

PH0683523

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 30 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 18 1978

**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 Calvin Day House  
AND/OR COMMON Gray Lodge

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 105 Spring Street  
CITY, TOWN Hartford  
STATE Connecticut  
VICINITY OF First -- William R. Cotter  
COUNTY Hartford  
CODE 003

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME The Shelter for Women, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER 105 Spring Street  
CITY, TOWN Hartford  
STATE Connecticut 06103

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hartford Land Records, Municipal Building  
STREET & NUMBER 525 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Hartford  
STATE Connecticut 06103

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Hartford Architecture Conservancy's Architectural Survey of Hartford  
DATE 1976 - 1978  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS The Stowe-Day Memorial Library  
CITY, TOWN Hartford  
STATE Connecticut 06105

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In Hartford, Connecticut, the main railroad line approaches the center of the city at the base of a 60-foot bluff. At the top of the bluff, one block northwest of Union Station, is the Calvin Day House. Its southwest corner lot at the intersection of Spring and Myrtle Streets runs 227 feet on Myrtle Street and 129 feet on Spring Street. At one time equally large and handsome houses neighbored the Calvin Day House, but early in the 20th century they were replaced by the three- and four-story brick apartment houses that now line adjoining streets. Diagonally across Spring Street toward the railroad station is an office building, and a block or two further west are the home offices of two large insurance companies. The Calvin Day house stands in the midst of this 20th century construction little changed from its appearance as it was built in 1852.

The house faces east, toward Spring Street. It is an example of the Italianate style of architecture. Its mass is that of a cube with a rear wing, embellished by a cupola, a wide roof overhang, bay windows, and classic portico. Brownstone was used for foundations, lintels, and sills, brick for exterior walls, and frame for interior construction. The exterior walls, porch, and bays are now painted yellow, and the foundations grey.

The front facade is dominated by the portico, which has steps and floor of brownstone. Fluted columns with intricately detailed Corinthian capitals support a simple architrave and bold, molded cornice. Corresponding Corinthian pilasters flank the doorway. Over the door a transom is separated from side lights by consoles. An egg and dart molding runs between the doorway and the transom.

To the left and right of the portico, and of equal height, are five-sided bays. Their foundations are curved to fit the framing. The window panes are recessed in casement sash that open inward under bracketed cornices. At the second floor are three double floor-to-ceiling six-over-six windows. The lintel of the center pair is shaped like a pediment. The house's shallow hip roof with bracketed eaves supports a cupola. Originally the windows of the cupola were the only source of light and ventilation for the attic. During renovations, probably in the 1950's, dormers were constructed, two on the sides and one in front, breaking the roof overhang. This change damaged the original design of the house but did allow more use of the third floor.

In the north facade, over the side door, is a five-sided oriel window. To its left and right are paired six-over-six windows at both first and second floors. The south facade once was graced with a long porch with a row of Ionic columns running the full depth of the house. This porch was removed during the 1950's.

The rear wing was extended in the 1950's with a single story addition. The second story was added in 1972. Its roofline was constructed to conform with the existing roofline, a fact that with the uniform coat of yellow paint tends to make the addition appear integral to the original house.

Much of the interior of the house is unaltered. The front door opens to a center hall that runs west to the back of the house. In the center of the house a side hall runs from the main hall north to a side door on the north facade. A broad stairway starting from a carved

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Calvin Day House  
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and turned newell post runs up the east wall of this side section of the hall to a landing that is inside the oriel window, and on up to the cupola. Among the original elements that remain in place in the house are doors, doorway surrounds and molded architraves, marble fireplaces with fitted screens and fenders, intricate hammered gilt gas chandeliers, walnut stairway balustrade, statuary niches, and interior shutters that fold into the window frames. At the junction of the center hall with the front hall is an arch supported by carved consoles. To the right of the front door is a reception room, and to the left a drawing room. The windows in these two rooms have their original gilt valences with center cameo medallions.

The house is now used as a social service home for girls. Upstairs, partitions have been introduced to create added sleeping quarters, offices have been installed on the ground floor along with dining facilities, and composition flooring and ceilings are in use in some rooms. On the whole, the original fabric of the house dominates the alterations that have occurred over the years. The house retains its essential integrity both inside and out.

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Asylum. Active in the new Republican Party, he was lieutenant governor 1857-1858.

After the death of Calvin Day, the house descended to his daughter, Caroline E. Day. In later years it was for a time a Shriners' clubhouse, and then, on July 1, 1929, the heirs of Caroline E. Day sold the property to the Shelter for Women, an institution founded in 1891. In 1926 the Shelter for Women adopted the name Gray Lodge for the quarters it then occupied in downtown Hartford and brought this name to its new location in 1929. The agency has continued to perform its important service in the Calvin Day House since that time.

At the present time the Calvin Day House is an unusually well-maintained 1852 Italianate structure, little altered on the exterior, enjoying much of its elaborate decorative detail on the interior, and performing an important service to the Hartford community under the aegis of a venerable private charitable institution.

# 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 1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Calvin Day House is significant as a fine example of an elaborate Italianate house from the 1850's that has survived with few interior or exterior alterations. Calvin Day, by participating actively in Hartford's business and cultural institutions, made a strong contribution to the city's 19th century development. The time honored record of service of the present owner, The Shelter for Women, Inc., adds an important association to the house.

A number of brick Italianate houses similar to Calvin Day's were built in Hartford in the mid-19th century. Among many others, Lewis Street shows several examples. There, three square brick houses with elaborate doorways were built on the east side prior to 1850, and two with roof overhangs and classic porticos were built in the 1850's, all five still in situ. A similar double house of the period stands at 49-51 Wethersfield Avenue with Corinthian capitals as intricately carved as those on the Calvin Day house. Another double house of this description was demolished within the past ten years on Asylum Avenue, not far from the Calvin Day House. The architect is known for none of these houses. Their similarity suggests that most were probably built by joiners using plans in the public domain. The Calvin Day House, however, has features not found in the others that suggest the professional hand of an unknown architect. These features, on the exterior, are the two five-sided bays on the front facade, the oriel on the north, and the Ionic porch on the south. These elements plus the felicitous interior arrangement of the principal rooms, hall, and stairway, with the elegant decorative detail, all suggest professional design. The Calvin Day House has undergone fewer changes, and retains more of its original decorative detail, than the others that survive, perhaps because it has changed hands fewer times.

The 1850 map of Hartford shows an empty lot at the southwest corner of Spring and Myrtle Streets. Henry C. Deming sold this lot to J. Seymour Brown, a bookbinder, October 1, 1851, for \$2,100 (Hartford Land Records 82/86). The city directory first lists Brown in 1853 as living at the corner of Spring and Myrtle Streets, fixing the year of construction as 1852. Brown sold the premises to Calvin Day (1803-1884) June 18, 1855, for an unspecified amount (HLR 94/279).

Calvin Day was a descendent of Robert Day, who arrived in Connecticut in 1636 with the Rev. Thomas Hooker. He was a partner in the wholesale dry goods firm of Day, Owen and Co. In addition, he had interests in insurance and banking, and was a principal in the development of the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad. In civic affairs, he was president of the Wadsworth Atheneum from 1862 to 1884, secretary of the Watkinson Library 1842-1861, and a member of the boards of the Retreat for the Insane and the Deaf and Dumb

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marian G.M. Clarke, David Watkinson's Library, Hartford:  
Trinity College Press, 1966.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.75

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:25 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 69,24,9,0 46,2,6,7,3,0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is, city lot No. 6196, as recorded in Volume 662, page 276 of Hartford Land Records.

## 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

David F. Ransom and Marlene Isler

ORGANIZATION

Hartford Architecture Conservancy

DATE

March 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

65 Wethersfield Avenue

TELEPHONE

203 525-0279

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT 06114

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

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 Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

August 18, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12-18-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

12/18/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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GRAY LODGE



(Sketch) 3

CALVIN DAY HOUSE

Hartford, CT

Russell, Gibson von

Dohlen sketch, 1972

NORTH FACADE VIEW

SOUTHWEST DEC 1972