

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic NA

and/or common Sigourney Square Historic District (Boundary Increase)

2. Location

street & number 216-232 Garden Street (east side) NA ___ not for publication

city, town Hartford NA ___ vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" 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
	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hartford Land R cords, Municipal Building

street & number 550 Main Street

city, town Hartford 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

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Sigourney Square Historic District Boundary Increase, Hartford, CT
Continuation sheet Property Owners Item number 4 Page 1

216 Garden Street: Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company
Attn: Cashier's Department
140 Garden Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

218-20 Garden Street: Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company
Attn: Cashier's Department
140 Garden Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

222-24 Garden Street: Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company
Attn: Cashier's Department
140 Garden Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

230-232 Garden Street: Leo A. Girard
15 Fox Chase Road
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002

226-228 Garden Street: Leo A. Girard
15 Fox Chase Road
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002

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Continuation sheet Surveys

Item number 6

Hartford, CT

Page 1

Hartford Architecture Conservancy's Survey of Hartford Architecture
1977-79 local
The Stowe-Day Library, 77 Forest Street
Hartford Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places
1983
Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street
Hartford 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Overview

The five framehouses on the east side of Garden Street between Fraser Place and Sargeant Street are architecturally and historically an extension of the Sigourney Square Historic District. At the time the district boundary was drawn, these Garden Street houses were omitted from the district because it was felt that the link across Garden Street (from 225 to 230-232 Garden Street) was too narrow and tenuous to be acceptable. As it now appears that this is not the case, the error is corrected by this boundary increase. (See Sketch Map.)

The five frame houses at 216-232 Garden Street are similar to one another and to houses on the south side of Sargeant Street (in the district) in size, scale, age, spacing and materials. All five are considered to contribute to the historical and architectural character of the district.

General Description

The row of structures is a cohesive group of five late 19th- and early 20th-century single- and two-family houses. The houses are all carefully detailed, well-developed examples of the Queen Anne and Shingle Styles, capacious and well-preserved. They occupy the east side of Garden Street in a neighborhood of mixed residential, commercial, and industrial uses, just north of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company's home office and opposite Veeder-Root Company, a manufacturer of industrial counting devices. The houses stand on land owned in the 19th-century by George Seymour, on which Seymour's mansion once stood. The one single-family house in the district, 216 Garden, was, at the time of construction, owner-occupied, while the remaining four houses, nearly identical in plan, were built for the same owner, evidently for rental purposes. Today, none of the properties is owner-occupied.

This section of Hartford began to be developed after 1890, and by 1909, ten houses stood on what had been the Seymour estate, including the Seymour house, on what was, by then, a much smaller lot. Now, a street cut through later in the 20th century, Fraser Place, and the construction of Connecticut Mutual's home offices have meant the demolition of all but the five houses at 216, 218-20, 222-24, 226-28, and 230-32 Garden Street. The district abuts the eastern boundary of another listed area of the Multiple Resources of Asylum Hill, the Sigourney Square District.

216 Garden is a 2½-story, Shingle Style house with a hipped roof, the only single-family house in the district and the oldest, built c. 1896. Though exhibiting several features of the Queen Anne style, such as a clapboarded first floor and a shingled second floor, the house is quietly detailed with an inset, rather than projecting, porch set into the northwest corner. This integrated porch, with wide shingled piers topped with short columns with exaggerated entasis, indicates the Shingle Style, as

*216 Garden arch: Wm H. Sewille
218-20 " " "
226-228 " " "
230-232 " " "*

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Sigourney Square Historic District Boundary Increase, Hartford, CT

Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	Page
		7	1

does the air of restraint about the house. Another decorative feature is the large gabled dormer at the southwest corner, with curved walls receding to a small window topped, at the peak of the gable, with scalloped shingles.

Next door are four Queen Anne two-family houses, built c. 1908 on speculation for rental: basically built on the same plan, a cruciform of intersecting gable-roofed blocks, they are similar in scale, all are 2½ stories tall, and compatible in detailing (all the houses have brownstone foundations and were originally sided with clapboards on the first floor and shingles on the second); still, each presents a varied and unique appearance. 218-20, a gable-roofed house retaining its original siding, exhibits a common feature of two-family houses: it has two separate porches, a circumstance which, in the Queen Anne style, gives occasion for the use of even greater detail than is normally called for in the single-family house. One porch, at 218, is a full-scale veranda, while the other, at 220, is really only a sheltered entry, a door hood with a pediment. The second floor does not lack for its own porch as one is set into the body of the house along the south wall. The second floor porch indicates the importance of the porch as a sheltered outdoor living space, a welcomed cooler, summer spot in the days before air-conditioning.*

222-24 has an octagonal turret at the southwest corner as well as a projecting 1-story veranda, with Doric columns and all its original turned balusters, and a decorative third-floor gable end with a paired window set back in a curved shingled panel supported by squarish brackets. Only one of the houses, 226-28 with a hipped roof and large dormer gables centered in each roof section, is inappropriately re-sided, with asbestos shingles covering what is most probably a clapboarded and shingled original surface. Nonetheless, much of its detailing remains apparent. The facade gable dormer is decoratively treated with a window panel set with a wide frieze with applied ornamental moldings -- swags, torches, and anthemias. It, too, has a second-story porch (integrated) as well as a 1-story porch, with heavy turned posts and brackets, across the facade.

230-32 retains its original clapboard and wood shingle sheathing; like 222-24 it has a gable roof with intersecting gable blocks, the facade block being decoratively treated on the third floor with a shingled center panel curving back to a paired window. Like 218-20, where the detailing is more classical and restrained, the porches at 230-32 are more in the exuberant mode of the day: the pediment of the entry porch at 232 is faced with scalloped shingles and both porches at 230-32 have their original turned posts, balusters, and brackets.

* Both porches at 218-20 have Doric columns for posts; the veranda (at 218) has a pediment with a swag, while the entry at 220 is flat-roofed and hence unadorned. The classical feeling of the porches is augmented by the Palladian-type window set in the facade gable block at the third floor.

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Description

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Inventory of 216-232 Garden Street (east side)

- C 216: Shingle Style, c. 1897. A 2½-story, single-family house with a hipped roof; clapboarded first floor, shingled second floor, quarry-faced brownstone foundations; integral porch at the NW corner with short Doric columns with entasis, shingled piers, lathe-turned balusters, and newel with urn finial; intersecting gable blocks at rear of house; two shingled gable-roofed dormers on facade, one small, at NW corner, one large at SW corner with curved walls receding to small window with imbricated shingles at peak of large gable.
- C 218- Queen Anne, c. 1908. A 2½-story, two-family house with a gable
220: roof; clapboarded first floor, shingled second floor, quarry-faced brownstone foundations; L-shaped, gable-roofed porch with pediment with swags, Doric columns above porch rail, square balusters below; integrated second-story porch at SW corner; flat-roofed porch at 220 with Doric columns above porch rail, square balusters below; intersecting gable blocks at rear of body of house, gable-roofed dormer on N side altered (raised) to a shed dormer; facade treatment includes a Palladian-type window in the end of the roof gable and a triangular bay topped with a smaller shingled gable with an eyebrow window.
- C 222- Queen Anne, c. 1908. A 2½-story, two-family house with a gable
224: roof and an octagonal turret at the SW corner; clapboarded first floor, shingled second floor, quarry-faced brownstone foundations; flat-roofed porch with Doric columns above rail, turned balusters below; facade gable end clapboarded with a curved, shingled panel receding to a pair of windows set at right angles to each other.
- C 226- Queen Anne, c. 1908. A 2½-story, two-family house with a hipped
228: roof; asbestos shingled, quarry-faced brownstone foundations; intersecting gable-roofed triangular bays centered on side walls; large gable dormer, third floor, set with two recessed windows separated by a decorative panel of anthemion, swags and torch; 1-story porch across facade with pediment only over entrance at 228 with turned balusters and posts.
- C 230- Queen Anne, c. 1908. A 2½-story, two-family house with a gable
232: roof; clapboarded first floor, shingled second floor, quarry-faced brownstone foundations; intersecting gable-roofed blocks at sides of house; facade gable end set with two recessed windows separated by a decorative panel of anthemion, swags, and torch; flat-roofed entry porch with pediment with imbricated shingles, turned posts, balusters at 232.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates See item 7 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

216-232 Garden Street is a cohesive and well-preserved turn-of-the-century streetscape of single- and two-family Shingle Style and Queen Anne houses. It is architecturally significant because the houses are skillfully-crafted, well-developed examples of their styles. Historically, the area is part of a late 19th-century development of which these houses are the major remaining structures on Garden Street. The Sigourney Square Historic District, of which these houses properly are a component, encompasses this development as a whole.

Architecturally, the houses all exhibit enough of the major Queen Anne characteristics to be identifiable as well-developed examples of the style. A variety of wall surfaces, high and multiple roofs, polygonal turrets, small-scale, classical detailing -- all of these hallmarks of the Queen Anne style are present in the four speculative two-family houses, while the single-family house, 216 Garden, is a simple and attractive example of the Shingle Style. As the four houses at 218-232 Garden are later, c. 1908, they do not have the innovative, hand-crafted look of some early Queen Anne houses, which may have individually hand-carved scenes set in wall panels, for instance. Rather, these houses were designed in an increasingly standardized pattern and detailed from stock components. Historically, these houses are poised between the highly idiosyncratic early Queen Anne houses and the mass of two- and three-family developer-built houses of the pre-World War I period; the Garden Street houses still appear varied, though their form is perceptibly similar: they are like fraternal quadruplets.

The Queen Anne and Shingle Styles proved remarkably adaptable to multi-family use. As single-family residences, Queen Anne and Shingle Style houses are, almost without exception, capacious enough to accommodate even large families with expanses of living space; not surprisingly, developers began to realize that where one family could live munificently, two might manage fairly comfortably. Pressures of a growing population and the increasing financial stability of the middle classes dictated some such solution in the area of housing.

Hardly skimpy, the Garden Street two-families play the single-family game; in scale and execution they vary little from many of the earlier, late 19th-century Queen Anne single-family residences; only clues such as the existence of two "front" doors hint that they are, in fact, two-family houses. A comparison with 216 Garden, the one single-family in the

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Significance

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district, with the other four supports this. Built only eleven years before, 216 varies so little in scale as to be completely compatible with its neighbors. Thus, the white-collar, middle-class families who lived on Garden Street could live in a manner and style only affordable to wealthier citizens ten to twenty years earlier, if at some sacrifice to space. The use of stock components and standard floor plans could, when interchanged and shuffled with some sensitivity, as they are on Garden Street, provide even rental tenants with a modicum of style and comfort -- in short, affordable, good quality housing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Two

Quadrangle name Hartford North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	8
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 Zone

6	9	1	2	1	1	6	1	0
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 Easting

4	1	6	2	1	7	0	4	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

B

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 Zone

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 Easting

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 Northing

C

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 Easting

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 Northing

D

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 Easting

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 Northing

E

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 Easting

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 Northing

F

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 Easting

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 Northing

G

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 Easting

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 Northing

H

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 Easting

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 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The expanded boundary is shown by the xxxx line on the accompanying map drawn at a scale of 1"=200'. For boundary justification, see continuation sheet.

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 Sarah Zimmerman and David Ransom, Consultants, edited by John Herzan,
National Register Coordinator

organization Hartford Architecture Conservancy 1979, 1983

street & number 51 Wethersfield Avenue telephone (203) 525-0279

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 November 3, 1983

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Boundary Justification

The five houses on the east side of Garden Street were constructed as part of the last phase of development of middle class housing in the Sigourney Square Historic District area. The frame houses along the south side of Sargeant Street, constructed at the turn of the century, and the five houses around the corner on Garden Street that are the subject of this boundary expansion are of the same character, while the structures facing them from the west side of Garden Street are 20th-century apartment houses.

Points of similarity between the Sargeant Street and Garden Street houses include date of construction (turn of the century), lot size (40/50' x 140/160'), materials (frame), style (Queen Anne, predominantly) and architectural details (applied classical motifs, fish-scale shingles and turned and sawn porch posts and brackets). The Garden Street houses historically and architecturally are an extension of, and belong in, the Sigourney Square Historic District.

At the time the Sigourney Square district boundary was drawn, it was felt that the link across Garden Street from 225 Garden Street to 230-232 Garden Street was too narrow and tenuous to be acceptable, but as it now appears that this is not the case, it is appropriate to add the five Garden Street houses to the district.