United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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: Hylehurst

And/or Common: John W. Fries House

2. Location

Street & Number: 224 S. Cherry Street

City, Town: Winston-Salem

State: North Carolina

3. Classification

Category
X District

Ownership
X Public

Status
X Occupied

Present Use
X Agriculture

Public Acquisition
X In Process

Accessible
X Yes: Restricted

X Military

3. Classification

Category
X Building(s)

Ownership
X Private

Status
X Unoccupied

Present Use
X Commercial

Public Acquisition
X Work in Progress

Accessible
X Yes: Unrestricted

X Educational

N/A

4. Owner of Property

Name: Mrs. R. A. McCuiston

Street & Number: 224 S. Cherry Street

City, Town: Winston-Salem

State: North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.: Forsyth County Hall of Justice, Registry of Deeds

Street & Number: Main Street

City, Town: Winston-Salem

State: North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: From Frontier to Factory, An Architectural History of Forsyth County

Has this property been determined eligible? __ yes X no

Date: 1982

Federal ___ State ___ County ___ Local

Depository for Survey Records: N.C. Division of Archives and History

City, Town: Raleigh

State: North Carolina
## Condition

- **Condition**
  - _excellent_
  - _deteriorated_
  - _ruins_
  - _fair_
  - _unexposed_

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### Description

Hylehurst, built for John W. Fries in 1884, is a Queen Anne-style dwelling designed by Henry Hudson Holly. The three-story frame structure stands facing south on a lot which originally included the entire block bounded by Cherry, Brookstown, Marshall and High streets in Salem. It is one of the most high-style turn-of-the-century dwellings which remains in Winston-Salem, and it is the only structure in North Carolina identified as being designed by Henry Hudson Holly.\(^1\) Holly's complete set of architectural drawings for Hylehurst remain in the possession of Fries' descendants.

Hylehurst embodies Henry Hudson Holly's belief that the Queen Anne style was influenced by the "cottages" of the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods which "were partly timbered, partly covered with tile hangings, and have tall and spacious chimneys of considerable merit. They have really nothing by which to fix their date."\(^2\) In Hylehurst the projecting gable ends of the front and side bays are timbered, the second story is covered with scalloped shingles, and the first story is sheathed in clapboards. The chimneys are "tall and spacious." A veranda stretches across the front of the house and extends around its southeastern corner. Fenestration around the structure includes single-pane sash windows which flank the double-leaf door, French doors which open from the parlor and sitting room onto the veranda, sash windows with divided upper panes and single lower ones, and both nine-over-nine and nine-over-six windows.

The original paint colors for Hylehurst were tan for the first story, green for the second and red for the third.\(^3\) In *Modern Dwellings* Holly advocates a color scheme which may have been similar to Hylehurst's: "... the exterior is of neutral buff, the sides of the embrasure are painted a deep ultramarine green; the trimmings of Indian red are relieved by lines of black, while the coved ceiling is of brilliant blue."\(^4\)

The interior of Hylehurst follows a free-flowing plan which centers around a large stair hall with a fireplace. Openings from the stair hall lead into the parlor on the left, the sitting room, library and dining room on the right, and the rear hall which leads to the kitchen, butler's pantry and back porch. Holly felt that the parlor and sitting rooms used by the family should have a southern exposure, since they would be "sheltered from the bleak winds of winter."\(^5\) Rooms on the first floor of Hylehurst are paneled in various hardwoods. The stair hall and dining room are oak, the parlor is curly maple, the sitting room is cherry and the library is birch. All of the rooms have elaborate mantelpieces surrounding the fireplaces; the stair hall contains the only fireplace which does not feature an overmantel with a mirror or other trim.

In Holly's opinion: "Mantels of wood are, as a general thing, more artistic and attractive than those of marble."\(^6\) The mantels in the parlor and dining rooms of Hylehurst are the most elaborate. The parlor mantel consists of a fireplace opening surrounded by molded tiles with a bracketed shelf, above which rises a three-part exhibit case. The case features arched openings with glass inserts, and it displays a clock and vases which were wedding gifts to John and Agnes Fries.\(^7\) In the dining room a bracketed shelf encompasses the chimney breast, and the overmantel features a central mirror flanked by ornamental shelves and surmounted by a decorative coved cornice. In the sitting room and library the overmantels are more simple, featuring beveled mirrors and paneling.
stair hall fireplace contains an ornate coal grate surrounded by tiles and surrounded by a paneled mantelpiece with a medallion in the center of the frieze.

The staircase in the hall rises one flight to a landing which leads into the conservatory. The staircase then returns and rises another flight to a large upstairs hall. The conservatory opens onto the stair landing through four pairs of french doors with a transom above them. The plants in the conservatory stand on a wooden platform above warming pipes.

On the second floor of Hylehurst there are five bedrooms and servants' quarters. A bathroom was installed when the house was built, and an additional bath was added around 1903 by taking part of one of the front bedrooms. All of the bedrooms except one have fireplaces which are accented by overmantels with beveled mirrors, paneling and spindlework. In the southeast bedroom an arched doorway leads into the main part of the room and the room opens onto a small veranda. The upstairs mantels vary in their treatment of the tiles surrounding the fireplace openings.

John W. Fries willed Hylehurst to his daughter, Adelaide, in 1927 and she willed it to the children and grandchildren of her sister, Mary Eleanor Fries Blair, in 1949. The daughter of Mary Eleanor Fries Blair continues to reside in the house.
Footnotes, Architectural Description

1 Henry Hudson Holly, Architectural Plans, "House for Mr. J. W. Fries, Salem, N.C.:" author's interview with Catherine Bishir, N.C. Division of Archives and History, January 6, 1983.


3 Author's interview with Mrs. Robert A. McCuiston (Margaret Blair, granddaughter of John W. Fries), December 1, 1981, hereinafter cited as Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.

4 Holly, Modern Dwellings, p. 27.

5 Holly, Modern Dwellings, p. 42.

6 Holly, Modern Dwellings, p. 189.

7 Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.

8 Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.

9 Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.
8. Significance

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Specific dates 1884

Builder/Architect Henry Hudson Holly

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Hylehurst," the impressive Queen Anne-style house built for John W. Fries in 1884, is an architectural and historical monument of significance to Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The house stands as a physical reminder of the Fries family and its great contributions to Winston-Salem and the state of North Carolina, and it is the only structure in North Carolina identified as being designed by New York architect Henry Hudson Holly. The frame house stands on the west side of Cherry Street in what was formerly a late 19th century residential boulevard containing the high-style homes of prominent industrialists and community leaders. "Hylehurst" is one of the few surviving structures of this era of architectural grandeur. The house stands in view of the Fries Industrial Complex at the intersection of Cherry Street and Brookstown Avenue, reflecting the longstanding integration of industrial and residential fabric that was later supplanted by geographical zones of separate uses. The complex consists primarily of the 1836 Salem Cotton Mill organized by Francis L. Fries, John's father, and the 1880 building of the F. and H. Fries Cotton Arista Mills. (The Fries Industrial Complex was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.)

Criteria Assessment:
B. Is associated with John W. Fries, a prominent Winston-Salem industrialist, whose family organized and operated several important 19th century textile mills; C. Is a fine example of Queen Anne residential architecture, designed by New York architect Henry Hudson Holly, and one of a few surviving structures dating from the late 19th century period of architectural grandeur in Winston-Salem which reflected the wealth of the major industrialists and community leaders.

John William Fries was born in Salem on November 7, 1846. He was the oldest son of Francis L. Fries and Lisetta Maria Vogler Fries, both prominent Moravians in Salem. Francis Fries was one of Salem's great 19th century industrialists, beginning his career with the organization of the Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1835. In 1839 he built a woolen mill which he operated under the name of Fries Manufacturing Company. In addition to his business pursuits, Francis Fries was a director of the North Carolina Railroad; he was the first chairman of the Forsyth Board of County Commissioners; he served as Mayor of Salem in 1856, and he represented Forsyth County in the North Carolina legislature in 1857. Francis Fries was a progressive individual whose interests in industry and architecture helped to shape the towns of Winston and Salem in the nineteenth century. Fries assisted in the building and design of Main Hall of Salem College and the first Forsyth County Courthouse, both of which were Greek Revival in style.

John W. Fries attended the Salem Boys School and the University of North Carolina. As his daughter, Adelaide, later recorded:
Then came the Civil War. John Fries, the eldest son of Francis Fries, a rather small, slender lad of fifteen years, postponed thoughts of college and went into the mill to do the work of a man. During the busy season the mill ran day and night, working up the wool brought in by the farmers while making cloth for Confederate uniforms. Young John worked, not eight hours, but eighteen out of the twenty-four. Being the son of the elder partner, he could choose his hours, so he worked from midnight to 6:00 p.m. of the next day; then after supper he returned to the mill and slept on a wool sack until midnight brought his next turn of work.7

John Fries attended the University in 1866 and 1867, but had to return to business, since on his twenty-first birthday he had become a partner in the F. & H. Fries Manufacturing Company which his father, Francis, and his uncle, Henry W. Fries, had established.8 Francis Fries had died in 1863 at the age of fifty-one. F. & H. Fries was one of the largest textile operations in the south, as it operated two textile mills (one cotton and one woolen) in Salem. In addition, in 1856 F. & H. Fries had acquired the former Salem Manufacturing Company building near their textile mills and turned it into the Wachovia Flour Mills.9 When John W. Fries became a partner in F. & H. Fries in 1867, the company was trying to recover from Civil War losses estimated at approximately one million dollars.

By 1880, however, John W. and his younger brothers, Francis H. and Henry W. Fries, operated the company, whose fortunes had vastly improved. The company expanded with the construction of a spinning and weaving mill named Arista. The Arista cotton mill was located one block west of the original Fries woolen and cotton factory and next door to the Wachovia Flour Mill. Arista was among the first mills in the South to use electric lights, and it provided employment for about 150 workers.10 John W. Fries served as president of F. & H. Fries Manufacturing Company as well as president of Arista Mills.11

John W. Fries not only operated his family business but he maintained a multiplicity of interests in a wide range of modern concerns and innovations. He was a turn-of-the-century Renaissance man with the energy and influence to accomplish his goals. In 1902 Fries was president of the Peoples National Bank, by 1904 president of Salem Cemetery Company, and from 1915 until his death in 1927, president of the Fealty Building and Loan Association.12 He was a director of the North Carolina Midland Railroad, Wachovia Loan and Trust Company and other corporations, and he served on President William McKinley's Monetary Commission which met in Washington in September, 1897.13
In addition to all of his business pursuits, Fries was an inventor. The best-known of his inventions include a dying machine for cotton mills and a machine for moistening, cleaning and purifying the air in factories and other large spaces. In the 1904-1905 City Directory, Fries is listed as the proprietor of "J. W. Fries' Dyeing Machine" and in 1910 he is listed as the manufacturer of "dying machinery and hygrosso humidifier. The humidifier was known as Normalair and the patent was later sold to become what is now known as the Bahnson Company of Winston-Salem.

John W. Fries not only was an outstanding business man and inventor, but he also made great contributions to the civic and religious life of his community. Like his father, John served on both the Salem Town Commission and on the Forsyth Board of County Commissioners. He also served as judge of the Superior Court for six years. He was a trustee of both Salem College and the University of North Carolina, and the University conferred on him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1926.

John W. Fries was the first chairman of the Winston-Salem Foundation, a charitable organization which serves Forsyth County; he served as president of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, and he was an active and dedicated member of Home Moravian Church in Salem. From December 14, 1899, until his death on November 12, 1927, Fries served on the Provincial Elders Conference, the governing board of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, and he was a delegate of the General Synods of the Church held in Herrnhutt, Germany, in 1899 and 1909.

On October 21, 1870, John W. Fries had married Agnes Sophia de Schweinitz, the daughter of Bishop Emil de Schweinitz of the Moravian Church. In that same year, he purchased the city block on which Hylehurst stands from Robert Gray. A one-story brick dwelling stood on the property. John Fries and his bride, Agnes, moved into this brick structure after their marriage. They had two children: Adelaide Lisetta Fries, born on November 12, 1871, and Mary Eleanor Fries, born on July 9, 1873.

According to extant architectural renderings and plans, John W. Fries commissioned Henry Hudson Holly in 1884 to design Hylehurst, the Queen Anne-style structure which occupies the site today. It stands as a reminder of the boom period of the 1880s and 1890s when industrial fortunes based on tobacco and textiles were flourishing and when Salem had emerged from its cottage-industry past into the machine-age future.

Henry Hudson Holly, the architect of Hylehurst, was born in New York on October 8, 1834. When he was twenty years old he began two years of architectural study with an Englishman, Gervase Wheeler, who had moved to New York. Wheeler became known to Americans through Andrew Jackson Downing's *Horticulturist* and the publication of Wheeler's
Rural Homes: or, Sketches of houses suited to American country life. Holly went to England in 1856 to complete his architectural studies, probably at the urging of Wheeler. When he returned, he established his own practice in New York, and by 1858 he was elected to the newly-formed American Institute of Architects. Holly's first publication was Country Seats, published in 1863, extolling the virtues of country life in the English manner. His second work was entitled Church Architecture and was published in 1871. Holly's third and best-known book, Modern Dwellings in Town and Country, came in 1878 and was based on a collection of articles he had written for Harper's New Monthly Magazine.

In Modern Dwellings, Holly presented a "vernacular" style, the "free classic" or Queen Anne, which he claimed best met domestic needs. He openly admired the work of the English advocates of this style, such as Richard Norman Shaw, and he unabashedly desired to become the translator of their ideas into the American idiom. It may have been through Holly's articles in Harper's or through the wide distribution of his book, Modern Dwellings, that John W. Fries learned of the architect and his work. At any rate, Fries' use of a prominent New York architect is not surprising since his father, Francis Fries, had dealt directly with the New York architect, A. J. Davis. Holly did advertise in several nationally-known publications and he provided designs and working drawings by mail.

Even though Holly seemed to be a prolific architect, few of his buildings remain and only a few of those remain unaltered. These facts underscore the architectural importance of Hylehurst.

Hylehurst was constructed by Pogle Brothers Lumber Company of Winston and Salem, a prominent building firm, and its Queen Anne characteristics include a contrasting upper story of decorative shingles, paneled brick chimneys which rise high above the roof line, asymmetrical massing, steep gables and bay windows. The house may also be said to contain some Stick Style elements, expressed mainly through the applied "stick work" on the gable ends. Many characteristics of both Stick Style and Queen Anne architecture overlap, however, since both feature wide porches, asymmetrical massing and steep intersecting gables. On the interior J. W. Fries' house remains true to the Queen Anne philosophy of a free-flowing plan which bore no resemblance to the rigid center-hall plan of earlier styles based on classical symmetry.

Outbuildings for Hylehurst consist of a brick structure adjacent to the northeast corner of the house and a one-story frame building which stands behind the house. The brick outbuilding pre-dates Hylehurst, as it belonged to a house which stood on the property when J. W. Fries purchased it in 1870. The Fries' used part of the brick outbuilding as a woodshed, part as a laundry, and part for meat storage. The one-story frame outbuilding is a gable-end structure with three entrances on the long side, one of which is outlined by an arch. The outbuilding included quarters for the cook, a small studio and a school. For three
years "Hylehurst School" operated in this building with Mrs. Elma Hege Pfohl as the teacher and Fries, Blair, and Spaugh children among the pupils.28

One of the children who attended Hylehurst School was Adelaide Lisetta Fries, and she went on to become one of North Carolina's foremost historians. Adelaide Fries received the B.A. degree from Salem Academy and College in 1890, and in 1916 Salem conferred on her an honorary M.A. degree. In 1927, upon the death of her father, Adelaide inherited Hylehurst and lived in the house for the rest of her life. In 1932 she received an honorary doctorate from Moravian College, and in 1945 she also received honorary doctorates from Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina. Among the many accomplishments of Adelaide Fries are her History of Forsyth County (1898), The Moravians in Georgia, 1735-1740 (1905), The Moravian Church Yesterday and Today (1926), and Forsyth, A County on the March (1949). Perhaps her most memorable and amazing achievement, however, was the translation from German to English of the records of the Moravians in North Carolina from 1752 - 1822. The series of translations was published by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History as the Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Volumes I - VII. Miss Fries was archivist of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, from 1911 until her death on November 29, 1949.29

Mary Eleanor Fries, John W. Fries' youngest child, received a B.A. degree from Salem Academy and College in 1890. She was a talented artist who studied in Florence, Italy in 1890 and 1891. On November 20, 1895 she married William A. Blair, a graduate of Harvard University who served as superintendent of the Winston schools from 1887 to 1890, and subsequently as vice-president and later president of Peoples National Bank. Blair was also an attorney.31 Mary Eleanor translated from German to English Gaius the Greek, which was published by the Religious Tract Society of London in 1928. She also wrote the hymn, "Our Father's God To Thee We Raise" in 1957 and it was adopted by the Moravian Church for its Quincentennial Celebration in 1957.32 William and Mary Eleanor Blair had three children, Margaret, John Fries, and Marian. The children and grandchildren of the Blairs inherited "Hylehurst" from Adelaide Fries in 1949, and Margaret Blair McCuiston continues to reside in the house.33
Footnotes, Significance Statement

1 Henry Hudson Holly, Architectural Plans, "House for Mr. J. W. Fries, Salem, N.C.;" author's interview with Catherine Bishir, N.C. Division of Archives and History, January 6, 1983.


3 Adelaide L. Fries, "Family Tree Book," manuscript in possession of Mrs. Robert A. McCuiston, p. 55, hereinafter cited as Fries, "Family Tree."


5 Gwynne S. Taylor, From Frontier to Factory, An Architectural History of Forsyth County (Winston-Salem: City-County Planning Board of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County), p. 30-31, hereinafter cited as Taylor, From Frontier to Factory.


8 Ashe, Biographical History, 1939; Davis, "Forgotten Legacy."

9 Glass and Taylor, National Register Nomination.

10 Glass and Taylor, National Register Nomination.

11 Fries, "Family Tree."

Footnotes, Significance Statement continued

13 Ashe, *Biographical History*, 140.
14 Ashe, *Biographical History*, 140.
15 *City Directories*, 1904-1905, 1910.
16 Davis, "Forgotten Legacy."
17 Ashe, *Biographical History*, 139; Fries, "Family Tree," 54.
18 Davis, "Forgotten Legacy;" Fries, "Family Tree," 54.
19 Fries, "Family Tree," 54.
20 Ashe, *Biographical History*, 139.
21 Author's interview with Mrs. Robert A. McCuiston (Margaret Blair, granddaughter of John W. Fries), December 1, 1981, hereinafter cited as Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.
22 Fries, "Family Tree," 55.
26 Holly, *Country Seats*, introduction to reprint.
27 Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.
28 Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.
Footnotes, Significance Statement continued

30 Fries, "Family Tree," p. 55.
31 Taylor, From Frontier to Factory, p. 221; City Directories, 1902, 1915.
32 Fries, "Family Tree" p. 55.
33 Fries, "Family Tree" p. 55; Interview, Mrs. McCuiston.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name: Winston-Salem East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Block 66, Lot 10B

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gwynne S. Taylor

organization: Consultant

date: 2/28/83

street & number: 827 Westover Avenue

telephone: 919-725-9000

city or town: Winston-Salem

state: North Carolina

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: [Signature]

date: 2/28/83

For NPS use only:

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

date: 2/28/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Bishir, Catherine W. Interview, 6 January 1983.


Fries, Adelaide L. "Family Tree Book." Winston-Salem. (unpublished manuscript)


McCuiston, Mrs. Robert A. Interview. 1 December 1982.

Taylor, Gwynne S. From Frontier to Factory. Winston-Salem: City County Planning Board of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, 1981

Winston-Salem City Directories, 1895 - 1928.