

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John W. Draper House

AND/OR COMMON

Draper Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 407 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Hastings-on-Hudson

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
23rd

STATE

New York

VICINITY OF
CODE
36COUNTY
WestchesterCODE
119**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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

STREET & NUMBER

18 Dellwood Road

CITY, TOWN

Yonkers-Bronxville

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, COUNTY Lands and Deeds Office
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building

CITY, TOWN

White Plains

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

12

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John W. Draper's home at Draper's Park in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, was probably built around 1840. The simple house is a two story frame cottage with attic built in the vernacular style of the period. Although the fluted eaves with brackets at the first story as well as the vertical and horizontal boarding are interesting, the house is of no particular architectural importance.

The integrity of the exterior and interior is whole. The original house as well as a small brick extension on the west side date from the Draper period. No significant interior or exterior alterations have been made since Draper's granddaughter donated the house to the American Scenic and Preservation Society.

John W. Draper moved to Hastings-on-Hudson in 1840 and lived there until his death in 1882. At one time an observatory, which was used by both Draper and his son Henry, was located on the property, but it is no longer extant.

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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 checked="" 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 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 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

John W. Draper was born May 5, 1811, near Liverpool, England. The son of a Methodist minister, Draper was educated in mathematics and the classics at Woodhouse, a small Wesleyan institution. In 1829 he entered London University where he majored in chemistry. Draper's education was cut short by the death of his father in 1831. In 1832 his mother decided to emigrate to the United States to join relatives living in Christianville, Virginia. In 1835, with funds saved by his devoted sister Dorothy, Draper entered the University of Pennsylvania to complete his education. In Philadelphia he had the opportunity to study with Robert Hare, the foremost American scientist of the period.

After graduating in 1836 Draper accepted a teaching position as professor of natural history at Hampden-Sidney College in Virginia. He remained there two years. In 1838 he answered a call to the University of the City of New York. Here he taught classes in chemistry and physiology. In 1850 Draper helped organize a medical school and became its first president. He remained associated with the school until his death on January 4, 1882.

As a student of natural history during the middle years of the nineteenth century, Draper made contributions to many areas which later become individual physical and biological sciences. Popularly he is best remembered for his work in photochemistry. Draper improved the Daguerre process by speeding up the exposure time. He became the first person to photograph the moon and the solar spectrum, the first person to take photomicrographs, and, incidentally, the first person to take true portrait photographs. His most significant contribution to basic science was in the field of chemistry and physics. During his researchs on photochemistry, Draper discovered that light brought about chemical reactions. This discovery led to the formulation of the concept of the "Draper point," i.e. that substances heated to the point of 525 degrees C glow a dull red and when heated above this Draper point they become white. Draper's work as a pioneer in radiant energy was an important step on the road to the study of light diffraction and spectrum analysis.

In addition to this work in chemistry, Draper cultivated an expertise in physiology. His book on the subject, Human Physiology, Statical and Dynamical (1856) was the leading physiology textbook of its period. It contained the first photomicrographs ever published.

(Continued)

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Issac Asimov, Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (Garden City, 1964).
 "John William Draper," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 5 (New York, 1930).
 Nathan Reingold, editor, Science in Nineteenth Century America (New York, 1964).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	519,423,8	4438180	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

James Sheire, Historian

March 1975

ORGANIZATION

OAHP-Historic Sites Survey-National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Statement of Significance:

Draper Park

During the 1850's Draper also developed an interest in history. In 1863 he published a major work in intellectual history titled History of the Intellectual Development of Europe. The book's basic conceptual approach was derived from the Lamarckian theory of evolution. According to famous French naturalist, Jean Pierre Lamarck, evolution was based on the inheritance of characteristics which were formed by an organism's environment. Draper applied this theory to intellectual history by claiming that ideas were also determined by environment and evolved from one generation to another. The work was very well received and was translated into many languages. Its significance rested in the attempt to employ a concept of the biological sciences to interpret intellectual history. Between 1867 and 1870 Draper wrote a three volume history of the American Civil War. The work, which Gen. William T. Sherman read before publication, was one of the first significant histories of the conflict. In 1874 Draper returned to intellectual history in History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science. The critics liked the work.

John W. Draper's significance in the history of science in America is twofold. First, his basic research in photochemistry and spectrum analysis made real contributions to the advancement of science. Second, in his role as historian he attempted to apply the concepts of science to a traditional liberal arts discipline. Although Draper was universally admired in his day, the next generation of scientists viewed him as something of an amateur. These scientists were all specialists. They failed to recognize that Draper was a product and witness to a period when the state of scientific knowledge was such that one man could master several fields. In his Science in Nineteenth-Century America, Nathan Reingold defends both Draper and his son Henry against the amateur charge. "They," Reingold writes, "were clearly more than amateurs...They were in the mainstream of research in physics." Draper's significance was that he was one of the last American scientists who could conduct important pure science research and at the same time engage his energies in other disciplines such as intellectual history. A so-called two cultures did not exist at the middle of the nineteenth century. By the time Draper died in 1882, the study of natural history was dead. It had become almost impossible to be simultaneously a chemist, physicist, physiologist, and historian. Science was in the process of fragmenting nature into regions where only the expert willing to devote all his energies and concentration to a single field dared tread.

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