

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Arthur G. Pomeroy House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

490 Ann Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

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

City of Hartford, Redevelopment Agency

STREET & NUMBER

550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Clerk's office

STREET & NUMBER

550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Stowe-Day Library, 77 Forest Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

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

The Arthur G. Pomeroy House at 490 Ann Street in Hartford, Connecticut, is a large and ornate 1882 townhouse, with extensive decorative structural detail, complex massing, and a picturesque roofline. The 2½-story brick house, which stands on land cut from the once-extensive Daniel Goodwin estate, was built in 1882 by Arthur G. Pomeroy, a wealthy leaf-tobacco grower from Suffield, north of Hartford. The house, with strong elements of the High Victorian Gothic style, is archetypical of a Queen Anne style dwelling particularly popular in Hartford during the period. Set on a narrow lot behind a masonry retaining wall, the Pomeroy House is now closely bounded by early 20th-century low-rise apartment buildings. The House has been vacant for several years and is now in fair condition; the surrounding urban residential neighborhood has suffered much demolition in recent years.

The central mass of the house consists of a hip-roofed block topped with a low, flat-roofed lightwell. Two tall, pitched-roof gable blocks, perpendicular to each other, project from the side (south) wall and along the facade at the northwest corner. At the opposite corner of the facade, a tourelle, with a flaring, conical, "candle-snuffer" roof, is corbelled out above the front porch. To the rear is a 2-story brick service wing, with a smaller 2-story brick ell off it.

In addition to its complex massing the other dominating characteristic of the house is its myriad detail, structural and applied. Based primarily on medieval, Gothic motifs, the embellishments represent a high level of craftsmanship.

The foundations of the house are quarry-faced brownstone; a band of limestone blocks is set above the foundations. The tightly-spaced bricks of the walls above are joined with red-tinted mortar. The windows, standard rectangular sash, are set in segmental arches of dentilled brick. On the first floor, embellishments focuses on the L-shaped front porch; with its turned-wood posts, brackets, and shallow gable. Some incised limestone trim remains visible in the arch of a paired window in the facade gable block. A sawtoothed string course of angled bricks, laid vertically, delineates the second story. Just above this, a course of molded brick with inset floral terracotta panels runs at window-sill height. The second-story windows in the projecting gables are particularly elaborate: a wide, elaborately carved wood post divides the paired windows. Above that, yet another string course sets off a cornice-like band of masonry ornament, the most prominent component of which is a sawtoothed brick course set between flat strips of limestone. At the tourelle, in the southwest corner, this brick and limestone course is replaced with more panels of inset molded brick. A final course of angled sawtoothed brick tops the "cornice".

Wide wooden bargeboards, pierced with quatrefoils and diamonds, and supported by paired brackets, embellish the gables. Engaged columns with floriated Gothic capitals ring the third-floor level of the tourelle as it rises from the southwest corner. The slate roof of the house has a wide band of ornamental hexagonal slates and the roof ridges are capped with pierced terracotta tiles. There are three chimneys, which though invisible from the street, are no less decoratively treated than the remainder of the house: they, too, feature bands of sawtoothed brickwork.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

State Register of Historic Places

1980 X STATE

Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, Connecticut

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 checked="" 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 **1882**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arthur G. Pomeroy House, the 1882 townhouse of a Suffield tobacco grower, is of architectural significance because it exemplifies Hartford's distinctive versions of two major 19th-century styles, the High Victorian Gothic and the Queen Anne (Criteria C).

The workmanship and materials displayed in the Pomeroy House are exceptional. The masonry is particularly fine as are individual decorative elements; the interior detailing, specifically, the woodwork, exhibits a high standard of craftsmanship, possessing significant artistic value (Criteria C).

Historically, the house reflects Hartford's importance as a regional outlet for the valuable broadleaf-tobacco crop of the Connecticut River Valley. Pomeroy, who had his warehouse in Hartford, needed to be near that commercial center and so built his house on Ann Street, just north of Downtown.

The Pomeroy House is of local significance as an archetype of a characteristic Hartford Queen Anne style. Hundreds of houses built in Hartford during the period derive from the type, a tall, hip-roofed brick block, with a gable to one side and an entrance porch to the other, detailed with textural masonry and wood trim. Very few approach either the sophistication or craftsmanship achieved in the Pomeroy House. In its detailing, the Pomeroy House owes much to the High Victorian Gothic as it exhibits medieval motifs (such as floriated capitals and quatrefoils), structural polychromy (limestone and brick), and a complex gabled and towered roofline. At the same time, the textural wall surfaces and irregular massing signal the Queen Anne style.

The interior of the Pomeroy House, though scarred, nevertheless retains several well-preserved features, such as the massive front doors, elaborately carved mantels, unusual doors and moldings and ceramic tile detail. The lavish exterior detail and fine quality interior decoration give a sense of magnificence to the house which is undiminished by its present unfortunate condition.

When Pomeroy constructed the house in 1882, the neighborhood was a small, quiet, upper-middle-class residential district at the northern edge of downtown Hartford. The house, while it originally had a larger side yard at the south than today, was essentially built for an urban setting. The district illustrated the more compact character of Hartford's urban development before the massive expansion of a streetcar system in the 1890's.

Arthur G. Pomeroy, the original owner, lived in the house for only a year prior to his death in 1883. Known as a shrewd and keen businessman, Pomeroy maintained a warehouse at 246 State Street in Hartford (demolished), as well as a tobacco farm and homestead in Suffield and his Ann Street townhouse. Little remains in Hartford to hint at the former significance of tobacco as a cash crop in Hartford County, which during the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Trumbull, J. Hammond Memorial History of Hartford County, Boston, Edward L. Osgood, 1886.

ON FILE
 1750-1759
 291-293

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 693040 4626855

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The verbal boundary description for 490 Ann Street, Hartford, Connecticut, is in the Hartford Land Records, Volumes 1750, pages 291 and 293.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sally Zimmerman and Merle Kummer

March, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Hartford Architecture Conservancy

DATE

525-0279

STREET & NUMBER

130 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

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 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

12/16/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
 National Register

DATE

2/4/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Item #7

There have been several fires and some vandalism at the Pomeroy House. A fire burned through a section of the roof at the rear of the house; the square light-well and portions of the interior were burned in other fires. Despite this, there is little actual structural damage and the house remains sound.

The first floor plan consists of a large foyer, living room, dining room, and study; service areas are to the rear. The dining room (northeast corner), with one wall and the ceiling burnt through, suffered the heaviest damage. The foyer, abundant with richly carved wood panels of lilies, oak leaves and ivy sprigs adorning the staircase and door moldings, though structurally intact, is tragically charred, probably beyond restoration. Fortunately, the present owners removed and stored the mantels and double entrance doors before the fires.

The six mantels are outstanding examples of high Victorian Gothic interior woodwork, ornately carved with flora and foliage, inset with spindled niches, overlaid with diminutive shelves. The double front doors are massive, with stout columns and rich carving.

Less elaborate woodwork is still in place in the house. Door and window moldings on the first floor are trimmed with carved panels similar to those in the foyer, while the second-floor moldings are of a common type. A number of interior doors, with inset panels of geometric carving, remain,

as do the ceramic tiles which surround the fireplaces of several principal rooms. In the study (southeast corner), the chimney breast is set with glazed Minton tiles in a green and rust floral design, while the apron flooring is rust, blue and ivory Minton encaustic tile. There are molded Trent tiles in gold with an ivy motif surrounding the fireplace in the dining room and simple floral delft tiles in the southeast bedroom upstairs.

Item #8

1880's produced 65% of all the tobacco grown in the State.⁽¹⁾ At that time, of the 28 tobacco-growing states, Connecticut ranked sixth in terms of the cash value of her tobacco crop, and only 9 states produced more tobacco than was raised in Hartford County alone.⁽²⁾ Hartford was an important mercantile outlet and transportation center for the tobacco crop of the Connecticut River Valley towns outside Hartford. The Pomeroy House is an illustration both of the lucrative tobacco growing industry and of Hartford's regional commercial prominence.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Footnotes:

1. Trumbull, J. Hammond, ed., Memorial History of Hartford County, Boston, Edward L. Osgood, 1886; "Hartford County Tobacco", Fred S. Brown, p. 217.
2. Ibid., p. 218