

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **JAN 20 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lewis June House

and/or common Scott House

2. Location

street & number 478 North Salem Road, NA not for publication

city, town Ridgefield NA vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>NA</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John W. and Flavia E. Scott

street & number 478 North Salem Road

city, town Ridgefield NA vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ridgefield Land Records, Town Hall

street & number 400 Main Street

city, town Ridgefield state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 June House, built by Lewis June, c. 1865, is sited close to the road, facing west, about two miles north of the center of Ridgefield in an area that is semi-rural/semi-residential. Other houses along this section of the North Salem Road are of similar size and age, well spaced from one another.

The distinctive feature that sets the June House apart from its neighbors is its architectural style, the French Second Empire. It is one of only several examples of the Second Empire style in Ridgefield. ¹ The house is a 36 x 38-foot frame structure on stone foundations, covered with clapboards, and with a mansard roof. The elaborate detailing and trim of the house are of good quality, and appear to be largely intact. (Photograph 1) A former rear ell and good-sized barn have been removed.

On the front elevation, behind a 1-story porch, there is a shallow, central, projecting, 3-story pavilion. On either side of the pavilion at each floor there is a single 2-over-2 window, apparently with original sash, and with blinds and a flat molded cornice. These windows, left and right, at the first story are floor-to-ceiling height, over recessed panels. At the second story they are normal height, and at the third story, in the mansard dormers, are further reduced in height with the glazing of the upper sash segmental.

The glazing pattern of the pavilion is different. At the second floor, over the porch, are paired, round-headed, 1-over-1 windows. The cap over them has wooden foliate cresting. The attic dormer, above, has a single, round-headed, 1-over-1 window.

The second-story eaves are marked by a molded, projecting cornice supported by elaborate but small foliate brackets.

(Photograph 2) The cornice extends entirely around the house. The mansard dormers above the cornice continue the elaborate trim. The pediments of the flanking windows are supported by smaller brackets. Each window has sawn, S-shaped consoles projecting left and right from the lower portion of its jambs. The flanking dormers have small key blocks crowned by cresting recessed under their broken chords while the central dormer is crowned with cresting similar to that found beneath it at the second floor.

The pavilion terminates above the central dormer and above the mansard in a small pediment whose deeply recessed tympanum is enriched with an applied stylized anthemion motif.

The house is presumed originally to have had iron cresting at the roof line and the mansard probably was covered with slate, perhaps polychromatic. There probably were several tall brick chimneys.

The side elevations, generally, are similar to the front. On the south side, toward the street, there is a 2-story, polygonal bay. Its three first-floor windows, not as tall as those on the front, are segmentally arched and glazed at the top like most of the dormers. There are horizontal panels below these windows and vertical panels to left and right. A projecting first-story cornice is supported by modillions.

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Continuation sheet Surveys

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Ridgefield Architectural Resources Survey

1979

local

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places

1983

state

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

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Description

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The second story of the bay is smaller, set back, and has round-headed windows like those in the front pavilion but here with 2-over-2 glazing, and has a flat roof that projects over a dentil course.

The house is protected from the street by a hedge at the lot line. A wooden picket gate in the hedge, between square posts is of unusual design. Each picket is double, with the two pieces connected by half-round sections at top and bottom. They are of graduated heights, with the tallest in the center. There is a sawn arrow motif at the top of each picket. (Photograph 3). Inside the gate is a cylindrical box shrub. A stone walk leads around either side of the shrub to the front porch.

The porch has paired, square, chamfered posts at the front corners, with incised capitals in the Neo-Grec manner. The entablature above the posts has a barely pointed arch between each pair, flanking a central flat arch with rounded corners. The flat roof is supported by ornamented brackets. The profile of these brackets includes a horizontal volute and a vertical curve, different from other brackets on the house. The front doorway has a transom with central, vertical muntin. Attached half posts flank the doorway.

At the rear of the house, foundations are visible for a former rear wing (Photographs 8 and 9), that was moved away, c. 1940, to become part of the house next door to the north. The rear of the house now has a simple, Neo-Classical Revival porch (Photograph 7). A barn also was moved away, c. 1940. The remaining outbuilding, of uncertain origin, is now used as a studio. It is a 1-story, frame, gable-roofed structure with a brick chimney in its east wall. (Photograph 4).

In the side yard to the south, there is extensive planting of box shrubs, as found inside the front gate.

The interior of the house is divided by a central hallway with two rooms on either side. The stairway in the hall has a railing of thick spindles and a heavy newel. Three-quarters of the way up the flight, where the stairs turn to the right with winders, there is a niche in the wall. (Photograph 5) The two rooms on the right are living rooms, joined by sliding doors, each with a fireplace for a gas fire. In the front room the mantel is marble with raised key block and incised decoration (Photograph 6), while in the rear room the mantel is slate. The hardwood floors in these rooms are laid with the boards parallell to each wall.

The interior doors as well as the windows appear to be original, as do the baseboards, cornices and door and window surrounds. The bold profiles of the moldings of this interior trim are typical of the period.

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 c. 1865 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C (Architecture)

The June House is the outstanding example of the French Second Empire style of architecture in Ridgefield. Its mansard roof with dormers, central pavilion with porch, and bold massing epitomize the style. The elaborate and carefully detailed ornamentation of the main block of the house, both exterior and interior, is largely intact and gives the house distinction in the community.

Ridgefield was a quiet country town during the 19th century until after the Civil War when it became a resort community. The number of buildings constructed was relatively small, and not all the fashionable 19th-century architectural styles found representation in the town. While there are a number of Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne style houses, few pure examples of the Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Second Empire, Stick Style or Shingle Style are found. In these circumstances, it is particularly fortunate that as fine an example of the Second Empire style as the June House has survived in good condition. There is no other example in Ridgefield of this style of comparable quality and integrity.

The Ridgefield Architectural Resources Survey mentions two other Second Empire structures. One is a house on the West Branchville Road, behind the Branchville Railroad station. This example is smaller and less pretentious than the June House, is covered with asbestos siding, has lost some of its former ornament and has received insensitive alterations to its porch. The other is the house now at 27 Governor Street, moved to that location, c. 1900, from across the road to make way for the Governor Lounsbury mansion. It has been extensively altered.

The basic characteristics of the Second Empire style clearly are present in the June House. The high mansard roof, with a cornice dividing the two roof slopes, dormer windows of more than one shape and a projecting pavilion all are hallmarks of the style. Only prominent chimneys, commonly found in Second Empire structures, and perhaps roof cresting, are missing, but it may be conjectured that the house did once have these features. In addition, the absence of the rear ell is unfortunate. Nonetheless, the building does retain the majority of its Second Empire architectural components, notably the elaborate exterior trim. The overall effect is tall, bold and emphatically three dimensional as the Second Empire should be.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bedini, Silvio, Ridgefield in Review, Ridgefield: 1958
Rockwell, George Lounsbury, The History of Ridgefield, Connecticut,
Ridgefield, 1927.
Ridgefield Land Records, 14/118, 59/277, 80/455.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 3/4

Quadrangle name Peach Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	2	4	4	5	0	4	5	7	1	4	7	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is described in the Ridgefield Land Records at volume 80, page 455. The boundary as described therein includes the land that goes with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant - edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date July 17, 1983

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state Connecticut

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 January 13, 1984

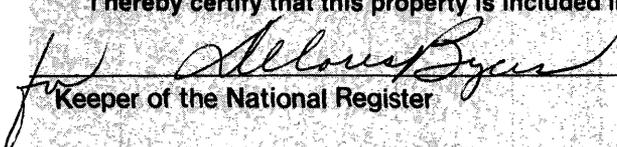
For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

2/16/84

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Generally, the Second Empire style made use of classically detailed trim. In the June House, the classically detailed trim is limited to the pediments of the dormers and the pavilion terminal and the dentil course of the upper roof of the bay. Elsewhere, the trim, in part, shows the influence of the scroll saw, as in the sawn cresting and modillion brackets and especially in the vertical S consoles flanking the dormers. Such scroll-saw work is often associated with the Queen Anne style. In further variation from the usual Second Empire, the paired porch posts and round-headed windows of the pavilion and bay (itself a Queen Anne feature) reflects Italianate and Neo-Grec influence, as do the floor-to-ceiling, first-floor windows.

Speculation as to the source of the design suggests the use of one of the pattern books such as were published by the Pallisers of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and many others. The design was carefully thought out, particularly with respect to the windows, both as to their graduated size in the front elevation and their configuration -- square, round-headed and segmental. The detailing of the porch post capitals, the modillion brackets of the several cornices and the ornamentation of the dormers all help to make the June House a complete example of its type on the exterior.

While the rear wing of the house and at least one barn have been removed, the site does have benefit of the unusual wooden gate, which may be original, and the box shrubs between it and the front porch. Additional box is located in the south side yard, a type of landscape planting not frequently found in Ridgefield. The exterior of the house and the grounds combined with the original interior plan and detailing of heavy hall newel and stair railing, marble and slate fireplace mantels and hardwood flooring give the house considerable distinction.

Historical Background

Lewis June (d.1891) bought 17 acres of land with "homestead" in 1831.¹ According to local tradition, the existing house burned, at an unknown date, and June built the present structure in its place. The only indication of its date of construction is its architectural style.

Lewis June was in the circus business. He was a partner in the June, Titus and Angevine & Co. Circus that as early as 1842 toured 85 towns in six states. The circus wintered in Ridgefield. The horses were kept on the June property. The number of horse shoes that keep turning up, many of them small in size, presumably for ponies, suggests that the remaining outbuilding with its chimney may have been used as a smithy.

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Other circus animals were kept during the winter on the properties of other partners in the circus. One partner kept the elephant. "The elephant was employed to carry loads of grain upon its back, and while on the highway scared many a farmer's horse."²

At the term of the century, after the death of Lewis June, the house and barns and 17 acres were sold to the Crane family. When Ellen Crane Kemble sold the house and 2 3/4 acres in 1940,³ she reserved the right to remove the rear portion of the dwelling house and a barn, presumably setting up housekeeping next door on the north acreage she retained. The Scotts, the present owners, purchased the property in 1957.

1. Ridgefield Land Records (RLR) 14/118.
2. George Lounsbury Rockwell, The History of Ridgefield, Connecticut, Ridgefield, 1927, p. 428.
3. RLR 59/277.