Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DEC 1 1 1979 JAN 2 5 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Charles Walter Hart House AND/OR COMMON

	LOCATION	J			
	STREET & NUMBER				
	800 Th:	ird Avenue		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
	CITY, TOWN		//////////////////////////////////////	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
	Charles	s City	VICINITY OF	3	
	STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u> </u>	Iowa		Floyd	County	
	CLASSIFIC	ATION			
	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
	DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	<u>X</u> BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
	STRUCTURE	ВОТН		EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
	OBJECT	IN PROCESS	-YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
			≖ NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
	NAME	F PROPERTY Dean Ott			
	STREET & NUMBER				
	800 Th:	ird Avenue			
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	
<u> </u>	Charles		VICINITY OF	Iowa 50	2616
ł	LOCATION	I OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		<i>H</i>
	COURTHOUSE,	FTC Flord Country Co	wathowso		- Star
	REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Floyd County Co			
	STREET & NUMBER				
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	CI	harles City	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Iowa	
6	REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
	ΤΪΤLE				
	DATE				
			FEDERALSTA	TECOUNTYLOCAL	
	DEPOSITORY FOR				
	SURVEY RECORDS				
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	

7' DESCRIPTION

	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	ORIGINAL	SITE
G00D	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE The Hart House was built in 1913-14. Exterior walls are of hollow clay tile, faced variously with rockfaced granite (basement), brick (first story), stucco-half-timberwork (gable ends), with water table and window sills of concrete. The broad main roof, with ridge perpendicular to the main facade and projecting rafter ends, features a gablet toward the front, and is finished with a small jerkinhead at the rear. The north side features a projecting rectangular bay of two stories, with two wide garage doors at ground level. The bay is covered with a broad jerkinhead roof with projecting purlins, as is a large wall dormer on the south side. Also on the south side is a first floor polygonal bay, finished in wood and stucco; and a tall exterior chimney that pierces the roof and is constructed of rockfaced granite. The main entrance is set beneath a broad front gable, asymmetrically placed with relation to the main gable, and slightly flared at the eaves. It covers an enclosed porch with square brick piers ending in geometric "capitals".

Window openings are rectilinear, and of varying size. Some original windows have been replaced with thermal panes, most notably the large window at the front, although the sidelights remain. A group of three round-arched louvred openings is set into the front porch gable end. In the north gable end (above the garge) is a single large round-arched window.

The interior structural system is wood, set on a reinforced concrete slab covered with hardwood flooring. The interior has been remodelled, with various arched doorways added, two bedrooms made into one, and the exposed beams (false) originally in the dining room, removed. The exterior, however, is extremely well preserved, the only alteration of note being the covering of the original wood shingled roof with asbestos.



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS		POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		-		

1913-14 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

This house is principally significant as the home of Charles Walter Hart (1872-1937), co-founder with Charles H. Parr of the Hart-Parr Co. in Charles City, a firm that pioneered the development of gasoline tractors during the first decades of the 20th century. The house is also of local significance as a well-preserved and interesting example of Craftsman style architecture, utilizing the rich, naturalistic textures and materials associated with this style, and with Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie houses of this same period. It is one of two houses in Charles City associated with Hart, who lived here from 1914 to 1918. The other, at 609 N. Iowa Avenue, has been extensively altered and thus, on grounds of integrity, was not considered appropriate for nomination to the National Register.

The Hart-Parr Co. was "the first business in the U.S. devoted exclusively to the manufacture of tractors."1 It is also credited with producing the "first successful production farm tractor engine" in 1902,² a two-cylinder horizontal, fourcycle engine capable of drawing a four or five bottom plow. Hart-Parr tractors (the firm is also credited with the introduction of this term³) contributed to a revolution in midwest agriculture as they replaced the much larger, heavier, and more awkward steam engines. The gas engines, noted for the "ruggedness" of their transmissions were designed for "drawbar work" (pulling, plowing) as well as "beltwork" (threshing, etc.), and as the various models developed over the years, they helped move American agriculture from a small-scale, labor-intensive industry toward the large scale, heavily mechanized enterprise of today.

Charles Hart met Charles Parr at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), where both were students in the late 1890's. Their first collaboration was a thesis on gas engines, and they built several models to illustrate this work. After graduation, Hart and Parr opened a small shop in Madison, but in 1900 decided to relocate in Charles City, which appeared to be more centrally located with respect to their prospective customers.

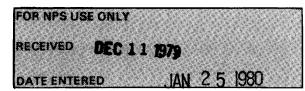
(See Continuation Sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOG	RAPHICAL REFER	ENCES (s	ee Continuation	Sheet)
N.D., Ch "Iowa's Gr 1912), p White Moto	"History of the marles City Public reat Tractor Factor op.10-17. or Corporation, "Pr March, 1975) (histo	Hart-Parr Library. Ty," <u>Iowa</u>	Co.," typescri Factories 1:5 ()	pt, May
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QUADRANGLE NAME UTM REFERENCES A 1 5 5 2 7 7 2 ZONE EASTING C 1		в∟ Ц	QUADRANGLE SCALE	
		FL L		
GL LI		н		
Lot 37, Sunr	rise Hill Subdivision,	Charles City	, Iowa	
LIST ALL STATES AN	ND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTII	ES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUN	DARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARE NAME / TITLE M.H. Bower ORGANIZATION	D BY s, Historian		DATE	
	<u>f Historic Preserv</u>	vation	September,	1979
STREET & NUMBER 26 East Ma	rket Street		TELEPHONE 319-353-694	49
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Iowa City			<u>Iowa 52240</u>	
12 STATE HISTORI				J.
	ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T			
As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property criteria and procedures set forth STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	for inclusion in the National Re h by the National Park Service.			
TITLE Director, Div	vision of Historic	Preservati	DATE	ar 3 1070
FOR NPS USE ONLY	IIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED II			-) [-[7]
KEEPER OF THE NATIO	NAL REGISTER			as s=
ATTEST: Julian F	1. Bratham		DATE / . 24	. 80

GPO 921-803

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Charles Walter Hart House, Charles City, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Their plant opened in 1901, and tractor #1 (Hart-Parr 17-30) appeared that same year. The firm was eventually to employ nearly 1,000 men, and produce new models every few years. Later models, beginning with #40-80 (1908-14) burned either gas or kerosene. Their largest, a fourcylinder vertical engine, was the 60-100 of 1911-12. Hart-Parr also produced stationary engines, and engines for road work. An unusual model was the "Little Red Devil" (1914-16), a two-cylinder, two-cycle thermosyphon water-cooled engine unique in its lack of valves, transmission and differential (the latter possible because the tractor had but one rear wheel).

In the partnership, Parr appears to have been the inventor, while Hart's strength lay in management, and the latter's talents for organiz-Aation and good business practice were noted in publications of the time. World War I, however, put a strain on both the business and the partnership. The market for agricultural engines plumetted, and the firm retooled for production of war materiel, principally shells. A 1915 contract with the British government fell through, but the firm was "saved" by the US entry into the war, and federal contracts for shells, casings for gun mounts, truck wheels, steering engines for ships, and tank parts. After the war, the partnership was dissolved. Hart sold out and moved to Montana, where he went into wheat farming and small-scale oil refining. Parr went to Wisconsin for a few years, and worked with Conrad Frudden (later associated with the Allis-Chalmers Co., also a tractor manufacturer) before returning to Charles City. Parr retained his connections with the company (working as an engineer for the firm), which had been purchased by the Ellis family, until his death in 1941.

The Hart-Parr Co. was merged with three other local companies in 1929, to form the Oliver Corporation, with headquarters in Chicago. Between 1929 and 1960, Oliver acquired many other companies specializing in a wide variety of agricultural equipment. The White Motor Co. of Cleveland, manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks, took over Oliver as a wholly-owned subsidiary in 1960. The Charles City plant, with almost nothing left of the old Hart-Parr factory, is now operated as the White Farm Equipment Co. tractor plant.

Footnotes:

¹ "Our Heritage," p.42.

² Gray, R.B., Development of the Agricultural Tractor in the United States (St Joseph: American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 1956), p.16, quoted in White Motor Corporation, "Progress . . . in Tractor Power from 1898," March, 1975, p.2.

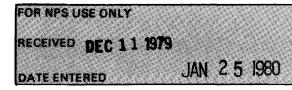
³ White Motor Corporation, "Progress", p.4.

⁴ Wooley, Edward Mott, "Secrets . . . ", <u>World's Work</u>, 27 (1914), 346-352.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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Charles Walter Hart House

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Woolley, Edward Mott, "Secrets of Business Success," World's Work, 27 (1914), pp.346-352.

"Our Heritage: Bicentennial Review of Floyd County", 1976.