

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5 77

642

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

Prospect Hill

251-1073-7

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)	(Historic)	William DeCossy House
2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY
New Haven		New Haven
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		
269 Ogden Street		
4. OWNER(S)		
Janet G. Slater <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		
5. USE (Present)		
Residence (Historic) --		
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		
EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Modern	1972
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
10. ROOF (Type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
(Material)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Frame canopy	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
1 + B	
12. CONDITION (Structural)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	(Exterior) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN? (Alterations) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	Gravel driveway; landscaping; trellis-arched garden seat
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density	

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
Site formerly part of the Hayes Q. Trowbridge estate, between the main house and the carriage house (see 100 Edgehill Road and 1 Reservoir Street). More recent, severely block-like residence has been constructed on a narrow lot between #269 and #100 Edgehill Road. Context otherwise similar (OVER) to that of #248 Ogden Street opposite.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

This design of interlocking cubes appears small from the street and presents no windows on the facade. A tall, almost 1-story stone wall across most of the facade masks the fenestration of the living area and this wall is repeated as an enclosure around the east side of the driveway. The whitewashed brick enhances the geometric qualities of the design.

Above the main mass on the west side of the house an unpainted wood slat canopy is suspended above the flat roofline on thin vertical members attached to the exterior of the walls -- this canopy combined with the whitewashed walls provides the design with a dramatic light and dark contrast. An attached shed of the same wood construction echoes the canopy element at the west end of the house, at the rear of the driveway. Wings at the north or rear side of the building expand the size of the house which presents a more diminutive appearance to the street.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT: William DeCossy BUILDER:

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Architectural: William deCossy, a graduate of the Yale School of Architecture worked in association with Douglas Orr from 1963 until the latter's death in 1966, and stayed on in the firm until the 1970s. Trained in the modern idiom as Orr never was, deCossy, along with Frank Winder, enabled the firm to provide satisfactory designs for some of its large-scale modern commissions. The Laboratory of Clinical Investigation (1965, 60 Davenport Avenue) is, for example, by the Orr firm but entirely deCossy's design. The interlocking rectangles and unobtrusive windows of that building can be compared, on a much smaller, domestic scale, with the design of deCossy's own house in New Haven.

SOURCES

Brown, p. 147.
 William A. Wiedersheim, "Douglas Orr's New Haven," Journal of the New Haven Colony Historical Society: Douglas W. Orr F.A.I.A. Exhibition, New Haven, NHCHS, n.d.
 Interview with William A. Wiedersheim, New Haven, 6/10/81.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: Alan Rutberg DATE: 5/81
 VIEW: Southeast NEGATIVE ON FILE: GNC;NHPT;Sheet #63

COMPILED BY

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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Expropriation _____