure of its kind in the city. The integrity of the structure and its site has not been compromised by redevelopment and provides the residents of Stamford with a link to a previous era where economic prosperity created a quality of life now reserved for a select few.

29 August 1979

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 type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input 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 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 | unknown | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | unknown |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The grand scale, fine decorative elements and overall excellent condition combine to make the C.J. Starr Barn-Carriage House an outstanding example of its type in the city of Stamford. Even today, as the sole vestige of a vanished estate, it provides us with an indication of the unique stylistic relationship between the outbuilding and main house of a significant "country seat". Its oversized presence dominates the landscape.

On March 17, 1859, nine of the thirteen acres upon which the structure sits were purchased by C.J. Starr for the purposes of erecting his residence and its ancillary buildings. Town directories of the period list Starr as being in business, but the exact nature of his work remains a mystery. Photographs of the original Starr House (c. 1860, now demolished) show a large Italianate Villa of plan book inspired-carpenter built design. The earliest known documented date of the barn-carriage house is 1879, as it appears in plan on Hopkins' Atlas of Stamford (see Plate #1). However, the 1859 land acquisition date and the structure's stylistic features would seem to indicate an earlier date, perhaps in the 1860's. Since the building is clearly divided into two sections, it is possible that it was constructed in stages.

The plan and design of the C.J. Starr Barn-Carriage House may be traced directly to A.J. Downing's design for a "Model Cottage Stable" as published in The Architecture of Country Houses (1850), a widely distributed plan book of the mid-nineteenth century. In his design, Downing calls for a structure "built of wood, in a rough manner" and "battened".

The dimensions of this model stable, 21'x32', closely parallel those of the smaller section of the barn-carriage house. Starr may have had this section built to Downing's specifications and simply doubled the proportions for the larger section. Although no absolute proof exists to support this theory, it is not at all unlikely that Starr or his carpenter borrowed freely from Downing's design. Nevertheless, the C.J. Starr Barn-Carriage House continues to serve as a vital and unique part of Stamford's architectural heritage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country Houses. New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1969 (reprinted from the original; D. Appleton & Co. 1850)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre
stamford

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 6,2,3,0,8,0 4,5,4,7,0,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordered five feet on the north by 5th St., a public roadway and twenty-five feet south, east and west by open land. See map marked Site: Location and Plan Stamford Land Records: Book #251 Page #183

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 Steven H. Hirschberg
Renee Kahn

ORGANIZATION STAMFORD ARCHITECTURE CONSERVANCY

DATE 24 November 1978

STREET & NUMBER 713 Bedford Street

TELEPHONE (203) 329-1975

CITY OR TOWN Stamford,

STATE Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL x

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 June 5, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Bradam
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9.14.79

ATTEST: Margaret O'Leary
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9/13/79



STRAWBERRY HILL AVE

FIFTH ST.

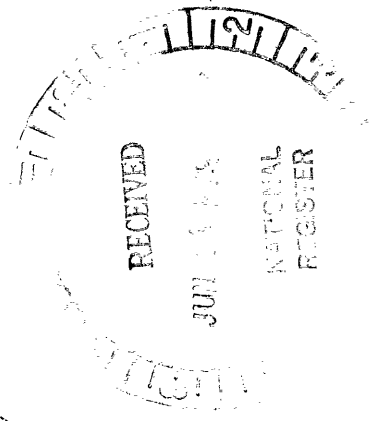
caretaker

barn-carriage house

academic facilities

carpenter

sacred heart academy



BARN-CARRIAGE HOUSE

site: location & plan

scale: 1" = 200'

WINDOW REMOVED

WINDOWS REMOVED

VENTILATING CURBOLA
SHOWS MINI-ENGAGED
CLASSICAL CORNER PLASTER
+ SQUARE BUTT JOINT
SHINGLES

LOFT DOORS ALTERED

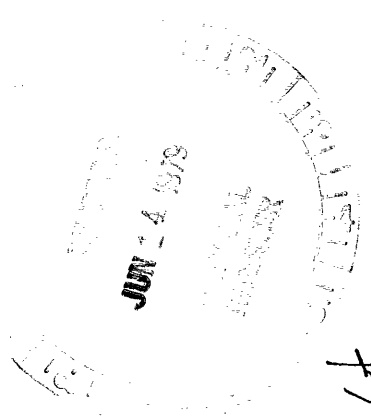
QUEEN ANNE MILKING
SHED REMOVED

EAST CONCRETE RAMP
ADDED

Q.A. CUT TILE SHINGLED WAINSLOT

FOUNDATION STUCCOED

OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR ADDED



"C.J. STARR" BARN-CARRIAGE HOUSE - 200 STRAWBERRY HILL AVE. STAMFORD, CT.
DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN ALTERATIONS: SOUTH + WEST ELEVATIONS