## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Butletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hyten, Charles "Bullet" Dean, Hous	5 <b>e</b>					
other names/site number Site # SA0124						
2. Location						
street & number 211 South Main Street			not for publication			
city or town Benton			vicinity			
state <u>Arkansas</u> code <u>AR</u> coun	ty <u>Saline</u> co	ode <u>125</u>	zip code _72015			
3. State/Federal Agency Certification						
As the designated authority under the National Hist I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> nomination <u>reque</u> for registering properties in the National Register of requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>x</u> meets <u>does</u> re be considered significant at the following level(s) of <u>national</u> <u>x</u> statewide <u>local</u> Signature of certifying official/Title Arkansas Historic Preservation Program_	est for determination of el Historic Places and meet not meet the National Reg	gibility meets ts the proced	lural and professional			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government						
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.						
Signature of commenting official	Da	ite	-			
Title	State or Federal agency/bu	reau or Tribal G	_ overnment			

I hereby certify that this property is:				
entered in the National Register	determined eligible for the National Regist	er		
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Register			
other (explain:)				
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action			
. Classification				
Ownership of Property         Category of Property           Check as many boxes as apply.)         (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Prope (Do not include previously listed resources in t	erty he count.)		
	Contributing Noncontributing			
x private x building(s)	1 1	_ buildings		
public - Local district		sites		
public - State site structure		_ structures objects		
		_		
object	1	_ Total		
Iame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources	-		
Tame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register	-		
lame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources	-		
Tame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register Current Functions	-		
Iame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	-		
Iame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	-		
Iame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	-		
Iame of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources listed in the National Register Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	-		

7. Description	
Architectural Classification . (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY	foundation: Brick
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman	walls: Weatherboard
	roof: Composite shingles over shake shingles
	other:

#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

In 1909 Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten, owner of the Hyten Pottery Works in Benton, Arkansas, created the distinctive and nationally known Art pottery, he named Niloak. This pottery's history is indivisible from Hyten's own story. The Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten House is significant statewide under Criterion B association with Hyten as it is the only building linked to Hyten and Niloak Art pottery that remains standing. The home is a one story, bungalow built in 1922. It features two small, second-story additions. Also on the property and associated with the house, is a non-contributing apartment made from the converted detached two-story garage also constructed by Hyten in 1922. The lot is ringed on three sides by a concrete retaining wall punctuated by the garage bays and steps behind the house leading to the apartment. The house is clad in weatherboard siding, painted gray with white trim

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet

#### Otatamant of Otantitians as -

<b>Appl</b> i (Mark	cable National Register Criteria 'x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property ional Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) Art
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Art
хВ	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1922-1944
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1922
	ia Considerations x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
Prope	rty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Hyten, Charles "Bullet" Dean
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
c	a birthplace or grave.	n/a
	a cemetery.	
Е	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	Hyten, Charles "Bullet" Dean
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

### Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten built the home in 1922 and it was his primary residence until his death in 1944. His family continued to own and live in the home until the 1970s.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten house is significant statewide under Criterion B for its association with Hyten during the years that he was involved in the development and marketing of Niloak art pottery. In 1909 Hyten and potter Arthur Dovey created the process by which area clays of different natural colors were "swirled" together on the potter's wheel. This process was unique as different clays dry at different rates, causing pottery made of multiple clays to shatter in the kiln. Hyten went on to patent this process in 1928. Hyten pitched the beautiful product as Niloak art pottery to investors from Benton in 1911 and succeeded in promoting and selling his wears across the country. Niloak's Art pottery and its unique and famous "swirl" pattern began and ended with Hyten. As an artist of national renown and as an inventor of the swirling process, Charles Hyten is forever linked with Niloak and the art pottery works at Pearl Street, and the showroom off of Military Road would have more significance, since Hyten's death in 1944 the aforementioned buildings have all been razed. Therefore, the only remaining buildings in Benton associated with Charles Hyten and the Niloak Pottery works, are his personal residence in Benton and a four-car garage which was moved in 1998 to a different location. The Hyten house was constructed during the height of Niloak's popularity and was his main residence until his death. The home is a weatherboard clad bungalow with a porch recessed under the gable roof. The home also has two historic second-story additions and a fireplace tiled in Niloak.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheet

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major	Bibliographical	References			ν.	
Bibliogra	phy (Cite the books.	articles, and other sources used in pre	eparing this forr	n.)		
See conti	nuation sheet					
	ocumentation on file			ary location of additi		
prelimir reques	•	individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	x	State Historic Preser Other State agency	vation Office	
previou	sly listed in the Nation			Federal agency		
	sty determined aligion ated a National Histori	e by the National Register c Landmark		Local government University		
		in Buildings Survey # in Engineering Record #	Nam	Other e of repository:		
		n Landscape Survey #				
Historic R	esources Survey	Number (if assigned):				
10. Geog	raphical Data					
(Do not inclu UTM Refe (Place additi 1 <u>15S</u>	onal UTM references 537863	on a continuation sheet.) 3824541	3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			4			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
		tion (Describe the boundaries of the p . 16 Original Town of Benton	property.)			
		xplain why the boundaries were selecte riginal lot encompassing the Hy		nd its outbuilding.		
11. Form	Prepared By	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
name/title		edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, Natio	onal Registe			
organizati	on Arkansas His	toric Preservation Program		_ date <u>March 15</u>	, 2012	
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street				telephone (501) 324-9787		
city or tow	n Little Rock			state AR	zip code 72201	
e-mail	ralph@arkans	asheritage.org				

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

#### **Continuation Sheets**

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Photographs:

. .

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:	
City or Vicinity:	
County:	State:
Photographer:	
Date Photographed:	
Description of Photograph(s) and numb	er:
1 of	

Property Owner:					
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)					
name Cornett-Webb Revocable Trust Doyle L. Webb, II, trustee					
street & num	iber PO Box 274	telepho	one		
city or town	Benton	state	AR	zip code	72018

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

#### <u>House</u>

The Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten House is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Hyten as it is the only building associated with Hyten and Niloak art pottery that remains standing. It is a one story, bungalow built in 1922. It features two small, second-story additions. Also on the property and associated with the house, is a non-contributing apartment made from the converted detached two-story garage also constructed in 1922.<sup>1</sup> The lot is ringed on three sides by a concrete retaining wall punctuated by the garage bays and steps behind the house leading to the apartment. The house is clad in weatherboard siding, painted gray with white trim.

The home's eastern façade, facing Main Street, features a set of brick and concrete steps ascending from the concrete walkway to a front porch recessed under a hipped roof. The roof is supported by four columns in traditional bungalow style. Decorative lattice work that originally supported a screen for the porch spans in between the columns. The eastern façade is fenestrated from left to right by two large, 10 by 10 casement windows, a door which is hung right of center, and a one-over-one, double-hung window. The door is accented on the left by an original gasolier fixture.

The north façade is fenestrated by a door to the cellar and nine one-over-one, double-hung windows. The ninth window is located in the shed-roofed section of the house spans the entire east façade. This section is an addition, but it was reportedly built while the rest of the house was under construction and is therefore original.<sup>2</sup> This west façade is fenestrated on the left to the right by two one-over-one, double hung windows, a door, and a series of five one-over-one, double-hung windows completes the façade to the

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

corner. Three more one-over-one, double-hung windows wrap around the southern corner of the addition to the house. In addition to these three windows, the southern façade is punctuated by five one-over-one double-hung windows and four sets of 10 by 10 casement windows. On the south façade, the red brick of the foundation is fenestrated by a window into the cellar.

The second-floor additions are positioned toward the rear (western side) of the home. The first addition is hip-roofed and was constructed circa 1932.<sup>3</sup> It is fenestrated by a window on either side of the ridgeline. The north façade is fenestrated by two double-hung windows. The first addition also has east facing windows on both sides of the ridgeline and two double-hung windows on the south facing. An additional 6-over-6, double hung window is located on the north façade of the second, second-story addition constructed c. 1940 that the east façade encompasses.<sup>4</sup> The west façade of the second-story shed-roofed addition features a door and a set of three 6-over-6 double hung windows. The south façade also has two 6-over-6 double-hung windows.

Some interior changes were made to the interior of the house in the 1930s, including the restructuring needed for the addition of a stairwell to the second-floor addition. In addition to the stairs, the interior wall between the living room and a bedroom was moved north. The family closed off the hallway and constructed a closet at the end of said hallway, and expanded the previous bedroom into a sun-room featuring 10 by 10 casement windows along the south and east walls of the room.

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

#### Garage/Apartment

To the south-west of the house is the apartment. Originally a below grade two-car garage with a second floor storage area, It was converted c. 1950 to house one of Hyten's daughters and her children.<sup>5</sup> In this conversion a wing was added to the north façade and the garage bays were enclosed. The bays, located on the east façade, now support two horizontal double hung windows and a door on the north corner. The above grade portion of the eastern façade is also fenestrated by two double-hung windows. The northern façade is accessed by a set of stairs in the retaining wall that ascend into a yard enclosed by a picket fence. The leftmost side of the northern façade contains an attached screened-in porch with a shed-roof. The façade is contains a window and a door, with an additional window at the northern end of the additional wing. The western façade is in close proximity to the wall of the adjacent commercial building, but it contains no apparent fenestration. The southern façade currently serves as the front entrance to the apartment. From the left it features two double-hung windows, a shed-roofed addition, two-thirds of which is enclosed, the last third of which is an open porch, allowing access to the door. The enclosed section of the addition is further punctuated by a double-hung window.

#### Integrity

The Hyten house retains its integrity from the time that Charles Hyten lived there. The original gasolier light is installed near the front yard and the original cedar shake shingles are preserved under the composite asphalt roofing. Most importantly, the Niloak decorated fireplace is intact and is the only known Niloak fireplace in existence. However, the garage/apartment does not contribute to the period of

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

significance as it was modified after Charles Hyten's death. Furthermore, it is in close proximity to a large commercial building on the adjacent lot, which was originally a residential lot. The remainder of the block retains its integrity as it also contains the historic Gann House and the Gann Museum. Also, the lot adjacent to the house, where Hyten demolished his mother's old home in preparation to build his new home, remains undeveloped as it did before Hyten's death.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> lbid.

<sup>6</sup>Sanborn

<sup>\*</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, City of Benton, Arkansas: 1921, Sheet 6; 1930, Sheet 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Arlene Hyten Rainey interview with author August, 17, 2011.

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

#### SUMMARY

The Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten house was the home of Hyten during the years that he was involved in the development and marketing of Niloak art pottery. In 1909 Hyten and potter Arthur Dovey created the process by which area clays of different natural colors were "swirled" together on the potter's wheel. This process was unique as different clays dry at different rates, causing pottery made of multiple clays to shatter in the kiln. Hyten went on to patent this process in 1928. Hyten pitched the beautiful product as Niloak art pottery to investors from Benton in 1911 and succeeded in promoting and selling his wears across the country. Niloak's Art pottery and its unique and famous "swirl" pattern began and ended with Hyten. As an artist of renown and as an inventor of the swirling process, Charles Hyten is forever linked with Niloak and the art pottery of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. For its associations with Hyten, the Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with statewide significance under Criterion B.

#### **ELABORATION**

As Jennette H. Dixson wrote in 1973, "It is impossible to separate the story of the Potter, Charles Hyten, from the history of the Niloak Pottery."<sup>1</sup> Both of these stories begin with John F. Hyten, father of Charles Dean "Bullet" Hyten, who was a potter in Boonsboro, Indiana. In 1868 John Hyten moved to Benton, Arkansas, and purchased the old Bush family pottery in 1881.<sup>2</sup> It was here that Charles was born and raised in the family business, although he was taught the trade by his stepfather, Frank Woolsey, as John died when Charles was very young.<sup>3</sup> After their father's death in 1881, Charles and his brothers owned and

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

operated the company as Hyten Brothers pottery. Charles was too young to help run the business and his elder brothers soon lost interest in it, consequently they rented the company out and moved to Ohio with their mother and step-father in 1901. Charles stayed behind, working as a journeyman potter for those who rented the company. By 1902 Charles owned the entire company which he soon renamed Eagle Pottery.<sup>4</sup>

It is important to note that at this point, all pottery works before the turn of the century were of some local importance due to the lack of refrigeration. Stoneware was often used to preserve foods in canning and pickling, as well as for storage of dairy products and as churns for butter. The Hyten's company had some renown by the time Charles became owner because it was the first of the nine Benton area potteries to make white glazed stone-ware as well as the first to work with electric power. However, tragedy struck soon after Charles took full ownership when a fire damaged a kiln and the company almost went under. With the help of a loan from a friend, Charles was able to bring the company back, and went on to develop a line of pottery that would soon compete with "Van Briggle, Weller, Roseville, Adelaide Robineau, and Rookwood."<sup>5</sup>

This line was known as Niloak, which is the reversal of the word Kaolin, the name of a clay similar to the clay from which Niloak is produced. This clay, and the clays surrounding Benton, comes in many different vivid shades including blue, green, and red. These clays inspired Hyten to develop a line of art ware that utilized all the colors. This process was developed between 1908 and 1910 with the help of former Rookwood potter, Arthur Dovey, who had come to work for Hyten in 1909. They renamed the pottery Eagle Pottery and together they created the signature Niloak design, known as "Mission Swirl," which featured matte finished pieces swirled with different colors of clay in distinct bands.<sup>6</sup>

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Hyten and Dovey were so sure of the marketability of their product that Hyten approached local businessmen to invest in the formation of the Niloak Pottery Company which was incorporated in 1911. Hyten's other pottery, Eagle, was located less than two miles north of Benton. It was apparently run separately from Niloak and produced "churns, crocks, and bowls until 1938."<sup>7</sup> The Niloak Pottery Company dissolved its incorporation in 1918, after selling all the shares to Hyten, thus giving him full ownership of Niloak.

In 1921 Hyten expanded the Niloak portion of his business to include a line of wares made for the gift shop and florist industries. Niloak prospered between this second opening and the early years of the Great Depression. It was exhibited in larger department stores such as "Wanamakers in New York and Philadelphia," and at the "May Company in Los Angeles," as well as in stores in Baltimore, Memphis, and Atlantic City."<sup>8</sup> At the same time that Niloak was being exhibited to large crowds at the 1933-4 Chicago World's Fair, the company was struggling at home.<sup>9</sup> In 1934 Niloak was sold to Hardy Lathan Winburn, III, who turned the company to producing for government contracts in an effort to save it. The company survived on military contracts, producing clay pigeons, electrical conductors, and coffee cups until 1947 when it was dissolved.<sup>10</sup>

Even after the company was sold, Charles continued to work for the company, producing a limited amount of Niloak pottery and the company's other art line, Hywood, which featured glazed cast ware. Hyten stayed with Winburn until he joined Camark Pottery in Camden, Arkansas, sometime in 1941.<sup>11</sup> He passed away in 1944.<sup>12</sup>

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Through the nearly sixty-five years that the Hyten family produce pottery in Benton their pottery works were housed in at least two different locations. However, housing kilns is hazardous to a building and the pottery suffered many damaging fires. The pottery works near the intersection of Military and Congo roads in Benton was destroyed by fire in 1901 and again in 1912.<sup>13</sup> Hyten decided to rebuild the works in a new location at the end of Pearl Street, bounded to the east by the intersection of Market and Hazel streets. This factory was built of brick, presumably to cut down on fire damage, and was located next to the railroad tracks.<sup>14</sup> This location would allow for "ease of shipping" and further serve as advertising to the tourists traveling the rail line to Hot Springs, Arkansas.<sup>15</sup> As an additional bit of marketing, a modern showroom was created in 1929 one and a quarter miles north of the county courthouse on Military Road.<sup>16</sup> The building featured all manner of Niloak pottery, including a fireplace inlaid with mission swirled tiles. Even though the new factory was built of brick, it still suffered a damaging fire in 1932.<sup>17</sup>

Since Hyten's death in 1944, the pottery works at Pearl Street and the showroom on Military Road were demolished. The only remaining buildings in Benton associated with Charles Hyten and the Niloak Pottery works, are his personal residence in Benton and a four-car garage.

Following the success of Niloak in the early 1920s, Hyten looked into real estate and rental homes as an investment opportunity. During this time he constructed a large Craftsman-style bungalow with a detached two-car garage off of Main Street for use as a rent home, and a detached four-car garage with upstairs storage at 113 West Smith Street that was to accompany his own soon to be constructed personal residence.<sup>18</sup> However, Hyten's dreams of building his own house to accompany the four-car garage were

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>5</u>

ended due to the Stock Market collapse in 1929 and the following Great Depression. During these financially difficult times, Hyten made the new rental home into his own home and converted the garage into a small rent home. Hyten's new home was completed using pieces of his mother's older house, which was located on the adjacent lot where the four-car garage was located.<sup>19</sup>

Hyten's home was also home to his daughter, Arlene, her husband Nelson Rainey, and their family. The Rainey's inherited the house in 1944 after Hyten's death. After the divorce of Hyten's daughter Norma in the 1950s, the family converted and extended the bungalow's detached two-car garage into an apartment for her and her children.

The bungalow itself underwent many renovations with the life of the household. A second-story addition was built c.1930 which included two bedrooms and a bathroom. Another second story addition was constructed circa 1940 adding a third, larger bedroom. Furthermore, an interior wall was moved between the living room and a bedroom, closing off the hallway, to make a larger sunroom area adjacent to the living room. The living room is especially important to the home's significance as Hyten had the fireplace, which features its original gas and ceramic faux burning log heater, decorated with Mission Swirl style Niloak tiles. The Niloak tiles cover the hearth area and are centered in a four-tile diamond pattern above the firebox. Since the Military Road showroom was demolished, this is the only remaining example of a Niloak decorated fireplace in existence.<sup>20</sup>

The Rainey's sold the house in the 1970s and moved into a new home about six blocks north of the bungalow. The house is now owned by Doyle Webb, II. The four-car garage that Hyten built and used as a

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

rent house was moved in 1998 to 116 W. Maple Street, leaving the bungalow as the most significant structure related to Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten and his nationally recognized art pottery.<sup>21</sup> This house is the only remaining structure with integrity related to Hyten and his art pottery; as such it is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Hyten and Niloak.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten house was the home of Hyten during the years that he was involved in the development and marketing of Niloak art pottery. In 1909 Hyten and potter Arthur Dovey created the process by which area clays of different natural colors were "swirled" together on the potter's wheel. This process was unique as different clays dry at different rates, causing pottery made of multiple clays to shatter in the kiln. Hyten went on to patent this process in 1928. Hyten pitched the beautiful product as Niloak art pottery to investors from Benton in 1911 and succeeded in promoting and selling his wears across the country. Niloak's Art pottery and its unique and famous "swirl" pattern began and ended with Hyten. As an artist of renown and as an inventor of the swirling process, Charles Hyten is forever linked with Niloak and the art pottery of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. For its associations with Hyten, the Charles "Bullet" Dean Hyten House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with statewide significance under Criterion B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jeannette H. Dixson, "Niloak Pottery," Hobbies, (March 1973), 109.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid. and Hardy L. Winburn, Jr., "Seventy Years of Saline County Pottery," Subseries: Secondary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas.

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

<sup>3</sup> John J. Archibald, "Century of Niloak Pottery," *Antique Trader*, August 3, 2010, online edition. www.antiquetrader.com/features/century\_of\_niloak\_pottery, Accessed January 1, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> "Charles D. Hyten" in *Centennial History of Arkansas* by Dallas Tabor Herndon, (Little Rock: J.J. Clarke Co., 1922), 225 Subseries: primary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas.

<sup>5</sup> Dixson, 113.

<sup>6</sup> Or "Mat" finish, Cindy Grisham, "Niloak Pottery," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, online edition <u>http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=586Grisham</u>. For more discussion on who exactly created the signature "Swiri" technique see Gifford, David Edwin. *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Niloak: A Reference and Value Guide*. Paducah: Collector Books, 1993. Regardless of the debate on the actual creator, Hyten was instrumental in its success under the Niloak name and received the patent for the process.

<sup>7</sup> Grisham And "A New American Pottery," *The Clay-Worker*, May 1913, Subseries: Primary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas.

<sup>8</sup> Dixson, 109.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., Dixson calls this the 1934-5 Chicago World Fair. However, the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago occurred between 1933 and 1934.

<sup>10</sup> Diana Sherwood "Arkansas Clay Goes to War," *Arkansas Gazette*, March 28, 1943, Subseries: Primary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas. And Grisham.

<sup>11</sup> Archibald.

<sup>12</sup> "Famed Potter, C.D. Hyten, of Benton, Drowns," *Arkansas Democrat*, September 7,1944, Subseries: Primary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas.

<sup>13</sup>Archibald.

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, City of Benton, Arkansas: 1915, Sheet 10; 1921, Sheet 9; 1930, Sheet 14; 1930-48, Sheet

14.

<sup>15</sup> Archibald. And Carolyn Bell, "Ceramic Art Flourishes in Little Arkansas Town Where Beauty of Clay Alone Works Magic Results," *Houston Post*, 1927 Subseries: Primary, Series: Niloak, Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15, University of Central Arkansas Archives, Conway, Arkansas.

<sup>16</sup> Sanborn, 1930, Sheet 17

Saline County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

<sup>17</sup> Grisham.

<sup>18</sup> Hyten Garage, Arkansas Architectural Resource SA0124, 211 S. Main Street, Research File, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. And Arlene Hyten Rainey, interview with Author, August 17, 2011.

<sup>19</sup> Arlene Hyten Rainey, interview with Author, August 17, 2011. And Sanborn 1921, Sheet 6; 1930, Sheet 8.

<sup>20</sup> Arlene Hyten Rainey, interview with Author, August 17, 2011

<sup>21</sup>Hyten Garage SA0124.

Saline County, Arkansas County and State

**United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

### Primary Sources

- "American Pottery Exhibit Is Under Chairmanship of Mrs. S. V. Brown." *The Atlanta Constitution*. October 6, 1929, pp. D8.
- Arkansas Art Pottery Research Collection M89-15. University of Central Arkansas Archives. Conway, Arkansas.

Hudson, Ralph M. "Art in Arkansas." Arkansas Historical Quarterly. 3 no. 4 (winter 1944). 299-350.

National Remembrance Shop Advertisements, *The Washington Post*, August 30, 1923- September 27, 1923; and April 26, 1924- May 26, 1924.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, City of Benton, Arkansas: 1915, 1921, 1930, 1930-48.

#### Secondary Sources

- Archibald, John J. "Century of Niloak Pottery," Antique Trader. August 3, 2010. online edition. www.antiquetrader.com/features/century\_of\_niloak\_pottery. Accessed January 1, 2012.
- Blakely, Jeffery A. "The Nineteenth Century Pottery industry in Sebastian County, Arkansas," Arkansas Historical Quarterly 49 no. 1, (Spring 1990), 77.
- Dixson, Jeannette H. "Niloak Pottery," Hobbies, (March 1973), 109,113.
- Gifford, David Edwin. The Collector's Encyclopedia of Niloak: A Reference and Value Guide. Paducah: Collector Books, 1993.
- Grisham, Cindy. "Niloak Pottery," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Online edition http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=586
- Hyten Garage, Arkansas Architectural Resource SA0124. 211 S. Main Street. Research File. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.
- Hyten House, Arkansas Architectural Resource SA0089. 116 W. Maple Street, formerly 113 W. Smith Street. Research File. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.



Hyten, Charles "Bullet" Dean, House Benton, Saline County, Arkansas

34.561906 -92.587318











