

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0668371

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 5 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 14 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 Perkins-Clark House
AND/OR COMMON Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER		--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
49 Woodland Street		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
CITY, TOWN	--- VICINITY OF	First	
Hartford		COUNTY	CODE
Connecticut		Hartford	

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 checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME	Allan Schaefer and Harry A. Gampel		
STREET & NUMBER	750 Main St. 999 Asylum Avenue		
CITY, TOWN	Hartford	STATE	Connecticut
	--- VICINITY OF		

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Hartford Land Records, Town Clerk, Municipal Building		
STREET & NUMBER	550 Main Street		
CITY, TOWN	Hartford	STATE	Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE	Old Houses of Connecticut, Colonial Dames Series				
DATE	1948	--- FEDERAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE	--- COUNTY	--- LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue				
CITY, TOWN	Hartford	STATE	Connecticut		

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 house and grounds at 49 Woodland Street occupy approximately six acres of land running from 260' frontage on Woodland Street back (west) to 438' on the north branch of the Park River. The south lot line was a reasonably straight 659' from the street to the river. The north lot line is irregular in shape and bulges out to the north. Perhaps 40% of the acreage is flood plain.

Adjoining to the north is the former Phoenix Insurance Company building, now the Hartford Community College. To the west across the river is Hartford Theological Seminary now under-utilized and subject to discussion for future planning. To the south is the former Melancton W. Jacobus, Sr., house now the University of Connecticut School of Business Administration. Across the street to the east are three other houses, one now occupied by Town and Country Club, representative of the many that once lined this outstanding residential street.

The Perkins-Clark house was built in 1861 for Charles E. Perkins (1832-1917). The Perkins family sold the property in 1924 to Judge Walter H. Clark (1872-1939) who promptly accomplished major alterations.

The multi-gabled house is of stucco construction designed in the fashion publicized at the time by Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux as country villas. The front (south) facade (Photo A) as shown in an 1890 likeness was dominated by three prominent gables, the center gable being higher than the two flanking it. The broad front porch had a flat roof and a nearly flat arched arcaded supporting structure.

The south facade has a large two-story wooden bay, the three sides of which are largely glazed; the upper windows have the same nearly flat arches as porch arcade. Above the bay is a rectangular third floor window and above it a pointed arch garret window. (Photo B).

The north facade has a projecting gable and a projecting wing and was the back of the house.

The east facade has two one-story glazed bow windows and rectangular fenestration plus the pointed arch window high in the gable. The central gable on the front facade also has one of these pointed windows.

All gables have vergeboards and all windows have dripstones, those over the rectangular windows being built at right angles and those over the Gothic windows having a pointed configuration.

The 1924 alterations brought the driveway and "turn-around" to the north facade which became the front. This change occasioned moving the main stairway from the southeast corner of the hall to the northwest corner. The north wing was removed and an east wing added. The new wing was constructed in strict conformity, both in construction and detail, with the already established appearance of the house (Photo C). At this time several outbuildings, including a carriage house and gardener's cottage were demolished and a new barn or garage was constructed, again in strict conformity with already existing appearances. This new (1924) building is now used as a school.

The principal house is now used as offices by a firm of architects and planners. The long porch is much altered (Photo D). Most of the ground east of the house to the flood plain where extensive gardens once were located now is used for parking for the adjacent Hartford Community College. The house is set well back from the street and the area between the street and the house remains free of intrusions, except for the madam drive leading to the parking lot.

In a recent transaction, the approximately one acre nearest to the river was split off from the lot and ownership now rests with the State of Connecticut.

MAY 5 1978

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Octavius J. & Augustus Jordan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Perkins-Clark House should be included in the National Register of Historic Places because of its importance in architectural history, its historical associations with nearby Nook Farm, and the crucial position it occupies in a transitional neighborhood

To design the house in 1861, Charles E. Perkins engaged the services of the architectural firm of Octavius J. and Augustus Jordan. The State Library has the owner's account book listing all expenses in the construction of the house, \$8,018.58.

City directories indicate that the Jordan firm was active in Hartford from 1850 to 1862. Octavius J. was the more permanent resident; Augustus boarded at his address and in the middle 1850's dropped out of the directory. The Jordans were of English origin and, therefore, perhaps sympathetic to designs publicized by Calvert Vaux, who was also English, and his partner Andrew Jackson Downing. One of the Jordans (which one is not certain) went on to Detroit where his best known work is the Fort Street Presbyterian Church, also an edifice of Gothic design.¹

In Hartford, the Jordan firm also designed the Belknap Beach House, Prospect Avenue, West Hartford; a wooden frame home at 791 Asylum Avenue for Stephen A. Hubbard, editor of The Hartford Courant (demolished); the John Hooker house (standing), 8 Forest Street in Nook Farm; and Oakholm, the first Harriet Beecher Stowe house built on the Park River at the end of Sigourney Street. Charles E. Perkins' mother was Mary Beecher, daughter of Lyman Beecher as were Isabella (Mrs John) Hooker and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Both the John Hooker house and Oakholm were similar to 49 Woodland Street in that they were of masonry construction, although the former two were faced with brick and not with stucco. All were large roomy houses with many gables with vergeboards. Oakholm had three prominent gables on the front facade over a broad front porch, a close parallel to 49 Woodland Street.

The association with nearby Nook Farm was further reinforced by the fact that Charles E. Perkins was personal attorney for Samuel Clemens. In fact, it was Perkins who in 1873 dealt with architect Edward Tuckerman Potter and builder Garvey arbitrating their arguments and encouraging them to get on with construction of the Nook Farm house now known as the Mark Twain Memorial.

Perkins practiced law with his father, and the firm of Perkins and Perkins after several name changes continues in existence and in this sense is Hartford's oldest law firm.

¹Henry F. Withey & Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., facsimile edition 1970, pp. 202, 327, 408.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Helen D. Perkins, The Charles E. Perkins House, 49 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut.
Two page typed and signed statement by Helen D. Perkins dated March, 1976, deposited
at Stowe-Day Foundation Library, Hartford, Connecticut.
- J.A. Spalding, comp., Illustrated Popular Biography of Connecticut, Hartford: Case,
Lockwood & Brainard, 1891, p. 105.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7
UTM REFERENCES

A	118	6910	91315	4161216	6810	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is city lot 6679 as recorded in the Hartford Land Records, volume 1433, page 312.

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, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Hartford Architecture Conservancy

DATE

12/76

STREET & NUMBER

65 Wethersfield Avenue

TELEPHONE

(203) 525-0279

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut 06106

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

David F. Ransom

TITLE Director, Conn. Historical Commission and State
Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William L. Branch

DATE

12/14/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William L. Branch

DATE

1/14/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Walter H. Clark for 17 years was judge of the Hartford District Probate Court. To renovate the property which he purchased for \$125,000 he employed the Philadelphia firm of Wilson Eyre and J. Gilbert McIlvaine. They carried out their alterations with faithfulness to the original structure. At this time the dripstones and perhaps the windows themselves were replaced. The new dripstones which closely resembled the old in appearance came from a church then recently demolished in Hartford. The difference between old and new was that the new dripstones were indeed of stone, whereas initially they had been of wood. It was at this time that the triple extensions to the chimneys were added, three to each chimney. They are unusual in that one section is the shape of a multi-pointed star, one is square and one has six sides, three to a set.

There no longer are private homes on Woodland Street. Of the fine residential structures which one lined both sides of the street, five are left; one is used as a club, one as a school, and 49 Woodland Street and two others as offices. Up and down the street are other large office and apartment buildings. Two blocks away is a large hospital. The remaining presence of an architecturally significant building residential in scale on six acres in the midst of all this nonresidential activity offers the last remaining opportunity to maintain some style, quality and open space in the neighborhood. In view of the uncertain future of the Hartford Theological Seminary premises just west across the Park River and the section of the original 49 Woodland Street lot on the east side of the river which is now owned by the State of Connecticut, the importance of giving proper attention to 49 Woodland Street cannot be overstated.

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Calvin Vaux, Villas and Cottages, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1864.

Henry F. Withey & Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects
(Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., facsimile edition 1970, pp.
202, 327, 408.