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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses








New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses

Acknowledgements

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- Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
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- The New Canaan Historical Society
- The Philip Johnson Glass House

Advisory Board: John Johansen, John Black Lee, Toshiko Mori, Theo Prudon, Robert A.M. Stern

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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

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Contents

Appendices

Appendix A
Map of Survey Houses

Section Removed to Protect Homeowner Confidentiality

Appendix B
Index of Study Properties Sorted by I.D. Number

Section Removed to Protect Homeowner Confidentiality

Appendix C
Index of Study Properties Sorted by Address

Section Removed to Protect Homeowner Confidentiality

Appendix D
Index of Study Properties With Addresses Removed

Index of Study Properties With Addresses Removed

ID No.	Historic Building Name	Architect	Landscape Architect	Builder	Alterations Designers	Year Built	Original Owner	Field Surveyed	Individually Eligible for National Register	Eligible for National Register District
01	Latham House	Richard Bergmann	None	Theron Thurston	Unknown (1985). Richard Bergmann (2007-2008)	1966	No	Yes	No	Yes
02	Hurlburt House	Leroy Binkley	Unknown	Unknown		1956	No	No	N/A	N/A
03	Breuer House 1	Marcel Breuer	None	Irving Wood	Herbert Beckhard	1947	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
04	Breuer House 2	Marcel Breuer	Unknown	Ernest Rau	Herbert Beckhard (1976-82), Toshiko Mori (2007-08)	1951	No	No	N/A	N/A
05	Christ-Janer House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Borglum & Meek		1949-52	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
06	Roles House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Robert Roles		1953	No	Yes	No	No
07	Gratwick House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Robert Roles (unconfirmed)	Unknown	1953	No	Yes	No	No
08	Irwin House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Robert Roles	Unknown	1954	No	Yes	No	Yes
09	Daine House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Robert Roles		1953-54	No	Yes	No	Yes
10	Christ-Janer Speculative House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1959	No	Yes	No	Yes
11	Birkenstock House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Unknown	Jack Franzen	1962	No	Yes	No	No
12	Arnold House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Unknown		1965	No	No	N/A	N/A
13	Ackerman House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1975	No	Yes	No	No
14	Brandon House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Louis Lee		1977	No	No	N/A	N/A
15	Branch House	Victor Christ-Janer	Unknown	Landworks Associates, Inc.	Unknown	1979	No	Yes	No	Yes
16	McKay House	James Evans	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1960-61	No	Yes	No	Yes
17	Evans House	James Evans	None	Unknown	Unknown	1961	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	Amato House	James Evans	Unknown	Tom Shaw	Unknown	1966	No	Yes	No	Yes
19	McDonnell House	Eduardo Faxas	Unknown	Paul J. Murphy	Eduardo Faxas (1976-80), Gerald Cohen (post-1987)	1968-69	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Gates House	Gates and Ford	Unknown	Unknown	Mark Markiewicz	1952	No	Yes	No	No
21	Ford House	Gates and Ford	Unknown	Unknown	Gates & Taylor, unknown	1954	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	Attwood House	Gates and Ford	Unknown	Ernest Rau	Victor Christ-Janer	1958	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
23	Melville House	Gates and Ford	Unknown	Paul Borglum		1958	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	Murphy House	Allan Gelbin	Wesley Stout (2002-05)	Unknown	Allan Gelbin	1964	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	Leuthold House	Allan Gelbin	Adolph Leuthold (original owner)	Walter Smith	Unknown	1966	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	Whitlow House	Allan Gelbin	Unknown	Unknown		1969	No	Yes	No	Yes
27	Spotts House	Alan Goldberg	Unknown	Unknown	Richard Henderson, John R. Mastera & Associates	1972	No	Yes	No	No
28	Goldberg House	Alan Goldberg	Paschall Campbell (1955 landscape)	Fredrick De Finis		1977	No	No	N/A	N/A
29	Alcoa House	Charles Goodman	Unknown	Unknown		1958	No	No	N/A	N/A
30	Gores House	Landis Gores	None	John C. Smith, Inc.	Landis Gores	1948	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31	Irwin Pool House	Landis Gores	Unknown	Unknown		1960	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
32	Doggett Jackson House	Charles Jacobs	Unknown	Unknown		1967	No	No	N/A	N/A
33	Barlow House	John Johansen	Unknown	Ted Hobbs	John Johansen; Zane Yost; Richard Thomas	1951	No	Yes	No	No

ID No.	Historic Building Name	Architect	Landscape Architect	Builder	Alterations Designers	Year Built	Original Owner	Field Surveyed	Individually Eligible for National Register	Eligible for National Register District
34	Warner House	John Johansen	James Fanning	Wenzel, Co., Inc.		1956	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
35	Philip Johnson Glass House	Philip Johnson	Philip Johnson	John C. Smith, Inc.		1945-49	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	Hodgson House	Philip Johnson, Landis Gores	Philip Johnson	John C. Smith, Inc.	Philip Johnson	1950-51	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Wiley House	Philip Johnson	Unknown	John C. Smith. Eipel Engineering (engineer)		1952-53	No	No	N/A	N/A
38	Ball House	Philip Johnson	Unknown	Unknown		1953	No	No	Yes	Yes
39	Wiley Speculative House	Philip Johnson	Unknown	Unknown		1954-55	No	No	N/A	N/A
40	Boissonas House	Philip Johnson	Philip Johnson	E.W. Howell Co.		1956	No	No	N/A	N/A
41	Talbert House	William G. Jones	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1951	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
42	Kehm House	Bimel Kehm (unconfirmed)	Unknown	Bemel Kehm (unconfirmed)	Unknown (1962). Dan Kistler (1967, 1998)	1951	No	Yes	No	No
43	Kelly House	Bimel Kehm	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1954	No	Yes	No	No
44	Techbuilt/Swallen House	Carl Koch	Unknown	Unknown	Landis Gores	1954	No	Yes	No	Yes
45	Techbuilt/Aderer House	Carl Koch	Unknown	Unknown		1954-55	No	No	N/A	N/A
46	Techbuilt/Wilson House	Carl Koch	Unknown	Unknown		1958	No	No	N/A	N/A
47	Crichton House	William Landsberg	James Fanning, Richard Bergmann	Ted Hobbs		1961	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
48	Lee House 1	John Black Lee	Unknown	Ernest Rau	Unknown	1952	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
49	Lee House 2	John Black Lee	Paschall Campbell	Ernest Rau	Toshiko Mori (1992). Kenjo Kume (2007-08)	1956	No	Yes	No	No
50	Rogers House	John Black Lee	Charles Middeleer	Ernest Rau	Unknown	1957	No	Yes	No	Yes
51	Teaze House	John Black Lee	Unknown	Ernest Rau	Lillian Wolfe and Wes Wolfe	1960	No	Yes	No	Yes
52	System House	John Black Lee, Harrison DeSilver	Unknown	Ernest Rau	Unknown	1961	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
53	Day House	John Black Lee	Unknown	Unknown		1965	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
54	Monroe House	John Black Lee	Charles Middeleer	Unknown	Unknown	1968	No	Yes	No	Yes
55	Lindstrom House	Gary Lindstrom	None (landscaping done by owner)	Emil Toikka	Gary Lindstrom	1963-64	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
56	Bremer House	Eliot Noyes	Unknown	Borglum & Meek		1951	No	No	N/A	N/A
57	Ault House	Eliot Noyes	Unknown	Borglum & Meek		1952	No	No	N/A	N/A
58	Weeks House	Eliot Noyes	Unknown	Borglum & Meek	Alan Goldberg	1952	No	Yes	No	No
59	Noyes House 2	Eliot Noyes	None	Borglum & Meek	Eliot Noyes	1954-55	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
60	Chivvis House	Eliot Noyes	Unknown	Unknown		1979	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
61	Papp House	Laszlo Papp	Unknown	Andrew Pirro	Laszlo Papp	1959-64	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
62	Fine House	Laszlo Papp	Unknown	Andrew Pirro		1965	No	No	N/A	N/A
63	Beaven Mills House	William Pedersen	Unknown	Unknown		1956	No	Yes	No	Yes
64	Hall House	William Pedersen	None (landscaping done by owner)	Ted Hobbs	Unknown	1962	No	Yes	No	Yes
65	Mills House 1	Willis N. Mills	Willis N. Mills	Unknown	Unknown	1939	No	No	Yes	No
66	Rantoul House	Sherwood, Mills & Smith	Unknown	Borglum & Meek		1947-48	No	No	N/A	N/A
67	Durisol House/Risom House	Sherwood, Mills & Smith	Unknown	Tudisco & Diehl	Laurent DuPont	1949	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
68	Mills House	Sherwood, Mills & Smith	Unknown	Ted Hobbs	Gary MacIntyre	1950	No	Yes	No	Yes
69	Mills House 2	Willis N. Mills of Sherwood, Mills & Smith	Unknown	Borglum & Meek	Craig Bassam	1956	No	Yes	No	Yes

ID No.	Historic Building Name	Architect	Landscape Architect	Builder	Alterations Designers	Year Built	Original Owner	Field Surveyed	Individually Eligible for National Register	Eligible for National Register District
70	Smallen House	Hugh Smallen	Unknown	Borglum & Meek	Hugh Smallen	1957	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
71	Tatum House	Hugh Smallen	Peter Roland (2003-04)	Roy Varian	Dan Kistler; John Black Lee	1962	No	Yes	No	Yes
72	Becker House	Hugh Smallen	Wesley Stout (later landscape design)	Roy Varian	Unknown	1963-64	No	Yes	No	Yes
73	Parsons House	Hugh Smallen	Unknown	Varian Construction Company	John Black Lee (garage)	1964	No	Yes	No	Yes
74	Celanese House	Edward Durell Stone	James Fanning	Ted Hobbs	Unknown	1959	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
75	Waxberg House	Nathaniel Streitman	Unknown	Louis Folb		1956	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
76	Dana House	Ulrich Franzen & Associates	Unknown	Emil Toikka		1964	No	No	N/A	N/A
77	Zucker House	P. Whitney Webb	Unknown	Reed & Lord		1961-62	No	No	N/A	N/A
78	Ford House/Edward Winter House	Edward Winter, Russell Ford	Unknown	Borglum & Meek	Michael Irving (1992), Mella Kernan (1994)	1961	No	Yes	No	Yes
79	Arlt House	Evans Woollen III	Unknown	Ted Hobbs	Boris Pogacnik	1954	No	Yes	No	No
80	Naill House	Evans Woollen III	Unknown	Louis Folb	Unknown	1954	No	Yes	No	No
81	Tirranna/Rayward House	Frank Lloyd Wright	Frank Masao Okamura, Charles Middeleer (1960s)	Allan Gelbin	John de Koven Hill, William Wesley Peters	1956	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
82	Goldmark House/Salant House	Unknown	Unknown	George Hickey (according to owner)	Unknown (1951). Chris Mooman (1979-80)	1941	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
83	MacKnight House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1947	No	No	N/A	N/A
84	Harding House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1953	No	No	N/A	N/A
85	Sasanoff House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1955	No	No	N/A	N/A
86	Docters House	Unknown	Unknown	Blitz & Price		1957	No	No	N/A	N/A
87	Kirkpatrick House	Unknown	Unknown	Ted Hobbs		1959	No	No	N/A	N/A
88	Fiore House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1960-61	No	No	N/A	N/A
89	Jones House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1960-62	No	No	N/A	N/A
90	Archer House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		1963	No	No	N/A	N/A
91	James House	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1965	No	Yes	No	Yes

Appendix E
Index of Demolished Modern Houses

Index of Demolished Modern Houses

Historic Building Name	Street No.	Street Name	Architect	Year Built
Smithers House	96	Cross Ridge Rd	Howard Barnstone	1956
Lamm House	95	Woods End Rd	Richard Bergmann	1968
Mills House	180	Sunset Hill Rd	Marcel Breuer	1949
Kniffen House		Turtleback Rd. South	Marcel Breuer, Eliot Noyes	1949
Trench House	47	Appletree Ln	Victor Christ-Janer	1958
Johnson House	1360	Valley Rd	Victor Christ-Janer, Dinyar Wadia	Unknown
Tiedemann House	266	Michigan Rd	Eduardo Faxas	1978
Askew House	96	Lambert Rd	Gates and Ford	1955
All Seasons House	33	Soundview Rd	Landis Gores	1978
Irving House	467	N. Wilton Rd	Michael Irving	1959
Dunham House	103	Woods End Rd	John Johansen	1950
Johansen House	966	Ponus Ridge Rd	John Johansen	1951
Campbell House	701	Laurel Rd	John Johansen	1952
Dickinson House	559	West Rd	John Johansen	1953
Goode House	49	Arrowhead Trail	John Johansen	1953
Noyes House 1	51	Lambert Rd	Eliot Noyes	1947
Tallman House	1578	Ponus Ridge Rd	Eliot Noyes	1950
Brown House	81	Cross Ridge Rd	Eliot Noyes	1951
Mosely House	59	Arrowhead Rd	Eliot Noyes	1951
Stackpole House	928	Ponus Ridge Rd	Eliot Noyes	1951
Mulvey House	37	Father Peters Ln	Aaron Resnick	1955
Riley House	1171	Valley Rd	Chauncey Riley	1952
Knoll House		Turtleback Rd	Sherwood, Mills & Smith	ca. 1955
Pietsch House	36	Brushy Ridge Rd	Jasper Ward	1955
Kirkbride House ("Five Wells")	909	West Rd	Robertson Ward	1937
	317	Country Club Rd	Tony Wolner	1970s
	347	Lukes Wood Rd	Evans Woollen III	1955

Appendix F
Modern House Tours in New Canaan

Modern House Tours in New Canaan

14 May 1949
- Noyes House 1 (1947, Eliot Noyes, demolished)
- Breuer House 1 (1947, Marcel Breuer)
- Gores House (1948, Landis Gores)
- Rantoul House (1948, Sherwood, Mills & Smith)
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Kniffen House (1949, Marcel Breuer & Eliot Noyes, demolished)

25 May 1952
- Gores House (1948, Landis Gores)
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Dunham House (1950, John Johansen, demolished)
- Bremer House (1951, Eliot Noyes)
- Breuer House 2 (1951, Marcel Breuer)
- Hodgson House (1951, Philip Johnson)
- Johansen House (1951, John Johansen, demolished)
- Stackpole House (1951, Eliot Noyes, demolished)

18 October 1953
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Roles House (1950, Victor Christ-Janer)
- Ault House (1952, Eliot Noyes)
- Lee House 1 (1952, John Black Lee)
- Weeks House (1952, Eliot Noyes)
- Goode House (1953, John Johansen, demolished)

22 May 1955
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Breuer House 2 (1951, Marcel Breuer)
- Irwin House, (1952, Victor Christ-Janer)
- Wiley House (1953, Philip Johnson)
- Noyes House 2 (1954, Eliot Noyes)
- Knoll House (ca. 1955, Sherwood, Mills & Smith, demolished)

26 May 1957
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Breuer House 2 (1951, Marcel Breuer)
- Lee House 1/Poole House (1952, John Black Lee)
- Dickinson House (1953, John Johansen, demolished)
- Wiley House (1953, Philip Johnson)
- Noyes House 2 (1954, Eliot Noyes)
- Boissonas House (1956, Philip Johnson)
- Hurlburt House (1956, Leroy Binkley)
- Lee House 2 (1956, John Black Lee)
- Mills House 2 (1956, Sherwood, Mills & Smith)

24 May 1959
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Johansen House (1951, John Johansen, demolished)
- Arlt House (1954, Evans Woollen III)
- Noyes House 2 (1954, Eliot Noyes)
- Rogers House (1957, John Black Lee)
- Smallen House (1957, Hugh Smallen)
- Melville House (1958, Gates and Ford)
- Celanese House (1959, Edward Durell Stone)

21 May 1961
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Hodgson House (1951, Philip Johnson)
- Prescott W. Mathews House (Thomas Yardley, 1957)
- Irving House (Michael Irving, 1959, demolished)
- Evans House (James Evans, 1961)
- System House (1961, John Black Lee & Harrison DeSilver)

19 May 1963
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Noyes House 2 (1954, Eliot Noyes)
- Lee House 2 (1956, John Black Lee)
- Smithers House (1956, Howard Barnstone, demolished)
- Celanese House (1959, Edward Durell Stone)
- Tatum House (1962, Hugh Smallen)

23 May 1965
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Breuer House 2 (1951, Marcel Breuer)
- Smallen House (1957, Hugh Smallen)
- St. Mark's Church (1961, Sherwood, Mills & Smith)
- Parsons House (1964, Hugh Smallen)
- Ernst House (unknown date, John Johansen, likely demolished)

21 May 1967
- Glass House (1949, Philip Johnson)
- Boissonas House (1956, Phillip Johnson)
- Tirranna/Rayward House (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1956)
- Teaze House (1960, John Black Lee)
- Leuthold House (1966, Allan Gelbin)
- DeSilver House (date unknown, Harrison DeSilver designed Modern addition to ca.1900 house on Sunset Hill Road)
- Unnamed house by Hugh Smallen

Appendix G
Architect Biographies

Photographer: Allan Mitchell

Richard Bergmann

1935 -

Richard Bergmann was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1935. After serving in the United States Army from 1954-57, he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois in 1961. During his studies, Bergmann wrote a term paper on the New Canaan Modern Houses, establishing his early interest in becoming part of the architectural movement in New Canaan.

After graduation, he worked for Urbahn & Brayton (later Urbahn, Roberts, Seelye & Moran) in New York City, a firm known for their numerous government commissions, including the Vertical Assembly Building and the Launch Control Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. In the mid-1960s, he left the firm and traveled the world with his wife, Sandra, to study timber construction. The couple worked their way through Europe, Africa, and the Near East during 1964 and 1965, allowing Bergmann to study a range of architectural styles. Upon returning to the United States, he settled in New Canaan, Connecticut.

During his first three years in New Canaan, Bergmann worked for Christ-Janer, Johansen & Kouzmanof Associates and Eliot Noyes & Associates. In 1967, he founded Richard Bergmann Architects. Bergmann's wide-ranging firm has worked on commercial, ecclesiastical, residential, restoration, and adaptive reuse projects. Notable projects in New Canaan include the innovative Latham House (1968) and the restoration of the 1836 Greek Revival Ayres-Perkins House for his office and residence (1973-1977), which received the Connecticut Society of Architects/AIA Honor Award. He was elected as a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1982.

Bergmann is also a licensed landscape architect and a professional photographer. He has served as chairman of the New Canaan Historic District Commission and has been tirelessly involved in promoting the preservation of New Canaan Modern Houses. In 1994, he became the first recipient of the "Outstanding Service in Historic Preservation" award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Latham House (1968)
- Tallman/Howe House addition (1969, no longer extant)

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 65.

"Architects in state get national tribute." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 15 April 1982, 3A.

Bergmann, Richard. "Resume: Richard Bergmann, FAIA, ASLA," 28 May 2008.

"Max O. Urbahn Is Dead at 83; Designed Vast NASA Building." *New York Times*, 13 July 1995.

Ross, Jeannette. "The House At Woods End Road: 35 Years Young." *Home Monthly* (Ridgefield, CT), 15-16.

"Sense of History Motivates Architect's New Creativity." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 7 November 1974.

Hurlburt House (1956)

Leroy Binkley

UNKNOWN

Leroy (Roy) Binkley primarily worked in the Chicago area. Although it has been difficult to find any biographical information on Binkley, John Black Lee reported that he worked with him in Paul Schweiker's office in Chicago, and Binkley may have attended the Illinois Institute of Technology or the University of Chicago. Lee also stated that Binkley's sister was married to Paul Rand (1914-1996) and Binkley designed a house for them. Binkley's other work in the Chicago area included two houses for his family, one in Long Grove and one on Lake Michigan, and a house in Glencoe. The Hurlburt House (1956) is the only house in New Canaan attributed to Binkley.

Sources used for biography:

Douglas, Anne. "The Home of the Week: Home on Hill Makes Lavish Use of Glass." *Chicago Tribune*, 3 September 1955, 9.

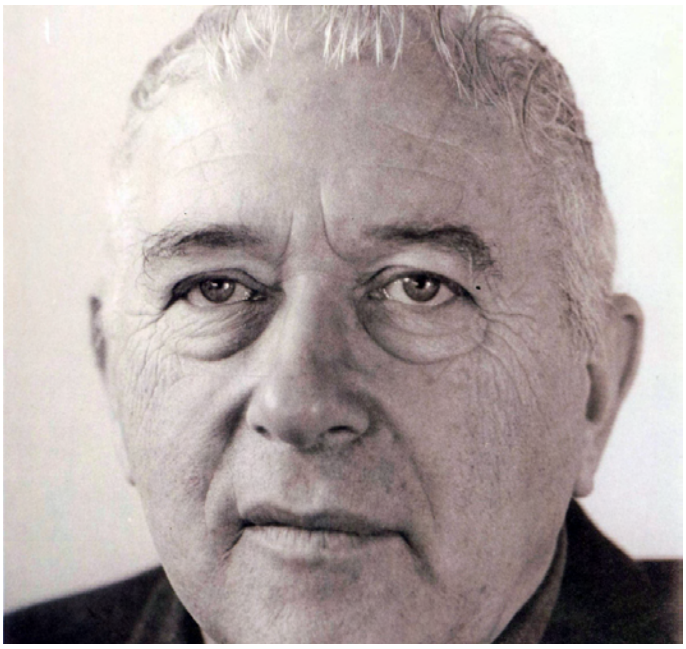
Lee, John Black. Interview with Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, May 2008.

White, Nancy. "A Comfortable Mediterranean Atmosphere." *Chicago Tribune*, 30 July 1966, N-A1.

White, Nancy. "Built to View Lake Michigan." *Chicago Tribune*, 20 August 1966, N-A1.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Hurlburt House (1956)



Photographer: Nina Bremer, source: New Canaan Historical Society

Marcel Breuer

1902 - 1981

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Breuer House 1 (1947)
- Mills House (1949, no longer extant)
- Kniffen House (with Noyes, 1949, no longer extant)
- Breuer House 2 (1951)

Born Lajos Breuer in 1902 in Pecs, Hungary, Marcel Breuer was the eldest member of the group that became known as the "Harvard Five." In 1920, he set off for Vienna to study art but disliked the atmosphere of the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts.[1] His next move was to the Bauhaus School in Weimer, Germany, where he enrolled as a student in 1921. The Bauhaus School, founded by Walter Gropius (1883-1969), was known for combining the teaching of arts with technology.

After graduating from the Bauhaus with a Masters of Architecture degree in 1924, Breuer moved to Paris to pursue architectural studies. Gropius invited Breuer back to the Bauhaus in 1925 to work as the Master of the Carpentry Shop, where he made his first great impressions on the world of design with his modular furniture. His most famous furniture design was the iconic tubular steel chair inspired by bicycle handlebars. Breuer stayed in Germany until 1935, continuing his work in furniture, interior design, and architecture.

He immigrated to the United States in 1937 after Walter Gropius invited him to teach architecture at the newly established Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Breuer's students included I.M. Pei (1917-), Philip Johnson (1906-2005), and Paul Rudolph (1918-1977). Through his roles as teacher and Gropius's business partner, Breuer became a highly influential member of the Modern movement. He was instrumental in revolutionizing architectural education in the United States by promoting and implementing Bauhaus concepts.

Breuer moved to New York City in 1946 and was persuaded by former student Eliot Noyes (1910-1977) to consider building a home in New Canaan, Connecticut. Breuer purchased property on Sunset Hill Road and completed his first house in New Canaan in 1947. Unlike many of the other New Canaan Modern architects, he kept his primary residence in New York City and used his New Canaan house as a weekend and vacation retreat. He later built a second house, Breuer House 2, for his family in New Canaan. Because of poor health, Breuer sold his house in New Canaan in 1972 and moved permanently back to Manhattan.[2]

Marcel Breuer was one of the most influential teachers and architects of the Modern movement in America. His most renowned works include St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota (1953), the UNESCO World Headquarters in Paris (1955-58, in conjunction with Pier Luigi Nervi and Bernard Zehrfuss), the IBM Research Center in La Gaude, France (1960-62), the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City (1964-66), and the Armstrong Rubber Company Headquarters in West Haven, Connecticut

1 "Work World-Wide in Scope," *New Canaan Advertiser*, 26 November 1974.

2 Marcel Breuer Papers Online, Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

(1968-70). The American Institute of Architects awarded him the Gold Medal in 1968 and l'Académie d'Architecture in France awarded him the Grande Médaille d'Or in 1976. Breuer was also honored with the first one-man show for a living American architect at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1972-73, and a one-man exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1981.[3]

Breuer died in New York City in 1981.

Sources used for biography:

"Architect honored on 'Marcel Breuer Day'." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 26 September 2002.

Earls, William D. *The Harvard Five in New Canaan*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2006.

"Genetrix: Personal Contributions to American Architecture." *Architectural Review* 121 (May 1957): 348.

"The Houses that Breuer Built." *Stamford Advocate*, 5 May 1988, C1.

Hyman, Isabelle. *Marcel Breuer, Architect: The Career and the Buildings*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001.

"Innovating Architect: Marcel Breuer." *New York Times*, 24 February 1968, L30.

"Marcel Breuer Dead; Set Architecture Trends." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 9 July 1981.

Marcel Breuer Papers Online, Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

"Marcel Breuer: Teacher and Architect." *House and Home*, May 1952, 102-115.

"Work World-Wide in Scope." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 26 November 1974.

3 Isabelle Hyman. *Marcel Breuer, Architect: The Career and the Buildings* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001), 166.

Irwin House (1952)

Victor Christ-Janer

1915 - 2008

Victor Christ-Janer was born in Waterville, Minnesota, in 1915. He attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota and then enrolled at Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with honors in sculpture in 1940. After serving as a conscientious objector in the military during World War II, working as a camouflage artist and in Army intelligence, he returned to Yale and received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the School of Architecture in 1947.

Shortly after receiving his degree, he established the architectural firm Victor Christ-Janer and Associates in New Canaan and became part of the first wave of Modern architects living and working in the town during the post-war period. In August 1948, Christ-Janer and his wife Elizabeth purchased a lot in New Canaan, Connecticut, and constructed the Christ-Janer House between 1949 and 1952. Christ-Janer designed several houses in New Canaan along with Walter Stewart's Market (1955), the New Canaan Senior High School (1958), and the New Canaan Post Office (1958).

Victor Christ-Janer and Associates served as a combined architectural firm and art gallery; throughout his career, Christ-Janer was able to apply his interests in art, art conservation, teaching, writing, and open space conservation to his work.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Christ-Janer House (1949-52)
- Roles House (1953)
- Gratwick House (1953)
- Irwin House (1954)
- Daine House (1953-54)
- Trench House (1958, no longer extant)
- Christ-Janer Speculative House (1959)
- Birkenstock House (1962)
- Arnold House (1965)
- Ackerman House (1975)
- Brandon House (1977)
- Branch House (1979)
- Grant House (1981)
- Johnson House (with Dinyar Wadia, date unknown, no longer extant)

When asked to design a monastery, he lived among the Carthusian Order in France before designing the Carthusian Charterhouse of the Transfiguration (1970) in Mount Equinox, Vermont. He was the third American to win the Reynolds Award in 1967 for his design of the James F. Lincoln Library (1959) at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. Other well-known works include St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, New Jersey, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rochester, Minnesota, and his redesign of the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist, in New York City. Christ-Janer served as an instructor at Stephen's College, Yale University, and Columbia University.[1]

Victor Christ-Janer died in 2008 at his home in New Canaan.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 117.

Christ-Janer, Victor. "Constituent Imagery." *Perspecta* 17 (1980): 8.

Liebenson, Bess. "When New Canaan Was Home To Six Prominent Architects." *New York Times*, 21 June 1992, CN21.

Pogrebin, Robin. "Victor Christ-Janer, Modernist Architect, Dies at 92." *New York Times*, 8 May 2008.

"Victor Frederick Christ-Janer." *Stamford Advocate*, 18 April 2008.

1 Bess Liebenson, "When New Canaan Was Home To Six Prominent Architects," *New York Times*, 21 June 1992, CN21.

System House (1961)

Harrison DeSilver

1914 -

Harrison DeSilver was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1914. He received his degree in architecture from Columbia University in 1953. DeSilver moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, in 1960 after being inspired by his experience on one of the town's famous Modern house tours. After arriving in town, he formed a partnership with architect John Black Lee (1924-) to produce custom Modern homes at a reasonable cost. Calling the project "The System," DeSilver and Lee were able to limit the cost of their design by using measurements corresponding to stock cuts of lumber. The prototype "System House" was completed in 1961 and DeSilver became its first owner. Among DeSilver's other works are the Williams C. Bowie Residence (1969) on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and the Phonograph Shop Building (1962) in Stamford, Connecticut.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 219.

LeManager, Jack. "Results of Busman's Holiday." *New Canaan Advertiser*, n.d.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- System House (1961)

Evans House (1961)

James Evans

1925 -

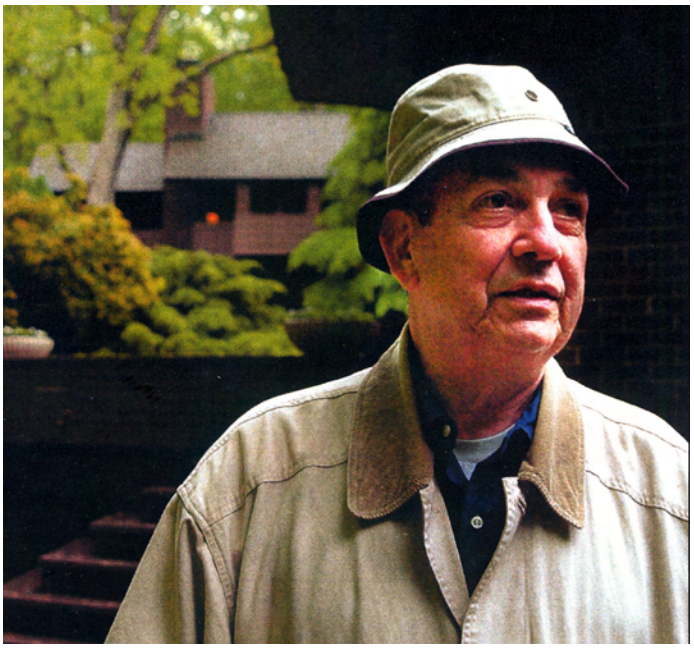
James Evans was born in New York City in 1925 and studied architecture at Yale University under Louis Kahn (1901-1974), where he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1952. By 1961, he had moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, as part of the second generation of Modern architects to establish themselves in the town. Evans designed at least three houses in New Canaan and also designed senior apartments at the New Canaan Inn (1981). His architectural firm, James Evans and Associates, is based out of Stamford, Connecticut.

Source used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 200.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- McKay House (1960-61)
- Evans House (1961)
- Amato House (1966)



Photographer: Bryan Haeffele, source: *The HOME Monthly*, July 2003

Eduardo Faxas

1930 -

Eduardo Faxas was born in Cuba in 1930 and studied architecture at the University of Havana, but fled the country in 1953 at the age of 23 to escape the Revolution. He continued his studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology and later worked for thirteen years in Atlanta in the office of Richard Aeck (1912-1996). His work has been most influenced by the writings and drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959). Through Wright's work, Faxas developed his concept of the unit as the anchor of design. In 1966, he moved to New Canaan to work at the firm of Eliot Noyes (1910-1977). The McDonnell House (1968-69) is his only surviving house in New Canaan. His Tiedemann House (1978) was torn down in 2003, which catalyzed a movement to end teardowns of Modern homes in the area.[1] He is now based out of Holmes, New York.

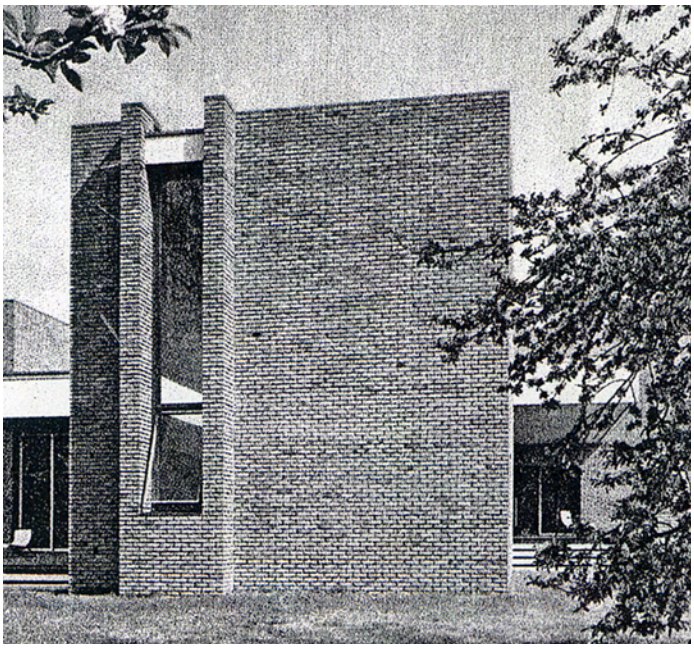
Source used for biography:

Schweitzer, Rob. "Eduardo Faxas: Fleeing Oppression to Embrace the Modern." *The HOME Monthly* (Ridgefield, CT), July 2003, 48-57.

1 Rob Schweitzer, "Eduardo Faxas: Fleeing Oppression to Embrace the Modern," *The HOME Monthly* (Ridgefield, CT), July 2003, 48-57.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- McDonnell House (1968-69)
- Tiedemann House (1978, no longer extant)



Dana House (1964), photographer: Robert Damora, source: *Architectural Record Houses of 1966*

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Dana House (1964)

Ulrich Franzen

1921 -

Ulrich Franzen was born in Dusseldorf, Germany, in 1921 and immigrated to the United States in 1936. He graduated from Williams College in 1942 and received a Master of Architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1948. After graduation, Franzen went to work for I.M. Pei (1917-) and then left to open his own firm, Ulrich Franzen and Associates, in New York City. His firm established itself through educational, corporate, and residential commissions. Franzen's work reflects a dedication to social context and to "the use of powerful forms."[1] Franzen himself stated, "Architecture is the servant of its time and significant designs are experiments of an era. The buildings that are designed become footprints of our own socio-cultural history, reflections of the ideas and concerns of an era, and not those of an individual."[2]

Among his numerous honors are the Arnold Brunner Prize given by the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Louis Sullivan Award from the New York Chapter of the AIA, the Thomas Jefferson Award from the University of Virginia, and an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Williams College. Franzen has been a frequent lecturer and has served as a visiting professor at a number of universities including Harvard, Yale, and Columbia. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 200.

Emanuel, Muriel, ed. *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition*. New York: St. James Press, [1994], 320-321.

Placzek, Adolph K., ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 2*. New York: The Free Press, [1982], 113.

Ulrich Franzen Papers, Special Collections, Frances Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, <http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~des0016>.

1 Adolph K. Placzek, ed., *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 4* (New York: The Free Press, [1982]), 113.

2 Muriel Emanuel, ed. *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition* (New York: St. James Press, [1994]), 321.

Melville House (1958)

Gates and Ford

Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates was formed by the partnership of Frederick Taylor Gates and Russell Ford. Both Gates and Ford attended Phillips Exeter and Yale University before serving in the military during World War II; Gates served in the Navy while Ford served as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. After World War II, they settled in New Canaan, Connecticut, and formed their architecture practice.

Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates designed several Modern houses in New Canaan. One of the firm's notable buildings is the Melville House (1958), featured in the 1959 Modern House Tour. The firm was also commissioned to prepare the first comprehensive zoning plan for Newtown, Connecticut, in 1957.

In 1957, Gates left New Canaan to form a partnership with architect Robertson Ward, who had designed the first Modern house in New Canaan (Kirkbride House, 1937). Ward's firm specialized in tropical hotels and resorts and single-family residences and was based in the Bahamas.

Sources used for biography:

"Digest of the Career and Achievements of Robertson Ward." n.d., collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Hope L. McWilliam Bride of Officer." *New York Times,* 18 October 1945, 28.
"Modern House Tour May 24." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 16 April 1959.
Parke, Richard H. "Zoning Battle in Fairfieldtown." *New York Times*, 12 May 1957.
"Troth Announced of Patricia Brown." *New York Times*, 3 June 1944.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Gates House (1952)
- Ford House (1954)
- Askew House (1955, no longer extant)
- Attwood House (1958)
- Melville House (1958)

Murphy House (1963)

Allan Gelbin

1929 - 1994

Allan Gelbin was born in 1929 and spent his youth in New York City and the surrounding metropolitan area. He studied architecture at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but left prior to receiving his degree to apprentice with Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) at Taliesin, the architect's studio in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Gelbin was drawn to Taliesin by Wright's philosophy of organic architecture, and lived and worked there from 1949 to 1953. After leaving Taliesin, Gelbin supervised the construction of three of Wright's residential commissions in Canton, Ohio, and Tirranna/Rayward House (1956) in New Canaan, Connecticut.

In 1957, Gelbin established his own firm in New Canaan and designed a home for himself in Ridgefield. His firm focused primarily on residential design, with the majority of their commissions located in New York State and New England. Gelbin designed numerous homes in Connecticut, including the Murphy House (1964) and the Leuthold House (1966), both in New Canaan.

Gelbin actively pursued interests outside of architecture, including photography, urban planning, art, and aviation. His interest in planning led to the 1989 publication of *Sun, Earth, and Sky: Ideas for a New City*, a compilation of his personal ideas on city planning.

Allan Gelbin died in 1994.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Murphy House (1964)
- Leuthold House (1966)
- Whitlow House (1969)

Source used for biography:

Allan J. Gelbin Papers, Ryerson & Burnham Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago.

Photographer: Allan Mitchell, photograph courtesy of Alan Goldberg

Alan Goldberg

1931 -

Architect Alan Goldberg was born in New York City in 1931. After graduating in 1954 with a degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Goldberg went to work for the St. Louis Office of City Planning and then joined the army. After he left the service, he moved back to New York City. During his first ten years in the city, he worked on several projects including the Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe and Johnson, 1954-58). In 1966, he moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, to work for Eliot Noyes (1910-1977). Goldberg was named head of the firm's architecture department in 1972 and became a partner in 1974. During the latter part of the 1970s, the firm was renamed AG/ENA. After Noyes's death in 1977, Goldberg became principal architect and took on a number of Noyes's corporate clients, including the Mobil Corporation.

Goldberg's commissions reflected the range of his interests in interior design, lighting, graphics, and corporate design. IBM and other companies engaged Goldberg to advise them on corporate design projects. From 1977 to 1991, he directed Mobil's service station design program that impacted 20,000 stations throughout the world.

In 1988, he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Goldberg has served as a visiting critic at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and as a design juror at the Yale University School of Architecture. In 2004, the School of Architecture at Washington University selected him for the "Distinguished Alumni Award." In recent years, Goldberg has become engaged in the promotion of hydrogen as an alternate and renewable energy source. As part of a partnership, Goldberg and his team have created a prototype for a Hydrogen Fueling Station/Information Center (2006).

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Spotts House (1972)
- Goldberg House (1977)
- Kane House (1982)

Sources used for biography:

Brooks, Christopher. "Blueprint for the Future." *New Canaan-Darien Magazine*, July 2007.

Ostroff, Tracy. "Hydrogen Fuels Architects' Plans." *AIA Architect Online*, 21 April 2006, <http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek06/0421/0421goldberg.cfm/>.

"Washington University School of Architecture names local architect 'Distinguished Alumni'." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 15 April 2004.

Source: *Modernism Magazine* 1 (Winter 1998): 35

Charles Goodman

1906 - 1992

Charles Goodman was born in New York City in 1906 and grew up outside of Chicago, Illinois. He studied at the Illinois Institute of Technology until 1928 and trained as an architect at the Armour Institute of Technology (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) until 1931. As a Chicago resident, he was influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) and Louis Sullivan (1856-1924)—two renowned architects who designed several important buildings in the area. Goodman also developed an admiration of the Bauhaus and the work of Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969).

From 1934 to 1939, he worked as a government architect in the Procurement Division of the U. S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. Goodman became an early vanguard of the movement to design government buildings in more contemporary styles instead of the traditional Neoclassical styles. His design for Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C. (1938-1940) included a modern configuration of terminals, luggage handling, and surface vehicle traffic. During World War II, he served as Principal Architect of the Army Air Forces Air Transport Command.

In 1946, Goodman founded Charles Goodman Associates in Washington, D. C., a firm that specialized in residences and housing development planning. During the late 1940s and 1950s, he became interested in prefabricated housing as a way to innovate the U.S. housing industry by opening up the markets to changes in design and function.[1] His designs were featured in publications like *Life* and *House and Home*, making his work extremely popular, especially in the D.C. area. Over 32,000 of his houses were built by 1956.[2] Some of his most outstanding work is in the Hollin Hills development in Alexandria, Virginia (1949-1971), which consists of over 300 hundred acres of housing and landscape. The houses were not sited to squarely face the street in the traditional suburban manner; instead, each house's plan and siting was based on its environment, sunlight, slope of the lot, and privacy. Curvilinear roads with cul-de-sacs and individual landscape plans were formed in collaboration with landscape architects Lou Bernard Voight (1891-1961), Dan Kiley (1912-2004), and Eric Paepcke (1906-1981). Goodman created nine different model types with many of the same features: flat or low-pitched roofs, large panes of glass fit within delicate mullions, vertical exterior paneling, and imposing freestanding fireplaces.

Goodman won the National Award of Merit from the Architectural Institute of America in 1955 for his own residence (1954), a Modern addition to an existing farmhouse. In the 1950s, he formed an alliance with National Homes, the largest manufacturer of prefabricated homes at the time. An eleven-

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Alcoa House (1957)

1 "A Top Builders' House Architect…Tries a New House for Tomorrow," *House and Home*, January 1956, 132.

2 *Ibid*.

acre urban renewal project called River Park in Washington, D.C. (1963), was one of his lauded works with National Homes. Goodman is also credited with the design for the "Care Free House," a showcase house built for the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) to demonstrate the potential uses of aluminum as a building material. The Alcoa House (1957) in New Canaan is one of approximately forty of these houses completed in the United States. During the 1960s and 1970s, Goodman transitioned to larger building projects.

In 1956, Goodman remarked on designing economical and appealing housing: "[Architects] have to develop and complete, economical structural system with which to design… They have to be planners. They shouldn't try to 'package' a mediocre product to make it sell better, but to make the product better all the way through: better in its structure, better in its plan, better in its appearance, better in its economics, more delightful to live in—and thus easier to sell."[3]

Charles Goodman died in 1992.

Sources used for biography:

Marshall, Ronald W., and Barbara A. Boyd. "Charles M. Goodman: Mid-Century Architect." *Modernism Magazine: 20th Century Art and Design* 1 (Winter 1998): 34-41.

Peter, John. *The Oral History of Modern Architecture: Interviews with the Greatest Architects of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1994.

"A Top Builders' House Architect…Tries a New House for Tomorrow." *House and Home* 9 (January 1956): 128-135.

3 *Ibid*.

Photographer: Nina Bremer, photograph courtesy of Pamela Gores

Landis Gores

1919 - 1991

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Gores House (1948)
- Hodgson House (associate to Johnson, 1950-51)
- Irwin Pool House (1960)
- Techbuilt House addition (1964)
- House for All Seasons (1978, no longer extant)

Landis Gores was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1919. He attended Princeton University, focusing on Greek and English studies, and graduated summa cum laude in 1939. He received a degree in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1942 and was awarded a gold medal that same year from the American Institute of Architects. At Harvard, he studied under Marcel Breuer (1902-1981) and Walter Gropius (1883-1969), but also developed an interest in the ideas of Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) and Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959).[1]

At the start of World War II, Gores enlisted in the military and became a member of the top-secret operation "Ultra," which successfully deciphered the code of Germany's high command; this operation was viewed as instrumental in the Allied victory. For his service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Order of the British Empire.

After the war, Gores joined Philip Johnson (1906-2005) as an associate designer in New York City. The projects they completed together include a significant addition and gardens for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City (1953). Gores also worked with Johnson on the design of the Hodgson House (1950-51) in New Canaan. It was during this period that Gores began associating with Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983), August Heckscher (1914-1997), and others in building concepts that were sensitive to energy conservation and the environment.[2] Gores's innovative ideas about these subjects are evident throughout his work, especially in his partially underground homes such as the House for All Seasons in New Canaan, Connecticut (1978, no longer extant), designed to limit fuel consumption.

Gores and his family moved to New Canaan in 1948 into a house of his own design. Gores received an award of merit from The American Institute of Architects, which noted the building's use of natural materials and its harmony with the surrounding property. The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright is strongly evident in the house, with its monumental scale, dynamic roof planes, and intimate relationship with the landscape.

In 1951, Gores established his own architectural practice in New Canaan. In 1954, Gores contracted polio; despite the challenges of recovery and confinement to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life, his design work continued.

1 Jack Lemenager, "New Canaan Architects—No. 7: Blending Classical Traditions," *New Canaan Advertiser*, 19 December 1974.

2 "Landis Gores, Noted Architect, Succumbs at 71," *New Canaan Advertiser,* 21 March 1991.

Among his best-known works is the Gores House (1948), still occupied by his wife Pamela, and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other notable works include Strathmore Village (1967) and Van Doren Hospital (1974) in Fairfield, Connecticut, and the middle school and science buildings of the New Canaan Country Day School (1961). During the 1940s and 1950s, Gores served as an instructor and lecturer of architectural design at the Pratt Institute in New York. In 1973, Gores was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Landis Gores died in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1991.

Sources used for biography:

Earls, William D. *The Harvard Five in New Canaan.* New York: W. W. Norton, 2006.

Eskesen, Hal. "In 'House for All Seasons', NC Couple Builds a Life Underground." *Stamford Advocate*, 19 August 1977.

"'House for All Seasons' Tour to Help Bring Barriers Down." *New Canaan Advertiser,* 4 August 1977.

"Landis Gores, Noted Architect, Succumbs at 71." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 21 March 1991.

Lemenager, Jack. "New Canaan Architects—No. 7: Blending Classical Traditions." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 19 December 1974.

Lydon, Tom. "Gores Knew the Code: Her Kept His Secret for 30 Years." *Stamford Advocate*, 18 October 1977.

Placzek, Adolph K., ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 2*. New York: The Free Press, [1982].

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Doggett Jackson House (1967)

Charles Jacobs

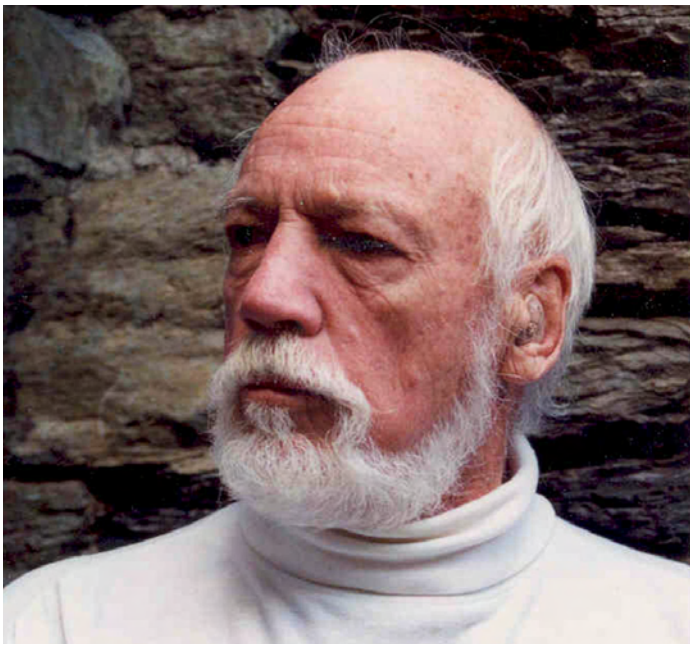
1929 -

Charles Jacobs was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1929 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1954. He joined the firm William Nelson Jacobs Associates, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts, and became a principal in 1955.

His notable works include: Housing for the Elderly (1965) in Newton, Massachusetts, mental health centers in Lowell, Massachusetts (1967), and Fall River, Massachusetts (1968), and the Women's Dorm at Framingham State College (1968) in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 442.



Source: New Canaan Historical Society

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Dunham House (1950, no longer extant)
- Barlow House (1951)
- Johansen House (1951, no longer extant)
- Campbell House (1952, no longer extant)
- Dickinson House (1953, no longer extant)
- Goode House (1953, no longer extant)
- Warner House (1956)

John Johansen

1916 -

John M. Johansen was born in New York City in 1916. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1939 and a Masters of Architecture degree from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1942, where he studied under Walter Gropius (1883-1969) and Marcel Breuer (1902-1981). In 1967, Jean Ely noted that Johansen "was perhaps the most thoroughly indoctrinated, educated into the Gropius-Breuer framework of thought and design" out of the Harvard Five members who had studied at Harvard.[1] After receiving his degree, Johansen worked as a draftsman for Marcel Breuer and then for the National Housing Agency in Washington, D.C., as part of the war effort. After World War II, he moved to New York City and was hired by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM).

In 1948, after working for SOM for three years, he decided to open a practice in New Canaan, Connecticut. Johansen was part of the first wave of Modern architects to settle in the town and is considered one of the "Harvard Five." He was persuaded to settle down in New Canaan after a visit to his fellow architect and friend Eliot Noyes (1910-1977), who lived and practiced in the small town. Johansen purchased over nine acres on Ponus Ridge Road and constructed his own home in 1951 (no longer extant).

His design work includes residential, commercial, educational, ecclesiastical, and civic projects. Acclaimed projects include the U.S. Embassy (1964) in Dublin, Ireland, and the Goddard Library (1968) in Worcester, Massachusetts. His most published residential project in New Canaan was the Warner House (1956). The Mummer's Theater (1970) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is considered to be his most influential building. Now called the Oklahoma Theater Center, it was designed in 1966 and completed in 1970. The building received a National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects in 1972.

During his career, Johansen taught at several educational institutions including Harvard University, Columbia University, MIT, Yale University, the Carnegie Institute, the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and the Pratt Institute, where he served as a teacher for fifty years. Numerous articles by Johansen have been published in professional and scholarly journals, and he is the author of two books: *John Johansen: A Life in the Continuum of Modern Architecture* (1995) and *Nanoarchitecture: A New Species of Architecture* (2002). In 2006, Johansen spoke at a symposium at the Harvard Graduate School of Design titled "Beyond the Harvard Box," which examined the work of six architects who had studied under Walter Gropius: Johansen, I.M. Pei, Ulrich Franzen, Victor Lundy, Edward L. Barnes, and Paul Rudolph. At

1 Jean Ely, "New Canaan Modern: The Beginning 1947-1952," *The New Canaan Historical Society Annual* 5 (1967), 11.

this symposium, Johansen emphasized the diversity in the Modern movement in New Canaan and the surrounding areas, which extended beyond the Bauhaus indoctrination.

Honors include an honorary doctorate of fine arts from the Maryland Institute and Clark University, an Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects, and the Gold Medal from the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Sources used for biography:

Earls, William D. *The Harvard Five in New Canaan*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

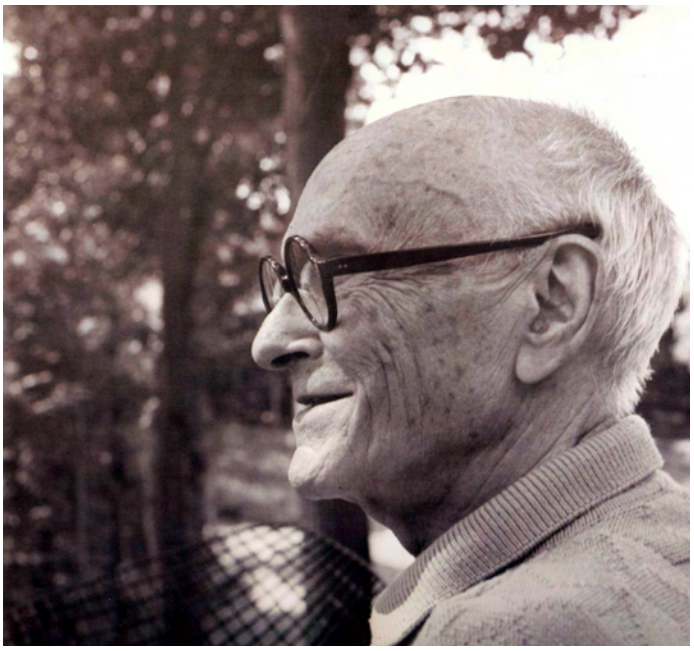
Ely, Jean. "New Canaan Modern: The Beginning 1947-1952." *The New Canaan Historical Society Annual* 5 (1967).

Johansen, John. *A Life in the Continuum of Modern Architecture.* Milano: L'ARCA EDIZIONI, 1995.

Johansen, John. *Nanoarchitecture: A New Species of Architecture*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2002.

"National Arts Institute Cites Local Architect." *New Canaan Advertiser*, n.d. Collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

Placzek, Adolph K., ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 2*. New York: The Free Press, [1982].



Photographer: Nina Bremer, source: New Canaan Historical Society

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Glass House (1945-49)
- Hodgson House (1950-51)
- Wiley House (1952-53)
- Ball House (1953)
- Wiley Speculative House (1954-55)
- Boissonas House (1956)

Philip Johnson

1906 - 2005

Philip Johnson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1906. He attended Harvard College, focusing on classics and philosophy, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1927. After graduation, Johnson traveled extensively; during his travels in Europe between 1928 and 1930, he was introduced to Modern architecture. Johnson was impressed by the vision of the first generation of European Modern architects, including Le Corbusier (1887-1965), Walter Gropius (1883-1969), J.J.P. Oud (1890-1963), and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969).

In 1930, Johnson became the first director of the Department of Architecture at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. The department was the first of its kind in the United States and Johnson used the position to exhibit Modern art and architecture. In 1932, the Department of Architecture launched a show titled "Modern Architecture: International Exhibition." The accompanying text written by Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock (1903-1987), *The International Style: Architecture Since 1922*, continues to serve today as a seminal book on the period and a testament to the groundbreaking nature of the exhibition.

Johnson returned to Harvard in 1940 to attend the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He studied under Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer (1902-1981), receiving a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1943. Johnson's thesis project at Harvard was the design and construction of a house in Cambridge (Philip Johnson House, 1941-42), demonstrating his ambition.

After World War II, fellow architect and Harvard alum Eliot Noyes (1910-1977) encouraged Johnson to purchase property in New Canaan, Connecticut.[1] Johnson bought a five-acre lot on Ponus Ridge Road and built the legendary Glass House (1945-49). Johnson used the Glass House as a weekend and summer retreat from his office and apartment in New York City, although later in his life it would become his year-round residence. Over time, the property expanded to 47 acres and Johnson designed several additional buildings and structures for the site, including the Brick House (1949), Lake Pavilion (1962), Painting Gallery (1965), Sculpture Gallery (1970), and Library (1980).

From 1946-1954, Johnson resumed the role of the Director of the Department of Architecture at MoMA. Throughout the remainder of his life, Johnson would maintain a relationship with the museum as a patron, trustee, curator, and architect. His patronage included the donation of over 2,000 works of art to MoMA.

1 William D. Earls, *The Harvard Five in New Canaan* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2006), 8-11.

As an associate of Mies van der Rohe during the 1950s, Johnson was engaged in the design of the Seagram Building (1954-58) in New York City, and designed the Four Seasons Restaurant for the building. He was a well-respected and prolific designer of houses; in New Canaan, his most well-known houses aside from the Glass House include the Hodgson House (1950-51, listed in the National Register of Historic Places), the Wiley House (1952-53), and the Boissonas House (1954-56). During his lifetime, Johnson designed a number of modern architectural landmarks, including the Crystal Cathedral/Garden Grove Church (1980) in Los Angeles, Houston's Trasco Tower/Williams Tower (1983), and the AT&T Building/Sony Plaza (1984) in New York City.

In 1986, Johnson donated the Glass House property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property was retained as a life estate, allowing Johnson to live on the property until he died in 2005 at the age of 98.

Sources used for biography:

Earls, William D. *The Harvard Five in New Canaan*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Hughes, Robert. "US Architects Doing their Own Thing." *Time*, 8 January 1979.

Johnson, Philip. Interview with the New Canaan Historical Society, 24 June 1979. Collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

"Philip Johnson in New Canaan." *The New Canaan Historical Society Annual* 10 (1986).

Von Eckardt, Wolf, ed. *Mid-Century Architecture in America: Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects, 1949-61*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1961.

Talbert House (1951)

William G. Jones

UNKNOWN

William G. Jones worked as an architect for American Houses in their New York office during the early 1950s. His only house in New Canaan, the Talbert House (1951), was designed for Merrill E. Talbert, an executive with American Houses. To date, no other information has been found for William G. Jones. The following archives and resources were consulted: Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, The New Canaan Historical Society, AIA Guides, Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, and the *New York Times* archives.

Sources used for biography:

Mitchell, Allan J. do_co.mo.mo New International Selection documentation fiche for the Talbert House, 13 October 2001. On file at the New Canaan Historical Society.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Talbert House (1951)

Kelly House (1954)

Bimel Kehm

1907 - 1996

Bimel Kehm was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1907. He studied at the University of Illinois, the Académie Julian in Paris, France, and Yale University, where he received a Master of Fine Arts degree. Kehm went on to pursue successful careers in sculpture, painting, and architecture.

Kehm's post-World-War-II architectural designs were lauded for their thoughtful blend of Modern with traditional elements. In his residential work, he did not attempt to use revivalist styles in order imitate older homes, but was able to incorporate new technologies and ideas about space, while using traditional materials to give a sense of comfort and warmth. The incorporation of these ideals, as well as his attention to landscape features, is evident in the conversion of an old barn into his own living space and studio in New Canaan (1946, unknown if house is still extant); this house was featured in a 1947 article in *House and Garden*. In 1951, he moved into the newly built Kehm House (1951), which he also likely designed.

Bimel Kehm died in 1996.

Source for biography:

"Disarming Modern." *House and Garden,* May 1945, 73, 136.
"House in Stamford, Connecticut, Designed by Bimel Kehm Is Suited for Work as Well as Living." *Architecture Forum*, May 1945, 126-127.
Pepis, Betty. "Nature Built In." *New York Times*, 4 July 1954, SM20.
"Why not turn a barn into a house-plus-studio?" *House and Garden*, August 1947, 70-71.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Kehm House (1951, unconfirmed)
- Kelly House (1954)

Source: *Architectural Review* 121 (May 1957): 369

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Techbuilt House/Swallen House (1954)
- Techbuilt House/Aderer House (1954-55)
- Techbuilt House/Wilson House (1958)

Carl Koch

1912 - 1998

Born Albert Carl Koch in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1912, Carl Koch was educated at Harvard College and received his Master of Architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1937. His tenure at Harvard coincided with the transition of the institution from a traditional Beaux-Arts architectural education to a completely new system instituted by Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius (1883-1969). Koch traveled to Sweden in 1940-41 and worked in the office of Sven Markelius (1889-1972), where he modified his Bauhaus-influenced approach to architecture to adopt some of the ideas advocated by Markelius.

Koch's first project upon returning to the United States was a community housing project called Snake Hill (1941) in Belmont, Massachusetts. Koch developed the project as a way to design an inexpensive home for himself and his family, who moved into the one of the complex's five houses when it was completed. The experience inspired Koch to pursue a career in creating quality affordable housing for American families. He believed that the best post-World-War-II housing solution for the shifting and expanding American population was the creation of demountable, prefabricated housing. Koch was such an innovator of the design and technologies of this housing type that he was later dubbed the "Grandfather of Prefab."[1] His first attempt at pre-fabricated housing was the design concept for the Acorn House (1948). The Acorn House consisted of room units placed around a central core with an exterior formed by folding stress skin panels, engineered by John Bemis (1916-2006). The Acorn House was covered extensively by *Life* magazine and other popular publications, but was not commercially successful because of local building codes and some resistance by local governments.[2]

His most commercially and critically successful prefab-housing design was the Techbuilt System (1953). The Techbuilt House was more harmonious with traditional suburban tastes and settings than Koch's earlier work in its use of natural materials such as wood, the expansiveness of the interior, and its peaked roof with overhanging eaves. Six different models were designed of varying plan and scale. At least three Techbuilt Houses were constructed in New Canaan, Connecticut. Over 3,000 packages were sold in the United States before 1963.[3]

In 1958, Koch co-authored a book with Andy Lewis titled *At Home With Tomorrow* that outlined his experiences with

1 Bryan Irwin, "The Grandfather of Prefab," *Progressive Architecture* 75 (February 1994): 62.
2 "Unfolding House," *Life,* 24 January 1949, 70-72.
3 "A pioneering design...," *House & Home*, October 1963, 115.

the Techbuilt House and his other prefabricated housing designs.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Koch moved on to large-scale public housing projects utilizing pre-stressed concrete components that he dubbed Techcrete. The Techcrete Academy Homes (1962) in Roxbury, Massachusetts were the most lauded of this period. Many of his projects utilizing Techcrete technology were built by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, but have not been considered successful due to their poor condition and lack of upkeep. Until his death in 1998, Koch continued his lifelong dedication to "the real challenge [of] how to bring dignity to the everyday" through architecture.[4]

Carl Koch died in 1998.

Sources used for biography:

"The Acorn House: Lessons from the 'Complete Dwelling'." *Architectural Review* 193 (November 1993): 68-69.

"Genetrix: Personal Contributions to American Architecture." *Architectural Review* 121 (May 1957): 369.

Irwin, Bryan. "The Grandfather of Prefab." *Progressive Architecture* 75 (February 1994): 62.

Koch, Carl, and Andy Lewis. *At Home With Tomorrow*. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1958.

"A pioneering design..." *House & Home*, October 1963, 115.

4 Irwin, 65.

Crichton House (1960)

William Landsberg

1915 -

William Landsberg was born in New York City in 1915. He graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1936 and received his Master in Architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1938, where he studied under Walter Gropius (1883-1954) and Marcel Breuer (1902-1981). Landsberg worked for Gropius and Breuer; Shreve, Lamb and Harmon; and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill before opening his own firm in 1954. The Crichton House (1961) is believed to be his only residential work in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 402.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Crichton House (1961)

Photograph courtesy of John Black Lee

John Black Lee

1924 -

Born in Chicago in 1924, John Black Lee enrolled at Brown University in 1942, where he studied mathematics, civil engineering, and naval science. After serving in the Navy on the Pacific front during World War II, he resumed his studies at Brown University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947.

In 1948, Walter Gropius (1883-1954) advised Lee to serve as an apprentice rather than enroll in graduate school, so he moved to Chicago to work as a carpenter. His carpentry work caught the eye of Paul Schweikher (1903-1997), the dean of the Yale School of Architecture, who invited Lee to learn architecture and drafting at his firm, Schweikher & Elting, located in Roselle, Illinois. Lee believed this would give him an architectural education equivalent to attending Yale, but would also provide him with an income.

After leaving Chicago, Lee worked with architects Oskar Stonorov (1905-1970) and Eliot Noyes (1910-1977). Lee's role as a job captain at Noyes's firm exposed him to the problems involved with early experimental Modern houses; for example, he worked on installing coal tar pitch roofs on flat-roofed structures after earlier roof systems failed.

In 1954, Lee established his own practice in New Canaan, Connecticut. He worked on designing more affordable houses by utilizing his background in engineering to execute costly steel construction techniques in wood. Lee designed at least eight houses in New Canaan along with all of the buildings at the New Canaan Field Club.

Lee has received numerous awards for his work, including an Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects for his own house in New Canaan (Lee House 2, 1956). At least three of his houses in New Canaan were featured in national publications, including his first house (Lee House 1, 1952), his second house (Lee House 2, 1956), and the System House (with Harrison DeSilver, 1961).

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Lee House 1 (1952)
- Lee House 2 (1956)
- Rogers House (1957)
- Teaze House (1960)
- System House (with Harrison DeSilver, 1961)
- Day House (1965)
- Monroe House (1968)
- Lee House 3 (1990)

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 411.

"Designs Began With Own Career." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 10 April 1975, A15.

Lee, John Black. Interview with Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, 14 April 2008.

Liebenson, Bess. "When New Canaan Was Home To Six Prominent Architects." *New York Times*, 21 June 1992, CN21.

Von Eckardt, Wolf, ed. *Mid-Century Architecture in America: Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects, 1949-61*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1961.

Photograph courtesy of Janet Lindstrom

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Lindstrom House (1963-64)

Gary Lindstrom

1932-1980

Gary Lindstrom was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1932. During high school, he developed a love of architecture while working with his father, who was a builder and finish carpenter. After graduating from Erie Academy, he served in the Army Corps of Engineers before entering architectural school at The Pennsylvania State University, where he received his architecture degree in 1958.

Following his graduation, Lindstrom, newly married, moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, with the expectation that he would work for architect Victor Christ-Janer. Instead, his first job was in the office of noted lighting consultant Richard Kelly, who designed the lighting for Philip Johnson's Glass House (1949) and other houses in New Canaan. During Lindstrom's employment, Kelly worked on the Four Seasons Restaurant in the Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe and Johnson, 1954-58). This work experience greatly influenced Lindstrom's designs, making him ever conscious of light sources and their effects on architecture. After leaving Kelly's office, Lindstrom worked for a firm in Greenwich that specialized in church design and then worked for Victor Christ-Janer before opening his own firm around 1963.

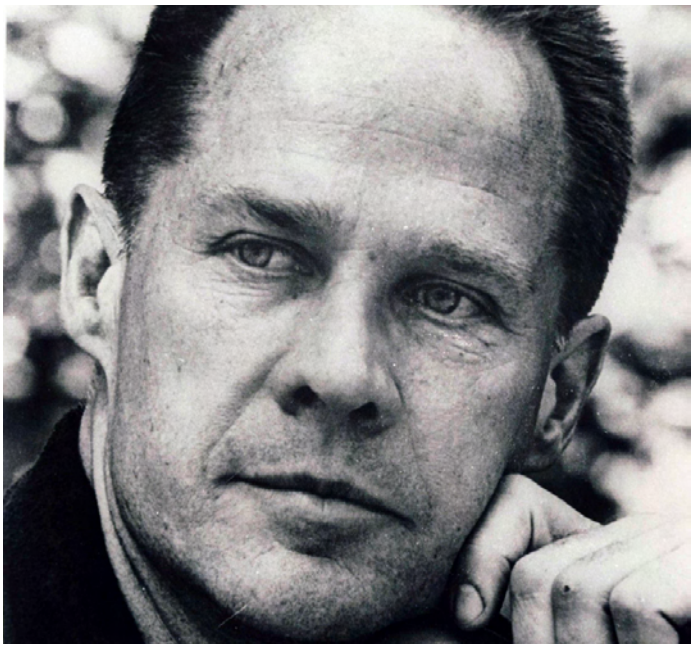
Lindstrom designed only two houses other than his own home (Lindstrom House, 1963-64). His numerous commissions included many buildings for schools, colleges, and child welfare institutions. He designed three buildings for the New Canaan Country School. His list of clients for residence halls included Williams College, Fairfield University, Lycoming College, Roberts Wesleyan Rochester, University of Rhode Island, and the Salisbury School, where he also designed a library. For the Greer School, Woodycrest-Five Points, and Susquehanna Valley Home—all child welfare facilities in New York—he designed numerous buildings including an infirmary, a dining hall, a recreation building, and housing. His work also included recreational facilities, including gymnasiums for the New York Military Academy and the New Canaan Country School.

Lindstrom also designed toys, furniture, and jewelry and sold a line of handcrafted bowls and jewelry in specialty stores. His sculpture pieces crafted in wood and metal were exhibited while he attended architectural school and afterwards, and his work was entered in the Silvermine Exhibit Art of the Northeast. Lindstrom was also interested in photography; along with the usual photos of his own buildings, he often took aerial shots of proposed building sites from his beloved Cessna plane.

Gary Lindstrom died of cancer in 1980 at the age of 48.

Sources used for biography:

Biography provided by Janet Lindstrom, The New Canaan Historical Society, 2008.



Photographer: Nina Bremer, source: New Canaan Historical Society

Eliot Noyes

1910 - 1977

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Noyes House 1 (1947, no longer extant)
- Kniffen House (with Breuer, 1949, no longer extant)
- Tallman House (1950, no longer extant)
- Bremer House (1951)
- Brown House (1951, no longer extant)
- Mosely House (1951, no longer extant)
- Stackpole House (1951, no longer extant)
- Ault House (1952)
- Weeks House (1952)
- Noyes House 2 (1954-55)
- Chivvis House (1979)

Eliot Fette Noyes was born in Boston in 1910. After attending Andover Academy and Harvard University, Noyes matriculated in 1932 at Harvard University's Faculty of Architecture, a graduate program founded in 1914. At the time, Harvard's architecture program trained students in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts tradition. Noyes had been exposed to European design movements percolating in the 1920s, in particular, the Bauhaus movement in Germany, and found the Beaux-Arts training at Harvard to be limiting.

In 1935, Noyes left Harvard to work as a draughtsman on an archaeological team from the University of Chicago that was traveling to excavate Persepolis, an ancient city in modern-day Iran. Noyes returned to Harvard in 1937. The school had changed in his absence. In 1936, the Faculty of Architecture, the Landscape Architecture department, and the Urban Design Department were united to form the Graduate School of Design under Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius (1883-1969). Traditional Beaux-Arts training was abandoned in favor of a Modern design education.

Noyes graduated in 1938 and began work as a draughtsman for Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott in Boston, Massachusetts. The firm, however, turned out to be more traditional in their design than he had hoped, so he left in November of that year to become a draughtsman for Breuer and Gropius.[1] He had been the recipient of the Wheelwright Traveling Fellowship awarded to a promising architecture graduate at Harvard; on the recommendations of Breuer and Gropius, he took a leave of absence from the firm to travel across the country to study prominent examples of contemporary architecture. After visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater (Bear Run, Pennsylvania) and Taliesin (Spring Green, Wisconsin), Eliel Saarinen's Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan), and a few of Richard Neutra's houses in California, Noyes briefly returned to work with Gropius and Breuer.

In 1940, Gropius recommended Noyes for the position of the first director of the new Industrial Design Department at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. Noyes accepted the job. While working at MoMA, Noyes befriended the furniture designers Charles and Ray Eames and pushed their work into the artistic limelight. In 1946, he left MoMA to become the design director at the firm of Norman Bel Geddes (1893-1958). Bel Geddes was an industrial designer known for his work on cars, planes, trains, and boats. At Bel Geddes's office, Noyes was selected to design a typewriter for one of the firm's corporate clients, the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). When Bel Geddes's

1 Gordon Bruce, *Eliot Noyes* (New York and London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2006), 48.

firm folded in 1947, Noyes was awarded the IBM account on his own. He developed IBM's Model A electric typewriter, introduced in 1948.

While working on the IBM design, Noyes collaborated with Breuer on several architectural designs. Their most famous design was the Kniffen House (1949, no longer extant) in New Canaan, Connecticut. Concurrently, Noyes also served a three-year tenure as Associate Professor of Architectural Design at Yale University.

For IBM, Mobil, Westinghouse, and other corporations, Noyes designed products, offices and, of equal importance, recommended his design peers to these industries for projects in many parts of the world, in a sense becoming a patron of Modern architecture. According to the *Encyclopedia of Architects*, Noyes was a "leading advocate of the integration of product, architectural, display and graphic design in one business and industry."[2] He is recognized for his design of the World's Fair pavilions for IBM at Brussels, Belgium, and San Antonio, Texas; the Westinghouse Pavilion at the New York World's Fair; and the United Nations Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada. His best-known structures include the Bubble Houses in Hobe Sound, Florida; the iconic round gas pumps and round roofs that distinguish Mobil gas stations across the country; the IBM Education Center in Armonk, New York; and his own house in New Canaan (Noyes House 2, 1954-55).

Eliot Noyes died in 1977.

2 Adolph K. Placzek, ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 2* (New York: The Free Press, [1982]).

Sources used for biography:

Bruce, Gordon. *Eliot Noyes*. New York and London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2006.

Earls, William D. *The Harvard Five in New Canaan*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2006.

"Eliot F. Noyes, Industrial Designer of Many Family Products, Is Dead." *New York Times*, 18 July 1977.

"Eliot Noyes Succumbs at 66." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 21 July 1977.

"Genetrix: Personal Contributions to American Architecture." *Architectural Review* 121 (May 1957): 362.

Govoni, Steve. "Coming from a New Canaan Designer the Coin-operated Gas Station." *Stamford Advocate*, 7 June 1975.

LeMenager, Jack. "New Canaan Architects—No. 23: Bulletin on Life's Varied Work." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 26 June 1975, A16.

Mordecai, John. "Shining a Light on Eliot Noyes." *New Canaan News-Review*, March 2007, C1.

Noyes, Eliot. "Architectural Details." *Architectural Record* (January 1966): 121-132.

Placzek, Adolph K., ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 2*. New York: The Free Press, [1982].

Reif, Rita. "What's in a Name? Money if All Goes Well." *New York Times*, 9 December 1973.

Source: http://gimagine.com

Laszlo Papp

1929 -

Laszlo Papp was born in Debrecen, Hungary, in 1929. He received a degree in architectural engineering and civil engineering from the Polytechnic University of Budapest in 1955. After graduation, he went to work for the state, which was under Communist rule. Papp worked as an architect for the Institute for Residential Construction, focusing on domestic design. Following his involvement in revolutionary activities, Papp immigrated to the United States in 1956. He earned a Masters of Architecture from the Pratt Institute School of Architecture in 1960. After graduation, he went to work for Harrison & Abramowitz in New York City, remaining with the office until 1963.

Papp moved from Stamford, Connecticut, to New Canaan, Connecticut, in the early 1960s. He purchased a summer cottage in New Canaan in 1959 and expanded and renovated the property, completing the initial phase of work in 1961. It was during this period that he became partner in the firm Millard & Whiteside in White Plains, New York. Over time, Papp took over the office; it was renamed Laszlo Papp & Associates in 1968. The firm's projects include designs for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.

Papp has served as president of the New York State Association of Architects, regional director of the American Institute of Architects, and has been active in several other organizations. In 1981, Papp was awarded membership in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Papp House (1959-64)
- Fine House (1965)

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 692.

LeManager, Jack. "New Canaan Architects—No.26: Directing Symphony of Design." *New Canaan Advertiser*, n.d.

"Papp earns highest honor from architects' institute." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 8 January 1998, 4D.

"Papp heads architects in New York." n.p., 17 January 1980, 3A. Clipping from the New Canaan Historical Society archives.

"Papp honored by Hungarian group." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 25 November 1998.

Hall House (1962)

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Beaven Mills House (1956)
- Hall House (1962)

William Pedersen

1908 - 1990

William Pedersen was born in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1908. He received an undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1931 and continued on to receive a Master of Architecture degree from the Harvard University Faculty of Architecture in 1934. Entering the job market in the midst of the Depression, Pedersen opted to set out on his own and started an architectural firm in Stamford, Connecticut. He kept the firm running until World War II, when he served in the military. After the war, he joined the firm Harrison & Abramowitz. During his time with the firm, he worked on the design for the Alcoa Building (1953) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 1952, Pedersen established a new firm with architect Paul Tilney. Tilney left the firm in 1964, and it was renamed William F. Pedersen & Associates. During the 1970s, Pedersen worked on urban renewal projects in New Haven, Connecticut. His firm's work also included a master plan for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the design of the ICI Building in Stamford, Connecticut. Although his firm won a competition for a memorial for Franklin D. Roosevelt that would have stood on the Washington Mall in Washington, D.C., the project was never completed due to financial issues. The firm had offices in Manhattan and New Haven and remained open until Pedersen's retirement in 1989.

Pedersen was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and was a member of the Century Association and the Harvard Club of New York.

William Pedersen died in 1990.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 541.

LeMenager, Jack. "New Canaan Architects—No. 27: Interests Span Old and New." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 28 August 1975, 8.

"William Pederson [sic.], Architect, 82, Dies; Led His Own Firm." *New York Times*, 29 December 1990.

Durisol House/Risom House (1949)

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Mills House 1 (Willis Mills, 1939)
- Rantoul House (1947-48)
- Durisol House/Risom House (1949)
- Mills House (1950)
- Knoll House (ca. 1955, no longer extant)
- Mills House 2 (1956)

Sherwood, Mills & Smith

Sherwood, Mills & Smith was formed from the partnership of Thorne Sherwood (1910-1994), Willis N. Mills, Sr. (1907-1995), and Lester W. Smith (1909-1993). Willis N. Mills had lived in New Canaan, Connecticut since at least the early 1940s and designed and built one of the first Modern-influenced houses in town (Mills House 1, 1941).

After Sherwood, Mills, and Smith served in the military during World War II, they decided to pool their resources and open an architecture firm in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1946. Sherwood, Mills & Smith became one of the largest and most renowned firms in the area and employed a staff of more than fifty, in contrast to many of the Modern architects working in New Canaan, who had smaller studios. The firm designed buildings, interior spaces, and furniture, providing clients with a full-range of services. This attention to detail is apparent in South School (1950) in New Canaan, Connecticut; the low, intimate scale, thoughtful window detailing and lighting, separation of age groups into different areas, and welcoming main entrance were designed to be inviting and comfortable for the children attending the school.

Sherwood, Mills & Smith's most notable works include Mills House 2 (1956), Willis Mills's second home in New Canaan; the Mutual Insurance Company of Hartford (1959) in Hartford, Connecticut, praised by the American Institute of Architects for its integration of sculptured wall panels designed by Constantino Nivola (1911-1988); 777 Summer Street Building (1961); and St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1962) in New Canaan.

Sources used for biography:

"The Architect and His Community: Sherwood, Mills & Smith: Stamford, Connecticut." *Progressive Architecture* 38 (March 1957): 107-123.

"Detail Adds Job's Final Glory." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 3 September 1975, A16.

"Good Church Design on a Big Budget." *Architectural Record* 132 (November 1962): 151-156.

Liebenson, Bess. "When New Canaan Was Home To Six Prominent Architects." *New York Times*, 21 June 1992, CN21.

"New Canaan, Conn., Elementary School Attracts Professional Attention." *Architectural Record* 110 (August 1951): 98-105.

"The 1960 AIA Honor Awards." *American Institute of Architects Journal* 33 (April 1960): 75-96.

"Plan for Rental and Offices of Architects." *Architectural Record* 132 (August 1962): 119-122.

Smallen House (1957)

Hugh Smallen

1920 - 1990

Architect and interior designer Hugh Smallen was born in New York City in 1920. He received a degree in architecture from Yale University in 1947 after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following graduation, he went to work for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM). In 1949, Smallen met his future wife, Kathryn Kroher Lapham, who was then employed as an assistant to Hans Knoll of the furniture company Knoll International. In the early 1950s, Smallen and his wife, who became his professional collaborator, moved to Florida and established an architectural and interior design business. They also opened a store called the "Design Collaborative," an innovative effort for the time, which focused exclusively on contemporary furniture and art objects.

In 1954, the Smallens relocated their design business to New Canaan, Connecticut. Smallen initially worked for Eliot Noyes and Associates but eventually left to open his own office. Hugh Smallen and Associates focused on residential design and completed projects in New Canaan such as the Tatum House (1962), Becker House (1963-64), and Parsons House (1964), as well as the design and construction of his own home (Smallen House, 1957). Smallen's office also served as interior and industrial design consultant to a number of U.S. corporations. An interesting example of this was a late-1960s collaboration with Charles and Ray Eames's design firm for an IBM exhibition titled "The History of the Computer." Smallen's work as an architect and interior designer was widely published in magazines and newspapers.

Hugh Smallen died in 1990.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Smallen House (1957)
- Tatum House (1962)
- Becker House (1963-64)
- Parsons House (1964)

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 846.

"Hugh Jerome Smallen Jr., Architect, 71." *New York Times*, 15 June 1990.

"Hugh Smallen dies; designer and architect." *New Canaan Advertiser,* 14 June 1990: 5A.

Celanese House (1959)

Edward Durell Stone

1902 - 1978

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Celanese House (1959)

Edward Durell Stone was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1902. He studied architecture at the Boston Architectural Club and was later employed by Beaux-Arts architect Henry Shepley (1887-1962). He entered Harvard University Faculty of Architecture to obtain his Masters degree, but transferred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in order to study with Jacques Carlu (1890-1976), a professor of modern design. He went on to have a long and influential career distinguished by its distinctive and oppositional phases.

After two years of travel in Europe on scholarship, Stone returned to the United States and assisted in the design of Rockefeller Center; most notably, in the design of the interior of Radio City Music Hall. His first residence was the Mandell House (1933), a Modern concrete-and-glass structure in Mount Kisco, New York. His early works reflected an influence by Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) and earned him enough admiration in the architectural community that he was commissioned to design the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York with Phillip L. Goodwin (1885-1958) in 1939.

During the 1940s, Stone developed an interest in indigenous materials and settings, but this shift was nowhere near as dramatic as his great transition in the 1950s from the forefront of the International Style to an embrace of ornate, romantic, and monumental designs. This metamorphosis has been long attributed to his marriage to his second wife, Maria Elena Torchio, in 1950.[1] A fashion writer, she expressed her preference for more ornate architecture and not long after they married, his designs began to reflect a disenchantment with stark Modernism in favor of decoration and populism. His first major work in this style was the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India (1954), a white, columned box with an overhanging rectangular canopy, façades composed of lacy, concrete grilles, and surrounding fountains; these elements were designed to enhance ventilation and screen sunlight. According to Stone, Wright called it "one of the finest buildings of the past hundred years."[2] Many of the embassy's themes and motifs were repeated for the rest of Stone's career with mixed results.

These later works were mostly deprecated by architectural critics, but were well-received by the general public. Ada Louise Huxtable denounced the John F. Kennedy Center (1969) in Washington, DC, as "the biggest box in the world."[3] Nonetheless, Stone received major commissions

1 Paul Goldberger, "Edward Durell Stone Services Will Be Held Tomorrow," *New York Times*, 8 August 1978, C10.

2 Muriel Emanuel, ed., *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition* (New York: St. James Press, [1994]), 927-928.

3 Paul Goldberger, "Edward Durell Stone Services Will Be Held Tomorrow." *New York Times*, 8 August 1978, C10.

around the world for the rest of his career. Other famous works include: 2 Columbus Circle (1962) and the General Motors Building (1968), both in New York City (1968), the Florida State Capitol (1969), and the campus of the State University of New York at Albany (1963).

Edward Durell Stone died in 1978.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 846.

"Edward Durell Stone: 1902-1978." *Progressive Architecture* 59 (October 1978): 22.

Emanuel, Muriel, ed. *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition*. New York: St. James Press, [1994], 927-928.

Goldberger, Paul. "Edward Durell Stone Services Will Be Held Tomorrow." *New York Times*, 8 August 1978, C10.

Placzek, Adolph K., ed. *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, Volume 4*. New York: The Free Press, [1982], 132-133.

Van Vynckt, Randall J., ed. *International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture*. Detroit: St. James Press, [1993]: 856-857.

Waxberg House (1956)

Nathaniel Streitman

1933-

Nathaniel Streitman was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1933. He received his degree in architecture from the Pratt Institute in 1955 and served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers from 1956 to 1958. He also worked as a rail transportation planner for the Port Authority of New York. Streitman formed his own practice in 1962. His only known house in New Canaan, Connecticut, is the Waxberg House (1956).

Streitman's current practice is based out of Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Third Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970, 889.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Waxberg House (1956)

Zucker House (1961-62)

P. Whitney Webb

1920 - 1999

P. Whitney Webb was born in Hamden, Connecticut, in 1920. He attended Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946 and a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1947. He also studied for two years at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France. Webb worked in the architectural firms of Max O. Urbahn (1912-1995) and Edward Durell Stone (1902-1978) before opening his own practice. He was a former director of the American Institute of Architects and treasurer of its foundation.

P. Whitney Webb died in 1999.

Sources used for biography:

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory, Second Edition*. New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1962, 743.

"P. Whitney Webb, Architect." *The Washington Post*, 9 April 1999.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Zucker House (1961-62)

Ford House/Edward Winter House (1961)

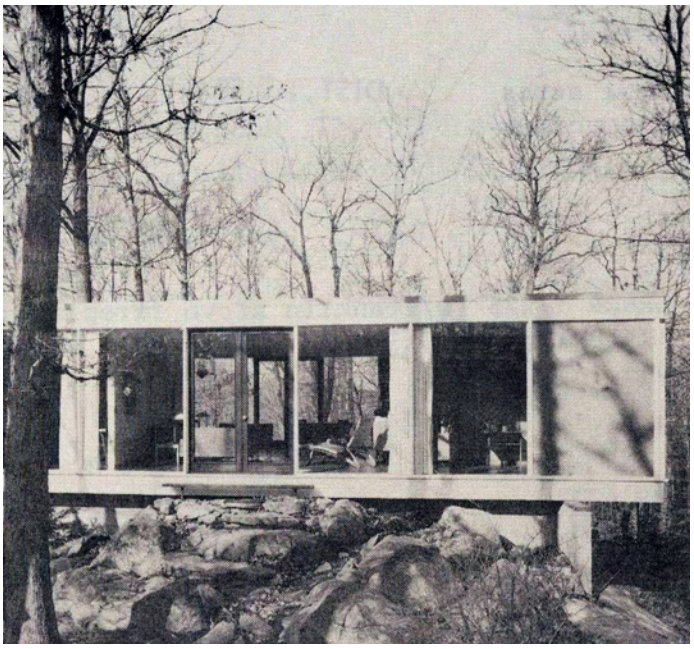
Edward Winter

UNKNOWN

To date, no information has been found for Edward Winter. The following archives and resources were consulted: Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, The New Canaan Historical Society, AIA Guides, Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, and the *New York Times* archives. His only known residential work in New Canaan, Connecticut, is the Ford House/Edward Winter House, completed in 1961.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Ford House/Edward Winter House (1961)



Arlt House (1954), source: New Canaan Historical Society

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Arlt House (1954)
- Naill House (1954)
- House on Lukes Wood Road (1955, no longer extant)

Evans Woollen III

1927 -

Evans Woollen III was born in Albany, New York, in 1927. He graduated from Yale University in 1952 and worked under Philip Johnson (1906-2005), John M. Johansen (1916-), and Paul Schweikher (1903-1997), before establishing his own firm in 1955. Since 1955, he has based his practice in Indianapolis, Indiana. His early work reflects his Modern education and training. One example is Woollen's Clowes Memorial Hall (1963) at Butler University in Indianapolis, designed with Johansen. The stark collection of vertical towers invokes Louis Kahn's (1902-1974) Richards Medical Research Building (1960-1965) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His work during the 1960s and 1970s was rooted in his ideas about "situational" architecture—design based on setting, regionalism, and contextual physical and psychological conditions.[1] These ideas are reflected in the Minton Capehart Federal Office Building (1976) in Indianapolis. Proposed as a thirteen-story tower, Woollen convinced the local government to consider a lower-scale building closer to the heights of the adjacent War Memorial Plaza and a Neoclassical library by Paul Cret. He fit the plan of the building into a sweeping five-story structure and was able to make a Modern tectonic statement while also harmonizing with the design of its surroundings. His Bloomington Musical Arts Center (1972) in Bloomington, Indiana, is another good example of his integration of a building's design and its "situation."

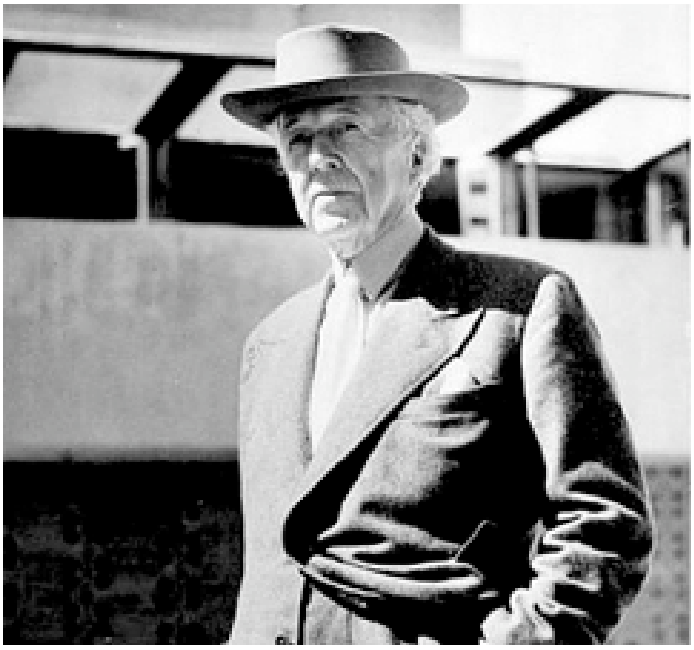
His later works, from the 1980s until today, have shifted to Postmodernism and historicism. His first work in the Postmodern vocabulary was the Thomas A. Edison Junior High School (1981) in Indianapolis, Indiana. Surrounded by a working-class neighborhood, industrial buildings, and a freeway, the site required both isolation and integration of the building with its environment. Woollen was able to divide the building into units that provide a distinct visual entity in combination. The use of oversize buff brick of varying colors and oversize geometric windows show the influence of Robert Venturi (1925-) on Woollen's work.

Although Woollen designed at least three houses during the mid-1950s in New Canaan, Connecticut, one of the houses has been demolished and the remaining two properties have been heavily altered.

Sources used for biography:

Benson, Robert. "An Architecture of Engagement." *Inland Architect* 31 (July/Aug. 1987): 49-61.

1 Robert Benson, "An Architecture of Engagement," *Inland Architect* 31 (July/Aug. 1987): 49-61.



Source: http://disembedded.wordpress.com/

Frank Lloyd Wright

1867 - 1959

Widely considered to be America's greatest architect, Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, in 1867. He studied for two terms at the University of Wisconsin School of Engineering at Madison from 1885 to 1887. He later served an apprenticeship with architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee (1848-1913), where was exposed to the "Stick Style," influencing both his personal house in Oak Park, Illinois (1889), and many of his future residential designs. From 1888 to 1893, he worked for the prominent Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan. Wright established his own private practice in Oak Park, Illinois, and Chicago, Illinois, in 1896.

His innovative approach to aesthetics and volumes in both the interiors and exteriors of his residential buildings at the turn of the century drove his early rise to prominence. During this period, Wright developed the "Prairie Style," buildings characterized by long, low lines and clear geometry in relation to the surrounding landscape. His most famous houses of this period include: the Willetts House (1902), the Coonley House (1908), the Robie House (1909), and the Gale House (1909). He believed in constructing houses close to the land and nature and called this "organic" architecture.[1] His impact on the design of the single-family American home has lasted until this day.

New Canaan Modern Houses

- Tirranna/Rayward House (1956)

During this same period, Wright designed a number of acclaimed non-residential structures such as the Larkin Administration Building (1903-1906) in Buffalo, New York, and Unity Temple (1904-1906) in Oak Park, Illinois, both of which utilized Wright's idea of "Cubic Purism," an idea that different buildings called for different aesthetic systems imposed on pure, symmetrical cubic forms.[2] He also built his first Taliesin house and studio in Spring Green, Wisconsin, in 1911. Taliesin was partially destroyed by fire in 1914, but Wright later rebuilt Taliesin II (1914) and Taliesin III (1925) in the same location.

From 1915 to 1920, Wright lived in Tokyo, Japan, to supervise the construction of his design for the Imperial Hotel (1916-1923). Although he treated his design of the Imperial Hotel with great care, it was not well-received critically. The 1920s are considered Wright's wandering years due to his personal troubles and lack of confidence after his experimentation in Japan. His work at this time, especially on the West Coast, utilizes some of the Japanese sensibilities that he had studied abroad. Another influence on Wright at this time is American Indian culture and a study of adobe evident in his designs for concrete "texture block" houses in California from 1921 to 1924; the Ennis House

1 Muriel Emanuel, ed., *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition* (New York: St. James Press, [1994]), 1059-1063.

2 Donald Leslie Johnsen and Donald Langmead, *Makers of 20th Century Modern Architecture* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1997), 347.

(1923-1925) and Barnsdell House (1919-1923) are the best examples.

During the 1930s, Wright focused his attention on low-cost homes that he dubbed "Usonian Automatics." In 1932, he formed an apprenticeship organization called the Taliesin Fellowship. This period was marked by renewed confidence and the consolidation of ideas and philosophies.

Although this was an exciting time for Wright, he was not commercially successful. From 1935 to 1937, desperate for work, Wright designed two of his greatest works. The country house for Edgar Kaufmann Jr. in Bear Run, Pennsylvania, known worldwide as Fallingwater (1935-1937), is one of the most famous and recognizable Modern homes in America. The image of its cantilevered balconies over a waterfall is the most iconic of Wright's career. Fallingwater has the horizontal open plan of his earlier houses but utilizes more contemporary touches such as glass walls and concrete. The other trademark Wright building of the 1930s is the Johnson Wax Building (1937-1939) in Racine, Wisconsin. The streamlined red brick of the exterior, the Pyrex glass tubing used in the ceiling, the circular mushroom head columns, and the open configuration of the interior space, were all technological innovations and details that reflected the reinvigoration of Wright's career as a commercial architect.

In 1938, Wright built Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona, as a home base for his family and Fellowship in the winter months. He worked there until death in 1959. His work leading up to this point guaranteed commissions for the rest of his career and he designed many other great works, including the Guggenheim Museum (1943-1959) in New York and the Marin County Civic Center (1957-1970) in Marin County, California.

Sources used for biography:

Emanuel, Muriel, ed. *Contemporary Architects, Third Edition*. New York: St. James Press, [1994], 1059-1063.

Johnsen, Donald Leslie, and Donald Langmead. *Makers of 20th Century Modern Architecture*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1997, 347.

Appendix H
Builder Biographies

Noyes House 2 (Noyes, 1954-55)

New Canaan Modern Houses: Builder

- Noyes House 1 (Noyes, 1947)
- Rantoul House (Sherwood, Mills & Smith, 1947-48)
- Glock House (Mills, 1948)
- Kniffen House (Noyes and Breuer, 1949)
- Christ-Janer House (Christ-Janer, 1949-52)
- Johansen House (Johansen, 1951)
- Bremer House (Noyes, 1951)
- Ault House (Noyes, 1952)
- Weeks House (Noyes, 1952)
- Knoll House (Sherwood, Mills & Smith, ca.1955)
- Noyes House 2 (Noyes, 1954-55)
- Mills House 2 (Mills, 1956)
- Smallen House (Smallen, 1957)
- Melville House (Gates and Ford, 1958)
- Ford House/Edward Winter House (Winter, 1961)

Borglum & Meek

Building contracting firm Borglum & Meek was formed by the partnership of Paul Borglum (1901-1968) and Robert Meek (1919-1994).

Paul Borglum (1901-1968) was born in 1901. His father, Solon H. Borglum, was a noted sculptor, and his uncle, Gutzon Borglum, was the sculptor of Mount Rushmore.[1] Paul Borglum attended Dartmouth College and Cornell University, where he studied civil engineering. In 1939, he established a building contracting firm, but closed it in 1942 to serve as an officer in the military during World War II. In 1945, Borglum reopened the firm. As a licensed civil engineer, Borglum was able to approve specifications for complex structural details like cantilevers. During the post-war period, he became close to architects Eliot Noyes and Willis Mills, Sr. His son, David, believes that his father's experience in the military helped him create a professional bond with architects like Noyes who also served during World War II. Borglum would build at least six of Noyes's houses, including Noyes House 1 (Noyes, 1947, no longer extant), Bremer House (1951), Ault House (1952), Weeks House (1952), and Noyes House 2 (1954-55). He also built the Christ-Janer House (Christ-Janer, 1949-52), the Johansen House (Johansen, 1951), and Mills House 2 (Mills, 1956). Paul Borglum died in 1968.

Robert Meek (1919-1994) worked as a job foreman for Paul Borglum for several years before becoming a partner in the firm.

David Borglum (1931-), Paul Borglum's son, joined Borglum & Meek in 1960. Prior to working at the firm, David Borglum served as a project foreman for the construction of the Four Seasons Restaurant in the Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe and Johnson, 1954-58) in New York City. David Borglum built the Ford House/Edward Winter House (Winter, 1961) in New Canaan and designed the pool pavilion on the property. He also worked on the 1992 renovations designed by Toshiko Mori for Lee House 2 (Lee, 1956).

Sources used for biography:

Borglum, David. Interview with Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, 22 April 2008.

Meek, John. Interview with Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, 24 April 2008.

"Paul Borglum." *New York Times*, 23 September 1968, 35.

1 "Paul Borglum," *New York Times*, 23 September 1968, 35.

Celanese House (Stone, 1959)

Theodore Hobbs

UNKNOWN

Theodore (Ted) deFreyne Hobbs grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut, and graduated from Columbia College in 1934. He worked with a variety of architects in New Canaan. Hobbs built the Barlow House (Johansen, 1950), Mills House (Sherwood, Mills & Smith, 1950), Arlt House (Woollen, 1953), Kirkpatrick House (unknown architect, 1959), Crichton House (Landsberg, 1960), and the Hall House (Pedersen, 1962). Ted Hobbs also acted as developer and builder for the showcase Celanese House (Stone, 1959) in New Canaan.

New Canaan Modern Houses: Builder

- Barlow House (Johansen, 1950)
- Mills House (Sherwood, Mills & Smith,1950)
- Arlt House (Woollen, 1953)
- Celanese House (Stone, 1959)
- Kirkpatrick House (unknown architect, 1959)
- Crichton House (Landsberg, 1960)
- Hall House (Pedersen, 1962)

Lee House 1 (Lee, 1952)

Ernest Rau

UNKNOWN

Ernest Rau was a builder who primarily worked with architect John Black Lee. Rau built Lee House 1 (Lee, 1952), Lee House 2 (Lee, 1956), Rogers House (Lee, 1957-58), Teaze House (Lee, 1960), and the System House (Lee and DeSilver, 1961). He also built Breuer House 2 (Breuer, 1951) and the Attwood House (Ford and Gates, 1958).

New Canaan Modern Houses: Builder

- Breuer House 2 (Breuer, 1951)
- Lee House 1 (Lee, 1952)
- Lee House 2 (Lee, 1956)
- Rogers House (Lee, 1957-58)
- Attwood House (Gates and Ford, 1958)
- Teaze House (Lee, 1960)
- System House (Lee and DeSilver, 1961)

Roles House (Christ-Janer, 1953)

Robert Roles

UNKNOWN

Robert Roles was a speculator and builder who largely worked with architect Victor Christ-Janer. Roles built the Irwin House (Christ-Janer, 1952), the Daine House (Christ-Janer, 1953), and likely the Gratwick House (Christ-Janer, 1952).

In 1953, Roles and Christ-Janer partnered on a speculative development known as "Frogtown Terrace," which was to consist of residential properties built on a 150-acre parcel on Frogtown Road between Weed Street and Ponus Ridge Road. The model home, the Roles House, was designed by Christ-Janer and built by Roles in 1953 as a home for his own family. It appears that the remainder of Frogtown Terrace was never developed.

Sources used for biography:

"Connecticut Home in Modern Design." *New York Times*, 22 February 1953, R1.

New Canaan Modern Houses: Builder

- Irwin House (Christ-Janer, 1952)
- Daine House (Christ-Janer, 1953)
- Roles House (Christ-Janer, 1953)

Gores House (Gores, 1948)

John C. Smith

UNKNOWN

John C. Smith was a builder who primarily worked with architect Philip Johnson. After building the Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49), he went on to construct the Hodgson House (Johnson, 1950-51) and the Wiley House (Johnson, 1952-53). Smith also built the Gores House (Gores, 1948) for Landis Gores, who shared an architectural practice with Johnson at the time.

New Canaan Modern Houses: Builder

- Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49)
- Gores House (Gores, 1948)
- Hodgson House (Johnson, 1950-51)
- Wiley House (Johnson, 1952-53)

Appendix I
Landscape Architect Biographies

Campbell House (Johansen, 1952, photographer: Ben Schnall, source: Philip Johnson Glass House)

New Canaan Modern Houses: Landscape Design

- Campbell House (Johansen, 1952)
- Lee House 2 (Lee, 1956)

Paschall Campbell

UNKNOWN

Paschall Campbell was a landscape architect who worked on at least two houses in New Canaan, including Lee House 2 (Lee, 1956), and his own house, the Campbell House (Johansen, 1952, no longer extant). Although it has not been possible to find out much information about Campbell, he did work on the design for the Sallie Franklin Cheatham Memorial Garden in New York City, which won an ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) Professional Competition Honor Award in 1973.[1]

Sources used for biography:

"Awards: 1973 Winners in ASLA Professional Competition." *Landscape Architects* 64 (October 1973): 486.

1 "Awards: 1973 Winners in ASLA Professional Competition," *Landscape Architects* 64 (October 1973): 486.

Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49)

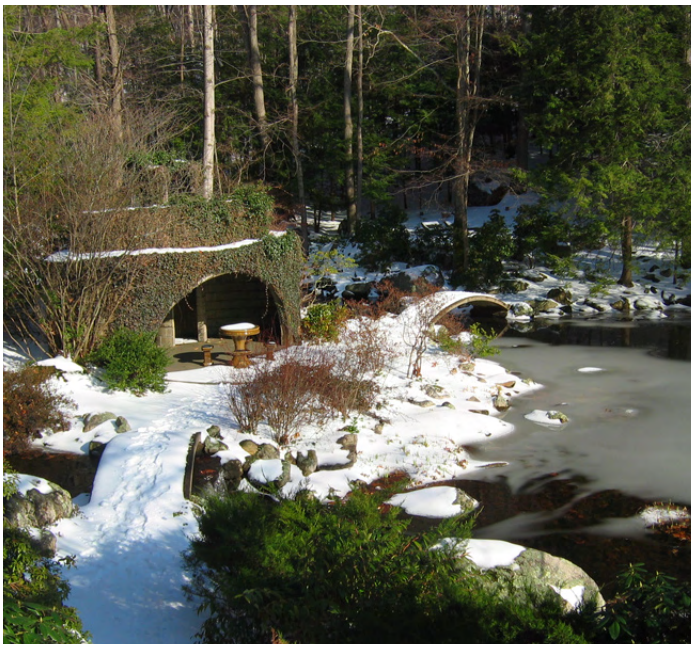
James Fanning

UNKNOWN

James Fanning was a landscape architect who worked on several design projects with Philip Johnson, including the Glass House (1945-49), and the Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden (1953). Fanning also designed the landscape for High Ridge Park in Stamford, Connecticut, with architect Victor Bisharat of James Evans Associates, and a planned community in Reston, Virginia. His other work in New Canaan includes the landscapes for the Warner House (Johansen, 1956), the Celanese House (Stone, 1959), and the Crichton House (Landsberg, 1960).

New Canaan Modern Houses: Landscape Design

- Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49)
- Warner House (Johansen, 1956)
- Celanese House (Stone, 1959)
- Crichton House (Landsberg, 1960)



Tirranna/Rayward House (Wright, 1956)

Charles Middeleer

UNKNOWN-1989

Charles Middeleer was a landscape architect who designed the landscapes for the Rogers House (Lee, 1957-58), the Monroe House (Lee, 1968), and the alterations to Tirranna/Rayward House (Wright, 1956) in the 1960s. No other information has been found on Middeleer.

Charles Middeleer died in 1989.

New Canaan Modern Houses: Landscape Design

- Rogers House (Lee, 1957-58)
- Monroe House (Lee, 1968)
- Tirranna/Rayward House alterations (Wright, 1956)

Appendix J
Lighting Designer Biographies

Hodgson House (Johnson, 1950-51)

Richard Kelly

[1911]-1977

Richard Kelly was one of the foremost architectural lighting designers of the Modern movement in the United States. He graduated from Columbia University in 1932 and opened a lighting design firm in 1934. In 1944, he received an architectural degree from Yale University. Kelly designed the lighting for some of the most prominent Modern buildings of the mid-twentieth century, including the General Motors Technical Center in Detroit (Saarinen, 1946-55), the Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe and Johnson, 1954-58), the Museum of Modern Art (unknown which particular building he worked on), the Kimbell Art Museum (Louis Kahn, 1967-72), and all of the buildings at Lincoln Center with the exception of the Metropolitan Opera House.[1] Kelly was a leader in innovative lighting designs that accommodated large expanses of glass and open floor plans. In New Canaan, he designed the lighting for the Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49), Gores House (Gores, 1948), Hodgson House (Johnson, 1950-51), Wiley House (Johnson, 1952-53), Noyes House 2 (Noyes, 1954-55), and the Warner House (Johansen, 1956).

Richard Kelly died in 1977.

Sources used for biography:

"Richard Kelly, 66, the Designer of Lighting for Seagram Building." *New York Times*, 12 July 1977, 28.

New Canaan Modern Houses: Lighting Design

- Glass House (Johnson, 1945-49)
- Gores House (Gores, 1948)
- Hodgson House (Johnson, 1950-51)
- Wiley House (Johnson, 1952-53)
- Noyes House 2 (Noyes, 1954-55)
- Warner House (Johansen, 1956)

1 "Richard Kelly, 66, the Designer of Lighting for Seagram Building," *New York Times*, 12 July 1977, 28.

Appendix K
Women and Minority Bibliography

Women and Minority Bibliography

The following is an annotated bibliography outlining the role of women and minorities in the development of mid-century Modern houses in New Canaan. Although few sources were uncovered that specifically discussed the role of women and minorities, preliminary discussions with homeowners and architects suggested that women did play a major role in the design of the houses, and in many cases, served as the primary driving force to choose a Modern design. Particular women that were mentioned include Nina Bremer (Bremer House, 1951, Eliot Noyes), Bremer's daughter Lynn Chivvis (Chivvis House, 1979, Eliot Noyes), Zulu Crichton (Crichton House, 1960, William Landsberg), and Simone Attwood (Attwood House, 1958, Gates and Ford). Further research is encouraged to develop more information about the role of women and minorities in New Canaan. Given the lack of published information on women and minorities, interviews and oral histories are likely to provide the greatest amount of material.

Jane Doggett

Little, Carl. "Graphic Design Pioneer Produces Book." *The Ellsworth American* (Ellsworth, Maine), 4 October 2007. Article about graphic designer Jane Doggett, who collaborated on the design of her house (Doggett Jackson House, 1967, Charles Jacobs) with architect Charles Jacobs. Doggett had an office in New Canaan called "Architectural Graphics" and worked on projects with architects including Philip Johnson, Marcel Breuer, Eliot Noyes, and Victor Christ-Janer.

Eduardo Faxas

Schweitzer, Rob. "Eduardo Faxas: Fleeing the Oppression to Embrace the Modern." *The HOME Monthly* (Ridgefield, CT), July 2003, 48-57. Article about Eduardo Faxas's immigration from Cuba to the United States and his experience in designing Modern architecture in the New Canaan area. Faxas designed the McDonnell House (1968-69) and the Tiedemann House (1978, no longer extant) in New Canaan.

Pamela Gores

Eskesen, Hal. "In 'House for All Seasons' NC Couple Builds a Life Underground." *Stamford Advocate*, 19 August 1977. Article about Pamela Gores's role as builder of the House for All Seasons (1978, Landis Gores), designed by her husband Landis Gores.

Friede Stege

Williams, Norma E. "Friede Stege: Designer of Residential Landscapes." *The Connecticut Landscape Architect* (Winter 2000). Article about landscape architect Friede Stege, a woman who worked on the landscape design for the Ford House (1954, Gates and Ford) and the Ford House/Edward Winter House (1961, Winter & Ford). The article does not discuss specific projects in New Canaan.

Appendix L
Glossary of Modern Architectural Terms

Glossary of Modern Architectural Terms

Term	Definition	Category
A-frame building	A building with a cross section resembling the letter A in which steeply angled sides descending from the ridge function as both roof and wall enclosure.	Misc.
accordion door folding wall folding partition	A door, consisting of multiple panels suspended on pivots from an overhead track and hinged to each other, that is opened by folding the panels flat against each other.	Door
acoustical tile	In residential applications, a relatively thin, sound-absorbing finish material in board form, which is applied to ceilings or walls with mastic or mounted in a suspended ceiling framework. The tiles are generally square or rectangular and are composed of mineral fiber, vegetable fiber, cork, or a similar sound-absorbing material or are perforated metal shells filled with such sound-absorbing material.	Interior Finishes
asbestos cement asbestos cement shingles asbestos cement board Transite®	A dense, rigid, fire- and water-resistant material consisting of asbestos fibers bound with Portland cement or another hydraulic cement, which was formed into relatively thin shingles, flat sheets, and corrugated sheets used for exterior cladding and roofing. Shingles were often embossed with patterns simulating wood or slate. These products were available beginning in the early 1920s.	Exterior Cladding
asphalt shingles	Roofing and wall cladding units made from asphalt-saturated vegetable or mineral fiber felt surfaced with mineral or ceramic granules on the face exposed to the weather. Early units took the form of individual shingles; later units generally took the form of strips notched at the bottom edge to provide a covering resembling the configuration of wood, slate, or tile shingles. Sometimes the material was embossed with patterns simulating wood or slate. Individual asphalt shingles were invented in 1903, and the first multi-tab shingles were invented in 1906.	Roofing
awning	A lightweight, roof-like covering—often made of canvas on a metal framework but also made of thin metal or plastic, with or without a frame—projecting from a wall, often above a window or door, to provide shade and protection from rain. Some awnings are fixed, and some awnings can be folded upward against the building.	Misc.
awning window	A window with one or more sashes—either top-hinged or horizontally pivoted near the tops of their stiles—that open outward at the bottom.	Window

balcony	A platform projecting from the wall of a building above the first story, cantilevered or supported from the wall below, and generally bordered on its exposed sides by a railing, balustrade, or parapet.	Misc.
batten	In relation to exterior cladding, a relatively narrow wood strip applied to cover a joint between adjacent boards. Also used in panel and batten siding.	Exterior Cladding
beveled glass	Glass pane with edges ground and polished on a chamfer so that they refract light in the manner of a prism.	Glazing
breezeway	A roofed exterior passageway, open at the sides, connecting two separate structures.	Misc.
brise-soleil or sun shade	An element, usually consisting of louvers, fins, or grillework, mounted forward of a wall above or in front of openings, usually glazed, to limit the amount of direct sunlight entering the openings.	Misc.
built-up roof	A roof surface, usually used on flat or nearly flat roofs, that generally consists of multiple layers of bitumen-saturated felt adhered together with coatings of hot bitumen and surfaced with either a cap sheet—a saturated felt surfaced with mineral granules—or gravel installed in a heavy layer of bitumen. The bitumen can be either asphalt or coal tar. Sometimes cold bitumen or another adhesive is used.	Roofing
butt-joint glazing	Glazing in which joints between adjacent glass panes are filled with sealant. In relation to Modern houses, butt-joint glazing usually refers to glazing in which the panes are supported at top and bottom and the narrow vertical joints between them are filled with sealant.	Glazing
butterfly roof	An inverted gable roof in which two sloping planes, each pitching downward from the eaves, meet in a valley.	Roofing
canopy	In relation to buildings, a fixed roof-like projection extending from a building, often of cloth on a lightweight frame and often with thin supports on the end opposite the building, that provides shelter from the weather. Canopies frequently shelter a path from a doorway to a street.	Misc.
cantilever	A structural element supported only at one end or the portion of a structural element extending past the last support. In the case of a horizontal beam or slab, the unsupported portion of the element that projects past a supporting column, wall, or beam.	Structure
carport	A roofed shelter for an automobile open on one or more sides.	Misc.
casement window	A window with one or more side-hinged sashes that open inward or outward.	Window

caulking	A flexible substance used to seal cracks and fill joints between different materials—such as those between window frames and wall surfaces—against water penetration. Traditional caulking materials include oakum and lead, oil-based putty, and rubber; in the second half of the 20th century, more resilient synthetic materials based on polysulfide, polyurethane, and silicone were used. The words "caulking" and "sealant" are often used interchangeably, but sealant is the preferred term for the more recent synthetic materials.	Misc.
cement (1) natural hydraulic cement	A binder generally consisting of alumina, silica, lime, iron oxide, and magnesium oxide in the form of a finely ground powder, which, when mixed with water, forms an adhesive paste that sets into a hard, dense mass. Cement is used to bind sand or other fine aggregate to make mortar and to bind sand and gravel or other large aggregate to make concrete. Natural hydraulic cement, first used in the United States in the 1820s for the construction of the Erie Canal, is made by burning at high temperature limestone or other lime-containing material that contains natural impurities; Portland cement, which was patented in England in 1824 and available in the United States beginning in the 1870s, is made by burning a combination of ingredients that will provide the desired proportions of calcium, silicon, iron, aluminum, and magnesium.	Masonry
cement (2) Portland cement	The word "cement" is often incorrectly used to refer to elements that are actually concrete, such as in "cement sidewalk." The sidewalk is of concrete in which cement serves as the binder.	Masonry
cinder block	A lightweight masonry unit, usually with voids but sometimes solid, similar to concrete block but made of concrete containing cinders—remains of burned coal or other material incapable of being further burned—as aggregate. Cinder block were first patented in the United States in 1917.	Masonry
clerestory window	A window in the upper portion of a wall of a tall space.	Window
concrete	A building material consisting of sand or other fine aggregate and gravel or other large aggregate bound together by an adhesive paste of cement and water. Formable when installed, concrete sets into a dense, rock-like mass. Concrete may contain additional ingredients that modify its properties. Often, concrete is incorrectly called "cement," which is only one of its ingredients. See also reinforced concrete.	Structure, Flooring

concrete block	A masonry unit, either solid or with vertical hollow cores, made of concrete. Concrete block, available widely from the earliest years of the 20th century, can have either a plain smooth surface or a three-dimensional decorative surface. The most common concrete block is nominally 16 inches long x 8 inches high x 8 inches deep.	Masonry
cork flooring	A resilient flooring material in sheet or, more generally, tile form composed of the outer bark of the cork oak and sometimes containing added synthetic resins. The process for making cork sheet materials was patented in 1892, and the materials were available in the beginning years of the 20th century.	Flooring
corrugated glass	A sheet of glass molded with a cross section in the form of a sine wave that can support more load and diffuses light more widely than flat glass of the same thickness. A method of making corrugated glass was patented in the United States in 1898.	Glazing
courtyard	A roofless exterior space generally bordered on three or four sides by buildings or walls.	Misc.
cove lighting	Lighting from sources concealed in a cove near the top of a wall, on top of a cornice, or in a horizontal recess that illuminates ceilings and the upper portions of walls and provides ambient light to the space.	Lighting
curtain wall	A non-load-bearing exterior cladding—designed to support only its own weight and wind and seismic loads—supported by the building structure, often at every floor or at every other floor. Although curtain walls are made of many materials, including masonry, in Modern architecture they were often constructed of metal frames with glass lights and glass or metal panels.	Exterior Cladding
deck	In relation to Modern houses, a platform, generally adjacent to a building, intended to provide outdoor living space.	Misc.
dropped girder	A girder installed below floor joists or beams to support them.	Structure
egg crate diffuser	An open assembly of strips or slats, generally of metal or plastic, resembling an egg crate, used below a lighting fixture to diffuse the light and limit glare.	Lighting
exposed aggregate finish	A concrete finish in which the large aggregate—either typical washed gravel or more decorative crushed stone—is exposed by removal of the cement and fine aggregate from the surface of the concrete by brushing or pressure washing before the cement has set or by acid washing or light abrasive blasting after the concrete has cured.	Misc.
extended end walls	Freestanding, full height walls that extend beyond the corner of a building into the landscape.	Misc.

fiberboard Homasote	A sheet material usually composed of wood or other vegetable fibers generally mixed with a binder and compressed into relatively thin units. United States patents for fiber materials suitable for use in buildings were granted beginning in 1870, and the materials were readily available by 1910. Homasote was introduced in 1909.	Interior Finishes
fiberglass shingles	A form of asphalt shingles where the felt is composed of glass fibers. Fiberglass shingles were available beginning in the late 1970s.	Roofing
fieldstone	Stones of a size useful in construction found on the surface of the soil that are generally flat in the direction of bedding. These stones are typically used for building walls.	Masonry
fixed sash	A window sash that is not operable.	Window
flagstone	A relatively thin stone unit, generally split from hard, stratified sedimentary rock, used as paving. Also called a flag.	Masonry
flat roof	A roof either with no slope, called dead flat, or with only enough slope, generally one-quarter inch per foot, to cause water to run to drains, gutters, or scuppers.	Roofing
float glass	Glass made by floating molten glass on a bed of molten metal. The glass, which has uniform thickness and flat surfaces, was developed in 1959. Float glass has completely replaced polished plate glass.	Glazing
flush door	A door with flat, planar faces.	Door
flush glazing	Glazing in which the glass is flush with adjacent frame members.	Glazing
flush vertical wood siding	Wood siding consisting of vertical boards butted against each other to create an unbroken plane.	Exterior Cladding
folded plate construction	Construction consisting of relatively thin, planar elements connected rigidly at angles with each other to form a stiff cross section, such as, for example a V or a W. These elements can span long distances.	Structure
folding door	A door with two or more leaves hinged to each other that is opened by folding the leaves against each other at the side of the opening. It generally has fewer and relatively wider leaves than an accordion door.	Door
gazebo	A freestanding, roofed structure, normally open on the sides, which is usually sited in a lawn or park to provide shade and protection from weather.	Misc.

geodesic dome	A type of construction for enclosing a nearly spherical space using a frame constructed of many similar, light, linear elements interconnected at nodes to form polygons that, in turn, form a three-way spherical grid, which is covered by a membrane or panels. The nodes are derived from a regular polyhedron projected onto a sphere. The structure was patented by R. Buckminster Fuller in 1954.	Structure
glass block	A generally translucent, non-load-bearing glass unit. Most glass block used in Modern houses are hollow, having a cavity with a partial vacuum; some glass block are solid glass. Although glass block were exhibited at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, they were most widely produced starting in the 1930s.	Glazing
glazing	A translucent material, such as glass or plastic, installed in an opening. Also, the process of installing the translucent material in a frame or sash.	Glazing
gypsum board plasterboard Sheetrock®	A sheet material consisting of a gypsum core with a paper facer on each side, which is used to surface interior walls and ceilings in place of traditional plaster. The product was available in its current form by 1916. Sheetrock® is the trademark of United States Gypsum Corporation.	Interior Finishes
hardboard	A dense, rigid fiberboard usually with a smooth face.	Interior Finishes
hopper window	A window with one or more sashes—either bottom-hinged or horizontally pivoted near the bottom of their stiles—that open inward at the top.	Window
horizontal sliding window sliding sash window	A window with side by side sashes set in adjacent parallel grooves or tracks in which one or more sashes open by sliding horizontally.	Window
insulating glass units IGU's Thermopane® Twindow®	Glazing units generally constructed of parallel sheets of glass, separated by space usually containing a partial vacuum or an inert gas, and bonded at the edges, which are installed to reduce heat transfer through glazed openings. Patents for insulating glass units were issued in the 1930s and the units were available in the 1940s.	Glazing
jalousie jalousie window	A window sash or framed opening containing narrow, overlapping, pivoting glass slats that can be opened and closed in unison, often by use of a crank. The overlapping slats shed water when they are open. Jalousie slats sometimes substitute for the glazing in storm doors. A patent for a jalousie was issued in 1947, although as the application was made in 1941, the element may have been available earlier.	Door

Lally column	A cylindrical steel column filled with concrete, which was developed by John Lally of Waltham, Massachusetts, and was produced by the Lally Column Company. The columns are used to support beams and girders. Versions of the column were patented beginning in 1898.	Structure
laminated lumber	Lumber made of relatively small pieces of wood glued together to form members that are used in place of wood elements for columns, beams, joists, rafters, and other structural components. In general, the grain of all of the elements is parallel.	Structure
light	A pane of glass. Also, an opening admitting light into a building.	Window, Door
light cove	A recess near the top of a wall, sometimes above a curved projection, in which lighting fixtures are mounted. See cove lighting.	Lighting
light gauge steel framing cold formed steel framing	Structural framing using relatively lightweight structural members, such as studs and joists, formed of galvanized sheet steel that are used in much the same way as dimensional lumber is used.	Structure
linoleum	A resilient flooring material generally consisting of oxidized linseed oil, cork dust, wood flour, and whiting, available in sheets or as tile. Linoleum was first available in the United States in 1886.	Flooring
louver	A framed element containing a series of sloping slats, overlapping in the vertical plane, either fixed or pivoted, that allow passage of light and/or air and restrict passage of precipitation.	Door
modular coordination	Construction based on basic dimensions that allow different materials to be used with minimum waste. For example, studs spaced 16 inches on center accommodate gypsum board that is 48 inches wide.	Misc.
Module	A dimension used to space structural elements and other building components so that elements of the building can be interchangeable to achieve economies of scale.	Misc.
mullion	A relatively narrow vertical element separating adjacent windows in a multiple window unit or adjacent doors in a series.	Window
muntin	A relatively thin horizontal or vertical strip between the panes of a window (or the panels of a screen).	Window
narrow-stile door	Generally a door consisting of a pane of glass or an insulating glass unit with a frame at the perimeter in which the stiles, generally metal, are relatively narrow (approximately 2 inches or less). Usually, the rails are narrow as well.	Door
open web steel joists	Standardized, light-weight, shallow trusses used as joists, which were first manufactured in the early 1920s.	Structure

overhead door	A large door, usually used as a garage door, consisting of a panel or a series of horizontal panels pivoted in tracks at the sides of and above the opening that is opened by swinging or rolling the panel or panels upwards to a horizontal position above the opening. Upper panels of multipaneled overhead doors were often glazed.	Door
pane	A single piece of glass for glazing.	Window, Glazing
panel and batten siding	Wood siding consisting of plywood panels with wood battens applied over the vertical joints between them; similar to board-and-batten siding.	Exterior Cladding
pass door or wicket door	A door for pedestrians in an overhead door.	Door
patio	A generally paved, unroofed area adjacent to a building, constructed at grade, and designed to provide outdoor living space.	Misc.
pavilion	In relation to houses, a portion of a building, often in the center or at the end, that is articulated as separate from the mass of the adjacent portion of the building, usually by height and projection.	Misc.
pergola	An ornamental structure, generally consisting of parallel rows of columns supporting beams or trelliswork, designed to accommodate climbing plants.	Misc.
picture window	A large window with a fixed sash or with glass glazed directly into the frame often placed to provide an attractive exterior view, usually without muntins or mullions.	Window
pier	A structural element that provides vertical support. Also, a relatively narrow, shallow projecting portion of a wall that provides lateral support, vertical support, or both lateral and vertical support.	Structure
pilotis	Columns that support a building above an open space at ground level.	Structure
pivot window	A window with a sash that opens by pivoting either vertically (on pivots near the centers of its stiles) or horizontally (on pivots near the centers of its rails).	Window
plank and beam roof plank structural roof plank ceiling	A type of floor and roof construction consisting of planks, nominally 2 inches thick or thicker, supported by relatively widely spaced beams (e.g., 8 feet on center). This type of construction was long used in heavy timber construction before it was adopted for use in houses and other structures.	Structure
plasterboard	See gypsum board.	Misc.

plastic laminate Formica® Micarta®	A thin, rigid surfacing material formed by laminating sheets of resin-impregnated kraft paper together with a decorative top sheet under heat and pressure. Laminates of this kind were first produced in 1907, and the Formica company was formed in 1913.	Interior Finishes
plate glass polished plate glass	Clear glass, generally thicker than normal window glass, ground and polished on both sides to achieve optimum clarity and produced in large sheets for glazing curtain walls and window walls. Polished plate glass was available in the 1870s. Modern houses with floor to ceiling glass were glazed with polished plate glass, which is no longer manufactured. Damaged and missing plate glass is often replaced with float glass.	Glazing
plywood	A rigid panel generally consisting of three or more sheets of wood veneer glued together with the grain of each sheet perpendicular to that of adjacent sheets. Some plywood has a core of thicker wood, called a lumber core, and the thickness and orientation of plies can vary. Plywood is available in much larger sheets than solid lumber. Softwood plywood was widely available after the first decade of the 20th century.	Misc.
pocket door	A sliding door that is opened by sliding it into a slot in the edge of the wall opening.	Door
porcelain enamel panel	A thin panel used for exterior cladding or interior finish consisting of a section of sheet metal, generally steel, surfaced with a vitreous coating, generally colored. These panels were first available in the 1920s.	Interior Finishes
porch	A roofed, generally open-sided, above-ground-level platform attached to a building, usually in front of a doorway.	Misc.
Portland cement	See cement.	Masonry
precast concrete units	Masonry units made of concrete, sometimes reinforced, which are generally cast in molds and cured in a shop, allowing greater quality control than is possible when pouring concrete on site.	Masonry
prow	In relation to Modern houses, a term used to designate a glazed, outward-projecting gable end of a structure that resembles a ship's prow.	Misc.
quarry tile	A dense, unglazed, flat clay tile, generally 6 inches square or larger on the face and 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick, that is used for paving floors, walls, and roofs.	Flooring
radiant floor heating	Heating in which circulating hot water in pipes or tubes or electrical resistance cable is used to warm floors, which radiate the heat to the spaces above. Generally, the heating elements are concealed in the floor.	Misc.

rail	In relation to doors, windows, and paneling, a horizontal wood framing member of a door, sash, or wall panel.	Door, Window
recessed lighting fixture	A lighting fixture inserted into a hole in the ceiling so that the lower edge of the fixture is flush with the ceiling plane.	Lighting
reinforced concrete	A composite material made of concrete, which is able to resist compression forces, and steel—usually in the form of rods, bars, or mesh—or another material that is able to resist tension forces. Reinforced concrete is most often employed as a structural material, but it can also be used for cladding and for decoration. It has been used in the United States since the last years of the 19th century.	Structure
reveal	A continuous groove between adjoining planar surfaces. In Modern architecture, reveals were often used at edges of building elements, such as walls and cabinets, to create the illusion that the elements are planes or solid objects floating in space rather than attached to adjacent building elements. Also, the continuous recess between a door or window frame and the surface of the adjacent wall.	Misc.
reverse board and batten siding	Wood siding consisting of plywood sheets with 1-inch to 1-1/2-inch wide shallow vertical grooves 8 inches on center or 12 inches on center.	Exterior Cladding
ribbon window	A horizontal band of fixed or operable sash separated by mullions. Also, a horizontal band of lights separated by mullions or butt-joint glazed.	Window
Roman brick	A long, thin brick nominally 12 inches long by 4 inches deep by 2 inches high. Although actual brick dimensions vary, the brick are commonly 1-1/2 inches high. Masonry of Roman brick with thin joints emphasizes horizontality.	Masonry
sash	A frame in a window that is separate from the window frame, generally constructed of stiles and rails into which glass is installed. Sash can be fixed or operable.	Window
screen door	A secondary door, generally thinner and lighter than the primary door in the same doorway, that has one or more large openings covered with small mesh screen to exclude insects but allow air circulation.	Door
sealant	An elastomeric caulking compound—such as one based on polysulfide, polyurethane, or silicone—used to fill joints to prevent passage of liquid or gas. Elastomeric sealants have been widely used to seal openings since the early 1950s. Also, a substance applied to the surface of a wall or material to prevent water or another substance from entering, a sealer.	Misc.
shed roof	A roof with only one sloping plane.	Roofing

shell structure thin-shell structure	A thin structural and enclosing element, generally of reinforced concrete but also of wood or metal, that transmits applied forces through the plane of the element. The shells can be curved in two dimensions (e.g., a barrel vault) or in three dimensions (e.g., a hyperbolic paraboloid). In Modern buildings, thin shells usually function as roofs.	Structure
shoji screen	A Japanese-style translucent partition consisting of a wooden frame fitted with muntins. The openings were traditionally covered with rice paper, but other thin translucent materials were also used in Modern houses. Screens are often installed in tracks so that they slide open and closed.	Misc.
sidelight	A glazed sash adjacent to a door, generally fixed.	Door
skylight	A glazed opening in a roof that provides light to the interior space below. Skylights in Modern structures are often low-rise plastic bubbles. Some skylights open to provide ventilation.	Misc.
sliding door	A door, generally supported and guided by tracks or guides at the top and/or at the bottom, that is opened and closed by sliding it sideways.	Door
space frame	A three-dimensional, truss-like structural frame composed of relatively short linear elements joined together with connectors, which is most generally used to span wide spaces and is often covered with glass or with metal panels.	Structure
spandrel spandrel panel	In multistory Modern buildings, the portion of a wall, often a defined panel, between the head of a window and the sill of the window above.	Exterior Cladding
spandrel glass	Glass with an opaque or only slightly translucent colored coating, generally ceramic, fired on its rear face, which is used to glaze sections of wall to conceal structural members, mechanical equipment, and other building components. It is most commonly used to glaze spandrel panels of high-rise curtain walls. Spandrel glass was introduced in the 1950s.	Glazing
stile	A vertical framing member, generally wood or metal, of a door, sash, or wall panel.	Door, Window
stoop	An elevated platform, sometimes accessed by a set of steps, at the entrance to a building.	Misc.
storm door	A secondary exterior door—generally lighter and thinner than the primary door, generally glazed, and generally located to the outside of the primary door—that reduces air infiltration and protects the opening from weather.	Door

storm window	A secondary sash installed within the window frame outside the primary sash or outside the window to reduce air infiltration and to provide additional protection from the weather.	Window
stressed skin panel	A strong, lightweight building panel consisting of relatively thin facing sheets (of materials such as plywood or sheet metal) adhered to a relatively lightweight, thick core (of a material such as foam plastic insulation or an egg-crate-like grid of wood, plastic, or metal elements), generally used as a cladding material and sometimes used as a structural material. Stressed skin panels were developed in the 1930s.	Structure, Exterior Cladding
structural glass pigmented structural glass Carrara Glass® Vitrolite®	Glass panels, generally opaque, used as an exterior cladding material and installed on both vertical and horizontal surfaces in kitchens, bathrooms, and other interior locations where a sanitary surface was required. Carrara Glass® and Vitrolite® were the most common trade names for structural glass. Structural glass was first produced in 1900.	Exterior Cladding
stucco Portland cement plaster	A water-resistant finish material, generally consisting of Portland cement, sand, and water, that was often applied to the exterior walls of Modern buildings, including houses. Stucco on buildings of earlier periods may not have contained Portland cement.	Exterior Cladding
sublights	Glazed sash, generally fixed, or fixed glazed lights beneath windows.	Window
suspended ceiling hung ceiling dropped ceiling	A ceiling, typically of plaster, gypsum board, or acoustical tile, suspended below and generally supported by the structural ceiling above.	Interior Finishes
sweep-back gable roof spent-wing roof	A gable roof in which the ridge is longer than the eaves.	Roofing
tempered pressed wood tempered hardboard	A smooth, water-resistant fiberboard made of wood fibers adhered together with adhesive ingredients under high pressure to form a thin, dense sheet material used for cladding and surfacing. The most common product was Tempered Presdwood,® which was patented in 1932, manufactured by the Masonite Corporation.	Exterior Cladding, Interior Finishes
terrace	A paved area, sometimes raised, adjoining a building or a paved roof area used for sitting and light activity.	Misc.
terrazzo	Traditionally, a hard, smooth, polished flooring made of marble or other stone chips embedded in a cement binder with a ground and polished surface. Terrazzo can also be cast in molds for stair treads, baseboards, and other elements. It was widely used beginning in the early 20th century, at first installed from wall to wall in broad expanses and later installed in smaller panels separated by thin metal strips to control cracking. In the third quarter of the 20th century, a similar but more resilient material bound with epoxy resin rather than with cement became available.	Flooring

Texture 1-11 T 1-11© siding	A rough-textured exterior cladding consisting of plywood panels with grooves 1/4-inch deep and 3/8-inch wide spaced either 4 inches on center or 8 inches on center.	Exterior Cladding
textured glass or patterned glass	Glass that has a three-dimensional pattern on one surface. The glass can be clear or have varying degrees of translucency.	Glazing
transom light	A window above a doorway with either fixed or operable sash or a light.	Door
truss	A rigid structural frame in a single plane fabricated from relatively thin linear elements, most of which are subject only to tension or compression, normally used to carry relatively heavy loads over long spans. The elements are usually but not always joined to form triangles.	Structure
v-channel vertical wood siding	Wood siding consisting of vertical boards with chamfered edges installed adjacent to each other, forming V-shaped joints.	Exterior Cladding
ventilator	As used in relation to windows, a pivoted glazed sash, generally part of a larger window in which the lights around the ventilator are fixed.	Window
vinyl asbestos tile VAT	A resilient floor tile composed of a vinyl resin binder reinforced with asbestos fibers, ground limestone and pigment, which was available from the 1950s to 1980.	Flooring
vinyl tile	A resilient floor tile composed of a vinyl resin binder with fillers, pigment, and stabilizers, which was first widely available in the 1950s.	Flooring
waffle slab	A two-way floor or roof system consisting of a reinforced concrete slab poured with integral joists or ribs in two directions beneath it. The system has a waffle-like pattern when viewed from below.	Structure
window wall	A nonbearing wall composed primarily of windows.	Window
wing wall	A building wall that extends beyond the building itself. Also, a wall extending from another wall for which it serves as a support and which also, in some cases, serves as a retaining wall. If the wall is a freestanding extension of a wall in the same plane, it is called an extended end wall.	Misc.
wire glass	Sheet glass reinforced with embedded wire mesh, generally in a hexagonal, square, or diamond pattern, to prevent shattering. The glass can be clear, frosted, or patterned. Patents for making wire glass were issued beginning in the early 1890s	Glazing

Appendix M
Historic Resource Inventory Form

Historic Resource Inventory Form

Introduction

Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (BCA), in consultation with the project sponsors, designed a survey form specifically for the New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses study. There were two main reasons for designing a new survey form: 1) It was believed that standard survey forms were tailored for more traditional house designs and would not work well for Modern resources; and 2) the study called for recording a much greater level of detail than is generally included in a survey form.

The Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism set basic parameters for the information to be gathered by the survey team, and BCA designed the form with these fields as a baseline. Since a primary objective for the project was to design a survey form that could be used by municipalities and organizations across the country to record recent-past historic resources and landscapes, BCA also reviewed survey forms created by other governmental offices and historic preservation organizations; forms were reviewed for their content, organization, ease of use, overall design, and field practicality. Survey forms prepared by the following organizations and governmental offices were consulted during the design phase of work:

- National Park Service
- U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Texas Historical Commission
- Preservation Dallas, Dallas, Texas
- Modern Phoenix Neighborhood Network, Phoenix, Arizona
- Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Chicago, Illinois
- Charlotte Historic Landmarks Commission, Charlotte, North Carolina
- DOCOMOMO (the international working party for DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the MOdern MOvement)
- The Recent Past Preservation Network

Survey Fields

The form was organized to allow for rapid identification of the resource (in the office) and to guide inventory teams through the survey process (in the field).

The survey form was designed hierarchically into fifteen separate categories:

- General Information
- Architectural Description: Main Structure
- Site Description
- Alterations
- Garage
- Outbuildings
- Conditions
- Credits
- Survey Information
- Photographs

- National Register Eligibility Assessment
- Description
- Significance Statement
- Sources
- Confidential Information

A glossary, organized alphabetically by architectural feature (such as structure, door, and window) was written by BCA for use in the field to ensure consistency in describing architectural features and materials and landscapes. The glossary is included in this appendix.

Electronic Inventory

Once the fields were defined for the inventory, BCA designed an electronic form to be used on either handheld or laptop computers in the field. The form was designed in Microsoft Access 2008. In addition to the powerful database capabilities of the earlier versions of the software, the 2008 release of Microsoft Access allows for easy storage and manipulation of image files.

Use of electronic databases in fieldwork rather than paper forms was seen as a value-added benefit for the project since it reduced administrative time (hours spent manually entering information into a database collected by hand in the field), reduced waste (we could print only final or draft copies as needed), and allowed for easy statistical analysis, sorting, and grouping of collected information. There are drawbacks to the electronic survey form, including potential loss of data due to hardware or software glitches, limited battery life in cold weather, and start-up costs.

BCA addressed the first two issues by saving back-up files of our work after each day in the field and by using a car adapter to recharge the battery on our laptop in the winter months while we were in transit. BCA used digital cameras and Panasonic Toughbook © laptop computers in the field and felt the durability of this sturdy computer outweighed the drawbacks of its weight. Start-up costs may be a consideration for some organizations, but the survey was designed to run on a fairly basic computer system.

Survey Scope

One of the great strengths of the New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses study was the ability to gain access to the properties. The survey team was able to complete field surveys of the exteriors and landscapes of sixty of the ninety-one resources identified as qualifying for the study. Unlike a traditional urban or planned community inventory, New Canaan's Modern houses are often hidden from view, making it difficult if not impossible to complete a survey from a public way. The relationships nurtured by the New Canaan Historical Society and the Philip Johnson Glass House enabled the survey team to have access to these historic homes and the families who live in and care for them. Only a small percentage of the information gathered by the survey team could have been accomplished by a windshield survey.

Glossary, Organized by Category

Category	Term	Definition
Door	accordion door folding wall folding partition	A door, consisting of multiple panels suspended on pivots from an overhead track and hinged to each other, that is opened by folding the panels flat against each other.
Door	flush door	A door with flat, planar faces.
Door	folding door	A door with two or more leaves hinged to each other that is opened by folding the leaves against each other at the side of the opening. It generally has fewer and relatively wider leaves than an accordion door.
Door	jalousie jalousie window	A window sash or framed opening containing narrow, overlapping, pivoting glass slats that can be opened and closed in unison, often by use of a crank. The overlapping slats shed water when they are open. Jalousie slats sometimes substitute for the glazing in storm doors. A patent for a jalousie was issued in 1947, although as the application was made in 1941, the element may have been available earlier.
Door	louver	A framed element containing a series of sloping slats, overlapping in the vertical plane, either fixed or pivoted, that allow passage of light and/or air and restrict passage of precipitation.
Door	narrow-stile door	Generally a door consisting of a pane of glass or an insulating glass unit with a frame at the perimeter in which the stiles, generally metal, are relatively narrow (approximately 2 inches or less). Usually, the rails are narrow as well.
Door	overhead door	A large door, usually used as a garage door, consisting of a panel or a series of horizontal panels pivoted in tracks at the sides of and above the opening that is opened by swinging or rolling the panel or panels upwards to a horizontal position above the opening. Upper panels of multipaneled overhead doors were often glazed.
Door	pass door or wicket door	A door for pedestrians in an overhead door.
Door	pocket door	A sliding door that is opened by sliding it into a slot in the edge of the wall opening.
Door	screen door	A secondary door, generally thinner and lighter than the primary door in the same doorway, that has one or more large openings covered with small mesh screen to exclude insects but allow air circulation.
Door	sidelight	A glazed sash adjacent to a door, generally fixed.

Door	sliding door	A door, generally supported and guided by tracks or guides at the top and/or at the bottom, that is opened and closed by sliding it sideways.
Door	storm door	A secondary exterior door—generally lighter and thinner than the primary door, generally glazed, and generally located to the outside of the primary door—that reduces air infiltration and protects the opening from weather.
Door	transom light	A window above a doorway with either fixed or operable sash or a light.
Door, Window	rail	In relation to doors, windows, and paneling, a horizontal wood framing member of a door, sash, or wall panel.
Door, Window	stile	A vertical framing member, generally wood or metal, of a door, sash, or wall panel.
Exterior Cladding	asbestos cement asbestos cement shingles asbestos cement board Transite®	A dense, rigid, fire- and water-resistant material consisting of asbestos fibers bound with Portland cement or another hydraulic cement, which was formed into relatively thin shingles, flat sheets, and corrugated sheets used for exterior cladding and roofing. Shingles were often embossed with patterns simulating wood or slate. These products were available beginning in the early 1920s.
Exterior Cladding	batten	In relation to exterior cladding, a relatively narrow wood strip applied to cover a joint between adjacent boards. Also used in panel and batten siding.
Exterior Cladding	curtain wall	A non-load-bearing exterior cladding—designed to support only its own weight and wind and seismic loads—supported by the building structure, often at every floor or at every other floor. Although curtain walls are made of many materials, including masonry, in Modern architecture they were often constructed of metal frames with glass lights and glass or metal panels.
Exterior Cladding	flush vertical wood siding	Wood siding consisting of vertical boards butted against each other to create an unbroken plane.
Exterior Cladding	panel and batten siding	Wood siding consisting of plywood panels with wood battens applied over the vertical joints between them; similar to board-and-batten siding.
Exterior Cladding	reverse board and batten siding	Wood siding consisting of plywood sheets with 1-inch to 1-1/2-inch wide shallow vertical grooves 8 inches on center or 12 inches on center.
Exterior Cladding	spandrel spandrel panel	In multistory Modern buildings, the portion of a wall, often a defined panel, between the head of a window and the sill of the window above.

Exterior Cladding	structural glass pigmented structural glass Carrara Glass® Vitrolite®	Glass panels, generally opaque, used as an exterior cladding material and installed on both vertical and horizontal surfaces in kitchens, bathrooms, and other interior locations where a sanitary surface was required. Carrara Glass® and Vitrolite® were the most common trade names for structural glass. Structural glass was first produced in 1900.
Exterior Cladding	stucco Portland cement plaster	A water-resistant finish material, generally consisting of Portland cement, sand, and water, that was often applied to the exterior walls of Modern buildings, including houses. Stucco on buildings of earlier periods may not have contained Portland cement.
Exterior Cladding	Texture 1-11 T 1-11© siding	A rough-textured exterior cladding consisting of plywood panels with grooves 1/4-inch deep and 3/8-inch wide spaced either 4 inches on center or 8 inches on center.
Exterior Cladding	v-channel vertical wood siding	Wood siding consisting of vertical boards with chamfered edges installed adjacent to each other, forming V-shaped joints.
Exterior Cladding, Interior Finishes	tempered pressed wood tempered hardboard	A smooth, water-resistant fiberboard made of wood fibers adhered together with adhesive ingredients under high pressure to form a thin, dense sheet material used for cladding and surfacing. The most common product was Tempered Presdwood,® which was patented in 1932, manufactured by the Masonite Corporation.
Flooring	cork flooring	A resilient flooring material in sheet or, more generally, tile form composed of the outer bark of the cork oak and sometimes containing added synthetic resins. The process for making cork sheet materials was patented in 1892, and the materials were available in the beginning years of the 20th century.
Flooring	linoleum	A resilient flooring material generally consisting of oxidized linseed oil, cork dust, wood flour, and whiting, available in sheets or as tile. Linoleum was first available in the United States in 1886.
Flooring	quarry tile	A dense, unglazed, flat clay tile, generally 6 inches square or larger on the face and 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick, that is used for paving floors, walls, and roofs.
Flooring	terrazzo	Traditionally, a hard, smooth, polished flooring made of marble or other stone chips embedded in a cement binder with a ground and polished surface. Terrazzo can also be cast in molds for stair treads, baseboards, and other elements. It was widely used beginning in the early 20th century, at first installed from wall to wall in broad expanses and later installed in smaller panels separated by thin metal strips to control cracking. In the third quarter of the 20th century, a similar but more resilient material bound with epoxy resin rather than with cement became available.

Flooring	vinyl asbestos tile VAT	A resilient floor tile composed of a vinyl resin binder reinforced with asbestos fibers, ground limestone and pigment, which was available from the 1950s to 1980.
Flooring	vinyl tile	A resilient floor tile composed of a vinyl resin binder with fillers, pigment, and stabilizers, which was first widely available in the 1950s.
Glazing	beveled glass	Glass pane with edges ground and polished on a chamfer so that they refract light in the manner of a prism.
Glazing	butt-joint glazing	Glazing in which joints between adjacent glass panes are filled with sealant. In relation to Modern houses, butt-joint glazing usually refers to glazing in which the panes are supported at top and bottom and the narrow vertical joints between them are filled with sealant.
Glazing	corrugated glass	A sheet of glass molded with a cross section in the form of a sine wave that can support more load and diffuses light more widely than flat glass of the same thickness. A method of making corrugated glass was patented in the United States in 1898.
Glazing	float glass	Glass made by floating molten glass on a bed of molten metal. The glass, which has uniform thickness and flat surfaces, was developed in 1959. Float glass has completely replaced polished plate glass.
Glazing	flush glazing	Glazing in which the glass is flush with adjacent frame members.
Glazing	glass block	A generally translucent, non-load-bearing glass unit. Most glass block used in Modern houses are hollow, having a cavity with a partial vacuum; some glass block are solid glass. Although glass block were exhibited at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, they were most widely produced starting in the 1930s.
Glazing	glazing	A translucent material, such as glass or plastic, installed in an opening. Also, the process of installing the translucent material in a frame or sash.
Glazing	insulating glass units IGU's Thermopane® Twindow®	Glazing units generally constructed of parallel sheets of glass, separated by space usually containing a partial vacuum or an inert gas, and bonded at the edges, which are installed to reduce heat transfer through glazed openings. Patents for insulating glass units were issued in the 1930s and the units were available in the 1940s.
Glazing	plate glass polished plate glass	Clear glass, generally thicker than normal window glass, ground and polished on both sides to achieve optimum clarity and produced in large sheets for glazing curtain walls and window walls. Polished plate glass was available in the 1870s. Modern houses with floor to ceiling glass were glazed with polished plate glass, which is no longer manufactured. Damaged and missing plate glass is often replaced with float glass.

Glazing	spandrel glass	Glass with an opaque or only slightly translucent colored coating, generally ceramic, fired on its rear face, which is used to glaze sections of wall to conceal structural members, mechanical equipment, and other building components. It is most commonly used to glaze spandrel panels of high-rise curtain walls. Spandrel glass was introduced in the 1950s.
Glazing	textured glass or patterned glass	Glass that has a three-dimensional pattern on one surface. The glass can be clear or have varying degrees of translucency.
Glazing	wire glass	Sheet glass reinforced with embedded wire mesh, generally in a hexagonal, square, or diamond pattern, to prevent shattering. The glass can be clear, frosted, or patterned. Patents for making wire glass were issued beginning in the early 1890s
Interior Finishes	acoustical tile	In residential applications, a relatively thin, sound-absorbing finish material in board form, which is applied to ceilings or walls with mastic or mounted in a suspended ceiling framework. The tiles are generally square or rectangular and are composed of mineral fiber, vegetable fiber, cork, or a similar sound-absorbing material or are perforated metal shells filled with such sound-absorbing material.
Interior Finishes	fiberboard Homasote	A sheet material usually composed of wood or other vegetable fibers generally mixed with a binder and compressed into relatively thin units. United States patents for fiber materials suitable for use in buildings were granted beginning in 1870, and the materials were readily available by 1910. Homasote was introduced in 1909.
Interior Finishes	gypsum board plasterboard Sheetrock®	A sheet material consisting of a gypsum core with a paper facer on each side, which is used to surface interior walls and ceilings in place of traditional plaster. The product was available in its current form by 1916. Sheetrock® is the trademark of United States Gypsum Corporation.
Interior Finishes	hardboard	A dense, rigid fiberboard usually with a smooth face.
Interior Finishes	plastic laminate Formica® Micarta®	A thin, rigid surfacing material formed by laminating sheets of resin-impregnated kraft paper together with a decorative top sheet under heat and pressure. Laminates of this kind were first produced in 1907, and the Formica company was formed in 1913.
Interior Finishes	porcelain enamel panel	A thin panel used for exterior cladding or interior finish consisting of a section of sheet metal, generally steel, surfaced with a vitreous coating, generally colored. These panels were first available in the 1920s.
Interior Finishes	suspended ceiling hung ceiling dropped ceiling	A ceiling, typically of plaster, gypsum board, or acoustical tile, suspended below and generally supported by the structural ceiling above.

Lighting	cove lighting	Lighting from sources concealed in a cove near the top of a wall, on top of a cornice, or in a horizontal recess that illuminates ceilings and the upper portions of walls and provides ambient light to the space.
Lighting	egg crate diffuser	An open assembly of strips or slats, generally of metal or plastic, resembling an egg crate, used below a lighting fixture to diffuse the light and limit glare.
Lighting	light cove	A recess near the top of a wall, sometimes above a curved projection, in which lighting fixtures are mounted. See cove lighting.
Lighting	recessed lighting fixture	A lighting fixture inserted into a hole in the ceiling so that the lower edge of the fixture is flush with the ceiling plane.
Masonry	cement (1) natural hydraulic cement	A binder generally consisting of alumina, silica, lime, iron oxide, and magnesium oxide in the form of a finely ground powder, which, when mixed with water, forms an adhesive paste that sets into a hard, dense mass. Cement is used to bind sand or other fine aggregate to make mortar and to bind sand and gravel or other large aggregate to make concrete. Natural hydraulic cement, first used in the United States in the 1820s for the construction of the Erie Canal, is made by burning at high temperature limestone or other lime-containing material that contains natural impurities; Portland cement, which was patented in England in 1824 and available in the United States beginning in the 1870s, is made by burning a combination of ingredients that will provide the desired proportions of calcium, silicon, iron, aluminum, and magnesium.
Masonry	cement (2) Portland cement	The word “cement” is often incorrectly used to refer to elements that are actually concrete, such as in “cement sidewalk.” The sidewalk is of concrete in which cement serves as the binder.
Masonry	cinder block	A lightweight masonry unit, usually with voids but sometimes solid, similar to concrete block but made of concrete containing cinders—remains of burned coal or other material incapable of being further burned—as aggregate. Cinder block were first patented in the United States in 1917.
Masonry	concrete block	A masonry unit, either solid or with vertical hollow cores, made of concrete. Concrete block, available widely from the earliest years of the 20th century, can have either a plain smooth surface or a three-dimensional decorative surface. The most common concrete block is nominally 16 inches long x 8 inches high x 8 inches deep.
Masonry	fieldstone	Stones of a size useful in construction found on the surface of the soil that are generally flat in the direction of bedding. These stones are typically used for building walls.

Masonry	flagstone	A relatively thin stone unit, generally split from hard, stratified sedimentary rock, used as paving. Also called a flag.
Masonry	Portland cement	See cement.
Masonry	precast concrete units	Masonry units made of concrete, sometimes reinforced, which are generally cast in molds and cured in a shop, allowing greater quality control than is possible when pouring concrete on site.
Masonry	Roman brick	A long, thin brick nominally 12 inches long by 4 inches deep by 2 inches high. Although actual brick dimensions vary, the brick are commonly 1-1/2 inches high. Masonry of Roman brick with thin joints emphasizes horizontality.
Misc.	A-frame building	A building with a cross section resembling the letter A in which steeply angled sides descending from the ridge function as both roof and wall enclosure.
Misc.	awning	A lightweight, roof-like covering—often made of canvas on a metal framework but also made of thin metal or plastic, with or without a frame—projecting from a wall, often above a window or door, to provide shade and protection from rain. Some awnings are fixed, and some awnings can be folded upward against the building.
Misc.	balcony	A platform projecting from the wall of a building above the first story, cantilevered or supported from the wall below, and generally bordered on its exposed sides by a railing, balustrade, or parapet.
Misc.	breezeway	A roofed exterior passageway, open at the sides, connecting two separate structures.
Misc.	brise-soleil or sun shade	An element, usually consisting of louvers, fins, or grillework, mounted forward of a wall above or in front of openings, usually glazed, to limit the amount of direct sunlight entering the openings.
Misc.	canopy	In relation to buildings, a fixed roof-like projection extending from a building, often of cloth on a lightweight frame and often with thin supports on the end opposite the building, that provides shelter from the weather. Canopies frequently shelter a path from a doorway to a street.
Misc.	carport	A roofed shelter for an automobile open on one or more sides.

Misc.	caulking	A flexible substance used to seal cracks and fill joints between different materials—such as those between window frames and wall surfaces—against water penetration. Traditional caulking materials include oakum and lead, oil-based putty, and rubber; in the second half of the 20th century, more resilient synthetic materials based on polysulfide, polyurethane, and silicone were used. The words "caulking" and "sealant" are often used interchangeably, but sealant is the preferred term for the more recent synthetic materials.
Misc.	courtyard	A roofless exterior space generally bordered on three or four sides by buildings or walls.
Misc.	deck	In relation to Modern houses, a platform, generally adjacent to a building, intended to provide outdoor living space.
Misc.	exposed aggregate finish	A concrete finish in which the large aggregate—either typical washed gravel or more decorative crushed stone—is exposed by removal of the cement and fine aggregate from the surface of the concrete by brushing or pressure washing before the cement has set or by acid washing or light abrasive blasting after the concrete has cured.
Misc.	extended end walls	Freestanding, full height walls that extend beyond the corner of a building into the landscape.
Misc.	gazebo	A freestanding, roofed structure, normally open on the sides, which is usually sited in a lawn or park to provide shade and protection from weather.
Misc.	modular coordination	Construction based on basic dimensions that allow different materials to be used with minimum waste. For example, studs spaced 16 inches on center accommodate gypsum board that is 48 inches wide.
Misc.	Module	A dimension used to space structural elements and other building components so that elements of the building can be interchangeable to achieve economies of scale.
Misc.	patio	A generally paved, unroofed area adjacent to a building, constructed at grade, and designed to provide outdoor living space.
Misc.	pavilion	In relation to houses, a portion of a building, often in the center or at the end, that is articulated as separate from the mass of the adjacent portion of the building, usually by height and projection.
Misc.	pergola	An ornamental structure, generally consisting of parallel rows of columns supporting beams or trelliswork, designed to accommodate climbing plants.
Misc.	plasterboard	See gypsum board.

Misc.	plywood	A rigid panel generally consisting of three or more sheets of wood veneer glued together with the grain of each sheet perpendicular to that of adjacent sheets. Some plywood has a core of thicker wood, called a lumber core, and the thickness and orientation of plies can vary. Plywood is available in much larger sheets than solid lumber. Softwood plywood was widely available after the first decade of the 20th century.
Misc.	porch	A roofed, generally open-sided, above-ground-level platform attached to a building, usually in front of a doorway.
Misc.	prow	In relation to Modern houses, a term used to designate a glazed, outward-projecting gable end of a structure that resembles a ship's prow.
Misc.	radiant floor heating	Heating in which circulating hot water in pipes or tubes or electrical resistance cable is used to warm floors, which radiate the heat to the spaces above. Generally, the heating elements are concealed in the floor.
Misc.	reveal	A continuous groove between adjoining planar surfaces. In Modern architecture, reveals were often used at edges of building elements, such as walls and cabinets, to create the illusion that the elements are planes or solid objects floating in space rather than attached to adjacent building elements. Also, the continuous recess between a door or window frame and the surface of the adjacent wall.
Misc.	sealant	An elastomeric caulking compound—such as one based on polysulfide, polyurethane, or silicone—used to fill joints to prevent passage of liquid or gas. Elastomeric sealants have been widely used to seal openings since the early 1950s. Also, a substance applied to the surface of a wall or material to prevent water or another substance from entering, a sealer.
Misc.	shoji screen	A Japanese-style translucent partition consisting of a wooden frame fitted with muntins. The openings were traditionally covered with rice paper, but other thin translucent materials were also used in Modern houses. Screens are often installed in tracks so that they slide open and closed.
Misc.	skylight	A glazed opening in a roof that provides light to the interior space below. Skylights in Modern structures are often low-rise plastic bubbles. Some skylights open to provide ventilation.
Misc.	stoop	An elevated platform, sometimes accessed by a set of steps, at the entrance to a building.
Misc.	terrace	A paved area, sometimes raised, adjoining a building or a paved roof area used for sitting and light activity.

Misc.	wing wall	A building wall that extends beyond the building itself. Also, a wall extending from another wall for which it serves as a support and which also, in some cases, serves as a retaining wall. If the wall is a freestanding extension of a wall in the same plane, it is called an extended end wall.
Roofing	asphalt shingles	Roofing and wall cladding units made from asphalt-saturated vegetable or mineral fiber felt surfaced with mineral or ceramic granules on the face exposed to the weather. Early units took the form of individual shingles; later units generally took the form of strips notched at the bottom edge to provide a covering resembling the configuration of wood, slate, or tile shingles. Sometimes the material was embossed with patterns simulating wood or slate. Individual asphalt shingles were invented in 1903, and the first multi-tab shingles were invented in 1906.
Roofing	built-up roof	A roof surface, usually used on flat or nearly flat roofs, that generally consists of multiple layers of bitumen-saturated felt adhered together with coatings of hot bitumen and surfaced with either a cap sheet—a saturated felt surfaced with mineral granules—or gravel installed in a heavy layer of bitumen. The bitumen can be either asphalt or coal tar. Sometimes cold bitumen or another adhesive is used.
Roofing	butterfly roof	An inverted gable roof in which two sloping planes, each pitching downward from the eaves, meet in a valley.
Roofing	fiberglass shingles	A form of asphalt shingles where the felt is composed of glass fibers. Fiberglass shingles were available beginning in the late 1970s.
Roofing	flat roof	A roof either with no slope, called dead flat, or with only enough slope, generally one-quarter inch per foot, to cause water to run to drains, gutters, or scuppers.
Roofing	shed roof	A roof with only one sloping plane.
Roofing	sweep-back gable roof spent-wing roof	A gable roof in which the ridge is longer than the eaves.
Structure	cantilever	A structural element supported only at one end or the portion of a structural element extending past the last support. In the case of a horizontal beam or slab, the unsupported portion of the element that projects past a supporting column, wall, or beam.
Structure	dropped girder	A girder installed below floor joists or beams to support them.
Structure	folded plate construction	Construction consisting of relatively thin, planar elements connected rigidly at angles with each other to form a stiff cross section, such as, for example a V or a W. These elements can span long distances.

Structure	geodesic dome	A type of construction for enclosing a nearly spherical space using a frame constructed of many similar, light, linear elements interconnected at nodes to form polygons that, in turn, form a three-way spherical grid, which is covered by a membrane or panels. The nodes are derived from a regular polyhedron projected onto a sphere. The structure was patented by R. Buckminster Fuller in 1954.
Structure	Lally column	A cylindrical steel column filled with concrete, which was developed by John Lally of Waltham, Massachusetts, and was produced by the Lally Column Company. The columns are used to support beams and girders. Versions of the column were patented beginning in 1898.
Structure	laminated lumber	Lumber made of relatively small pieces of wood glued together to form members that are used in place of wood elements for columns, beams, joists, rafters, and other structural components. In general, the grain of all of the elements is parallel.
Structure	light gauge steel framing cold formed steel framing	Structural framing using relatively lightweight structural members, such as studs and joists, formed of galvanized sheet steel that are used in much the same way as dimensional lumber is used.
Structure	open web steel joists	Standardized, light-weight, shallow trusses used as joists, which were first manufactured in the early 1920s.
Structure	pier	A structural element that provides vertical support. Also, a relatively narrow, shallow projecting portion of a wall that provides lateral support, vertical support, or both lateral and vertical support.
Structure	pilotis	Columns that support a building above an open space at ground level.
Structure	plank and beam roof plank structural roof plank ceiling	A type of floor and roof construction consisting of planks, nominally 2 inches thick or thicker, supported by relatively widely spaced beams (e.g., 8 feet on center). This type of construction was long used in heavy timber construction before it was adopted for use in houses and other structures.
Structure	reinforced concrete	A composite material made of concrete, which is able to resist compression forces, and steel—usually in the form of rods, bars, or mesh—or another material that is able to resist tension forces. Reinforced concrete is most often employed as a structural material, but it can also be used for cladding and for decoration. It has been used in the United States since the last years of the 19th century.

Structure	shell structure thin-shell structure	A thin structural and enclosing element, generally of reinforced concrete but also of wood or metal, that transmits applied forces through the plane of the element. The shells can be curved in two dimensions (e.g., a barrel vault) or in three dimensions (e.g., a hyperbolic paraboloid). In Modern buildings, thin shells usually function as roofs.
Structure	space frame	A three-dimensional, truss-like structural frame composed of relatively short linear elements joined together with connectors, which is most generally used to span wide spaces and is often covered with glass or with metal panels.
Structure	truss	A rigid structural frame in a single plane fabricated from relatively thin linear elements, most of which are subject only to tension or compression, normally used to carry relatively heavy loads over long spans. The elements are usually but not always joined to form triangles.
Structure	waffle slab	A two-way floor or roof system consisting of a reinforced concrete slab poured with integral joists or ribs in two directions beneath it. The system has a waffle-like pattern when viewed from below.
Structure, Exterior Cladding	stressed skin panel	A strong, lightweight building panel consisting of relatively thin facing sheets (of materials such as plywood or sheet metal) adhered to a relatively lightweight, thick core (of a material such as foam plastic insulation or an egg-crate-like grid of wood, plastic, or metal elements), generally used as a cladding material and sometimes used as a structural material. Stressed skin panels were developed in the 1930s.
Structure, Flooring	concrete	A building material consisting of sand or other fine aggregate and gravel or other large aggregate bound together by an adhesive paste of cement and water. Formable when installed, concrete sets into a dense, rock-like mass. Concrete may contain additional ingredients that modify its properties. Often, concrete is incorrectly called “cement,” which is only one of its ingredients. See also reinforced concrete.
Window	awning window	A window with one or more sashes—either top-hinged or horizontally pivoted near the tops of their stiles—that open outward at the bottom.
Window	casement window	A window with one or more side-hinged sashes that open inward or outward.
Window	clerestory window	A window in the upper portion of a wall of a tall space.
Window	fixed sash	A window sash that is not operable.
Window	hopper window	A window with one or more sashes—either bottom-hinged or horizontally pivoted near the bottom of their stiles—that open inward at the top.

Window	horizontal sliding window sliding sash window	A window with side by side sashes set in adjacent parallel grooves or tracks in which one or more sashes open by sliding horizontally.
Window	mullion	A relatively narrow vertical element separating adjacent windows in a multiple window unit or adjacent doors in a series.
Window	muntin	A relatively thin horizontal or vertical strip between the panes of a window (or the panels of a screen).
Window	picture window	A large window with a fixed sash or with glass glazed directly into the frame often placed to provide an attractive exterior view, usually without muntins or mullions.
Window	pivot window	A window with a sash that opens by pivoting either vertically (on pivots near the centers of its stiles) or horizontally (on pivots near the centers of its rails).
Window	ribbon window	A horizontal band of fixed or operable sash separated by mullions. Also, a horizontal band of lights separated by mullions or butt-joint glazed.
Window	sash	A frame in a window that is separate from the window frame, generally constructed of stiles and rails into which glass is installed. Sash can be fixed or operable.
Window	storm window	A secondary sash installed within the window frame outside the primary sash or outside the window to reduce air infiltration and to provide additional protection from the weather.
Window	sublights	Glazed sash, generally fixed, or fixed glazed lights beneath windows.
Window	ventilator	As used in relation to windows, a pivoted glazed sash, generally part of a larger window in which the lights around the ventilator are fixed.
Window	window wall	A nonbearing wall composed primarily of windows.
Window, Door	light	A pane of glass. Also, an opening admitting light into a building.
Window, Glazing	pane	A single piece of glass for glazing.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

General Information

Historic Building Name:

Current Building Name:

Architect:

Address: Confidential

Field Surveyed: ☐

Year Built:

ID #: 999

NR Individual: ☐ **NR District:** ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use:

Present Use:

Public or Private:

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City:

County: **State:**

Village:

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Trim Profile:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Exterior Stairs:

Paving - Pedestrian:

Paving - Vehicular:

Fence or Gate:

Swimming Pool:

Terrace Paving Material:

# of Terraces:

Deck Material:

# of Decks:

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape Features:

Alterations

Major Alterations:

Years of Major Alterations:

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Sash Material:

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Car Port?** ☐

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site:

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey Info

Surveyors:

Date Surveyed:

Survey Notes:

Photographs

ID #: 9999

Photographer: **Date:** Negative on File?

View:

Location: **Address:**

Photographer: **Date:** Negative on File?

View:

Location: **Address:**

NR	Description	Significance	Sources

Confidential

Street Address:

Current Owners:

Interior Access Provided:

Lot Size:

Appendix N
House Survey Inventory Forms

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Latham House

Current Building Name: Latham House

Architect: Richard Bergmann

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1968

ID #: 01

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 49'x31', 30'x31'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1.5

Plan: L-shaped

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical cedar siding. Brick at basement.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood stained dark color

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Hipped roofs terminating in shed-roofed light scoops

Roof Material: Wood shingles

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Wood beadboard

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 2 stovepipes

Chimney Cladding: Metal

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed, shed roofed dormers, skylights

Sash Material: Steel

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Main entrance has double-leaf doors each with 15 inset panels, possibly replacements. Glazed doors set in arched openings.

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel, brick, concrete

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Brick

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: Brick. Concrete.

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on hill which slopes down steeply at rear to pond. Knoll with cutstone retaining wall at driveway. Wood bridge with stone footers on knoll leads to upper part of house. Brick walls and planters.

Alterations

Alterations: 1983: 1.65 acres of lot sold. 1985: interior alterations completed. 2007: wood shakes on roof replaced with wood shingles. 2007-2008: new addition to be constructed, designed by Bergmann. Unknown date: light scoops infilled.

Years of Alterations: 1983, 1985, 2007-08

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car garage

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Paneled glazed overhead doors in arched openings

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: None

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Theron Thurston

Alterations Designers: Unknown (1985). Richard Bergmann (2007-2008)

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes:

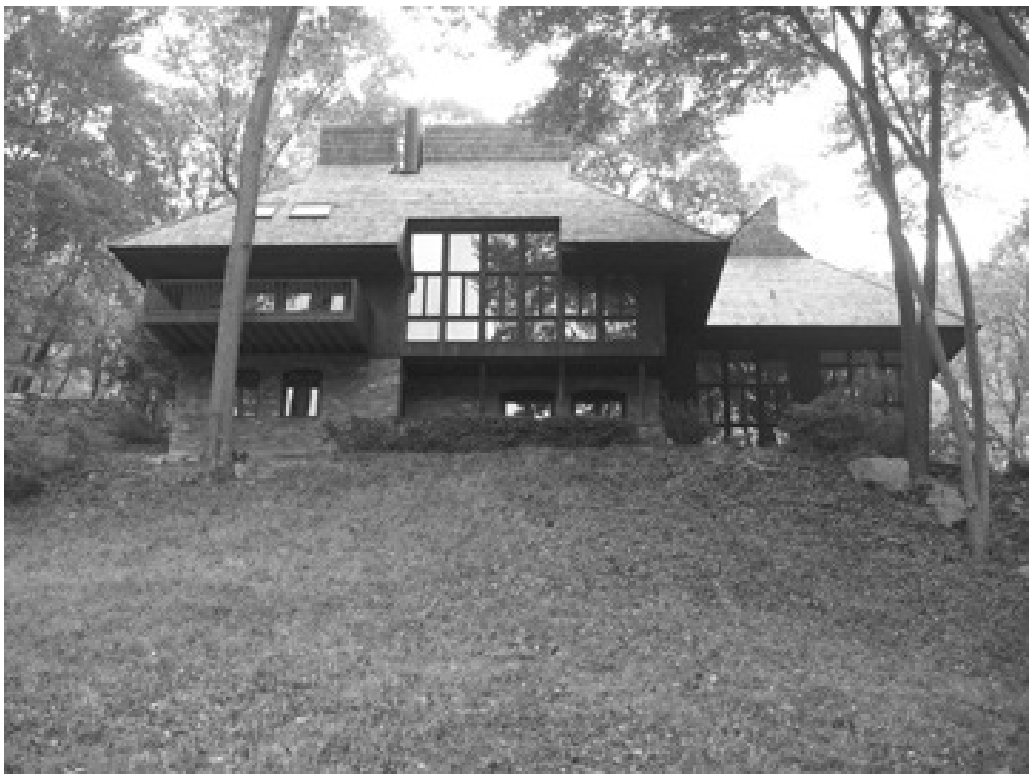
Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Latham House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Latham House, rear façade



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Latham House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Latham House is located on a secluded lot and sited at the top of a hill that slopes sharply down at the rear to a pond. The house is dominated by its deeply overhanging, steeply pitched hipped roofs terminating in shed-roofed light scoops formed by two opposing pitched roof planes that do not intersect but were originally connected by a vertical pane of glass; the glazing in the light scoops has been removed and shingled over. The house is finished in natural materials like vertical wood siding, brick veneer at the basement, and wood shingles on the roof. A knoll with cutstone retaining walls at the driveway supports a wood bridge with stone footers that leads to the upper floor of the house. Cantilevered decks extend from the front and rear of the house. The rear of the house, which faces the pond, has large window walls fitted with fixed and casement sash. The Latham House typifies the later period of Modernism in New Canaan when the International Style began to give way to designs evoking more traditional elements.

Significance

The Latham House was designed by architect Richard Bergmann for the Latham family. Ernest B. Latham II worked for Greeff Fabrics in Port Chester, NY, and became vice president of sales in 1974. His wife Chaillie owned a business called Quail Hill Designs with Susan Carney. The Lathams had four children.

Ernest B. and Chaillie W. Latham purchased property overlooking the Noroton River in 1967 after spending a great deal of time looking for an appropriate site with the architect (Bergmann, 1 November 2007). According to Bergmann, the Latham House was his first commission and the first house he ever designed. The Bergmanns had been renting a house from the Lathams, and Ernest Latham asked if he would design a house for him in exchange for ownership of the rental house. Bergmann agreed, but had to resign his job with Eliot Noyes's firm since moonlighting wasn't allowed, but Noyes was supportive and began sending Bergmann commissions that he didn't have time to work on.

According to Bergmann, after finding a site and determining the program for the house, the client gave him a fair amount of freedom. Bergmann left the rugged landscape untouched. He designed the house as two joined pavilions, using natural materials including brick and cedar. Light was an important factor, and "light scoops" were included on the roofs to bring light into the house at different times of day. Bergmann described the house as "a contemporary style with steeply pitched roofs…I went to school in the International Style, but I never liked flat roofs on houses. The roof sits like a hat on a house." (Ross, 2003, 15) The house was designed to accommodate four growing children. The youngest children had bedrooms at the upper floor with a bridge to a hill on the driveway (which served as a fire escape), while the older children were in the lower level with a separate entrance down to the river.

The Latham House was designed in 1967 and finished in 1968 for $125,000. The structural engineer on the project was Arne Thune Associates and the primary contractor was Theron Thurston of Danbury.

In 1981, Ian Zwicker acquired the house. In 1983, a portion of the site was sold off, and Bela J. Garet became owner of the house. In 1984, a permit was filed for interior alterations, which were completed in 1985. In 1985, Donald S. and Jean N. Lamm acquired the property. In 1995, Darryl Neider became owner of the property. In 2005, David G. Scannell, Trustee, purchased the property. The original wood shakes on the roof were replaced with wood shingles in 2007. Scannell hired Richard Bergmann to design an addition to the house, which will be constructed in 2007-2008.

Sources

Backalenick, Irene. "With the Lathams." Fairfield County Magazine (CT), August 1976, 48-51.
Bergmann, Richard to Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, memo dated 1 November 2007.
"Bergmann, Richard, Lamm House and Latham House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"In New Post." New Canaan Advertiser, 10 October 1974.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Ross, Jeannette. "The House At Woods End Road: Thirty-Five Years Young." The HOME Monthly (Ridgefield, CT), January 2003, 15, 18.
"Sense of History Motivates Architect's New Creativity." New Canaan Advertiser, 7 November 1974.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Hurlburt House

Current Building Name: Hurlburt House

Architect: Leroy Binkley

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 02

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Hurlburt House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Hurlburt House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Hurlburt House was designed by architect Leroy Binkley and completed in 1956. Allen F. Hurlburt et. ux. acquired the property in 1955. The assessor property street card shows a footprint consisting of two rectangles offset from each other and a fieldstone patio. One of the main façades was largely clad in stone; all or some of the remaining façades were clad in glass. In 1959, a flat-roofed carport with one stone façade was constructed. An inground swimming pool was built in 1965.

By 1970, Daniel P. Wood had purchased the Hurlburt House. In 1978, Thomas S. Carroll acquired the house. A wood pool deck was completed in 1983 and an L-shaped addition containing a master bedroom and bath suite was constructed in 1986. In 1993, two wood decks were completed. The house transferred within the Carroll family through a series of quitclaims during the 1990s and early 2000s. In 2003, Bahar Tavakolian purchased the property.

Sources

"Bickley, Leroy, Hurlburt House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Breuer House 1

Current Building Name: Breuer House 1

Architect: Marcel Breuer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1947

ID #: 03

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 57'x33'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: C-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical and diagonal wood siding, fieldstone at base

Are Walls Painted? Yes, painted grey. Concrete block is white.

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: None

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging, maybe not original

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed, awning, bubble skylight

Sash Material: Metal

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Solid wood v-channel with screen door

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Square downlights

Locations: In soffit at basement

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Cut stone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Cantilevered metal stairs with wood treads

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Split rail wood fence with wire mesh

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on slight rise overlooking large lawn area with ornamental trees including Japanese maples, weeping hemlocks

Alterations

Alterations: 1951: fieldstone wall inserted under cantilevered porch. 1969: two-car garage constructed. 1971: swimming pool constructed. 1985-88: an addition at rear of house, interior modified by architect Herbert Beckhard. Cantilevered ends of the house given new fieldstone wall supports. Foundation clad in fieldstone. Basement windows enlarged. Brise-soleil modified at unknown date: deeper portion over corner deck replaced by awning, and brise-soleil extended further east.

Years of Alterations: 1951, 1969, 1971, 1985-88

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed, casement

Sash Material: Metal

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, material not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2-car

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Metal awning windows

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: None

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Irving Wood

Alterations Designers: Herbert Beckhard

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.20.07

Survey Notes: Wood brise-soleil suspended from metal ties extends across windows on main façade

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Breuer House 1, main façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Breuer House 1, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Breuer House I appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criteria A and C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by prominent architect Marcel Breuer, it is one of the oldest extant Modern house in New Canaan, one of the original homes of the Harvard Five, and the first house designed by Breuer in New Canaan. The house was featured in a large spread in Architectural Record and included in the 1951 publication Landmarks of New Canaan.

Description

Breuer House I is set on a rise overlooking a gently sloping lawn area planted with large ornamental trees including Japanese maples and weeping hemlocks. The house, which has strong horizontal lines, originally featured an upper floor that cantilevered dramatically over the smaller ground-floor base of the building, including a deep corner porch suspended from cables. Currently, the ends of the main façade and the porch are supported by fieldstone walls, minimizing the effect of the overhangs. The concrete-block base of the building was clad in fieldstone in the late 1980s, altering the somewhat utilitarian aesthetic of the original house. The upper floor is clad in vertical and diagonal wood sheathing. At the second floor, ribbon windows shielded by a wood brise-soleil extend across the main façade. A cantilevered metal stair with wood treads leads to the corner deck. At the rear of the house is a one-story addition clad in similar materials as the remainder of the building.

In the original design, the primary living spaces were on the main, upper floor: the kitchen and laundry room were in the center flanked by sleeping and studying/working space at one end, and living and dining space at the other end. The kitchen was connected to the dining room by a pass-through, providing for easy transfer of dishes between the two rooms and allowing the cook to converse with guests. The living room and dining room flowed into each other and were only separated by a fireplace. Bedroom closets were placed in the hall to provide additional wall space, which allowed the Breuers to have a piano and desks in the bedrooms. The lower floor of the house contained utility space, a workshop and guest room, a child's bedroom, a playroom, and a bath. The interior was finished with painted plywood, cypress boarding, and natural gum plywood. The floors were covered in Haitian mattings, bluestone, and black asphalt tile. Strongly painted surfaces in selected locations were used for effect; for example, the north wall in the living room was painted cobalt blue.

Significance

Breuer House I was designed by Marcel Breuer for his family in 1947. It was the first house he designed in New Canaan. According to Breuer's wife Constance, they decided to build a house to provide more space for their son. The Breuers chose New Canaan in part because architect Eliot Noyes and his family had recently moved there. Marcel Breuer acquired the property on Sunset Hill Road in May 1947 and hired builder Irving Wood to construct the house. In August, Breuer left for South America and Eliot Noyes and Harry Seidler took over construction management. Breuer was concerned about the experimental cantilevers and some adjustments had to be made, but by September 12, Noyes reported that the porch was hanging "and looks very exciting to us." However, by October, temporary shoring had been put under the house (Hyman, 348). The landscape around the house, which consisted of a rolling meadow, a large sycamore tree, and several apple trees, was essentially left untouched (Breuer, Constance, 1951). The house was completed in October 1947 at a cost of $17,300.

In October 1948, the Breuer House was featured in an eight-page spread in Architectural Record: "The irresistible appeal of the cantilever is here developed to the ultimate degree. What Breuer has done, in effect, is to build a small basement story above ground, and then balance a full-size one-story house nearly atop it, cantilevered on all sides, with really long cantilevers at the ends. It looks as if the lower floor has been planned for its relatively small space needs, and the main floor planned separately for its needs, and then the two combined. And that is exactly what happened." The cantilevers were constructed using typical frame construction, rather than steel or concrete (Architectural Record, October 1948, 94-95). In 1949, Breuer House I was included in the first Modern House Tour and was featured in Architectural Review. In 1951, Marcel Breuer inserted a fieldstone wall under the sagging cantilevered porch. The assessor's notes from the 1940s and 1950s indicated that the basement wall had cracked and the roof leaked. After the Breuers moved, Lally columns and posts were placed under the cantilevered ends to provide support. In 1951, Breuer moved his family to Breuer House 2 and Russell Roberts became the new owner. In 1964, Peter M. and Gertrude M. Robeck purchased the house. In 1969, a two-car garage was constructed and a swimming pool was added in 1971. Current owner John P. Horgan stated that sometime in the 1960s, the owners purchased $70,000 of mature trees for the property.

Between 1985 and 1988, architect and former Breuer partner Herbert Beckhard was hired to design renovations to the house. Beckhard replaced the Lally columns and posts under the cantilevered ends of the house with fieldstone walls. The foundation was clad in fieldstone and the basement windows were enlarged. The brise-soleil may have been replaced at this time; the new brise-soleil extends further east but no longer covers the cantilevered porch, which is now shielded by an awning. The most significant alteration was the construction of an addition at the rear, but it is set back to be largely invisible from three façades. On the interior, the kitchen and dining room were expanded, the stair was moved, and new bathrooms, dressing rooms, and laundry room were built. John R. Horgan purchased the property in 1994.

Sources

Breuer, Constance. "House of Marcel Breuer." Landmarks of New Canaan. New Canaan, Connecticut: The New Canaan Historical Society, 1951.
Breuer, Marcel. "Breuer House I." Marcel Breuer Papers Online, Smithsonian Archives of American Art.
"Breuer, Marcel, Breuer House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Cohen, Edie Lee. "Classic Revision." Interior Design, March 1991, 154-158.
Hyman, Isabelle. Marcel Breuer, Architect: The Career and the Buildings. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001.
"Marcel Breuer Builds for Himself." Architectural Record 104 (October 1948): 92-99.
"Marcel Breuer's Own House." Architectural Review (January 1949): 10-14.
Mayer, Barbara. "The houses that Breuer built." Stamford Advocate, 5 May 1988, C1, C9.
McGrath, Tom. "Monument to an architect restored for modern living." New Canaan Advertiser, 14 July 1988.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Breuer House 2

Current Building Name: Breuer House 2

Architect: Marcel Breuer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1951

ID #: 04

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Herbert Beckhard (1976-82), Toshiko Mori (2007-08)

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since Breuer House 2 was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

Breuer House 2 was designed by architect Marcel Breuer for his own family after they decided to move from their original house in New Canaan. Marcel Breuer et. ux. purchased the property in 1951 and the house was completed by the end of the year. The landscaping and terraces were completed in 1952.

Unlike his first house on Sunset Hill Road, Breuer's second house was designed to be grounded rather than floating, and the flat-roofed, one-story structure was clad in fieldstone veneer and glass. The property also had a flat-roofed carport. The house had an U-shaped plan enclosing a courtyard with a flagstone terrace. The plan concentrated the public living spaces (living room and dining room) and master bedroom and bath at one end, the utility spaces (kitchen, utility room, heating room) in the center, and the children's room, bath, and guest rooms at the other end of the house. As in his first house, Breuer used neutral colors on the interior with splashes of bright color provided by artwork and by painting individual walls primary colors.

Breuer House 2 was featured in the New York Times and Holiday Magazine and included in the 1952, 1955, 1957, and 1962 Modern House tours in New Canaan.

In 1975, Gerald O. and Nancy F. Bratti acquired the property. The Brattis hired architect Herbert Beckhard, a longtime associate of Breuer's, to design extensive renovations to the property, which were completed between 1975 and 1982 . The renovations were featured in Architectural Record Houses of 1981. The interior of the house was essentially gutted; a 22'x43' one-story children's wing was constructed and connected to the main house by an enclosed glass-and-stone corridor (1976); and a new garage (1976), swimming pool (1980-81), and a 27'x29' underground poolhouse/guesthouse (1980-81) with an attached greenhouse (1982) were also constructed.

In 1990, Edward N. and Jeanne S. Epstein purchased the house. In 1997, Arlene H. Stern acquired the property. In 2004, development company 628 West Road LLC purchased the house. Robert Bishop acquired the property in 2005, saving it from demolition. The current owners are removing the addition designed by Herbert Beckhart and constructing a new freestanding addition designed by Toshiko Mori.

Sources

“Another Stop On Modern House Tour.” New Canaan Advertiser, 6 May 1965.
"Breuer, Marcel, Breuer House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Breuer, Marcel. “Breuer House 2.” Marcel Breuer Papers Online, Smithsonian Archives of American Art.
Hyman, Isabelle. Marcel Breuer, Architect: The Career and the Buildings. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001.
“Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard: Bratti House, New Canaan, Connecticut.” Architectural Record Houses of 1981 (Mid-May 1981): 94-97.
“Marcel Breuer Home In Tour.” New Canaan Advertiser, 28 April 1955.
"Marcel Breuer: Teacher and Architect." House & Home, May 1952, 102-115.
“Modern House Tour.” Mark, 15 May 1965, 19.
“The Most Important Historic Threatened Places.” Connecticut Preservation News, November/December 2004.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Nova, Susan. “A local home with International Style.” Stamford Advocate, 23 August 2002, R1.
Pepis, Betty. “Harmonious Inside and Out.” New York Times Magazine, 25 May 1952, SM46.
"They Raised the Roof in New Canaan." Holiday Magazine (August 1952): 48-53.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Christ-Janer House

Current Building Name: Christ-Janer House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1949-52

ID #: 05

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:**

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Christ-Janer House, view from road

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Christ-Janer House, view from road

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Christ-Janer House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Christ-Janer House was designed by architect Victor Christ-Janer for his family. Christ-Janer had moved to New Canaan in the late 1940s after stopping in town by chance when his car broke down on the way to New York City from New Haven. While he and his wife were driving around trying to find the highway, his wife saw a piece of land on Frogtown Road where she wanted to live. A week later, in August 1948, Victor and Elizabeth W. Christ-Janer purchased the lot (Ely, 12, 15).

From an examination of the assessor property field cards, it appears that the Christ-Janer House was completed between 1949 and 1952, possibly in two distinct phases. The chronology of construction is difficult to ascertain without viewing the house. The earlier field card shows a long, narrow footprint with a slight L-shape. The house was clad in vertical wood siding and glass. Notes on the cards read: "Oct. 1, 1949 incomplete" and "1952 complete house." A sketch plan from the early 1950s shows an expanded house with curving stone retaining walls extending perpendicular from the center of the house on both sides, three grape arbors with trellises supported on posts, and new stone walls on parts of the exterior of the building. A 1955 note in the assessor property street card states, "very attractive use of low cost materials."

The Christ-Janer House was featured in an August 1952 article in Holiday Magazine along with Noyes House 1, the Johansen House, Breuer House 2, the Glass House, and the Gores House. The Christ-Janer House was described as follows: "Victor Christ-Janer gets an extraordinary feeling of space in [a] small house by making it possible to see through glass in three or four directions from almost any point in the house, and by a long, sweeping hall which carries across a 'bridge' above an open patio on the lower floor. This opening can be made into an additional children's room; when the children have grown up and left, the patio can be restored" (Holiday Magazine, August 1952, 50).

Between 1958 and 1959, a 15'x16.5' wing and crushed stone terrace shielded by a stone wall were added to the house. In 1961, an A-frame children's playhouse was constructed. In 1966, a two-story concrete-block studio was completed. The assessor noted that the exterior concrete block "is a special type of blk. & constr." The studio contained a sleeping loft and a kitchenette. Between 1982 and 1983, a flat-roofed, concrete-block workshop was constructed. In 1984, a greenhouse was added to the property.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, Janer House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Ely, Jean. “New Canaan Modern: The Beginning 1947-1952.” The New Canaan Historical Society Annual 5 (1967): 12, 15.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“They Raised the Roof in New Canaan.” Holiday Magazine, August 1952, 48-53.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Roles House

Current Building Name: Roles House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953

ID #: 06

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 45'x89'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: U-shaped

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete clad in brick veneer

Structural System: Masonry and steel framing

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes, result of alterations

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Red brick veneer, vertical wood siding, glass

Are Walls Painted? Wood elements are painted

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat and butterfly with monitor windows over kitchen/bathroom

Roof Material: Gravel over tar

Eave: No

Soffit: None

Fascia: Plain painted wood with aluminum flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Painted and brick for the new chimney

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Varied. Mostly aluminum casement windows.

Sash Material: Aluminum or painted wood

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Wood paneled, narrow-stile glazed, hwd, screen doors

Door Material: Aluminum, wood

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: None

Locations: NA

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Built-up residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Slate, no mortar

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel, no border

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Wood post and rail

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Dry set slate

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Hedges, concrete block retaining wall

Alterations

Alterations: Major alterations. 1980s: Interior and exterior of house dramatically changed. Center block of main façade removed. Open living plan cut into rooms. Sliding partition walls, interior fish pond removed, windows and doors replaced. 1988: family den addition completed.

Years of Alterations: 1980s, 1988

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Brick veneer and vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Glazed door, fixed and casement windows

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, material not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated. 2 one-car garages flank entrance

Foundation: Not visible

Wall Cladding: Red brick with painted wood trim

Doors and Windows: Fixed ribbon above garage doors

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat gravel on tar

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Robert Roles

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.16.07

Survey Notes: House has been highly altered, especially at interior. Home owner gave us photographs of the house before the work was done. Aside from removing the center block of the main entrance, and the family room addition, the integrity of the flat roofs, brick walls, and wood elements remains.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Roles House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Roles House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Roles House has been highly altered and nearly all of the character-defining features at the interiors have been lost. Alterations at the exterior have had a lesser impact, but overall, the house does not appear to retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Description

The Roles House has been significantly altered at both the interior and exterior.

As built, the one-story (plus full basement), symmetrical, brick-clad Roles House had white painted wood trim and a flat roof. Floor-to-ceiling fixed plate glass windows and sliding windows were symmetrically and strategically arranged to bring natural light into the load-bearing masonry structure.

Two one-car garages flanked the primary entrance. The entry hall had flagstone pavers and a reflecting pool. The entry space opened up to a flagstone-paved indoor terrace, which was separated from the adjacent living space by a curtain. Rolling storage partition walls were strategically placed in living, dining, and family rooms to create more intimate settings. The exterior materials were brought inside, with the fireplace and select interior walls finished with brickwork.

The plan, arranged on a rectangular footprint, was designed to have a central utility core with living spaces at the perimeter. The kitchen, bathroom, mechanical equipment, and staircase down to the basement level were located at the core of the house, freeing the perimeter spaces, with their window walls, for living and sleeping. Daylight was introduced to the utility areas through skylights and a raised roof area above the kitchen containing clerestory windows. Bedrooms were lined up along the back wall of the house.

In the 1980s, the Perkins family extensively remodeled and altered both the interior and exterior of the house. Major alterations include wholesale demolition of the primary entrance, entry lobby, and fish pond at the front of the house, partitioning the open living area into smaller rooms, and demolition of the sliding partition walls. Several windows and doors were also replaced at this time. A family room addition with a fireplace was built at the side of the house.

Significance

The Roles House was designed by Victor Christ-Janer for Robert Roles, his wife, and their two children. Roles was a prolific builder and developer of Modern houses in New Canaan and often partnered with Christ-Janer; he also acted as builder for his own house. The Roles House was completed in 1953. The house was intended to be a model home for a speculative development proposed by Roles and Christ-Janer for a 150-acre parcel on Frogtown Road between Weed Street and Ponus Ridge Road known as Frogtown Terrace. Frogtown Terrace does not appear to have been developed.

Christ-Janer's plan for the house clustered utility spaces at the core of the rectangular footprint and moved living and sleeping uses to the perimeter to take advantage of the natural light from the window walls. An interior terrace with a reflecting pool and rolling partition storage walls were also character-defining features for this highly individualistic house. The Roles House was one of six houses shown on the 1953 Modern House Tour.

The 1950s property street card for the Roles House was not available at the New Canaan Historical Society, so early alterations and ownership changes are unknown. In 1966, George W. Peck IV bought the parcel. In 1984, Maurice and Sara Perkins purchased the house. The Perkins family remodeled the house as described above, significantly altering its character and integrity. The Roles House is still owned by the Perkins family.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, Roles House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Connecticut Home in Modern Design." New York Times, 22 February 1953, R1.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Pepis, Betty. "Six Modern Homes Invite the Public." New York Times, 17 October 1953, 12.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Gratwick House

Current Building Name: Gratwick House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953

ID #: 07

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 56'x37', 24'x16'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Rectangular with rectangular addition

Basement: Partial

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: None

Soffit: Plain wood

Fascia: None. Metal flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Concrete

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, casement, awning

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Appears to be replacement

Door Types: Glazed doors with fixed sidelights

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round recessed downlights

Locations: In soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Wood. Fieldstone.

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: V-channel vertical wood on fieldstone bases

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone. Brick.

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on a slight rise with a relatively flat backyard consisting of lawn. Square ornamental pool with mortared stone walls with flagstone cap in brick patio. Oval swimming pool. Stream in fieldstone channel with grass-covered bridge.

Alterations

Alterations: 1988: wood deck at rear replaced with a two-story 16'x24' addition. After 1988: open second-floor decks at the sides of house enclosed on second floor and thin piers replaced or entombed in columns. Fenestration on the building was altered. Front entry modified with a new pergola, wood latticework along the front wall, new stairs, and planter boxes. Landscaping apparently altered with new solid wood fences, a swimming pool, an ornamental pool, and a stream in backyard.

Years of Alterations: 1988, unknown

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed, awning

Sash Material: Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2-car, in basement

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair to good. Some rotting wood at base.

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Robert Roles (unconfirmed)

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes:

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gratwick House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gratwick House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Gratwick House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Gratwick House is set on a slight rise overlooking a flat lawn area terminating at an oval swimming pool. Sections of solid fencing formed of V-channel wood siding on fieldstone bases provide privacy at targeted areas around the property. The yard is divided by a sunken stream in a fieldstone channel with a "bridge" covered in grass in the center that is level with the remainder of the lawn. At the side of the house is a square ornamental pool with mortared stone walls and flagstone copings set in a brick patio. Most of the landscaping does not appear to be original.

The house is a two-story, flat-roofed structure clad in vertical wood siding painted white. The plan is rectangular with a rectangular addition (1988) at the rear. A two-car garage is located in the lower level of the building. The main entrance to the house is at the top of the rise, so the entry is at the same level as the upper stories of the remainder of the building. This entrance—which was modified in the last twenty years—is accessed by a set of wide wood steps shielded by a wood pergola and consists of a glazed wood door flanked by fixed sidelights and oversized wood planting boxes. The remainder of the front façade is blank, but visual detail is provided by wood latticework applied to the wall. The remaining three façades are heavily fenestrated. Many of the windows form geometric patterns consisting of square openings each containing large rectangular fixed sash over two side-by-side awning windows.

Significance

The Gratwick House was designed by Victor Christ-Janer and constructed in 1953. Christ-Janer acquired the property from builder Robert Roles in 1952 and may have designed the dwelling as a speculative house. Although no builder is specifically identified, the house was likely constructed by Roles, who worked with Christ-Janer on a number of projects in New Canaan. According to the assessor records, it appears that Christ-Janer filed for a permit in September 1952 and completed drawings in April 1953. Mitchell Gratwick acquired the property from Victor Christ-Janer, Trustee, in either early 1953 or early 1954 (the assessor records are contradictory and list both dates), indicating that it was a speculative house.

In 1959, the property was acquired by Erik Simonsen et. ux. A swimming pool was constructed around 1969. In 1973, Vibeke Simonsen became owner of the Gratwick House. Harvey Kaufman and Geraldine M. Gregg purchased the property in 1983. In 1988, the wood deck off the back of the house was removed and replaced with a two-story addition measuring 16'x24'. Originally, the house had wood decks shielded by canopies at the front and rear of the house offset to each other. The house has been further altered since this time. The side porches, which were originally open second-floor decks supported on thin piers, were enclosed on the second floor and the piers were entombed. Fenestration on the building was altered, and the front entry was also modified with a new pergola, wood latticework along the front wall, new stairs, and planter boxes. All of the work completed since 1983 was done by Harvey Kaufman The landscaping was also altered with new solid wood fences, an ornamental pool, and a stream running across the backyard through formal fieldstone channels.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, Gratwick House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Irwin House

Current Building Name: Irwin House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953

ID #: 08

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 42'x43'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial, contains living space

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Metal piers on concrete footers at rear

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Stucco and flush vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood stained light grey with white trim

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed, deep

Soffit: Flush wood boards

Fascia: Wood and metal

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Not visible

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed and casement

Sash Material: Wood. Appears to have vinyl sash at rear.

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Single glazed door with large fixed sidelight

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round lights

Locations: In soffit at entrances

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, sparse development, adjacent to bird sanctuary

Paving- Pedestrian: Dry laid flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Wood

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Split rail fence with metal mesh around pool

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 1 at upper floor

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers. Brick.

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on hill. Brick patio between house and garage. Swimming pool set away from house.

Alterations

Alterations: 1964: bathroom added. 1972: main floor of house destroyed by fire, rebuilt to original plans. 1976: second floor studio added above garage, possibly designed by Christ-Janer. 1984: swimming pool and one-story frame shed constructed. Unknown date: Exterior porches and stairs at the front and back of house and side porch altered. Side porch used to be supported on piers but now cantilevers, and second floor of side porch had a balustrade, which is now missing.

Years of Alterations: 1972, 1976, 1984

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2 car garage with studio

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead wood doors. Studio has fixed and casement windows, single glazed door.

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Small storage shed

Foundation: Appears to be none

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: None

Roof Material and Configuration: Shed has gable roof, appears clad in asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good. Garage/studio is poor.

Structural: Good. Garage/studio is poor.

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Robert Roles

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes: Studio is accessed by wood stairs at rear of garage entrance leading to wood entry canopy supported on two rotting wood posts. Above garage doors is recessed balcony with metal balustrade.

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Irwin House, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Irwin House, rear façade and garage/studio

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Irwin House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Irwin House is set on a steep hill on a densely wooded site. The upper floor of the flat-roofed structure extends beyond the base of the building on two opposing sides; the side facing the driveway is cantilevered with a deck on the upper floor and the opposite side is supported on wooden piers set into concrete footers. The front and rear façades are almost identical; each façade has a set of wood stairs at the center of the wall leading to an entryway consisting of a narrow-stile door with a large fixed sidelight sheltered by a cantilevered canopy, while the remainder of the façade is blank. The side façades are heavily glazed with fixed and casement sash and narrow-stile doors. The base of the building is finished with stucco and the upper floor is clad in flush vertical cypress wood siding. At the driveway is a two-car garage with an upper-floor studio. A brick patio and flagstone pavers connect the house to the studio. The property also includes an in-ground swimming pool.

Significance

The Irwin House was designed by Victor Christ-Janer as a speculative house in partnership with builder Robert Roles. Christ-Janer and Roles purchased the property in 1953, which overlooked a neighboring bird sanctuary. The two worked together on several projects in New Canaan. The Irwin House was almost certainly one of the houses referred to in a January 1953 article in House & Home, in which Christ-Janer remarked that he had convinced Roles to construct two Modern speculative houses on Wahackme Road, and Roles responded, "I now think we can do a good modern speculative house in this area. I don't care whether it has a flat roof or not; give me the plans of a house that makes sense and I'll build it" (House & Home, January 1953, 137).

The Irwin House was completed in 1953 and purchased by William A. Irwin, Jr., et. ux., in 1954. It was included in the 1955 Modern House Tour in New Canaan and described as one of the most "spacious" homes in the tour. A newspaper article on the tour remarked on the house's open planning: "Living areas are separated from sleeping rooms by the utility corridor and kitchen. The home can be modified to include three or six bedrooms, and the children's play area, with its own terrace and access from the lower level, can be completely isolated from the living area" (New Canaan Advertiser, 5 May 1955).

In 1961, Irwin sold the house to John H. and Jane Temple. In 1963, it was sold to Jarvis B. Cecil, a vice president at the Continental Oil Co. An additional bathroom was constructed in 1964. On January 3, 1972, a fire destroyed the main floor of the Irwin House. The basement level suffered water damage but was salvageable, and the separate two-car garage was untouched. By October 1972, the house had been largely rebuilt to the original plans with only minor changes.

In 1973, Howell D. and Linda K. Wood acquired the property. The Woods added a second-story studio over the garage in 1976, which the current owner believes was also designed by Victor Christ-Janer. In 1979, John H. Masters purchased the house, which was then acquired by Joseph W. Powell III and Cynthia M. Powell that same year. The Powells built a swimming pool and a one-story frame shed in 1984.

At an unknown date after the early 1980s, some alterations were made to the porches and balcony on the house. Historic photographs show that both the front and back porches used to have metal balustrades and offset narrow stairs that extended off the front of the porches, rather than the wide stairs of the current configuration. In addition, the second-floor balcony on the side façade facing the driveway used to have a metal balustrade and was supported on non-structural piers that extended up through the second floor. Currently, the porch cantilevers and there is no balustrade. It is unknown when these alterations took place. In 1999, Douglas H. Marshall purchased the property.

Sources

Barlow, Beth. "Dragon Gets New Body in Reconstructed Home." Stamford Advocate, 9 October 1972.
Barlow, Beth. "New Canaan Fire Destroys House." Stamford Advocate, 4 January 1972.
"Christ-Janer, Victor, Irwin House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Modern House In May 22 Tour." New Canaan Advertiser, 5 May 1955.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"On Museum Board." New Canaan Advertiser, 2 March 1972.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"What's going on in…New Canaan, Conn.," House & Home, January 1953, 137.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Daine House

Current Building Name: Daine House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953-54

ID #: 09

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 36' x 52'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1.5

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Stone

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes, loggia connects house to garage.

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood shakes (natural finish); vertical wood siding (natural finish); wood paneling at window walls (painted); stone wall sections; glass

Are Walls Painted? Wood paneling is painted

Trim Material: Painted and clear finish wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: None

Soffit: Plain at porches; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; sheet copper gravel stop

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible. Leaders at some facades.

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Stone

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Not visible

Porch Roof Type: Flat; continues from house roof.

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass (wood frame) and outswinging casements (ferrous).

Sash Material: Wood and ferrous metal.

Window Hardware: Not visible

Door Types: Glazed narrow stile; hollow wood doors; storm doors (glazed narrow stile).

Door Material: Wood and glass

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Clear glass globe on a metal post sconces, 2 sizes

Locations: Wall adjacent to entrance.

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Not visible (snow covered)

Paving - Vehicular: Not visible (snow covered)

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Yes; wood post and rail fence around pool.

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: Slate

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Site was snow covered for survey so landscape features were covered.

Alterations

Alterations: The main house was remodelled in 1963, including a new family room addition at the first floor with a studio, bathroom, and dressing room in the basement of the addition. Unknown date: a wood-frame vestibule structure with fixed glass sash, a flat roof and hanging gutters was added at the entrance to the house.

Years of Alterations: 1963

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Beveled glass fixed sash, sliding sash

Sash Material:

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, material not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate. Pergola connects garage to house.

Foundation: Field stone and concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood shakes

Doors and Windows: Painted hollow wood door, 2 overhead garage doors

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Two outbuildings, a playhouse (c. 1960) and stable (c. 1963). The playhouse is described as Outbuilding and the stable is described in survey notes.

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall Cladding: Wood siding with painted wood trim

Doors and Windows: Multi-light outswinging awning windows and fixed multi-light windows. Miniature door.

Roof Material and Configuration: Wood shingle, gable

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Robert Roles

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.14.07

Survey Notes: At the basement level of the addition, fixed plate glass sash are located above the window lintel so the 1st floor appears to float above the basement. Cheek and retaining walls are mortar set field stone. Perimeter walls are dry set field stone. The basement wall finish transitions from concrete block at the back of the house (addition), to fieldstone cladding at the front of the house. Stable is on stone footings with vertical wood siding with vertical wood trim. The stable has asphalt shingle gable roof with a shed roof addition, large unfinished wood dutch door and a glazed multi-light painted wood door.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Daine House, rear and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Daine House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Daine House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Situated towards the center of a gently sloping six-acre site, the Daine House was originally a one-story, flat-roofed structure with a rectangular footprint, a partial basement, a wide porch, and a detached two-car garage connected to the main house by a pergola. The house was clad in vertical wood siding and the roof was clad in wood shakes. Two additions--a two-story addition at the back corner of the house and a small entry vestibule--have only slightly altered the original appearance of the Daine House.

Using a palette of traditional New England building materials, architect Victor Christ-Janer designed this modest house to blend into the surrounding landscape, but its flat roofs, floor-to-ceiling fixed plate glass sash (looking out on the porch), and an open plan mark the house as clearly Modern.

Significance

In June 1953, Robert Roles, a well-known developer and contractor in New Canaan, bought four acres of land on the west side of Briscoe Road from Richard and Wynne Bolton. By September 1953, a house designed by architect Victor Christ-Janer was under construction on the site. Roles and Christ-Janer worked together on several speculative house projects in New Canaan. In the spring of the following year, Isabelle Daine purchased the property from Roles. In 1959, Daine sold the property to Horton Heath, who bought two additional acres for the site in 1962. Heath added two outbuildings to the property: a playhouse (c. 1960) and a stable (c. 1963). In 1963, the Heath family remodeled the original house and built a discreet two-story addition at the back corner of the structure. In 1968, a concrete swimming pool was built. By 1976, Nadine and James Sweeney, Jr., owned the property. At the time of the survey, the property was still held in the Sweeney family.

Sources

"Gelbin, Allan, McCarthy House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society (architect and house name misidentified in files).
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Christ-Janer Speculative House

Current Building Name: Christ-Janer Speculative House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1959

ID #: 10

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 57'x89'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: T-shaped with square addition

Basement: Partial crawl space

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards. Painted plywood or similar material around door openings in glazed wall.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, painted brown

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Aluminum

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, 6/6 double-hung, clerestory, awning

Sash Material: Wood, some with aluminum storm windows

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Flush, glazed, sliding

Door Material: Wood. Replc wood sliders with plastic screens.

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Metal spotlights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Brick. Flagstone pavers.

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Metal chicken wire. Wood stockade fence.

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on flat, wet site overlooking pond with stream running along side of property

Alterations

Alterations: 1962: two-car garage and concrete patio constructed. 1969: in-ground vinyl pool constructed. 1975: 35'x36' addition containing a recording studio constructed.

Years of Alterations: 1962, 1969, 1975

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards

Doors and Windows: Double-hung 1/1, glazed doors

Sash Material: Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Flat and gable, asphalt shingles

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2 car garage

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboard

Doors and Windows: Vinyl overhead door, 6/6 double-hung wood windows

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable, asphalt shingles

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Poor. Exposed bare wood, wood rot.

Structural: Fair

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: House has traditional feel with some Modern elements, including cross gable with clerestory under gables. Entry has two adjacent doors set at angle to each other with fixed sidelights and transoms.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Christ-Janer Speculative House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Christ-Janer Speculative House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Christ-Janer Speculative House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Christ-Janer Speculative House is set on a flat, wet site overlooking a shallow pond. A stream runs along the side of the property. Christ-Janer designed the house by moving three existing identical 21'x26' gable-roofed structures to the site and arranging them around a new central structure. Christ-Janer's interest in experimenting with modules is evident in his design for this house; he envisioned the house as having a central living room/dining room/foyer core with three radiating wings: a master bedroom wing (two bedrooms, bath, dressing room); a children's wing (three bedrooms, play area, bathroom); and a service wing (kitchen, breakfast and utility area, two maid's rooms, and bath). Each wing was contained in an existing building. The central building has multiple gables to allow the gables of the secondary structures to nestle under the main building while providing space for clerestory windows to light the core space.

Although the exterior of the house has a traditional feel overall, Christ-Janer's influence is evident in the entry, which has two adjacent doors set at an angle to each other with fixed sidelights and transoms, and the rear wall of the 1959 structure, which is entirely glazed with sliding glass doors and clerestory windows. The rear wall overlooks the pond and a deck with an in-ground swimming pool.

Significance

This speculative house was designed by architect Victor Christ-Janer using three existing surplus government buildings set around a new central building that he designed himself. This is one of several speculative houses that Christ-Janer built in New Canaan. He purchased the property for this house in 1954. By 1959, the foundation had been poured and the rest of the building was erected and assembled between 1959 and 1960. The house was put up for sale in 1960, but ownership of the house during the 1960s is unknown because the assessor property cards are currently undergoing conservation. A two-car garage and concrete patio were constructed in 1962. In 1969, an in-ground vinyl pool was added to the property.

In 1972, Elisabeth H. Null purchased the house. In 1975, Null added a 35'x36' flat-roofed addition that contained a recording studio. The addition altered the symmetry of the three wings and muddied the readability of the house. In 1990, Gregory R. Faillaci and Deborah L. Gerber (later Faillaci) purchased the property. In 2006, John R. Mastera became owner of the house.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, Unknown Prefab," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Birkenstock House

Current Building Name: Birkenstock House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1962

ID #: 11

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 88'x64'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Yes

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat, shed

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: None, just metal flashing. Wood at garage

Gutter Material: Galvanized metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed, awning, ribbon

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Glazed, flush, sliding

Door Material: Wood, sliding doors are aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Rectangular boxed metal fixtures with opaque glass

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Flat site with lawns surrounding house. Large pond at back with stone-lined stream at side feeding into it. Large white cherry tree. Pergola at front entrance and side of house adjacent to chimney.

Alterations

Alterations: Remodeled in 1970 after fire destroyed rear half of house. 1994: second story added and first story highly altered. Exterior is now unrecognizable from historic photographs. House footprint remains but eave overhangs eliminated. Alterations architect was Jack Franzen, who worked with Victor Christ-Janer for two years, and the builder was Michael Kaesman. House recorded as it currently exists.

Years of Alterations: 1970, 1994

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead wood doors. Flush door

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, seamed metal

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Jack Franzen

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: House completely remodeled. Cantilevered deck on second floor at rear with metal and wood railing, wood decking. Ribbon windows at front of house have blind panels interspersed, creating geometric detail.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Birkenstock House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Birkenstock House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Birkenstock House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Birkenstock House is a two-story dwelling sited on a flat lot overlooking a pond at the rear of the property. The original design of the house has been lost due to extensive alterations, including the construction of a second floor and the elimination of the original eave overhangs. Although the current design of the house is influenced by the Modern aesthetic, the house no longer retains a mid-century Modern appearance or feeling.

The current flat-roofed house is heavily fenestrated, especially on the pond-facing façade, with sliding glass doors, fixed sash, and awning and ribbon windows. The footprint is staggered to allow multiple rooms to have views of the pond. The main entrance faces the driveway and the entry porch is covered by a pergola. A shed-roofed garage is attached to the house.

Significance

The Birkenstock house was designed by Victor Christ-Janer for James W. Birkenstock, who purchased the land along Blueberry Pond in 1960. The house was completed in 1962. Birkenstock worked at IBM as the vice president of commercial and industry relations. Historic photographs show that the original house was a one-story structure with a wall of glass facing the pond. A large, curving concrete terrace fronted the pond-facing façade of the house.

In 1970, the rear half of the house was destroyed in a fire and rebuilt that same year. By 1976, Jean L. Birkenstock owned the property. In 1990, the house was acquired by Fairfield University. Current owners David M. and Nadine W. Chang purchased the house in 1994 and undertook major renovations, which included the addition of a second floor and the complete remodeling of the first floor, essentially altering the original house beyond recognition.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, [address redacted]," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“New Canaan: Fire Guts Half of Home,” n.p., 6 April 1970.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Arnold House

Current Building Name: Arnold House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1965

ID #: 12

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Arnold House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Arnold House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Arnold House was completed in 1965. According to information on file at the New Canaan Historical Society, the architect was Victor Christ-Janer and the builder was Bill Frank. The L-shaped house was built with an attached two-car garage and a large wood deck. It appears that the original owners were Joyce and Robert Arnold, but this is unconfirmed since the assessor field cards for the 1960s are currently being conserved and are unavailable. In 1967, the Ostranders purchased the property and constructed a swimming pool.

In 1972, the house was purchased by Kenneth and Cary Robert. In 1979, Jawad S. and Havva S. Idriss acquired the property (later transferred to Havva S. Idriss in 1997). The wood deck was replaced in 1992. In 2002, Barbara M. Bellacosa purchased the property.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor, Daine House" (house name misidentified in file), Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Ackerman House

Current Building Name: Ackerman House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1975

ID #: 13

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 108'x37'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes, between garage and house

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards, brick veneer

Are Walls Painted? Yes, grey

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable, shed

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain, plywood

Fascia: Plain, wood

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1 at garage, square pillars

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: Part of garage roof

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash, fixed, casement, sublights, clerestory

Sash Material: Wood, replacements are aluminum

Window Hardware: Not visible

Door Types: Replacement paneled wood doors. Sliding aluminum doors with screen doors at basement, appear original

Door Material: Wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Brass lanterns

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Fieldstone with flagstone treads, wrought iron railings. Wood stairs at rear.

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on hill overlooking valley with Five Mile River in distance. Large sloping lawn. Wooded at base of hill. Extensive stone walls and elaborate double stair at back of property. Freestanding wood pergola.

Alterations

Alterations: House retains original footprint and most exterior finishes, but current owners completely altered the interior and some aspects of the exterior ca. 1998. Huge 2-story stained glass window removed, brown exterior walls and red brick veneer painted grey, exterior flush doors replaced with paneled doors, most of the wood casement windows replaced with aluminum casements, and exterior lights replaced. Wrought iron railings on the exterior stairs are also likely replacements.

Years of Alterations: ca. 1998

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Connected to house by breezeway, 3 car

Foundation: Concrete block with stucco finish

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards

Doors and Windows: 3 wood paneled overhead doors, appear to be replacements

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable, asphalt shingle

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.29.07

Survey Notes: House is very geometric. Current owners "Colonialized" the house. Large acrylic plastic skylight over breezeway between house and garage. Christ-Janer uses his typical oversized shed-roofed dormers by extending wall planes above gable roof. Similar effect used at the Branch House.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ackerman House, front façade, looking towards garage with main entry at right

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ackerman House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Ackerman House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Ackerman House is set on a hill overlooking a valley, allowing for a full-height basement at its rear façade. As with many of Christ-Janer's houses from this time period, he essentially takes the form of a traditional New England house and manipulates it by experimenting with different roof planes. The Ackerman House features his typical right-angle dormers (essentially shed-roofed dormers turned at a 90-degree angle so that the dormer windows face the gable end of the building, reminiscent of a sawtooth roof); this design device is also used at Christ-Janer's Grant House (1981) and the Branch House (1979). The right-angle dormers are intended to act as clerestory windows, bringing light into the interior of the building. At the Ackerman House, the dormers give a geometric appearance to the façade and break up the symmetricality of the house. Other notable features include wood clapboard siding, large picture windows with small rectangular sublights, deep overhangs, the use of brick veneer at the basement, and the intersecting geometric planes between the house and the garage.

Significance

The Ackerman House was constructed in 1975 for Don E. and Joan M. Ackerman. The Ackermans began planning their house by 1974 and acquired the property in the spring of 1975. A set of handwritten notes written by one of the Ackermans indicates that they were considering both Victor Christ-Janer and John Black Lee to design their house. In a document that compares the two, Christ-Janer is described as having a superior reputation, being cost conscious, charging a lower fee, fast, and poetry-oriented, while John Black Lee was described as having a good reputation, being less cost conscious, charging a higher fee, slow, and engineering-oriented. Both were considered to be creative. In other comparisons, it was noted that Christ-Janer delegated details, was maybe difficult to communicate with, and had designed fewer houses, while Lee worked on both the concept and details, had designed more houses, was easy to communicate with, and had a compatible philosophy with the owners.

Ultimately, the Ackermans chose Christ-Janer. In a second set of notes on a meeting with the architect, Christ-Janer apparently said that architects were going through a depression which had compelled him to return to house design. He wasn't "wedded to any specific style" but would not design a Colonial house because he didn't know how. Christ-Janer suggested using Lee Construction or Borglum & Meek as contractors. Ackerman described Christ-Janer as an "honest & open man, enthusiastic about designing exciting things" ("Meeting with Victor Crist Janner [sic]," handwritten notes dated 22 July 1974, in Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society).

In 1986, the property was purchased by Don Ackerman. Guy S. and Margaret M. Brossy purchased the house in 1998 and undertook significant interior and some exterior renovations. The renovations were intended to make the house more "traditional" and less Modern. The exterior renovations included the removal of a huge two-story stained-glass window, painting the brown exterior walls and red brick veneer a grey color, replacing the exterior flush doors with Colonial-style paneled doors, replacing most of the wood casement windows with aluminum casements, and replacing the exterior lighting fixtures. The wrought iron railings on the exterior stairs are also likely replacements. The current flagstone pavers may not be original, since the original specifications called for brick paving, but this could have been a change made during the construction phase.

Sources

"Christ-Janer, Victor," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society. File includes building documents donated by the original owners: specifications dated 18 July 1975, select drawings, bid forms, and handwritten notes.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Brandon House

Current Building Name: Brandon House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1977

ID #: 14

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Louis Lee

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed. From road, appears to have shingle and stucco exterior, triangular windows, at least partial stone foundation.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Brandon House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Brandon House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Brandon House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on the Brandon House.

Significance

The Brandon House was constructed in 1977. Architect Victor Christ-Janer designed the house to incorporate a mid-nineteenth structure already on the site. This house, which the assessor dates to 1846, was a two-story, 28'6"x46' structure that may have originally been a barn. It was remodeled in 1928. By the mid-twentieth century, it had living quarters at one end and a two-car garage on the first floor at the opposite end. In 1959, a carport was added to the house and the garage was converted to living space.

In 1973, the house was purchased by Arthur Brandon. Permits for additions and alterations to the structure were filed in 1975 and 1977. It appears that Christ-Janer removed the carport and converted the existing house into a two-story family room with exposed beams and rafters, nicknamed the "barn room." The new house was designed to encompass the original structure. In 1987, the house was acquired by Robert C. Koloday. A swimming pool was added to the property in 1988. The property was sold to John A. and Mary C. Griffin in 1998.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Robinson, Nancy. “More Than Meets the Eye.” New Canaan Advertiser, 9 January 1997.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Branch House

Current Building Name: Branch House

Architect: Victor Christ-Janer

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1979

ID #: 15

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 42'x42', 24'x24'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Square with square wing

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Are Walls Painted? Yes, stained tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable, shed

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Porch Roof Type: Gable

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed, horizontal sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum, wood

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Glazed door with sidelight, sliding doors

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Metal rectangular sconces

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Roughly shaped stone blocks, flagstone pavers **Paving - Vehicular:** Asphalt with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Fieldstone, wood at swimming pool **Swimming Pool:** Yes

Fence or Gate: Wood picket fence around pool **# of Terraces:** 1 **# of Decks:** 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers **Deck Material:** Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on a slight hill with stone outcroppings. Winding path to front entrance. Swimming pool with flagstone patio. Railroad tie retaining walls and wood latticework at pool.

Alterations

Alterations: According to original owner, lower level finished as suite for teenager (date unknown). Swimming pool constructed between 1984 and 1985. The flagstone terrace around the pool was also likely constructed at this time. ca. 2004: Front porch altered by removing pergola and railing and installing gable-roofed porch; angled bay windows removed; house painted; kitchens and baths upgraded.

Years of Alterations: 1984-85, 2004 **Foundation:** NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA **Sash Material:** NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car

Foundation: NA **Wall Cladding:** NA

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead doors with small glazed panels

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA **Wall Cladding:** NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown **Lighting Designer:** Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Landworks Associates, Inc.

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS **Date Surveyed:** 11.28.07

Survey Notes: House has small gable-roofed structure on center of roof of main section that acts as light monitor. Christ-Janer uses his typical oversized shed-roofed dormers by extending wall planes above gable roof. Similar effect at his Ackerman House. Another Christ-Janer house is across the street.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Branch House, front (east) façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Branch House, south façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Branch House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Branch House is set on a slight hill on an open site. In plan, the one-story house is square with a two-story, gable-and-hipped-roofed light monitor at the center of the square. A square-plan garage wing is attached to the north end of the house; a swimming pool with a flagstone patio is at the south end. The main entrance is sheltered under a gable-roofed porch with square columns; this entrance originally was covered by a wood pergola.

As with many of his houses from this time period, Christ-Janer experimented with different roof planes and angles in the Branch House. The Branch House features his typical right-angle dormers (essentially shed-roofed dormers turned at a 90-degree angle so that the dormer windows face the gable end of the building, reminiscent of a sawtooth roof); this design device is also used at the Grant House (1981) across the street and the Ackerman House (1975). Originally, most of the Grant House windows on the west and east façades were designed to be angled bay windows with glazing at only the south-facing side of the bays, but these have been removed and replaced with windows flush with the wall plane.

The Branch House does not have expansive areas of glass except at the south façade, which has three levels of fenestration: sliding glass doors at the basement and first-floor levels, and fixed and horizontal sliding sash in the right-angle dormers. Wood decks and stairs lead from the first floor to the swimming pool at the south end of the house.

Significance

The Branch House was designed by Victor Christ-Janer in 1978 for David S. and Elizabeth T. Branch. Although the assessor field cards indicate that the Branches purchased the lot from Arthur W. Hooper, Jr., Trustee, in 1979, Elizabeth Branch stated that they acquired the land from Christ-Janer for $120,000 in 1978, a price that included his architectural design fee. Christ-Janer owned a 24-acre parcel and intended to divide the land into five building lots with the remaining land going to the New Canaan Land Trust (instead eventually transferred to the Audubon Society). Christ-Janer put in a new road and designed at least three houses in the development, including the Grant House (1981) located across the street from the Branch House.

According to Elizabeth Branch, Christ-Janer designed the Branch House to use "passive solar energy" to address the energy crisis of the late 1970s in the United States. He did not place any windows on the north side of the building and shielded the windows on the east and west by creating angled bay windows with sash that faced south, a design he called "horse-blinder windows." The majority of the fenestration on the building was on the south façade, and three solar panels facing south fed a hot water system (later removed because of roof leakage). On the interior, Christ-Janer used ceramic floor tiles and a stone wall to retain heat. A two-story atrium (expressed as a gable-and-hipped-roofed light monitor on the exterior) contained a fan to circulate warm air throughout the house. The basement level was set below ground level to keep it cool in the summer.

The Branch House was constructed between 1979 and 1980 by Landworks Associates, Inc., a Southport, Connecticut-based company recommended by Christ-Janer because he had taught one of its principals, Roger P. Ferris, at the Columbia University School of Architecture. The construction cost was $255,000. A swimming pool was constructed on the site between 1984 and 1985. The Branches also finished the basement as a suite for their teenage child at an unknown date.

Eric L. Straus purchased the property in 2004. Eric and Adriane Straus altered the front porch by removing the pergola and replacing it with a gable-roofed porch. They also removed the angled bay windows (i.e., "horse blinder windows"), replacing them with windows set flush with the exterior walls, and painted the exterior siding, which had originally been stained grey. The kitchen and bathrooms were also upgraded.

Sources

Branch, Elizabeth. "[Address redacted], New Canaan, CT, Designed by Victor Christ-Janer," 2008. Collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: McKay House

Current Building Name: McKay House

Architect: James Evans

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1960-61

ID #: 16

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 60'x80'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: L-shaped

Basement: Yes

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes, at carport

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Appears to be asphalt shingles

Eave: Open, deep

Soffit: Finished with same material as walls

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, awning, horizontal sliding sash

Sash Material: Wood, aluminum

Window Hardware:

Door Types: Flush, sliding

Door Material: Painted wood, aluminum

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spotlights, not original

Locations: Mounted to soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Wooded, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone. Roughly cut fieldstone.

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt and gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on slight rise. Open lawn area in back.

Alterations

Alterations: 1968: carport addition, breezeway between house and garage likely altered. 1978: one-story addition constructed at rear of house, rear fieldstone patio likely added. Post-1988: second-floor wood deck added to front of main house, circular flagstone patio constructed at side of house.

Years of Alterations: 1968, 1978, post-1988

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Horizontal sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Gable, appears to be clad in asphalt shingle

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Incorporated carport

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.16.07

Survey Notes:

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: McKay House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: McKay House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The McKay House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The McKay House is a sprawling, two-story frame house sited at the top of a sloping, wooded parcel. The gable-roofed house is clad in vertical wood siding and has deep eaves and exposed rafter beams.

As built, the house was originally smaller in size. It had a rectangular footprint with an open living/dining area, three bedrooms, and a detached carport connected to the house by a breezeway. Terraces and a balcony off of the second-floor spaces encouraged indoor/outdoor living.

In 1978, a one-story addition was built off of the living/dining space, transforming the footprint of the main house to an L-shape. The addition enclosed one side of the breezeway connecting the main house to the carport. A second story was built on top of the carport and a corridor was built above the breezeway at the second floor to connect the space over the carport to the main house. Aside from the addition of a new screened-in porch and landscape improvements, the house retains its 1978 configuration.

Significance

The McKay House was designed by architect James Evans. Evans's own home (Evans House, 1961) was built next door. Emily B. McKay acquired the property in 1957 and the house was completed between 1960 and 1961. The two-story house had a rectangular plan with a 3' roof overhang and a second-floor wood deck along one side. A stone wall partially enclosed two sides of the house. A flat-roofed, two-car carport was set at an angle to the main house. The original sketches in the assessor property street cards are unclear, but it appears that the house and garage were connected by a breezeway. The house was constructed with a concrete block foundation, vertical wood siding, and a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

In 1968, an addition was constructed on the house-facing end of the carport, presumably necessitating the remodeling of the original breezeway. In 1978, a one-story, gable-roofed addition was constructed at the rear of the house. A small fieldstone patio adjacent to this addition may also have been added at this time.

In 1998, Elisabeth R. and Richard W. Taylor acquired the property. In 2003, George F. DuPont purchased the property. At some point after 1988, a small second-floor wood deck was added at the front of the main house and a circular flagstone patio was constructed at the side of the house.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Evans House

Current Building Name: Evans House

Architect: James Evans

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1961

ID #: 17

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 40' x 40'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Square

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded with a floating roof

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Thin shell structure

Piers: Yes, corners supporting hyperbolic parabolic roof

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Painted concrete, painted wood, glass in wood frames

Are Walls Painted? Yes

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Hyperbolic paraboloid

Roof Material: Rolled composition

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain; painted wood siding.

Fascia: Plain; copper flashing and painted wood.

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Painted concrete

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Primarily fixed plate glass sash with sliding sash at the basement level.

Sash Material: Wood frame fixed sash; aluminum sliding sash.

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Glazed narrow stile sliding doors and flush panel doors.

Door Material: Aluminum and glass; painted wood.

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spotlights, not historic

Locations: Mounted on underside of deck

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential, woodland.

Paving- Pedestrian: Slate

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Stone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes; **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Fieldstone-lined tree pits; planting circle in driveway; mortar set field stone retaining walls; house sited on rock ledge.

Alterations

Alterations: Deck originally had built-in benches in lieu of a railing. The benches were replaced with a wood post and metal rail railing. Basement sliding sash windows were replaced with insulating sliding sash windows by 1986. Finish scheme at the basement level was altered when windows were replaced.

Years of Alterations: Before 1986

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum with insulating glass units

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ No

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Tool shed; not in built in the Modern style.

Foundation: Unknown

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding.

Doors and Windows: Fixed sash with ventilation louver at roof peak.

Roof Material and Configuration: Asphalt shingle gable roof with eaves.

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: House for sale. Small house on a large lot.

Credits

Landscape Architect: None

Lighting Designer: None

Interior Designer: None

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.16.07

Survey Notes: Deep eaves of roofs protect wood and aluminum window walls. Wood trim is painted brown and aluminum sliding doors are painted brown. Field surfaces such as transom bars and solid walls are painted off white. Flush panel doors are called out with bright yellow paint finish.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Evans House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Evans House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Evans House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Built to the designs of architect James Evans for his personal residence, the house has the only extant hyperbolic paraboloid roof in New Canaan. The house retains high integrity and its dramatic design is a landmark of mid-century Modern style.

Description

The Evans House is sited on wooded parcel set off of the road. Using a thin shell structural system, Evans designed his soaring one-story (plus basement) house with a hyperbolic paraboloid roof. This structural roofing system allowed for a completely open floor plan at the interior since no intermediary columns or supports were necessary. The thin shell roof rests on two concrete piers at the corners (low points of the soaring roof) of the house; otherwise, the façades are primarily floor-to-ceiling, wood-framed window walls. The airy effect of the house is especially pronounced since the ceiling height is nearly two stories tall at its highest points. The roof projects beyond the plane of the walls, protecting the window walls from weathering.

The house, which has a square footprint, is built into a gently sloping site. The primary entrance and living/dining room and kitchen are at grade on the first floor and the five bedrooms are located on the fully exposed basement level at the back of the house. There is a wrap-around deck off of the first-floor living spaces at the back of the house, which extends the square footprint of the house. The designer's intent to mesh indoor and outdoor living spaces is further emphasized through the living/dining room's six sliding glass doors.

There have been very minor alterations to the house. The wrap-around deck was originally designed with a wrap-around bench rather than a railing. For code and safety reasons, the bench was replaced with a railing. The basement sliding sash windows were replaced with aluminum sliding sash units in 1986.

Significance

The Evans House was designed by architect James Evans for his own family and completed around 1961. The Evans House was included in the 1961 Modern House Tour in New Canaan before it was finished. In an article about the tour, the New Canaan Advertiser wrote about the Evans House: "The form of the house [is] influenced by a design naturally complimentary to the hillside itself and that picks up the slope of the land gently to make use of it for habitation…the house opens out to the view as well as the hillside, allowing the sky to enter and yet gives a feeling of shelter and containment on its low sides with unencumbered space on the upper levels" (New Canaan Advertiser, 27 April 1961).

The Evans family lived in the house until the late 1970s. In the next few decades, the house had a number of owners: Robert and Araxy Jezairian (purchased 1978), Gerry S. Culpepper (purchased 1979), Michael G. and Maureen M. Wilhelm (purchased 1980), the Employee Transfer Corp. (purchased 1982), James and Evelyn Gregory (purchased 1983), Frank J. and Katherine S. Genovese (purchased 1986), and James O. and Faye E. Flynn (purchased 1994). In 2000, Herbert & Dorothy Kunstadt purchased the house.

Sources

"Among Six Stops on Tour of Modern Homes." New Canaan Advertiser, 27 April 1961.
"Evans, James, James Evans House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Amato House

Current Building Name: Amato House

Architect: James Evans

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1966

ID #: 18

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 20'x49', 36'x22'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: T-shaped

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes, supporting deck

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding. Flush horizontal wood siding used as accent beneath windows.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Open, exposed rafter tails, angled to follow roof

Soffit: V-channel wood siding, finished with dark stain

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Painted metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, awning, casement. Interior screens.

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Arched paneled wood doors with inset diagonally laid beadboard panels and fixed sidelights. Sliding doors.

Door Material: Wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Prairie Style copper lanterns

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone pavers

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 3

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: 2 flagstone, 1 gravel

Deck Material: Wood. Built-in wood and metal benches.

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on hill which drops down steeply at rear. Fieldstone stairs leading down rear hill to arched wood bridge on fieldstone footers over stream. Circular stone patio overlooks dropoff. Many curving stone walls. Concrete retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: After 1988: wood deck added to second floor at rear of garage

Years of Alterations: Post-1988

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car garage

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Overhead wood doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Prefabricated toolshed under cantilevered deck, not original

Foundation: None

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 2 doors of vertical wood siding, 1 fixed 4-light wood window

Roof Material and Configuration: Asphalt shingle

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Tom Shaw

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.29.07

Survey Notes: House on beautiful site. Corner deck that wraps around house has steel beam underneath and is supported on metal piers. Deck is set away from house in places, allowing light to filter below to basement sliding doors.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Amato House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Amato House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Amato House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Amato House is set on the top of a hill that drops down steeply at the rear to a stream. Fieldstone stairs lead down the hill to an arched wood bridge set on fieldstone footers that spans the stream. At the side of the house is a circular stone patio overlooking the drop-off. The landscaping also includes several curved stone walls and concrete retaining walls.

The one-story, gable-roofed house has a T-shaped plan and a full basement level at the sides and rear due to the topography of the site. The house is clad in V-channel vertical wood siding with flush horizontal wood siding used as an accent at the window openings. A wood deck supported on metal piers wraps around the side and rear of the house and cantilevers over the drop-off at the rear of the property; this portion of the deck is fitted with fixed wood benches along the railing. Openings in the floor of the deck adjacent to the house provide light to the basement level below. The main entrance has arched paneled wood doors with inset diagonally laid beadboard panels and fixed sidelights. The rear façade contains the most notable exterior feature of the house: a two-story window wall fitted with long, narrow fixed sash with fixed and awning sublights and fixed transoms that follow the angle of the gabled roofline.

Significance

This house was designed by architect James Evans and constructed by builder Tom Shaw. It was completed in 1966. The original property card for this building does not appear to be on file at the New Canaan Historical Society, so it is unknown who the original owners were. In 1971, according to a realtor listing on file at the New Canaan Historical Society, Mr. and Mrs. V.W. Amato sold the house to someone named Krzywicki-Herburt. In 1975, Ernest C. Waco purchased the house. In 1979, Victor F. Zackay acquired the property, which was transferred to joint ownership with Lillian M. Sherdal in 1986. Sometime after 1988, a wood deck was added to the second floor at the rear of the garage.

Sources

"Evans, James, [address redacted]" Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: McDonnell House

Current Building Name: McDonnell House

Architect: Eduardo Faxas

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1968-69

ID #: 19

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 37' x 87'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Wood frame with brick masonry core

Piers: Yes, at center block at back of house

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: 1 x 10 rough square cedar boards laid as weatherboards. Reddish brown brick retaining walls set with grey mortar.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, brown. Originally natural finish.

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles, grey black in color

Eave: Deep

Soffit: Appears to be painted fiber board

Fascia: Closed, angled, painted wood

Gutter Material: Copper

Gutter Type: Angled box gutter, partial at door entrance

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick with copper fascia

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Part of main roof

Porch Roof Type: Flat

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed single light ribbon windows with corner units and inswinging casement windows.

Sash Material: Painted wood. Originally natural finish with grey glass. Some panes replaced with IGUs.

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Painted wood narrow-stile entry doors. Door is full height of wall.

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Appears original with some replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spotlights

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Wooded

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers, white rocks with metal edging **Paving - Vehicular:** Asphalt with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone with reddish brown cheek walls **Swimming Pool:** Yes

Fence or Gate: No **# of Terraces:** 1 **# of Decks:** 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone **Deck Material:** Wood laid on slat side

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on secluded site off long drive. Lot is flat, surrounded by hardwood forest. Paths throughout property. Rock-lined trail at back leads to shallow pond. Lawn area at rear. Tall brick planters. Tennis court, wood deck.

Alterations

Alterations: 1976: tennis court built. 1977: 3-car carport converted to garage. 1979-1980: gazebo and deck constructed. Swimming pool likely added during this time period. Faxas designed the alterations/additions of the late 1970s. Post-1987: new kitchen installed, master bedroom expanded, radiant heating system replaced, new tile floors installed. Faxas consulted on work but owner Gerald Cohen was designer and builder.

Years of Alterations: 1976, 1977, 1979-80, post-1987 **Foundation:** NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA **Sash Material:** NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated

Foundation: NA **Wall Cladding:** NA

Doors and Windows: Overhead doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Octagonal gazebo with central fireplace and brick chimney

Foundation: Not visible, likely concrete **Wall Cladding:** Reddish brown brick with grey mortar

Doors and Windows: Gazebo is very open with narrow-stile wood doors and sidelights

Roof Material and Configuration: Asphalt shingle, sheet copper flashing

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown **Lighting Designer:** Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Paul J. Murphy

Alterations Designers: Eduardo Faxas (1976-80), Gerald Cohen (post-1987)

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS **Date Surveyed:** 11.02.07

Survey Notes: Essence of house is deep overhangs, incredibly steep gable roofs, asymmetrical massing, and use of wood and brick.Three dormers at the front of the house and three balconies at the second floor at the back of the house.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: McDonnell House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: McDonnell House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The McDonnell House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. The McDonnell House is an excellent example of a dwelling designed in the late period of Modern architecture in New Canaan. The design was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses and demonstrates a shift away from International Style "boxes" toward the future Postmodernist period.

Description

The McDonnell House, designed by architect Eduardo Faxas, is a two-story, gable-roofed house clad with wood weatherboards and reddish-brown brickwork. Gable-roofed dormers and projecting balconies break up the lines of the steeply pitched roofs, which extend far beyond the planes of the walls to form dramatic eaves. The house has an irregular rectangular footprint and asymmetrical massing.

Faxas designed the house using a 4' square module with wood-frame construction, a poured concrete foundation, and a masonry core. Exterior cladding was 1"x10" rough square cedar boards resembling weatherboards, which were finished with two coats of Cabot's bleaching oil and then intended to weather naturally. The window and door glass was single-pane, solar grey, 1/4" polished plate glass. The ground floors were poured concrete with integral copper-tubing radiant heat; the floors at the upper levels were wood. The brick masonry core contained three fireplaces. A small basement contained a boiler room. Finishes included 5/8" painted gypsum board, varnished clear Douglas fir wood trim, and ceramic tile for bathroom walls and floors. Faxas custom-built all of the windows, glazed doors, screens, and kitchen cabinets in his shop (Faxas, "House for Mr. & Mrs. Donal McDonnell," 1).

Significance

The McDonnell House was completed in 1969 for owners Donal and Marge McDonnell. The house was designed by architect Eduardo Faxas in 1968 and constructed by builder Paul J. Murphy. The house cost approximately $283,000. Faxas began designing the house while working for architect Eliot Noyes's firm, which he had joined in 1966. During the design phase, the owner's investment firm, McDonnell & Co., had a financial crisis, requiring the house budget to be cut by $30,000. Brick was substituted for the original fieldstone, and asphalt shingles were used on the roof instead of wood shingles (Schweitzer, 51).

In 1976, the house was sold to John B. Ford (ownership was conveyed to John B. and Jill H. Ford in 1982). That same year, the tennis court was built. In 1977, the original three-car carport was converted into a garage. In 1979-80, a gazebo and deck were completed. Faxas designed all of these additions and alterations. The swimming pool was also likely added at this time. In 1987, the house was sold to Gerald L. Cohen. The Cohens made changes to the interiors of the house: a new kitchen was constructed, the master bedroom was expanded, the radiant heating system was replaced using plastic tubing instead of the original copper, which had deteriorated, and new tile floors were installed. Faxas consulted on the alterations but owner Gerald Cohen acted as designer and builder.

Sources

Faxas, Eduardo. “House for Mr. & Mrs. Donal McDonnell, [address redacted], New Canaan, CT.” Undated description of house in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Faxas, Eduardo, McDonnell House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Schweitzer, Rob. “Fleeing oppression to embrace the modern.” The HOME Monthly (Ridgefield, CT), July 2003, 48-51, 56-57.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Gates House

Current Building Name: Gates House

Architect: Gates and Ford

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1952

ID #: 20

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 39'x39', 115'x21'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial crawl space.

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: Yes, an alt at the front entrance canopy

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding, cypress

Are Walls Painted? Yes, blue grey

Trim Material: Unpainted and painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Open with exposed unfinished wood rafters

Soffit: Plain; unpainted narrow wood siding

Fascia: Plain; metal with aluminum flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible, but scuppers on original house. Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Not visible

Porch Roof Type: Flat

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Single pane fixed glass windows, paired casement windows, and fixed transoms at original house.

Sash Material: Steel

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Main entrance has painted flush panel door. Doors at original house are painted wood dutch doors with screen doors.

Door Material: Wood, painted

Door Hardware: Original at original section of house

Exterior Lighting

Types: Flat round globe unit

Locations: Wall adjacent to entrance

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Mortar set slate

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with a Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set slate

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Slate

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Planting beds framed by mortar set stone walls

Alterations

Alterations: Carport/guest cottage were built, then a corridor connecting these structures to main house was added. Entryway was modified to have a dramatic entry canopy with a single pilotis and a fish fin shape roof. Entry also has beveled corner glass windows. 2007 construction includes a large two-bedroom apartment with a living/dining/kitchen space, and separate bathroom. The carport/guest cottage were demolished for a new garage and office.

Years of Alterations: c. 1955; 1996; 2007

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall Cladding: Painted V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Casement and fixed

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated. Originally a carport.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood wall siding

Doors and Windows: Garage doors currently being replaced

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair. Condition of exposed, unpainted wood at soffit and rafter ends of original house is poor.

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers: Mark Markiewicz

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.11.07

Survey Notes: A projecting vertical wood sided wall screens front entry door from terrace off of original family room beyond.

Photographer: Mark Markiewicz **Date:** September 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gates House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Mark Markiewicz **Date:** September 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gates House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Gates House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

Built as a small, one-story, flat-roofed house with a square footprint, the Gates House was designed with vertical wood siding, fixed plate glass floor-to-ceiling sash, and glazed wood post-and-rail doors. According to the records of the New Canaan Assessor, the roof cantilevered 3' beyond the plane of the wall at all four façades of the house. The overhang remains at two façades and has exposed wood rafters.

Since its construction, the house has had many additions and alterations. A separate carport and guest cottage (demolished in 2007) were added to the parcel. A corridor was then built to connect the auxiliary structures to the main house. The corridor addition is set on concrete block foundations with vertical wood siding and fixed clerestory and plate glass windows. Later, the primary entrance was modified to have a dramatic entry canopy supported by a single column and a fin-shaped roof. The entry also has beveled corner glass windows and fixed plate glass sash. A stone wall frames a planting area at the front of the house. Alterations and additions dating from 2007 include a large in-law apartment with two bedrooms, a combined living/dining/kitchen space, separate bathroom, and closets. Also, the original carport was enclosed to become a garage, and the space formerly built as a guest cottage was replaced with an office space.

Significance

In 1951, architect Frederick Taylor Gates of the firm Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates purchased a parcel of land to build his own house. By 1952, the small, three-bedroom house with a small, separate wood-frame, flat-roofed tool shed was complete. In 1955, Gates added a carport and guest cottage with two bedrooms.

In 1961, Jason D. Floria purchased the parcel. In 1965, the property was transferred to Audrey A. Floria, who maintained the property until it was purchased in 1992 by the current owners, Mark and Katherine Markiewicz. Mark Markiewicz is an architect and has made several additions and alterations to the house. Although the original house is still relatively intact as one wing of a much larger house, the original, modest Gates House property has been altered too much to meet integrity requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources

"Gates, Fred & Ford, Russell, Gates House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Ford House

Current Building Name: Ford House

Architect: Gates and Ford

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954

ID #: 21

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 89'x90'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular T-shaped

Basement: Yes, unfinished

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Columns supporting overhang at porch

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: 2 at guesthouse

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding. Fieldstone

Are Walls Painted? Yes, stained dark brown

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: None visible

Chimney Cladding: NA

# of Porches: 3

Porch Roof Material: Not visible

Porch Roof Type: Flat, part of main roof

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash. Fixed. Bubble skylights.

Sash Material: Metal, probably aluminum

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Sliding doors. Paneled wood door with sidelights and transom.

Door Material: Metal

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights

Locations: At porch eave

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: White stone. Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: White stone with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: Several

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Extensive landscaping. Stream, pond, small waterfall. Guesthouse has flagstone patio with brick walls and courtyards. Pergola at pool area.

Alterations

Alterations: 1956: guesthouse/garage designed by Gates & Ford constructed. 1957: 22.5'x17' greenhouse added to property. 1969: 20'x8.5' greenhouse added on to main house. 1978: main house screened porch converted to laundry room. ca. 1986: wraparound sunroom added to front of main house. ca. 1978: addition constructed on guesthouse/garage.

Years of Alterations: 1956, 1957, 1969, 1978, 1986

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding and fieldstone

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead doors. Metal horizontal sliding sash.

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Guesthouse/garage, pool house, shed, old barn likely dating to original estate (barn described below)

Foundation: Stone

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards

Doors and Windows: None

Roof Material and Configuration: Gable, asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Friede Stege (1960s landscape)

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Gates & Taylor, unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.20.07

Survey Notes: Highly manicured property consists of main house, guesthouse/garage, poolhouse, shed, and old barn. House and guesthouse reminiscent of Noyes and Breuer, deep overhangs, tall fascia, projecting wall ends, courtyards. Poolhouse has stone walls and vinyl siding with wood pergola, another pergola at other end of pool. Shed next to poolhouse has shallow gable roof, v-channel vertical wood siding.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ford House, view towards main entry

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ford House, view towards guesthouse

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Ford House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by architects Gates and Ford, the extensive property is one of the largest Modern estates in New Canaan and is an excellent example of a more luxurious home designed in the Modern idiom during the post-war period.

Description

The Ford House is set on a highly manicured, flat site with extensive landscaping. The property includes a main house, a separate guesthouse/garage, a swimming pool flanked by a poolhouse and pergola, a shed, a stream, pond, and small waterfall, and a barn at the rear of the site that predates the house.

The main house and guesthouse/garage are set low into the site and meld with the landscape. Both are flat-roofed structures finished in darkly stained V-channel vertical wood siding and fieldstone. The exterior walls of the main house are heavily glazed, although some have been altered by the addition of attached greenhouse structures. Extended end walls provide a connection between the house and the landscape, and are a design element used by Gates and Ford in other houses in New Canaan, including the Melville House (1958). Deep overhangs supported on thin piers provide shade to flagstone terraces adjacent to the house.

Significance

The Ford House was designed by architects Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates for architect Russell Ford's parents, Elinor and Sherman Ford. Elinor Ford was the daughter of Lewis H. Lapham, who built the Waveny Estate in New Canaan. Elinor and Sherman Ford were married at Waveny on June 17, 1915.

According to the current owners, the Fords originally lived in an older mansion on the site. At an unknown date, Russell Ford designed a Modern-style addition containing a living room as an addition to the house. After discovering that the family spent all of their time in the new addition, the Ford family decided to demolish the mansion and build a Modern house on the stone foundation of the original house. The assessor records appear to collaborate this story; Elinor L. Ford purchased the property in 1940 and the original house on the site was removed sometime in the early 1950s. Some remnants of the original estate remain on the site, including the stone posts at the property entrance.

By 1954, the property consisted of the Gates and Ford-designed residence, an existing garage/quarters, a two-room “studio” used for garden supplies, a well house, and a new swimming pool, flagstone terrace, and pool house (also likely designed by Gates and Ford). In 1955, the garage/quarters building was removed and replaced in 1956 with a new guesthouse/garage designed by Gates and Ford. In 1957, a 22.5’x17’ greenhouse was constructed.

In 1963, the property was purchased by Ely R. Callaway, Jr. Callaway became president of textile company Burlington Industries in 1968 and would establish Callaway Golf Co. in the early 1980s. Callaway commissioned landscape architect Friede Stege to design much of the current landscape for the house (Strassmann, 2008). In 1969, a 20’x8.5’ greenhouse was added on to the main house.

Mona J. Strassmann purchased the house in 1975. In 1978, the screened porch was converted into a laundry room. Around 1986, a sunroom was added that wrapped around the front of the house. An addition was added to the guesthouse/garage at an unknown date, but possibly in 1978.

Sources

"Gates, Fred & Ford, Russell, Ford House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
General house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Strassmann, Paul A. to Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, email correspondence, 19 May 2008.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Attwood House

Current Building Name: Attwood House

Architect: Gates and Ford

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1958

ID #: 22

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 63'x33', 62'x24'

Integrity of Place: Original Location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations: A "sun shade porch" with a trellis roof was added in 1960. In 1967, the incorporated carport was enclosed and a new separate 1-car garage was constructed. In 1968, a swimming pool was added. The size of the lot was reduced from 5.855 acres to 3.094 acres in 1996, necessitating construction of a new driveway. According to a 2008 realtor listing, Thermopane windows were installed in 1984 and the roofs were replaced in 1986 and 1995.

Years of Alterations: 1960, 1967, 1968, 1984, 1986, 1995, 1996 **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: House for sale

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown **Lighting Designer:** Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Victor Christ-Janer

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Attwood House, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Attwood House, detail of courtyard at front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Attwood House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

BCA did not complete field survey for the Attwood House.

Significance

The Attwood House, designed by Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates, was constructed in 1958 for William and Simone Attwood. William Attwood purchased the property in 1955 from his cousin Edwin Hoyt. The Attwoods chose architects Gates and Ford after seeing their sign on the street; Simone Attwood said she chose a Modern design because she "didn't like the other kind of houses" (Attwood, 2008). The house was constructed by builder Ernest Rau. According to the assessor records, the house was occupied by June 1958 even though it was not yet completed.

William Attwood was a prominent figure in magazine publishing. He served as foreign correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune and the UN bureau. By 1968, he was editor-in-chief of Look Magazine after working as the European editor of the publication from 1957-61. In 1970, Attwood became president and publisher of Newsday and was one of the first journalists to visit China after it became a Communist country. He also worked on the staff of President John Kennedy's presidential campaign and served as the U.S. Ambassador to Guinea and Kenya. Simone Cadgene Attwood worked as a real estate broker starting in 1968 and established her own firm, Real Estate Services of New Canaan, with two other brokers in 1978.

The Attwood House has undergone some alterations. In 1960, a "sun shade porch" with a trellis roof was added to the house. In 1967, architect Victor Christ-Janer designed alterations to the property: the incorporated carport was enclosed and converted to a family room and a bedroom was added. A new separate one-car garage was also constructed. In 1968, a swimming pool was constructed at the rear of the house. According to a 2008 realtor listing, Thermopane windows were installed in 1984 and the roofs were replaced in 1986 and 1995. In 1996, the original lot was subdivided, reducing the property in size from 5.855 acres to 3.094 acres, necessitating construction of a new driveway.

William Attwood died in 1989. The house is still held in the Attwood family. At the time of the survey, the property was for sale.

Sources

Attwood, Simone. Interview with Martin Skrelunas (Philip Johnson Glass House) and Janet Lindstrom (New Canaan Historical Society), 28 April 2008.
"Editor Speaks At Cherry Lawn Commencement." Stamford Advocate, 5 June 1968.
Ferguson, David P. "Publisher shuns 'fine tuning,' seeks challenge." Fairpress, 20 Sept 1978.
"Gates, Fred & Ford, Russell, Attwood House," Modern Houses file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Hill, Susan. "The Lives of 3 Corporate Wives." Advocate/Greenwich Time, Business and Economic Review 1979, 62.
"How Rickshaws Have Changed!" New Canaan Advertiser, 29 July 1971.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Melville House

Current Building Name: Melville House

Architect: Gates and Ford

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1958

ID #: 23

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 72' x 30'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: Yes, at entry breezeway

Breezeway: Yes

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood (cypress) siding; mortar set field stone

Are Walls Painted? Yes

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Butterfly

Roof Material: Cedar beams support tar and gravel roof

Eave: Open at living room end

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: Plain; sheet copper

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: External at the valley of the roof at back of house

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Not visible

Porch Roof Type: Flat with sheet copper fascia and scupper

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Hopper windows as transom sash; outswinging casement windows

Sash Material: Painted wood hopper windows; aluminum casement windows.

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Flush hollow wood door; narrow stile glazed doors; screen doors

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Replacement and original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Can lights; chandeliers at breezeway

Locations: Walls of house and carport; soffit of breezeway

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Wooded, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Slate

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel and asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Painted wood to mimic open design of stairs in the living room.

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Metal post and mesh deer fencing

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Slate

Deck Material: Wood with wood and steel railing, located as a balcony off of bedrooms

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on gentle hill. Site has very tall mature trees, boulders.

Alterations

Alterations: Changed front doors and hardware. Changed hardware because there was a break-in. Changed front doors to have surface-mounted wood slats for a more Japonaise look favored by the current owner. A column may have been added below the balcony (cantilevered from the façade) off of the bedrooms. Balcony still looks a little droopy.

Years of Alterations: Unknown

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☑ Separate; half garage half and carport

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding painted

Doors and Windows: Painted hardwood door leads out onto a breezeway connecting the garage to the main house. No garage doors

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat roof, composite

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.30.07

Survey Notes: Mortar set fieldstone retaining walls continue from one side of the house to the next, emphasized by stone mass of central fireplace and chimney. In addition, stone retaining wall bisects the house in the perpendicular direction marking the change in grade from the main entry side to the full glass of the living room end of the house. The wood-encased steel beams for the roof project beyond the plane of the wall at the living room wing only. Steel beams are visible below wood cladding as evidence of structural system and a clear way to separate wood from the grade condition. Otherwise the walls are flush with the roof. House has many if not all of its original built-in cabinetry, kitchen cabinets, closets, and interior light fixtures.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Melville House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Melville House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Melville House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by Frederick Taylor Gates of Gates and Ford, this 1958 butterfly roof house exemplifies post-World War II Modern house planning and design principles including an open floor plan with uses divided by zones and mezzanines, glass walls, the intercommunication of interior and exterior living spaces, and the unadorned, honest use of local construction materials. The house retains remarkable

Description

The Melville House is located at the top of a hilly site ringed with trees. Architects Gates and Ford designed the house to be closely tied to nature through the use of extended end walls of fieldstone that continue from the exterior of the building through the glass walls to the interior rooms, and multiple defined outdoor spaces, including a partially covered masonry terrace at the west façade, a screened-in porch at the south façade, an open balcony at the east façade, and a covered wood deck and masonry terrace connected to the garage at the north façade. The floor plan of the house is rectangular with the longer sides facing north and south, but the exterior living spaces create an irregular footprint overall.

The most distinct feature of the house is its unusual “butterfly” roof, which slopes down in the middle to form an asymmetrical "V." It is supported by steel beams that run through the roof to steel columns in the center of the home. The “Y” construction makes possible the “spread wings” of the house. The interior spaces flow from one area to another, unbroken by the walls or columns that support traditional roofs. According to a 1959 article in the New Canaan Advertiser, the roof originally had a built-up construction consisting of tarpaper, tar, and crushed marble laid over 4-1/2” cedar beams, which are visible from the interior (New Canaan Advertiser, 16 April 1959). The exterior walls of the house are clad with painted vertical wood siding. The foundation is constructed of concrete block.

Texture and color are provided to the house by materials such as cedar, gray cypress, walnut, and weathered Connecticut stone. The living spaces are separated by changes in levels rather than walls. The planned outdoor living spaces, glass walls, and fieldstone walls that run through the house from the exterior create a home whose interior environment is closely linked to the exterior wooded surroundings.

Significance

The Melville House was designed by Taylor Gates of Gates and Ford Architectural and Planning Associates. The house was built for David Melville and completed in 1958. It was included in the 1959 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. In 1962, the property was purchased by Maxwell Bassett, an aeronautical engineer who appreciated the design and soaring character of the building. At the time of this survey, the house was still held in the Bassett family.

Sources

"Gates, Fred & Ford, Russell, Detmer/Bassett House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Modern House Tour May 24." New Canaan Advertiser, 16 April 1959.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Murphy House

Current Building Name: Murphy House

Architect: Allan Gelbin

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1964

ID #: 24

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 130'x20'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular

Basement: No

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Are Walls Painted? Yes, stained dark brown

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat, pyramidal

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles at pyramidal, flat not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Cement board

Fascia: Plain wood boards set at angle

Gutter Material: Copper

Gutter Type: Hanging, downspouts in soffit

# of Chimneys: 3

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, ribbon, fixed, bubble and pyramidal skylights

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Glazed with interior screen doors

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Bulbs shielded by triangular wood frames

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential, wooded

Paving- Pedestrian: Thicky mortared fieldstone, white gravel with narrow wood edging

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Concrete

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 3

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Fieldstone. Concrete. Clay tile.

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on fairly flat, wooded site. Accessed by long gravel drive. Overlooks large pond with concrete spillway leading to stream. Extensive white gravel paths. Ornamental stone ring at entry with gravel and river rocks.

Alterations

Alterations: 1974: architect Allan Gelbin designed additions: carport converted into sunroom and house extended 57 feet to create a studio; second-story addition built above the former carport. 1970s: Decks around the house extended. 2001-04: sunroom converted into master suite, wall inserted to create corridor to studio, wetbar in studio became bathroom, master bedroom and music room converted to living room. 2001-04: New landscape designed by Wesley Stout.

Years of Alterations: 1974. 2001-04.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Doors and Windows: Narrow-stile doors. Casement sash. Fixed, some with mitered corners. Bubble skylights.

Sash Material: Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, not visible, appears to be membrane

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ No

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Tool shed

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Doors and Windows: Flush doors with plywood veneer

Roof Material and Configuration: Flat, not visible

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Wesley Stout (2002-05)

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Allan Gelbin (furniture, lighting fixtures)

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Allan Gelbin

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.28.07

Survey Notes: House has very irregular plan and is noted for its angles. Planes meet at sharp angles, creating prowlike elements. Openings cut into deep overhangs to allow light to shine down into planters. Cantilevered deck extends dramatically over pond. Stone walls and chimneys have thickly, roughly laid mortar. Pyramidal skylight at top of pyramidal roof. House blends into nature.

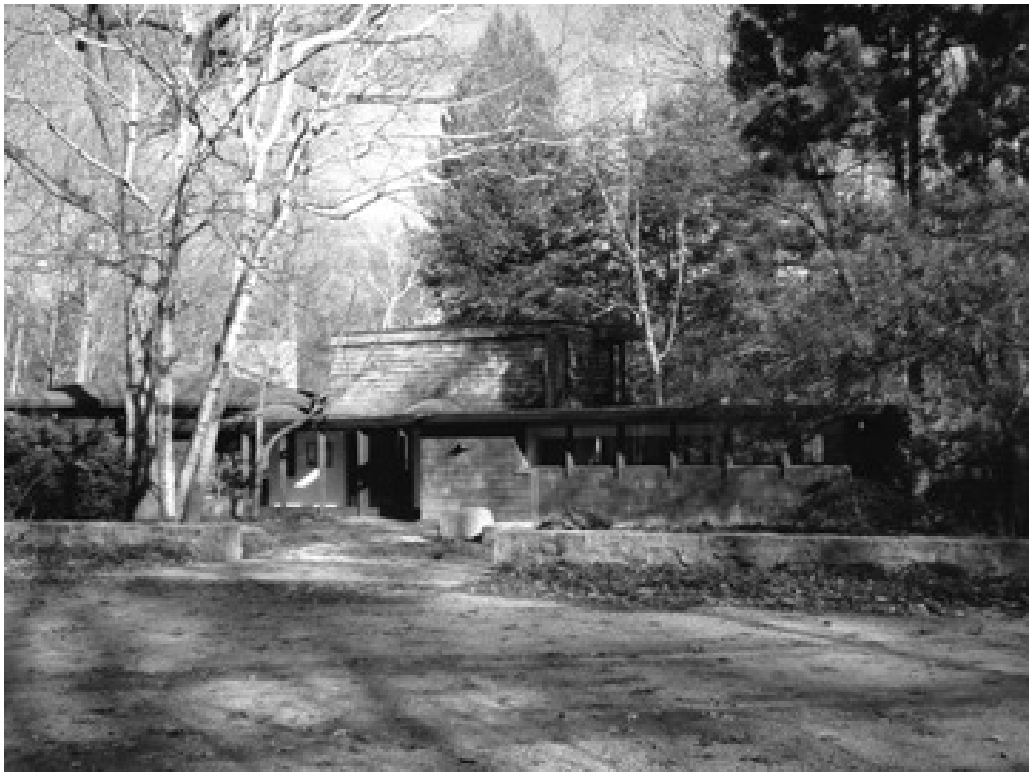
Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Murphy House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Murphy House, front façade of addition



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Murphy House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criteria C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by noted architect Allan Gelbin, the Murphy House demonstrates Gelbin's training under Frank Lloyd Wright in its use of natural materials, relationship to the landscape, organic forms, and finely crafted details like door handles and light fixtures that reflect the triangular motifs in the house.

Description

The Murphy House is set on a relatively flat, wooded site at the end of a long gravel drive. The most dramatic landscape feature on the property is a large pond at the rear of the house which has a concrete spillway leading to a stream. Recent landscape additions include an extensive set of pathways that meander through the woods, and an ornamental stone ring constructed of gravel and river rocks at the entry to the house.

The Murphy House has a very irregular plan and evokes organic shapes as it sits low and long on its site. Natural materials like wood shingles, wood trim, fieldstone chimneys finished with thickly laid mortar, and wood doors and sash are used throughout the house. At the Murphy House, architect Allan Gelbin used angles as a motif, in contrast to his Leuthold House in New Canaan, which features curves. The angle motif is carried throughout the house in its plan and down to details like door handles and light fixtures. Walls meet at sharp angles, creating prowlike elements. The house has a deeply overhanging roof with openings cut into the eaves to allow light to penetrate to planters adjacent to the building. An angled cantilevered wood deck with built-in benches at the rear of the house juts out precipitously over the pond, reminiscent of the deck at Frank Lloyd Wright's Tirranna (1956) in New Canaan, where Gelbin acted as master-of-the-works. A studio addition designed by Gelbin in the 1970s terminates in a full-height angled window wall with mitered glass corners.

Significance

The Murphy House was designed by architect Allan Gelbin for Peggy and Charles Murphy. Peggy Murphy established the highly successful New Canaan High School girls' swimming team in 1973 along with Carol McVeigh. Architect Allan Gelbin was an apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin East and oversaw the construction of the Wright-designed house in New Canaan before designing at least three houses of his own in New Canaan.

Peggy R. Murphy acquired the property in 1963. According to the assessor records, the house was 75% complete in July 1964, suggesting that it was finished in late 1964 or 1965. An 8'x20' wood shed with a flat roof was constructed in 1964. In 1974, the Murphys again hired architect Allan Gelbin to alter the house. The incorporated carport at one end of the house was converted into a sunroom with a fireplace and the house was extended by about 57 feet off the carport to create a studio. A partial second-story addition containing a bedroom was constructed above the former master bedroom. It also appears that the wood decks around the houses were extended either prior to 1974 or at this time.

In 2001, Ronald Meckler and Jacqueline Shapiro purchased the house. Meckler and Shapiro made some interior alterations between 2001 and 2004, including converting the sunroom into a master suite (necessitating the partial burial of the floating stair to the second floor and inserting a wall to create a hallway to the studio), converting the master bedroom and music room into a living room, and converting the wetbar in the studio into a bath. The decks around the house were rebuilt in kind and the deteriorated gypsum soffit was replaced with cement board. The landscape was redesigned in 2002-04 by landscape architect Wesley Stout and included the replacement of a deteriorated outdoor space constructed of railroad ties at the side of the house with cement and fieldstone terraces bordered by stone walls consistent with the style and technique of the original stonework.

Sources

"Gelbin, Allan, [address redacted]," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"New Canaan Women Build." New York Times, 22 April 1979.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Leuthold House

Current Building Name: Leuthold House

Architect: Allan Gelbin

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1966

ID #: 25

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 50'x60'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Floating

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Stucco over cement block

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Mahogany

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Stucco, with recessed scored mahogany edging

Fascia: Mahogany

Gutter Material: Not visible, copper downspouts

Gutter Type: Concealed with copper downspouts in soffits

# of Chimneys: None visible

Chimney Cladding: NA

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, casement, fixed corner windows with butt-joint glazing

Sash Material: Mahogany

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Narrow-stile with internal narrow-stile screen doors. Flush doors.

Door Material: Mahogany

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round downlights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Reddish cut stone, red gravel, red round concrete pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Red gravel

Exterior Stairs: Red tile

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 3

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Red tile, cut stone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Large manmade pool with swimming pool in raised terrace above. Red tile terraces. Outdoor kitchen on mortared cut stone terrace. Large Modern sculptures set in landscape. Open lawn area at front of house. Concrete retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: 1977: storage building constructed. 1982: small addition constructed on guesthouse.

Years of Alterations: 1977, 1982

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ 3-car carport attached to guesthouse

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Guesthouse attached to carport, connected to house by breezeway; storage shed.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Stucco

Doors and Windows: Wood casement, fixed corner windows with butt-joint glazing. Narrow-stile wood door.

Roof Material and Configuration: Flat

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Adolph Leuthold (original owner)

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Walter Smith

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.21.07

Survey Notes: House is defined by curving walls and irregular plan. Beautifully detailed woodwork, mitered at some corners. Plate glass rests directly on red tile in some areas. Carport roof supported on heavy concrete tapered piers at one end, then cantilevers out; detailed with exposed mahogany beams. Breezeway between house and guesthouse has red tile paving and openings in roof with trees growing through them. Guesthouse has unusual detail at roofline: curved metal pipes rest on sheets of some type of acrylic above fascia, which extend between exposed beams. Second outbuilding appears to be storage shed, has concrete foundation, board and batten wood siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof, three wood overhead doors, and wood casement windows.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Leuthold House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Leuthold House, side and rear façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Leuthold House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Architect Allan Gelbin, who worked for Frank Lloyd Wright, believed the house to be one of his seminal works. Although influenced by Wright, Gelbin's design is uniquely his own, featuring sculptured forms that respond to existing and manmade landscape elements on the site. It is an excellent example of a Modern house designed in the later period in New Canaan.

Description

The Leuthold House is set on a gently sloping site with an extensive open lawn area at the front of the house. A large curving pond sits at the front of the house with a curved swimming pool set above it in a raised terrace. Large contemporary sculptures are placed throughout the landscape. Terraces paved in quarry tile face the pond and lawn area; the lawn area contains an outdoor kitchen. A utilitarian storage shed, which does not appear to have been designed by architect Allan Gelbin, is set away from the house and partially hidden by trees.

The Leuthold House is defined by an irregular plan and curving walls, in contrast to Gelbin's Murphy House in New Canaan, which features angles as a motif. The Leuthold House consists of a main house connected to a guesthouse by a breezeway with an attached carport. The flat-roofed structures are finished in stucco with mahogany trim, doors, and windows. The flat roofs are placed at different heights to create intersecting planes. Some of the fixed windows have mitered corners and rest directly on the quarry tile paving, which continues from the interior to the exterior terraces, blurring the line between interior and exterior spaces. The window sash itself is not curved, but the casings that run parallel to the soffit are curved to follow the line of the wall.

The breezeway between the house and guesthouse has quarry tile paving and openings cut into the flat roof to allow trees to grow through the roofline. The carport roof is supported on heavy concrete tapered piers at one end, then cantilevers deeply and is detailed with exposed mahogany beams. The guesthouse is also detailed with exposed mahogany beams that extend beyond the face of the building.

Significance

The Leuthold House was designed by Allan Gelbin for the Leuthold family. The engineer on the project was C. Foti, and the builder was Walter Smith of Wilton. In 1964, Adolph Leuthold purchased the property. At that time, according to the assessor records, the lot contained a bath house and a tennis court (considered to have little to no value), and three artificial pools measuring 6'x10', 60'x15', and 105'x30'. According to architect Allan Gelbin: "The original 5 acre site contained a large pond and a host of magnificent old trees, oak, maple, birch, etc. The house was created to wrap around the pond facing south and turn it's [sic.] back to the north. A combination of circles, parts of ellipses and rectangles blend together harmoniously to form an entirely original sense and flow of space. The various site levels are used to obtain changes in floor elevation. Upon entering one views a beautiful interior pool which was originally on the site and built around, spring and run-off water fed…Large, beautiful lawns carpet the floors beneath the stately trees. Mr. Leuthold did much of the original landscaping, if not all of it" (Gelbin, August 1978).

A building permit for a new house was filed on June 9, 1965 and the house was completed in 1966. Gelbin later described the construction details of the house: "Main walls are of cement block, insulated, stuccoed and of wood stud, stuccoed inside and out. The floor is a slab laid over with Swedish dark brown tile. Cantilevers are of wood and steel frame, roofs flat of tar and gravel. The wood fascia, often curved, is of solid mahogany and all trim throughout of mahogany. Much furniture is built in throughout. Walls and ceilings are mainly of sheetrock, textured, painted. All lighting integral. Doors and windows are custom wood, plate glass. Heating and air-conditioning are from perimeter ducts beneath floor" (Gelbin, August 1978). The main floor of the house was designed to contain a living room, master suite (bedroom, dressing room, and bath), study, dining room, workspace, playroom, powder room and laundry, and utility room. The upper floor contained four children's bedrooms, a maid's room, and three baths. The property also had a three-car carport, a guest house, and a work studio and tool shed.

The Leuthold House was included in the 1967 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. At that time, Gelbin was quoted as saying: "Owner and architect were determined to create an atmosphere free of past, imitative, cliché-ridden forms" (County, May 1967, 17). The Leuthold House became very significant to architect Allan Gelbin, who later wrote, "[n]o study of my work is complete without this project. It was my first opportunity to be able to use a little imagination…My opportunities were great as my budget was limited" (unattributed clipping in "Gelbin, Allan, Leufhold House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society),

In 1977, Joseph and Jeanne Spielman purchased the house. A storage building was added to the property in that same year. In 1982, a small addition to the studio in the guesthouse was constructed. In 1997, Lionel N. Sterling, Trustee, became owner of the property.

Sources

"A Stop on Modern House Tour." New Canaan Advertiser, 13 April 1967.
Gelbin, Allan. "House for Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Leuthold," August 1978. Collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Gelbin, Allan, Leufhold House [sic.]," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"'Modern House Day' in New Canaan May 21." County, May 1967, 17.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Whitlow House

Current Building Name: Whitlow House

Architect: Allan Gelbin

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1969

ID #: 26

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 50' x 38'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Square, irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: Yes, at carport

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Painted smooth concrete at exposed basement level; horizontal wood siding; V-channel and texture 1x11 vertical siding.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, joints sealed beneath paint

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain with slot diffusers.

Fascia: Plain; painted wood and copper flashing.

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Painted wood

Porch Roof Type: Soffit of main house roof.

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Original windows: single light outswinging casement windows.

Sash Material: Painted wood.

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Paired faux paneled wood doors.

Door Material: Painted wood.

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round down lights and wall sconces with globes

Locations: Soffit and walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone; gravel with wood edging.

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Belgian block, flagstone, and gravel stairs at rear of house. One step above grade at entry. Flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood planking.

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: On steep hill; house sited behind berm to shield from street view; property borders a pond and has views of the Five Mile River.

Alterations

Alterations: One story bedroom wing added in 1987. Partial garage addition at a later date. Although many original windows remain, the casement and sliding sash are aluminum replacement windows.

Years of Alterations: 1987

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Horizontal wood siding

Doors and Windows: Sliding screen doors and casements flanking fixed plate glass sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☑ Incorporated

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood wall paneling and wood slot screen at carport

Doors and Windows: Painted wood single light casement with original hardware

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, tar and gravel

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.08.07

Survey Notes: Deck cantilevered from second floor of rear of house. Modified or built in 2 stages. Wood and metal cable railing at wood deck. Original windows are grouped as 1,3, and 4s. Horizontal trim connects sill line of original windows at second floor on original house. Vertical slat wood screen separates primary entrance from carport. Tall plain painted wood cornice beneath eave of 1 story sections of the house continue as a stringcourse in 2 story sections of the house. 2nd floor projects approx 12" beyond plane of the first floor. Roof eaves from 1 and 2 story wings intersect chimney. Brickwork at chimney is in poor condition. Mortar loss and displacement at top of chimney.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Whitlow House, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Whitlow House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Whitlow House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Whitlow House is built on a grassy, sloping, three-acre site with a small pond and views of the Five Mile River. It is a two-story house with Wrightian design influences, including a clear emphasis on horizontality and intersecting planes--expressed by the intersections of the house's multiple flat roofs with the façades and chimney--ribbon windows, and use of natural materials. The flat roofs cantilever beyond the façades to form deep eaves. The exterior walls are clad with painted clapboard and vertical wood siding.

Significance

In 1966, Robert S. Whitlow commissioned architect Allan Gelbin to design a house for his family. Construction on the house was completed in 1969. The Whitlows occupied the house until 1985, when the property was transferred to Jerry Davidoff. A year later, the property was sold to Lawrence and Barbara Kessler, who still own the property. The Kesslers built a small, one-story bedroom addition at the side of the house in 1987 and enclosed the original tractor shed to serve as a garage or enclosed storage space at an unknown date.

Aside from the bedroom addition and the alterations to the tractor shed, the house retains high integrity.

Sources

"Gelbin, Allan, Whitlow House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Spotts House

Current Building Name: Spotts House

Architect: Richard Henderson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1972

ID #: 27

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 93'x55'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular with L-shaped additions

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: None

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: None, metal flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, horizontal sliding sash, shed-roofed dormer

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Narrow-stile door, sliding doors

Door Material: Aluminum

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Metal sconces

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Mortared fieldstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2 plus 2 at additions

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood, metal pipe railings

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on massive stone outcropping. Extensive stone walls, many which predate house. Very wooded.

Alterations

Alterations: In 1979-1980, Alan Goldberg designed a new addition containing a master suite and a bathroom to be added to the north side of the original house. A new roof was also installed at this time. John R. Mastera & Associates designed an addition for the current owners containing a 3-car garage and master suite, constructed around 2000.

Years of Alterations: 1979-80, ca. 2000

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed, horizontal sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 3 car

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Alan Goldberg, John R. Mastera & Associates

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.28.07

Survey Notes: House has been expanded twice and has two driveways. Very difficult to walk between driveways without going into house. Original house cantilevers over foundation at southwest corner. Some sliding doors and windows situated to hang in the air above grade with no steps or railings. Use of metal pipe rails throughout as railings, window guards, etc.

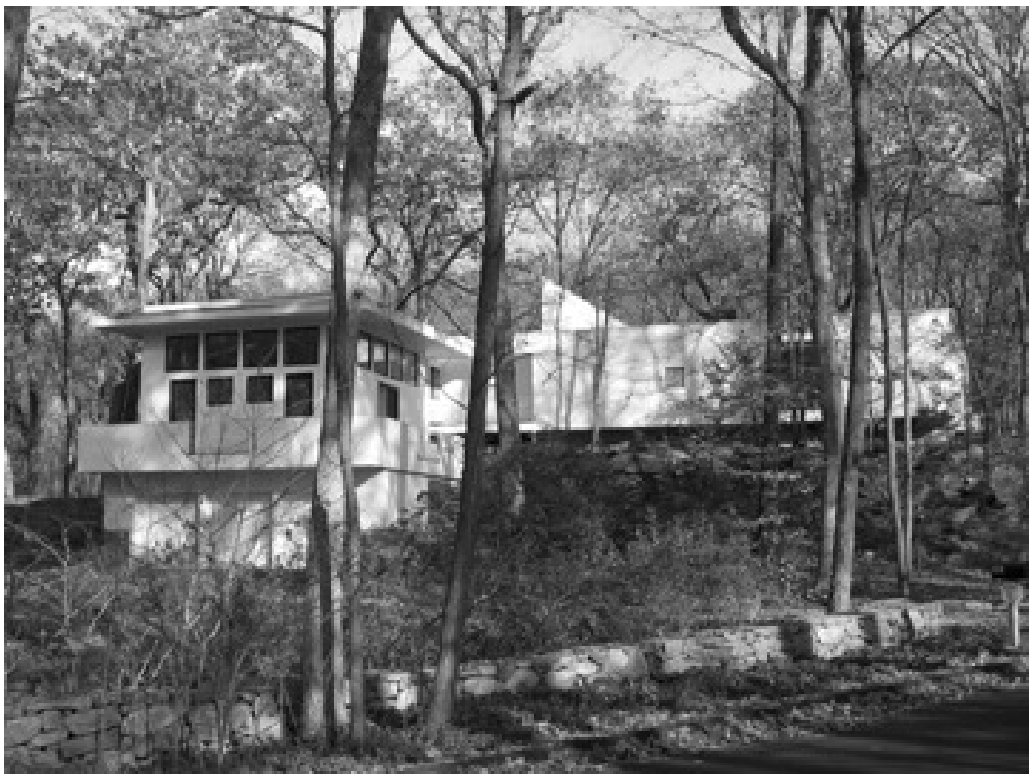
Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Spotts House, front and side façades of original house

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Spotts House, front façade of additions



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Spotts House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Spotts House is located on a hilly, rocky site. Due to later additions, the house currently has two driveways and two primary entrances; because of the hilly terrain, it is very difficult to walk between the driveways on the property without going through the house.

The Spotts House was constructed in three phases. The original house (1972) was a one-story, flat-roofed cube clad in vertical wood siding set on a massive rock outcropping overlooking a wooded valley. Fieldstone walls that predate the house run throughout the property. The street-facing west façade is largely blank, while the remaining walls contain large fixed sash, narrow-stile doors, and sliding glass doors. Semicircular projections were originally placed to the west of the doorways on the north and south façades, but the north projection was removed when the first addition was constructed. Wood decks extend off the north and south façades.

The first addition (1979-80) extended the house to the north by adding a one-story structure with a rectangular plan but retained the form and massing of the original house.

The second addition (2000) is a one-story-plus-basement, flat-roofed structure with a three-car garage at the basement level. A wood deck extends around three sides of the upper floor. Although clad in the same vertical wood siding as the remainder of the house, this addition is differentiated by its squat massing, overhanging roof, foundation clad in stone veneer, and strongly defined window and door frames. The fenestration on the second addition is very geometric and includes square and rectangular windows.

Significance

The Spotts House was designed by architect Richard Henderson. The current assessor property card lists the date of construction as 1972, but since the 1960s property cards are currently undergoing conservation and are unavailable, further investigation is required to firmly establish a construction date and original owner for this house.

Wendy Spotts acquired the property in 1975. In 1979-80, an addition designed by Alan Goldberg containing a master suite was added to the north side of the house.

In 1986, David R. and Barbara W. Waters purchased the house. Roy A. and Janice E. Abramowitz acquired the property in 1997. That same year, the house was featured in the movie, "The Ice Storm." The Abramowitzes hired architect John R. Mastera & Associates to construct a large addition containing a three-car garage and master suite, which was completed around 2000.

Sources

"Goldberg, Henderson, Mastera, Spotts House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Keyser, Elizabeth. “Modern age: These Connecticut houses are worth another look.” New York Post, 16 November 2006, 56.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Goldberg House

Current Building Name: Goldberg House

Architect: Alan Goldberg

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1977

ID #: 28

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: Paschall Campbell (1955 landscape) **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Fredrick De Finis

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed. Formerly the Campbell House by Johansen, demolished by Goldberg in 1975 only leaving some framing.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Goldberg House, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Goldberg House, 2008 addition

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Goldberg House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Goldberg House is located on the site of the former Campbell House, which was designed by John Johansen, constructed by Ted Haupt, and completed in 1952. The Campbell House was built for Paschall and Betsy Dawley Campbell. Paschall Campbell was a landscape architect who designed the landscape for Lee House 2 (1956, Lee) and for his own house. The Campbell House was featured in an August 1956 article in House & Home. The one-story, flat-roofed house was set on piers on a stone platform and had an H-shaped plan with a recessed entry porch and a rear courtyard. The entry and courtyard divided the house in two, with the public spaces (living room, dining room, and kitchen) on one side, and the private spaces (master bedroom and bath, and two other bedrooms and a bath) on the other side. The house was clad in glass and plywood.

In 1966, Alan E. and Gertrude S. Goldberg acquired the property. According to Alan Goldberg, around 1976, he essentially demolished the house, only leaving the rough framing, partly to increase the amount of living space and partly because of recurring maintenance problems. The original house had apparently been designed with low-cost materials to keep the budget low (Fine Homebuilding, June/July 1981, 51).

Goldberg designed a new house more than double in size to the original and had it constructed by builder Fredrick De Finis. The Goldbergs lived on site while the house was being reconstructed. Goldberg planned a new design that would be reminiscent of the original house: "We decided that the new house should be designed in the same spirit as the existing house. Even though it was a small house with a simple plan, I appreciated the thought that went into the original design" (Fine Homebuilding, June/July 1981, 52). The Goldberg House was completed in 1977. This house has an off-set H-shaped plan with wood decks on three sides. In the center of the house is an entry vestibule and a family room (the former courtyard). One side contains the living room, dining room, kitchen, and study, and the other side contains a master bedroom and bath, and two other bedrooms and a bath. This plan is similar to the original plan of the house. A carport was constructed on the site in 1979. In October 2007, construction began on an addition designed by Goldberg that will be connected to the house by a glassed-in bridge.

Sources

Brooks, Pat. "Rebuilding a House While Living In It." New York Times, 21 August 1980, C1, C8.
"Goldberg, Alan, Goldberg House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Lelen, Kenneth. "Rebuilding a Modern House." Fine Homebuilding (June/July 1981): 51-55.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“Patio in Connecticut: A Buffer that Divides the House in Two.” House & Home, August 1956, 136-137.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Alcoa House

Current Building Name: Alcoa House

Architect: Charles Goodman

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1958

ID #: 29

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:**

Survey Notes:

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Alcoa House, view from street showing garage addition at right

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Alcoa House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Alcoa House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey has not been conducted on this house.

Significance

The Alcoa House was constructed in 1958 as a showcase house for the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa). Alcoa had hired architect Charles Goodman to design the "Care Free House" to demonstrate the use of aluminum in a dwelling. Approximately forty houses were completed in the United States. The houses utilized aluminum roofing, siding, and windows.

The assessor property street card at the New Canaan Historical Society does not list an owner for the property prior to 1959, but notes that the "Model House" was completed in 1958. The lot was acquired by the Thompson Realty Corp. in 1959 and sold to Kenneth H. and Mary R. McClure on the same day. The assessor noted that the house had a concrete block foundation, a gable roof clad in aluminum, and a glass and aluminum exterior. The house was rectangular in plan with a flagstone terrace screened by a brick wall at the front and a second flagstone terrace at the side. It appears that the original house had three bedrooms and two baths at one side, and a family room, kitchen, and living room on the other side.

Between 1964 and 1965, addition and alterations were completed, including the construction of an interior swimming pool by E.L. Wolner Co. Inc. Although the assessor property cards are unclear, it appears that the addition was 42'x36' and included the swimming pool enclosure and an additional bedroom and bath. An attached garage was also constructed at this time. The terrace and brick wall may have been extended.

In 1981, William R. and Joan P. Martin acquired the property, which was sold to Robert M. Dewey, Jr., and Harriet B. Dewey in 1982. Between 1982 and 1983, a small sunroom was added on to the 1964-65 bedroom addition. In 1987, a second floor was added to the central part of the house along with a 24'x6' wood deck. In 1997, Anil and Enid B. Prasad purchased the property. Sometime in the late 1990s or 2000s, a new three-car garage and entryway were constructed to extend at a right angle off of the front terrace.

Sources

"Goodwin [sic.], Charles, Alcoa House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Gores House

Current Building Name: Gores House

Architect: Landis Gores

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1948

ID #: 30

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 130' x 22'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular rectangular

Basement: No

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Narrow cypress vertical tongue and groove siding; glass; field stone

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood is painted light grey.

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain; painted stucco with round vent screens

Fascia: Plain; painted wood and copper gravel stop

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 3

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed. In-swinging awning windows at bedroom corridor and at clerestory.

Sash Material: Painted wood

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Squat narrow stile glazed doors and tall and skinny (floor to ceiling) narrow stile glazed doors. All have matching screen doors.

Door Material: Painted wood

Door Hardware: Original, including cremone bolts.

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Wooded

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Rough finished asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set slate

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Mortar set slate

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House sited on a ridge; stone paved terraces at the back of the house; stone planters at front of the house

Alterations

Alterations: Although there have been additions to the house, there are no major alterations. In 1970, Gores turned the carport into an enclosed room, now containing a hot tub, and built a new garage. Gores extended the terraces at the back of the house and built an in-ground swimming pool in 1985. New roof, to match the configuration of the original was being installed during the survey (2007).

Years of Alterations: 1970, 1985

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate. Connected to house with an open loggia

Foundation: Tar and gravel

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Overhead door, clerestory windows

Roof Configuration and Material: Clerestory; flat

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair to poor

Structural: Fair to poor

Threats to Building or Site: Deferred maintenance

Credits

Landscape Architect: None

Lighting Designer: Richard Kelly

Interior Designer:

Builder: John C. Smith, Inc.

Alterations Designers: Landis Gores

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.14.07

Survey Notes: Site was snow covered during survey work, so information on landscape is limited. The woodwork at the house was initially left unfinished with the intention that it would weather naturally to a light grey color. This didn't happen, so the owners painted the woodwork. The roof eaves cantilever slightly beyond the plane of wall. The swimming pool is located in a terraced section of site leading down to the woods. No basement; only well and cold water storage tank/pump below living space. A linear home with many flat roofs.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gores House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Gores House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Gores House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. It appears to be eligible as a National Historic Landmark under Criteria C. It also appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Gores House is large, single-story, flat-roofed, wood-frame house that is stylistically related both to the International Style and to Wrightian rectilinear or organic architecture. The 130'-wide house is sited on a platform on a large wooded lot and is set back from the road. Wall materials include floor-to-ceiling fixed plate glass sash, narrow vertical tongue-and-groove cypress siding stained grey, and stone. The house is divided into three major wings: at the south end is a low bedroom wing, at the center of the house is a wide block with a raised roof to accommodate the tall ceiling of the living/dining area, and the north end contains the kitchen and utility areas. The main entrance, which has three wide glass doors and is sheltered by a cantilevered roof with large skylights, is situated between the bedroom wing and the living/dining area. A separate garage, connected to the main house by a sheltered walkway, has a clerestory roof.

The Gores House has undergone minor alterations. In 1970, the carport located to the north of the kitchen/utility area was enclosed as living space and a new two-car garage was constructed. Between 1983 and 1985, Landis Gores designed an extension to the terrace at the rear of the house to include two circular seating areas and an oval swimming pool.

Significance

In 1946, Pamela and Landis Gores purchased a four-acre lot to construct their first home in New Canaan. Designed by Harvard Five architect Landis Gores, the house is one of the first Modern houses built in New Canaan. The house was constructed by John C. Smith with lighting design by Richard Kelly and was completed in 1948.

The Gores House was featured in national publications including a large spread in the January 1952 issue of House & Home and an article in the New York Times Magazine. It was part of the 1949 and 1952 Modern house tours in New Canaan.

The Gores House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. The nomination states: "The Landis Gores House is significant because it epitomizes the 'modern' architecture of post-World War II America...Among the distinguishing characteristics of the type embodied in the Gores House are its flat-roofed single-story form, emphasis on horizontal planes, extensive use of full-height glass walls, informal open plan, the absence of any reference to historical precedence, and a close relationship between the house and its environment. Leavening the International style's glass-walled austerity with natural wood and stone in the manner of Frank Lloyd Wright, the house was considered avant-garde...when built."

The property is currently held in the Gores family.

Sources

"A Traditional House in the Modern Idiom." House & Home, January 1952.
Clouette, Bruce. "Landis Gores House." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, June 30, 2001.
Gibson, Janis. "Landis Gores House: A New Canaan Jewel." The HOME Monthly (Ridgefield, CT), November 2003, 22.
"Gores, Landis, Gores House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Landis Gores' Home." New Canaan Advertiser, 25 April 2002, 9C.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Pepis, Betty. "Behind Glass Walls." New York Times, 3 February 1952, SM38.
Randall, Kathleen. "Gores House Makes the National Register." DOCOMOMO New York/Tri-State Newsletter (Winter 2002): 4.
"They Raised the Roof in New Canaan." Holiday Magazine, August 1952, 48-53.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Irwin Pool House

Current Building Name: Irwin Pool House

Architect: Landis Gores

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1960

ID #: 31

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 68'x16'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Pool house of large estate

Present Use: Vacant

Public or Private: Public

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Shallow T-shaped

Basement: Unknown

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: Yes, X-shaped wood

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood horizontal siding and vertical siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Hipped

Roof Material: Slate

Eave: Yes, deep

Soffit: Closed

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Sheet copper

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Slate

Porch Roof Type: Part of main roof

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass, sliding and fixed ribbon windows

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware:

Door Types: HWD at entry, sliding glass doors, paired glass

Door Material: Wood and aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round recessed downlights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Set on former estate

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs:

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Metal fence

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Open lawn and wooded grove

Alterations

Alterations: Removed pool, added paved pedestrian path

Years of Alterations: 2004-07

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ NA

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Pool house served as an outbuilding to the 1920s main house

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Fair

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 10.30.07

Survey Notes: Pool house currently vacant, part of Irwin Estate which is now being used as a public park

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Irwin Pool House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Irwin Pool House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Irwin Pool House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by Landis Gores to be a pool house for the John Irwin Estate, this small building embodies the design principles of post-World War II Modern residential design. The building, which retains remarkable integrity, has a cross-shaped pavilion design with an open two-story, glass-walled central pavilion and two one-story wings clad in wood siding.

Description

The pool house is a wood-frame Palladian structure on a concrete foundation with painted wood siding and slate-clad hipped roofs. The roofs project beyond the planes of the walls to create deep overhangs, which are supported in many locations by cross-shaped columns.

The structure is symmetrical and has a shallow cruciform-shaped plan. On the primary façade, the core is marked by double-height expanses of glass; the flanking wings are more solid, each four bays wide and clad with vertical wood siding. Slender, cross-shaped wood columns divide the bays, and narrow windows at eye level relieve the solid wall surfaces. The secondary facades are more utilitarian. They are clad in wood siding and have painted hollow wood doors that open onto terraces with flagstone pavers. There is a slight grade change, so the west terrace is several feet above grade and the east terrace is at grade. The rear façades of the flanking wings are treated with the same finishes and arrangement as the primary façades. The central portion of the back façade projects beyond the face of the building and has three sliding glass windows with fixed transoms.

The core of the building contains an open double-height space with a living room that is anchored by a fireplace at the center of the room. The living space opens onto a terrace through very tall, rail-and-stile glazed doors. There is a small kitchen at the opposite end and two bathrooms in between the kitchen area and the living area. The core areas are flanked by one-story changing areas with built-in benches.

Significance

Built to the designs of architect Landis Gores as a pool house for Jane Irwin (1915-71) and John N. Irwin II (1913-2000), the Irwin Pool House was completed in 1960.

John Nichol Irwin II was a lawyer who served as the Deputy Secretary of State (1970-73) and the United States Ambassador to France (1973-74). Jane Watson Irwin was the daughter of Thomas J. Watson, the founder of International Business Machine Corporation (IBM).

In 1949, Jeanette K. Watson, wife of Thomas J. Watson, bought an improved parcel of land on Weed Street. The parcel contained a two-and-a-half story single-family residence, built in 1908, a garage and staff quarters, and a pump house. In 1950, the Watson family built a swimming pool. In 1952, they constructed a separate bathhouse (demolished when the Gores-designed pool house was built) and two tennis courts.

In 1957, Jeanette and Thomas Watson transferred the property to their daughter Jane and her husband John N. Irwin II. The Irwins commissioned architect Landis Gores to design a pool house (known as a cabana in the assessor's records) for their estate. Mrs. Irwin was familiar with Gores's design work through his work with IBM and his longstanding relationship with her family.

To celebrate the completion of the pool house, the Watsons surprised Landis Gores with a housewarming party attended by such luminaries as Philip Johnson, Eliot Noyes, Paul Rudolph, I.M. Pei, and Edward Larabee Barnes.

In 2005, the Irwin family sold the estate to the Town of New Canaan for use as a public park.

Sources

"Gores, Landis, John Irwin Pool House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Jane Watson Irwin Succumbs at 55." New Canaan Advertiser, 7 January 1971, 5A.
"John Irwin II, former ambassador, dead at 86." New Canaan Advertiser, 2 March 2000.
Kenyon, Laura. "Park & Rec hears plan to save Irwin Pool House." New Canaan Advertiser, 1 September 2005, 1.
Maney, Kevin. The Maverick and his Machine: Thomas Watson, Sr. and the Making of IBM. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., [2003].
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Stowe, Richard. "Irwin pool house worthy of saving." New Canaan Advertiser, 21 July 2005, 5A.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Doggett Jackson House

Current Building Name: Doggett Jackson House

Architect: Charles Jacobs

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1967

ID #: 32

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Doggett Jackson House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Doggett Jackson House was designed by Charles Jacobs and constructed around 1967. The house was designed for graphic designer Jane Doggett, who collaborated with Jacobs on the design of the house. The property, which overlooks the Norwalk Reservoir, was acquired by Jane D. Doggett in 1963. The original house had an indoor pool with a waterfall.

At some point before 1982, the separate garage was converted into a guest studio. In 1982, Leonard and Claire L. Tow acquired the property. An addition consisting of a vestibule, a sunroom, a porch, and a deck was constructed in 1983. In 1985, a two-car attached garage was completed. In 1986, a pool was constructed. Sometime after 1988, a 24'x16' greenhouse addition was completed.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Barlow House

Current Building Name: Barlow House

Architect: John Johansen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1950

ID #: 33

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 63' x 30'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical except for garage wing

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Post and beam wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding; plywood

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan and white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles at house and rolled paper at garage

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; partially concealed by hanging gutter

Gutter Material: Aluminum

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass sash at garage; replacement casement sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Salvaged from original and reused

Door Types: Narrow stile glazed entry door; painted flush hollow wood door; wood door clad with vertical siding

Door Material: Painted wood

Door Hardware: Some original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spotlights, not original

Locations: Mounted on walls and soffits

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland; residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel with mortar field stone retaining walls

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel; loose and mortar set fieldstone walls

Exterior Stairs: Down to entry - fieldstone in mortar

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Stone lined planters, large rock, gradual sloping site, heavily wooded

Alterations

Alterations: Two rooms(dining room and den) were added to the house by 1953; freestanding garage added c.1953; master bedroom addition 1953; new master bedroom suite added in 1971; stone terrace at back of house redone in c. 1988; stone walls and walkway at front of house redone in 1988; radiant floor heating redone in 1998; new windows in 2005; kitchen remodeled (date unknown); landscaping redone and interiors reconfigured in 2005.

Years of Alterations: 1953; 1971; 1988; 2005

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding and field stone

Doors and Windows: Garage doors with vertical wood siding and narrow stile glazed door

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat rolled paper with copper flashing

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Two: Incorporated and separate

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Painted vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed plate glass sash; narrow stile glazed wood doors

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat rolled paper with sheet copper flashing

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Second garage see Alteration notes

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers: John Johansen; Zane Yost; Richard Thomas

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.08.07

Survey Notes: Ornamental wood screen resting on a sill adjacent to entry door probably screened the bathroom window, wood screen partially conceals kitchen door entrance.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Barlow House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Barlow House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Barlow House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

Sited on a wooded parcel fronting the Five Mile River, the Barlow House has been substantially altered since its original construction. The house was built as a modest slab-on-grade, one-story frame house with vertical wood siding and broad expanses of glass. The house had two bedrooms and a large, combined living/dining space that opened onto a paved terrace. In an original rendering by Johansen, the house is shown as having a flat or shed roof with deeply cantilevered eaves, but was constructed with shallow gable roofs composed of redwood trusses as suggested by builder Hobbs Inc. to allow complete freedom in the interior layout.

Johansen designed the earliest alterations and additions for the house, which were completed in 1953. The work substantially expanded the modest house and included additions to accommodate a dining room, a den, and a master bedroom suite. A freestanding, one-car garage, connected to the house by a breezeway, was also built at this time.

In 1971, architect Zane Yost designed a new master bedroom suite for the house and expanded the kitchen and garage. The terrace at the back of the house and the stone walls at the front of the house were rebuilt in 1988. In 2005, the original windows were replaced, the terrace and front patio were reconstructed, the landscaping was redesigned, and the interiors were remodeled by the current owner, an architect.

Significance

Built to the designs of architect John M. Johansen for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Barlow, the Barlow House was completed in 1950 and was one of Johansen's first house commissions in New Canaan. Because of the extensive changes to the property, Johansen no longer feels that this house reflects his design. The original property cards for the house do not appear to be in the files of the New Canaan Historical Society, so it has not been possible to trace the early history of alterations and ownership.

In 1979, Stephen and Jane Raye purchased the parcel. It was then sold to Richard and Marianne Thomas in 1989. The Thomas family still owns the property today.

Sources

"Johansen, John, Barlow House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Warner House

Current Building Name: Warner House

Architect: John Johansen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 34

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: House for sale

Credits

Landscape Architect: James Fanning **Lighting Designer:** Richard Kelly

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Wenzel, Co., Inc.

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Warner House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Warner House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Warner House was designed by John Johansen for Mary Ann and Rawleigh Warner, Jr. Mary Ann de Clairmont Warner acquired the property in January 1955 (transferred to Mary Ann and Rawleigh Warner, Jr., in 1956). According to Rawleigh Warner, Jr., work began in August 1955 and was completed in June 1956. The contractor was Wenzel, Co., Inc., the lighting consultant was Richard Kelly, and the landscape architect was James Fanning.

Rawleigh Warner, Jr., was born in 1921. He graduated from Princeton University in 1943 and served in the Army during World War II. In 1946, he married Mary Ann de Clairmont, who had studied at Vassar College. They had two daughters. After the war, he started an investment firm called Warner Bard & Co. After the company failed, he joined Continental Oil Company and then took a job with Socony Mobil Oil (now Mobil Oil) around 1952. In 1965, he became president of Socony, and by 1970, he would become the chairman and CEO of the Mobil Oil Corporation.

Johansen designed the Warner House as a Neo-Palladian structure during what he called his "Neo-Classical Period." He described the house as follows: "Of my designs, the Villa Ponte or Warner House, 1957, most elegantly interpreted the Palladian ideal: the central pavilion was the bridge that spanned the stream, its three bays covered by arched vaults. Flanking this bridge were secondary pavilions rendered in pink stucco decoratively embossed with my designs. Gold leaf was used in the arches and on the living room ceiling, and on the exterior spurting off rainwater to the stream below were eight gilded gargoyles designed by the sculptor Robert Engman. Is this not enough classical revival in the 1950s to raise the envy of most postmodernist architects some 20 or 30 years later!" (Johansen, 1995, 22).

The house had an H-shaped plan with the Rippowam River running under the glassed-in central portion of the building. Each pavilion had a separate function: the parent's pavilion contained the master suite; the children's pavilion contained two bedrooms and a bath; the service pavilion contained the kitchen, storage area, a servant's bedroom, and a basement playroom; and the guest pavilion contained a guest bedroom, bath, and courtyard. The center part of the house contained the social space: a living room, dining room, and balconies overlooking the river. Provisions were made to extend two legs of the "H" for a garage and playroom, but this never occurred.

The Warner House was chosen as one of the best contemporary homes of 1958 by Architectural Record. It was also featured in the New York Times, House & Home, and Architectural Design.

In 1962, the courtyard outside the guestroom was enclosed. In 1969, a natural outdoor pool was constructed. Between 1968 and 1970, a separate 3-car garage/poolhouse was completed. In 1993, living quarters over the garage were constructed. According to Rawleigh Warner, Jr., the alterations were designed by Johansen and built by T.M. Hobbs.

Sources

Bedingfield, Robert E. "Personality: Young Man with Lucky Breaks." New York Times, 8 August 1965, F3.
"The Bridge House, Fairfield County, Connecticut." Architectural Design 17 (November 1959): 474.
"Contemporary Homes Turn from the World and Concentrate on Privacy." New York Times, 29 June 1958, R1.
"Disciplined Romanticism." Architectural Record Houses of 1958 (1958): 170-175.
"Eight houses to help homebuyers raise their sights…" House & Home, December 1958, 120-140.
Johansen, John. John M. Johansen: A Life in the Continuum of Modern Architecture. Milan, Italy: l'Arca Edizioni, 1995.
Johansen, John. "Space-Time Palladian." Architectural Record (December 1955): 150-151.
"Johansen, John, Warner House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Mobil Chief Calls for Integrity." New York Times, 26 May 1973, 44.
"Mobil Oil Chief Honored." Stamford Advocate, 10 April 976, B11.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
Webb, Michael. Modernism Reborn: Mid-Century American Houses. New York: Universe, 2001.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Glass House

Current Building Name: Philip Johnson Glass House

Architect: Philip Johnson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1945-49

ID #: 35

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Historic house museum

Public or Private: Open to public

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: James Fanning **Lighting Designer:** Richard Kelly

Interior Designer: **Builder:** John C. Smith, Inc.

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, RP, MS **Date Surveyed:** 3.27.2008

Survey Notes: Since the Glass House has been extensively researched and surveyed in the past, resources were devoted instead to the remainder of the Modern houses in New Canaan.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Philip Johnson Glass House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Philip Johnson Glass House, view of Brick House, Glass House, and swimming pool

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Philip Johnson Glass House is currently listed as a National Historic Landmark. It also appears eligible as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Significance

The Glass House was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1997. Given the depth of research already completed on this property, resources were devoted instead to the remainder of the Modern houses in New Canaan. The follow timeline excerpted from the Philip Johnson Glass House website outlines the basic history of the property.

1945: Philip Johnson began schematic design of the Glass House
ca. 1945: Johnson purchased five acres in New Canaan, CT
1947: Johnson finalized design of the Glass House
1948: Groundbreaking for the Glass House and Brick House
1949: The Glass House and Brick House completed
1953: Brick House floor plan remodeled
1955: Pool completed
1960: David Whitney and Philip Johnson met, Whitney visited the Glass House
1962: Lake Pavilion completed
1965: Painting Gallery completed
1970: Sculpture Gallery completed
ca. 1980: Entrance Gate completed
1980: Library/Study completed
1981: David Whitney purchases Calluna Farms
1981–2005: Calluna Farms remodeled
1984: Ghost House completed
1985: Lincoln Kirstein Tower completed; Brick House bathroom remodeled
1986: Philip Johnson donates the Glass House to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, retaining a life estate
1990: David Whitney purchases Grainger
1995: Da Monsta completed
ca. 1996: Popestead remodeled
ca. 1999: Grainger remodeled
2005: Philip Johnson dies on January 25, at age 98
2005: David Whitney dies on June 12, at age 66; as directed, his New York and Connecticut estates support the National Trust's preservation and programming of the Philip Johnson Glass House
2007: The National Trust for Historic Preservation opens the Philip Johnson Glass House to the public

Sources

Philip Johnson Glass House. "Glass House Chronology," http://philipjohnsonglasshouse.org/history/bios/chronology.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Hodgson House

Current Building Name: Hodgson House

Architect: Philip Johnson, Landis Gores

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1950-51

ID #: 36

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 50' x 68' and 22' x 77'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: U-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Light grey iron spot brick in Flemish bond, painted wood framed glass walls

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood is greyish black

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Built-up

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Stucco, painted

Fascia: Painted wood and sheet metal flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Light grey iron spot brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass. Awning transom windows

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Paired narrow-stile doors with screen doors

Door Material: Painted wood with glass panels

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights. Can lights sconces

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Sparsely developed residential

Paving- Pedestrian: White gravel with metal edging **Paving - Vehicular:** Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: None, house at grade **Swimming Pool:** Yes

Fence or Gate: No **# of Terraces:** 2 **# of Decks:** 0

Terrace Paving Material: Granite pavers **Deck Material:** NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on artificial berm, large open lawn areas, geometric paths, espaliered trees set against house façade. Oval swimming pool with granite terrace.

Alterations

Alterations: Bedroom addition constructed in 1956-57, but part of original plan for house. House construction was phased to accommodate finances. 1960: Horse stable/carport constructed. 1961: swimming pool constructed. According to historic photographs, paving at courtyard was originally brick, changed to flagstone pavers at unknown date. Fountain in courtyard also removed at unknown date. Landscape alterations by Zion Breen Associates.

Years of Alterations: 1956-57, 1960, 1961 **Foundation:** Concrete

Wall Cladding: Light grey iron spot brick

Doors and Windows: Fixed sash with sliding glass doors and fixed clerestory windows **Sash Material:** Steel

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, built-up

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Separate combination carport/3 stall horse stable

Foundation: Concrete **Wall Cladding:** Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Wood Dutch doors for horse stalls, wood casement windows with wire glass

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, supported on two steel pipe columns at front

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA **Wall Cladding:** NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Fair but cracks in brickwork @ bldg corners

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Philip Johnson **Lighting Designer:** Richard Kelly

Interior Designer: Unknown **Builder:** John C. Smith, Inc.

Alterations Designers: Philip Johnson

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS **Date Surveyed:** 10.30.07

Survey Notes: Glass corridor connects original building to bedroom addition. Screen doors and small transom windows are used in lieu of windows for air circulation.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Hodgson House, rear and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Hodgson House, bedroom wing

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Hodgson House is currently listed in the National Register. It also appears eligible as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Hodgson House, sited on a slight knoll on a property that has both wooded sections and grassy fields, is a one-story, flat-roofed, brick and glass-walled building built in two phases to the designs of architect Philip Johnson. The main part of the house, completed in the first phase of construction in 1951, is U-shaped in plan and surrounds an open, landscaped courtyard. A bedroom addition with a rectangular floor plan was completed by 1957 and is connected to the main part of the house by a glass-walled corridor.

The brickwork is light gray, iron spot brick set in a Flemish bond pattern. Floor-to-ceiling glass surfaces are comprised of fixed plate glass sash and sliding doors set in steel H-shaped columns. The only operable windows in the house are small transoms above secondary doors. The walls terminate in a flush wood fascia.

Significance

The Hodgson House was designed for Richard and Geraldine Hodgson by architect Philip Johnson with Landis Gores acting as associate. The engineer on the project was the Eipel Engineering Company and the builder was John Smith. According to Bill Earls, Johnson received the commission for the house after introducing himself to a couple who was looking at the site across the street from his Glass House (Earls, 112).

At the time that the house was constructed, Richard Hodgson (1917-2000) was president of the Chromatic Television Laboratories, a division of Paramount Pictures Corporation that he had founded to research color television technology. Hodgson received a B.A. from Stanford University in mechanical engineering in 1937 and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1939. He later worked at the MIT Radiation Laboratory and the Atomic Energy Commission before joining Chromatic in the late 1940s. In 1955, he took a job with Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, eventually becoming President and CEO. At Fairchild, he was in charge of the establishment of the Fairchild Semiconductor division (New York Times, 18 March 2000). In 1968, he left to become a senior executive with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (New York Times, 5 September 1968). He later served on the board of the Intel Corporation. In his obituary, Richard Hodgson was noted as "play[ing] a role in the events that led to the creation of Silicon Valley" (New York Times, 18 March 2000). His wife, Geraldine Reed Hodgson, was a vice president at advertising agency Ellington & Co. until she retired in 1962 (New York Times, 19 January 1975). The Hodgsons had four children.

Richard and Geraldine Hodgson acquired the site for their future house in November 1949. After having trouble getting a mortgage for a Modern house, the Hodgsons decided to build the structure in two phases: the main house followed by a bedroom wing (Earls, 114). Until the bedroom wing could be completed, the Hodgsons would use the guest bedroom as their bedroom and the children would stay in the study. Construction of the main house began in August 1950 and was largely completed by May 1951. During construction, builder John Smith placed a cocoon around the house to protect the masonry during the winter, causing much curiosity about the project. When asked by a reporter to describe the unique aspects of the house, Smith replied, "The whole danged thing is unique" (New York Times, 6 May 1951). The Hodgson House won the first prize in residential design at the 1954 International Exhibition of Architecture in Brazil and the 1956 First Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects. It was published in 1952's Built in USA: Post-war Architecture, and the March 1953 issue of Architectural Record. The Hodgson House was included in the 1952 and 1961 Modern house tours in New Canaan.

The bedroom addition and connecting glass bridge were completed between 1956 and 1957 by builder E.W. Howell Co. In 1960, the combination stable/carport was constructed, and the swimming pool was added in 1961. The courtyard was altered in 1970 by Zion and Breen Landscape Architects: the fountain was removed and the original brick paving was replaced with granite pavers. Between 1991 and 2005, the house was transferred within the Hodgson family through a number of quitclaims. In 2006, Craig Bassam and Christopher Scott Fellows purchased the property. The Hodgson House is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is protected by easements administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Sources

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Markoff, John. "Richard Hodgson, 83, Pioneer in Creation of Silicon Valley." New York Times, 18 March 2000.
Mordecai, John. "Johnson Up On National Historic Register." New Canaan News-Review, 21 July 2005.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Wiley House

Current Building Name: Wiley House

Architect: Philip Johnson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1952-53

ID #: 37

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:** Richard Kelly

Interior Designer: **Builder:** John C. Smith. Eipel Engineering (engineer)

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Wiley House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Wiley House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Wiley House was designed by Philip Johnson for the Wiley family. Robert C. Wiley acquired the land in 1952 from John C. Smith, likely the same John C. Smith who ended up as contractor for the Wiley House. The engineer on the project was Eipel Engineering and the lighting designer was Richard Kelly. The house was completed in 1953. Robert C. Wiley was a real estate developer. In 1954, he would convince Johnson to design a prototype speculative house down the street from the Wiley House for the Wiley Development Corporation.

Johnson designed the Wiley House to try and reconcile, as he said, "the (perhaps) irreconcilable: modern architectural purity and the requirements of living families. Why can't people learn to live in the windowless spheres of Ledoux or the pure glass prisms of Mies van der Rohe? No, they need a place for Junior to practice piano while mother plays bridge with her neighbors" (Architectural Record, June 1955). To achieve this, he cantilevered a glass pavilion above a stone-and-glass podium, setting the pavilion at an 180-degree angle to the base. The roof of the podium provided terraces outside the glass box. The pavilion contained public spaces, including the living room, dining room, and kitchen, and the podium contained the private spaces, including four bedrooms, baths, a sitting room, a studio, a small kitchen, and utility space. Johnson also designed a swimming pool to sit adjacent to the existing barn on the site.

Johnson described the glass pavilion in 1955: "The effect from inside - quite opposite of my glass house - is that of a cage. No indoor-outdoor nonsense. The 15 foot high ceilings free the view into the high hickories that surround the house which at night make fantastic traceries against the black sky" (New Canaan Advertiser, 7 April 1955). Exterior awnings on the pavilion provided shade. The Wiley House was included in the 1955 and 1957 Modern House tours in New Canaan and was featured in the June 1955 issue of Architectural Record.

In 1960, the existing barn was altered to include a playroom, bathroom, and dressing rooms for the adjacent pool. In 1978, the house was purchased by the Archbishopric of New York. In 1979, Howell D. and Linda K. Wood acquired the property. Frank P. Gallipoli purchased the house in 1994.

Sources

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Jenkins, Stover, and David Mohney. The Houses of Philip Johnson. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 2001.
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“Landhaus in New Canaan/Connecticut.” Die Kunst und Das Schöne Heim, n.d.
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Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
“Wiley Pool To Be In Parade.” New Canaan Advertiser, 30 August 1952.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Ball House

Current Building Name: Ball House

Architect: Philip Johnson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953

ID #: 38

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential, wetland

Paving- Pedestrian:

Paving - Vehicular:

Exterior Stairs:

Swimming Pool:

Fence or Gate:

# of Terraces:

# of Decks:

Terrace Paving Material:

Deck Material:

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall:

Cut Stone Wall:

DRY SET Field Stone Wall:

Cut Stone Wall:

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations:

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Sash Material:

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation:

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Demolition permit filed in 2007

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors:

Date Surveyed: NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

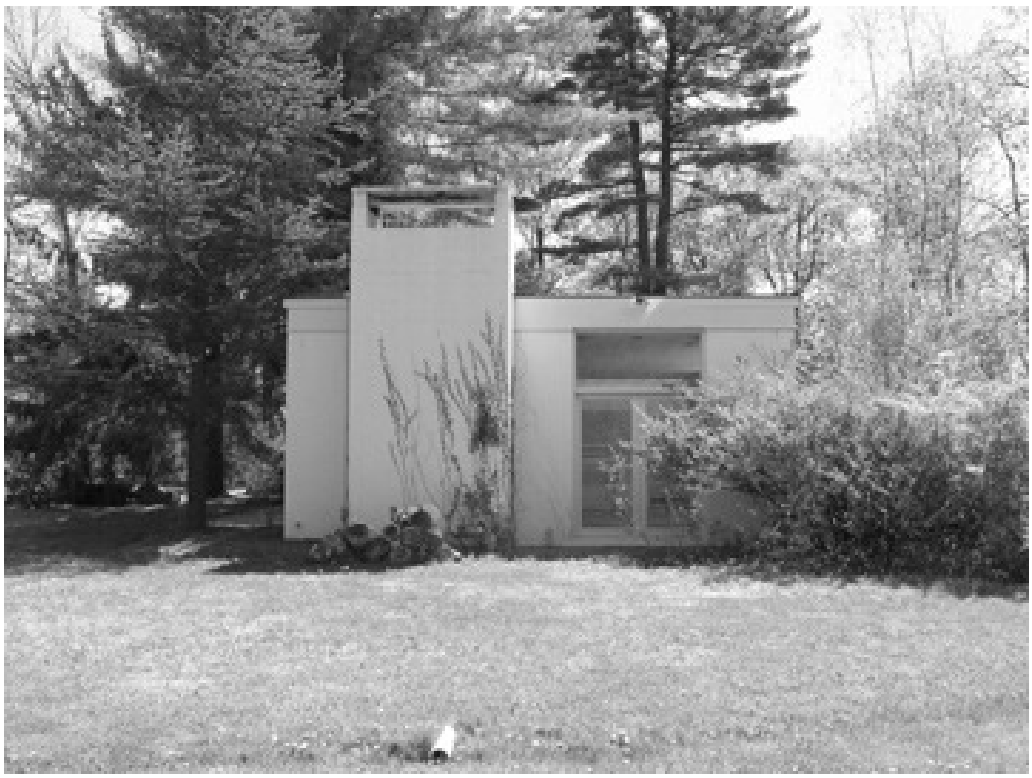
Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ball House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ball House, view of side façade from street



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Ball House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. The Ball House is one of Philip Johnson's early residential commissions, completed only four years after the iconic Glass House, and demonstrates his experimentation with symmetry, separation of private and public spaces, relationship to the landscape, and use of material. The building also shows Mies van de Rohe's strong influence on Johnson's career during the 1940s and early 1950s.

Description

Although field survey was not conducted on the Ball House, examining the exterior of the house from a public way combined with a study of the original drawings provided information about the house's original appearance. In the tradition of Mies van de Rohe's courtyard homes, Philip Johnson designed the Ball House as a modest one-story, two-bedroom home with an offset axial plan, a flat roof, symmetrically arranged terraces with slate paving, and pink stucco wall surfaces relieved by linearly grouped and symmetrically arranged painted entrance ensembles. The entrance ensembles included fixed plate glass windows, glazed narrow-stile doors, fixed or operable transom windows, and screen doors with bronze rails. Skylights above the hall and kitchen provided additional light to interior spaces. A stucco finish chimney projected approximately 3' from the east end of the north façade.

The indoor spaces were constrained by a relatively small rectangular plan measuring 57' north-to-south and only 24' east-to-west on the approximately 2.2-acre site. The off-set axial plan becomes evident when the 18' x10' entry terrace at the north end of the west elevation and the 18' x10' backyard terrace (directly opposite the entry terrace off of the east elevation) are considered with the rectangular form of the indoor spaces. A tall, stucco finish garden wall, sited 6' to the west of the west elevation, stretches approximately 70' to the south, where it returns 14' to the east to screen the bedroom wing from the adjacent parking area. The low profile and grounded appearance of the house communicates well with the low-lying nature of the site, largely a wetland.

The original layout of the first floor included an open living/dining room at the north end of the house; a kitchen to the south of the entry doors, separated from the living/dining area by built-in cabinetry (designed by Johnson); and two bedrooms and a bathroom. The north wall in the living/dining room has a large fireplace with a soapstone surrounding mantel which floats approximately two feet above the floor line. The floors were finished with slate pavers, which along with the floor-to-ceiling glass, reduced the distinction between exterior and interior spaces.

Significance

Alice Ball purchased the property from John Mulliken for $7,000 in 1952. It appears that Mulliken subdivided a larger parcel and sold the portion fronting the street to Alice Ball, retaining the adjacent land to the north and east. By early 1953, Ball commissioned Philip Johnson to design a small house for the site. Johnson's drawings for a "Residence for Mrs. Alice Ball" are dated February 1953, and were revised in June and July 1953 (Johnson, "Residence for Mrs. Alice Ball," February 1953). A 1951 article about Johnson's Hodgson House (1951), mentions that his next project would be a "'pink palace' with a hanging fireplace," most certainly referring to the Ball House (New York Times, 6 May 1951). The assessor records describe the Ball House as a "Modern" one-story, single-family residence.

The 1954 and 1955 town directories do not list the Ball House, but this could simply be because no one was home during the neighborhood canvass. The 1956 directory lists "Mary C. Ball" as residing at the house and running a clothing store called "The Wharf" at 75 Elm Street. In the 1957 directory, "Mrs. Hougen Ball" is listed as living at the house with two grown children: Mary T. Ball, who still owned "The Wharf," and James, who was in the U.S. Air Force. Mrs. Hougen Ball was presumably Alice Ball. She is not listed as a widow in the directories, so it is unclear if she was divorced or widowed.

In 1959, the assessment on the land was reduced by 20% because the lot was "low & wet" with "cattails in rear." In 1960, the property was purchased by F. Jay Ward, Jr., et. al. A garage was constructed on the property in 1962. In 1965, the house was sold to Margaret Mary Ward (no apparent relation to F. Jay Ward, Jr.), the wife of Commodore Sir Melville Ward, Baronet. In 1969, Marjorie K. Macrae purchased the property. In 1977, Janet T. Phypers acquired the property. On July 20, 1977, a permit was filed to convert an existing room in the garage into a bedroom and bathroom for $9,000; this work was completed in 1978. It also appears that the bathroom addition off of the master bedroom was constructed between 1969 and 1977. In 2005, current owner Cristina A. Ross purchased the house. Ross completed some restoration work on the building in 2007.

Sources

Glavin, Kristiana. "Alice Ball House Work Continued." New Canaan News-Review, 30 December 2005, A12-13.
Haeberly, Mabel C. "Residence in New Canaan Soon to Shed 'Winter Wraps' to Display Modern Design." New York Times, 6 May 1951, R1.
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Kenyon, Laura. "Environmental Commission hears attempt to save house." New Canaan Advertiser, 23 March 2006, 22A.
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"Preservation Opportunities, The Most Important Threatened Historic Places In Connecticut." Connecticut Preservation News, September/October 2007, 5-6.
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Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Wiley Speculative House

Current Building Name: Wiley Speculative House

Architect: Philip Johnson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954-55

ID #: 39

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Wiley Speculative House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Wiley Speculative House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Wiley Speculative House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Wiley Speculative House was designed by Philip Johnson for the Wiley Development Corporation of New Canaan. It was Johnson's first speculative house design (Progressive Architecture, October 1955). R.C. Wiley, Trustee, acquired the property in 1954. Robert Wiley was the owner of the Wiley House (1952-53), which was also designed by Johnson and located down the street. Construction began in 1954 and was completed in 1955.

The one-story house was of post-and-beam construction on a concrete block foundation with plywood exterior sheathing. Because the house was designed as a prototype, it needed to be private and versatile: "The plan had to be flexible since the needs of the future owners were unknown; it also had to be easily adaptable to other sites…an important factor if the same plan were used on the average suburban lot" (Architectural Record, November 1955). Johnson achieved this privacy by designing a L-shaped plan sheltering a terrace with a separate garage enclosing the third side of the terrace. One wing of the house contained the den, living room, dining room, and kitchen, while the other wing contained a master bedroom and bath, and two children's bedrooms and bath.

The Wiley Development Corporation offered to build the prototype anywhere in Fairfield County for $45,000, but the Wiley Speculative House was never reproduced. The Wiley Speculative House was featured in Progressive Architecture in October 1955 and Architectural Record in November 1955.

In 1956, the property was acquired by Roland W. Rodegast et. ux. In 1958, E. Wyatte Hicks et. ux. purchased the house (transferred to E. Wyatte and Shirley M. Hicks in 1960, and E. Wyatte Hicks and the Estate of Shirley M. Hicks in 1987). E. Wyatte Hicks was an executive at the J. Walter Thompson Company in New York; he and his wife Shirley had four children. In 1963, two additions were constructed adjacent to the garage: one connected the garage to the house, and the second was attached to the end of the garage, creating a U-shaped plan for the house. A note on the 1975-87 assessor property street card noted that the house was made of "inferior materials." In 1992, Peter A. Kanter purchased the property (transferred to Peter A. and Regina A. Kanter in 1994). In 2003, Joyce D. Flaschen, Trustee, and Robert J. Miller, Trustee, acquired the house.

Sources

“Ad Agency Executive in New Post.” New Canaan Advertiser, 19 September 1974, 13B.
“Connecticut Development House is Versatile.” Architectural Record (November 1955): 176-179.
Jenkins, Stover, and David Mohney. The Houses of Philip Johnson. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 2001.
“Johnson Designs Builder House.” Progressive Architecture (October 1955): 83.
"Johnson, Philip, Speculative House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Boissonas House

Current Building Name: Boissonas House

Architect: Philip Johnson

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 40

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: Philip Johnson **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** E.W. Howell Co.

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Boissonas House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Boissonas House was designed by Philip Johnson for Eric Boissonas and his family. Boissonas was a geophysicist and an executive at a French engineering firm based in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Eric H. Boissonas et. ux. acquired the property in 1954. The house was completed in 1956. The contractor for the project was E.W. Howell, Co. and the structural engineer was the Eipel Engineering Company. The landscape was apparently designed by Johnson. Johnson later said the Boissonas House was his favorite and his best house (Metropolitan Home, March-April 2001).

The original house, located on a 33.3-acre lot, was designed as a series of pavilions constructed of steel, brick, and glass. The house plan was zoned into three areas: a bedroom wing containing four bedrooms, three full baths, and a half-bath; a service wing containing the kitchen, two maid's rooms, and a bath; and a social wing containing the living room and dining room. All three wings were joined by an entry foyer. In the basement were the laundry room, playroom, a half-bath, storage rooms, utility space, and a 3-car garage. The two-story living room contained an organ and was designed as an "acoustical chamber" with the organ pipes hidden in the floor (New York Times, 23 June 1957).

The Boissonas House was included in the 1957 and 1967 Modern House tours in New Canaan and featured in the September 1959 issue of Architectural Forum. In the article, the house was described as "deriv[ing] from the rigid components of checkerboard, square bay, and pier…The checkerboard, eight units across by five units deep, was marked off on an artificial earth terrace overlooking a landscape of woods and water. Once the 16 ft. squares were established, the composition grew into three dimensions by enclosing some of the rectangular building bays as rooms and leaving others open as outdoor space…The rectangular piers, two bricks wide and four bricks long…are columns when seen head-on and slabs when viewed from the side. As columns they mark points in space; as slabs they direct the eye from the entrance to the rear terraces in accordance with the plan" (Architectural Forum, September 1959).

In 1960, the Boissonas family sold the house to the Logan Road Realty Corp. and moved to France, where Johnson had designed another house for them. John F. Hennessy Jr. acquired the property in 1963. The 33.3-acre parcel was subdivided at some point, likely by the Logan Road Realty Corp., leaving the house with a 8-acre lot. In 1969, a swimming pool was installed. In 1971, William S. and Ann T. Gilbreath purchased the property, which was then sold to interior designer Jay Spectre in 1983 with four acres of land. After Spectre's death, the house remained vacant for about three years. In 1994, the property was sold to Bill Matassoni and Pamela Valentine. Matassoni and Valentine restored the deteriorating house and made some alterations, including replacing the plate glass with insulated glass, rebuilding the roofs, and updating the systems.

Sources

“A Pavilion.” Architectural Forum (September 1959): 121.
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Giovannini, Joseph. “Respecting Philip Johnson.” Metropolitan Home, March-April 2001, 140-147.
Helle, Nancy. “A Different Garden Tour.” The Ridgefield Press, 16 June 2005.
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Jenkins, Stover, and David Mohney. The Houses of Philip Johnson. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 2001.
"Johnson, Philip, Boissonas House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Kellogg, Cynthia. “Modern and Original.” New York Times Magazine, 23 June 1957, 29.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“Stops for Sunday tour.” [New Canaan Advertiser], 18 May 1967.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
Webb, Michael. Modernism Reborn: Mid-Century American Houses. New York: Universe, 2001.
Williams-Rohr, Laura. “Modern Love.” Fairfield County Magazine, October 2000, 50-59.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Talbert House

Current Building Name: Talbert House

Architect: William G. Jones

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1951

ID #: 41

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 57'x25'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Frame

Piers: Yes

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Horizontal wood tongue and groove siding on first floor. Concrete block at basement. Wood clapboards at location of former garage doors.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, off white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable, shed

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain wood

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed with exterior leaders

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Not visible

Porch Roof Type: Flat

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed multipane wood windows. Aluminum horizontal sliding windows with aluminum awning storm windows.

Sash Material: Wood, aluminum

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Flush with screen doors

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed rectangular metal downlight

Locations: In soffit in entry canopy

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential, many new "McMansion" houses

Paving- Pedestrian: Brick. Flagstone pavers.

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Pink marble and mortared stone. Brick.

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone

Deck Material: Wood, runs partially cantilevered to porch, has wood brise soleil above

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House sited on granite outcropping on steep hill. Many old stone walls on property. Winding stairs with metal rail to front door.

Alterations

Alterations: No dates known for alts. Porch at east end of house enclosed as screen porch at early date. Wood stairs leading to deck at southeast corner replaced with marble stairs on slope. Garage in basement converted to living space, then converted to studio by the early 1970s. Current owners replaced some glazed wood doors with steel flush doors and sealed window in den. Some original wood sash replaced with aluminum sash.

Years of Alterations: Unknown

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ No

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair to good, wood exhibiting some deterioration

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: House set on very steep hill atop granite outcropping. Design has a bungalow feel with traditional gable-roofed house juxtaposed with Modern elements like the cantilevered screened porch on V-shaped metal piers set into concrete footers, and dramatic 2-story shed roofed section with extensive glazing. Wood brise-soleil at wood deck along front of house.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Talbert House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Talbert House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Talbert House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. The Talbert House is one of the earliest Modern houses in New Canaan and demonstrates a unique amalgam of a traditional gable-roofed house combined with a soaring shed-roofed wing with extensive glazing. It suggests that architect William G. Jones, whose regular job was designing prefabricated houses for American Homes, took one of his traditional house designs and played off it to accommodate the hilly site and the owners' desires for something new.

Description

The Talbert House is sited on a hilly rock outcropping, allowing for a full-height basement level at either end of the building. The house is heavily fenestrated with glass openings divided by muntins into horizontal panes in groups of twos, threes, or fours. Unlike many of the Modern houses in New Canaan, which feature vertical wood siding, the Talbert House has horizontal tongue-and-groove wood siding. The main part of the house has a shallow gable roof with the primary entrance at the side gable. A narrow wood deck shaded by a wood brise-soleil extends across the front of the building. At one gable end is a wing with a steeply pitched shed roof that stands in sharp contrast to the massing of the rest of the building. At the other gable end is a screened-in porch supported on V-shaped metal piers on concrete footers. This porch was originally open and extended over the basement garage openings, now enclosed as living space.

Significance

The Talbert House was constructed in 1951 for Merrill E. Talbert, an executive with American Houses in New York City, and his wife Annette (Andy), a copy group head at Benton & Bowles Advertising Agency. Their architect, William G. Jones, was the New York architect for American Houses.

According to current owner Allan Mitchell, who was friends with the Talberts and was present during the construction phase, neighbors nicknamed the building "the glass house" during construction. The house was one of the earliest Moderns. Because of the hilly property, which was formerly part of a tree nursery, a notch had to be blasted through the rock outcropping to construct the house. Mitchell remembered the interior as being finished with expensive wallpaper, "[giving] the interior a unique character. Much of the paper had bold colors and designs, including art deco." The basement living space was intended as a mother-in-law's apartment. The house originally had a Sarcotherm heating system. Mitchell remembers the Talberts being very happy with their Modern house: "The choosing of the hard-to-build-on site…the blasting through the ledge…the international style…the upstairs living area reached by exterior wooden stairs…the saving and use of trees..and so many other things indicated a bold willingness to try things new…and to satisfy one's own desires…I remember…[t]heir thrill in this new creation of theirs" (Mitchell, 13 October 2001).

After the Talberts divorced, Annette Talbert sold the house to John P. and Helen M. Winandy in 1964. The Winandys sold it to Catherine S. Kniffen in 1965. Alan J. and Nancy C. Mitchell purchased it from someone named Hahn in 1971. Allan Mitchell is a well-known photographer and has photographed many buildings in New Canaan. Sometime after purchasing the house, the Mitchells converted the basement into a studio, darkroom, and office. The basement originally contained a two-car garage, a bedroom, a den with a fireplace, a bathroom, and a furnace room, pump room, and a storage room. At an unknown date, but likely early in the house's history, the porch at the east end was enclosed as a screened porch, and the original wood stairs, which led to the deck at the southeast corner of the house, were removed and replaced with the current marble stairs and brick walkway.

Sources

"Jones, William G., Kniffen House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Mitchell, J. Allan. “[Address redacted].” do_co.mo.mo New International Selection documentation fiche, 13 October 2001. On file at the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“New Canaan Landmarks on Calendar.” New Canaan Advertiser, 17 October 1974, 9B.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Kehm House

Current Building Name: Kehm House

Architect: Bimel Kehm (unconfirmed)

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1951

ID #: 42

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 59'x48', 98'x38'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes, at 1962 addition

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Concrete block in irregular sizes, laid in irregular bond possibly to resemble stone. V-channel vertical wood siding.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed, shallow slope

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Boxed, angled up at roof edge

Soffit: Plain with horizontal strip louvers

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Aluminum

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Metal cladding

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed wood plate glass windows. Outswinging wood awning windows in groups of five adjacent to fixed corner windows.

Sash Material: Painted wood, aluminum

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Narrow-stile single door with tall fixed transom window and sidelight. Aluminum replacement sliding glass doors. Flush wood doors.

Door Material: Painted wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Square sconces, not original

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Belgian block, flagstone, white rocks with metal edge

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone pavers

Swimming Pool: Yes, 1 indoor, 1 outdoor

Fence or Gate: Metal and glass gate and stone wall around pool

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on low site fronting Mill River. Circular drive at front around lawn area. River encircles house and leads to pond at front. Large flagstone terrace at rear with brick outdoor kitchen. Round Belgian block fountain at drive.

Alterations

Alterations: 1962: new garage/studio and passageway built. 1967 (ca.): alterations by architect Dan Kistler. Garage converted to living space. Passage between house and garage enlarged. New fieldstone patio constructed at front of house. New 2-car garage built. 1998: alterations by Kistler. Upstairs rooms, bathrooms, and office renovated. Large indoor pool and sculpture studio built. Garage altered. Outdoor pool, large terrace built, and existing terraces altered.

Years of Alterations: 1962, 1965, 1998

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Sliding glass doors. Fixed and horizontal sliding windows.

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, material not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2-car garage

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: 1 wide overhead door

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown (1962). Dan Kistler (1967, 1998)

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.02.07

Survey Notes: Very complicated and organically developed house. Window sash and style vary greatly. Retaining and cheek walls are mortar set field stone walls. Most float above the deck or patio surface. Multiple shed roofs, angular placement of additions, vertical wood siding, and floating vertical piers framing many window and storefront bays make for a very planar house. Sculpture on property by owner Sue Gress.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Kehm House, side and rear façades of original house

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Kehm House, rear façade of 1998 addition

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Kehm House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Kehm House is a long, sprawling structure composed of a small 1951 house and multiple additions. The low-lying site is relatively flat and is largely encircled by the Mill River. A large flagstone terrace, an outdoor swimming pool, and an outdoor grill area/kitchen extend along the rear of the house, partially bordered by a curving mortared fieldstone wall.

The original house (1951) is located at one end of the structure. It is a two-story, shed-roofed building with irregularly laid concrete block at the ground floor (possibly designed to resemble stone) and vertical wood siding at the second floor. At the rear of the building is a corner window assembly consisting of vertical openings containing fixed sash bordered on both sides by five small wood awning windows set in a vertical line that operate concurrently like louvers.

Adjacent to the 1951 house is a small, one-story, flat-roofed hyphen (1962) set at an angle to the house that connects the house to the former garage. The former garage (1962) is a two-story, shed-roofed structure with irregularly laid concrete block at the base and vertical wood siding at the second floor. At the main façade, large openings that originally contained garage doors are now infilled with sliding glass doors. At the rear of the building is a second-floor deck.

Next to the former garage is a one-story, flat-roofed structure containing the current garage (1967). This building has a concrete foundation and is clad in vertical wood siding. At the rear, this building is connected to an indoor pool structure (1998) with a shed-roofed skylight and wall of sliding glass doors separated by fieldstone-clad piers. The indoor pool structure leads to the flagstone terrace (1998) and outdoor swimming pool (1998). The final structure is a two-story studio building (1998) with a flat roof, a concrete foundation, and vertical wood siding.

Significance

The lot for the Kehm House was purchased in 1950 by Bimel and Rowena Kehm (ownership was transferred to Rowena Kehm in 1951). Bimel Kehm also designed the Kelly House (1954) in New Canaan. Although the current owner notes that Kehm built the house, he was likely the architect. The house was completed in 1951 and originally had an C-shaped plan with a projecting 1-story screened porch at the rear with a roof deck. A 2-car garage was in the ground floor of the 2-story portion of the house. This original house is now difficult to see because of later additions.

In 1954, the property was sold to John S. Bainbridge and his wife. A 1959 realtor listing shows that house had a 2-car garage and carport, although it does not show up in assessor records at that time. In 1961, Dorothy H. Gary purchased the property. In 1962, a new garage/studio building and a new bath were added. The new building had a 2-car garage and 1-car carport on the ground level and a studio above with a balcony overlooking the back of the property. A narrow diagonal hyphen connected the house to the garage. The assessor noted at the time that a flagstone terrace at the rear and a garage were added to the assessment since they had not been previously noted. It is unclear if this existing garage was replaced or renovated in 1962.

In 1967, Francis and Anna L. Gress purchased the house (later transferred to Francis Gress in 1978). Major renovations by architect Dan Kistler were undertaken around 1967. The garage was converted to living space and a new 2-car garage was constructed adjacent to this building. The diagonal hyphen between the house and original garage was expanded. A new fieldstone patio was constructed at the front of the house. The open deck above the porch was likely enclosed at this time. According to the Gresses, the living room, dining room, kitchen, playroom, and patios were all enlarged in this renovation. In 1998, the Gresses undertook another major renovation using Kistler. The upstairs rooms, bathrooms, and office were renovated, and a new addition containing an indoor lap pool and sculpture studio were constructed. A 60’ x 7’ terracotta wall sculpture by owner and artist Sue S. Gress was constructed along the wall near the indoor pool. The garage was also altered slightly. An outdoor in-ground pool and fieldstone terrace were added at the rear. All of the renovations were completed by Marek Bil, Old World Construction.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Unknown, Gress House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Kelly House

Current Building Name: Kelly House

Architect: Bimel Kehm

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954

ID #: 43

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 80'x44'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: L-shaped

Basement: Yes, crawl space

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards. V-channel vertical wood siding at former garage and altered areas.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Awning, hopper, fixed, casement, double-hung with 4 horizontal lights. Unusual squared-off bay window with hopper sash.

Sash Material: Wood with some vinyl replacements

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Flush. Glazed.

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Brass-colored lanterns, probably replacements

Locations: Mounted on wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on flat site with lawn at rear. Stone-lined channel at back appears to carry rain runoff.

Alterations

Alterations: 1958-59: incorporated garage was converted into a playroom (original door openings now filled with large windows) and a freestanding two-car garage with attached open shed was completed. 1968: screened porch at the rear enclosed and converted into living space (columns still extant on the interior); fieldstone patio likely installed. 1987: second floor added above former screened porch. ca. 1992: 12'x8' addition built at side of house.

Years of Alterations: 1958-59, 1968, 1987, ca. 1992

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood clapboards. V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Casement, awning

Sash Material: Vinyl

Roof Shape and Material: Gable, asphalt shingles

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2 car with open shed at rear

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel horizontal wood siding

Doors and Windows: Paneled wood glazed overhead doors. Wood paneled doors with horizontal glazing. 6/ 6 double-hung wood windows.

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable, asphalt shingles, shed at rear has flat roof

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Fair

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.29.07

Survey Notes: House similar to Willis Mills House with Colonial Revival mixed with Modern aesthetic. Interesting window designs with strongly defined horizontal lights. Additions are poorly designed.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Kelly House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Kelly House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Kelly House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations and it does not display the typical characteristics of a mid-century Modern house.

Description

The Kelly House is set on a flat site with a lawn at the rear. The house consists of a two-story, gable-roofed structure with a one-story, gable-roofed ell that originally contained the garage. The house has been heavily altered with poorly designed additions. The main part of the house is clad in wood clapboards, while the ell and altered areas are clad in V-channel vertical wood siding. A freestanding, gable-roofed, two-car garage with an open shed at the rear is set next to the house. Unlike most of the Modern houses in New Canaan, the Kelly House was designed as a traditional Colonial Revival structure with some vaguely Modern elements, most notably in the design of the fenestration. The hopper windows on the first floor have heavy, strongly defined mullions and are either grouped into squared-off bay windows or are adjacent to fixed sash or doors.

Significance

The Kelly House was designed by architect Bimel Kehm as a speculative house. In 1954, Bimel Kehm and R.R. Austin acquired the property from West Hills of New Canaan, which may have been a development company; a note on the assessor records states “West Hills Dev” and the street appears to be a post-World War II development. Kehm designed a one-family house with incorporated garage for the site. By October 1954, the house was 40% finished and was completed by 1955.

The house was sold to Dean McCune Kelly in 1955. Between 1958 and 1959, the incorporated garage was converted into a playroom (the original door openings are now filled with large windows) and a new freestanding two-car garage with attached open shed was completed. In 1961, the house was purchased by Vincent A. and Ruth M.W. Tauber. In 1968, the screened porch at the rear was enclosed and converted into living space. At least some of the original porch columns are still visible on the interior. The fieldstone patio at the back may have also been installed at this time, since it does not appear in earlier assessor records. In 1987, a second floor was added above the former screened porch. Around 1992, a small 12’x8’ addition was built at the side of the house; it appears that the window on this addition was moved from another location on the house since it matches the original windows and the moldings do not line up with the window moldings on the adjacent façade. Kevin M. and Sally S. Sweeney purchased the house in 1992.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Techbuilt House/Swallen House

Current Building Name: Techbuilt House/Swallen House

Architect: Carl Koch

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954

ID #: 44

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 50'x25'; 13'x17

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Wood frame with steel reinforcing

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical redwood siding, painted composite board panels, glass

Are Walls Painted? Vertical siding is stained. Panels are painted

Trim Material: Painted and stained or clear finish wood

Roof Type: Gable with deep eaves

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Open with and without exposed rafter ends

Soffit: Plain; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; painted wood

Gutter Material: Aluminum

Gutter Type: Hanging on brackets - many replacement

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Sliding sash with exterior screens and fixed sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Flush panel hollow wood door; narrow stile glazed sliding doors

Door Material: Painted wood; and painted wood with glass

Door Hardware: Appears to be replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Plain and ornamental globes, spotlights

Locations: Entry soffit, walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Mortar set flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set flagestone with fieldstone risers

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Mortar set slate

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Mortar set fieldstone planters, house sited on a hillside. Dry set field stone walls used as a tall curb and as retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: 1964: Landis Gores designed a family room/great room addition to the house, with a narrow corridor to connect the addition to the main house. The addition is framed with steel columns.

Years of Alterations: 1964

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding; painted composite panels; glass

Doors and Windows: Fixed projecting corner windows, Fixed glass and paired casements. Sliding glass doors.

Sash Material: Painted wood. Aluminum sliding doors with original hardware

Roof Shape and Material: Gable with deep eaves, asphalt shingle

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Separate carport with shed

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Natural finish steel columns and vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Awning windows, clear finish flush panel hollow wood doors

Roof Configuration and Material: Shallow pitch asymmetrical gable roof with rolled asphalt finish

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers: Landis Gores

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.14.07

Survey Notes: Gores addition is an elegant solution to a great room. Wood frame, projecting corner windows add an elegant touch to the space. Although fairly developed, no other houses are visible from house, original house retains all of its original sliding windows, Ornamental globes have painted steel diffusers. Plain globes are simple frosted glass. Entrance is a hyphen connection between the original house and the addition.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Techbuilt House/Swallen House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** May 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Techbuilt House/Swallen House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Techbuilt House/Swallen House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Techbuilt House/Swallen House is situated on a heavily wooded lot, which runs north-to-south on the north side of a hill. The lot slopes upwards towards the west and north. The hill has been terraced to fit the house, patio, and play area.

This house has an irregular plan consisting of a rectangular structure connected by a hyphen to a cross-shaped addition. The wood-framed house has a concrete foundation and the walls are clad in redwood siding. The gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Windows dominate each façade of the original structure. The hyphen attaches to the original building at a perpendicular angle, but then tapers as it turns towards the addition, which is rotated at an angle to the rest of the structure. The center of the addition is a square, but the projecting segments at each elevation create a slightly trapezoidal structure, which tapers towards the southwest. At each corner of the addition is a slightly projecting, floor-to-ceiling, rectangular window bay. The main elevations of the addition are composed of floor-to-ceiling windows as well. A flagstone patio is located to the south of the original structure and the hyphen.

Significance

The two-story rectangular portion of the Techbuilt House/Swallen House was constructed in 1954 for James Swallen. A carport was also constructed south of the home at this time.

The Techbuilt House was designed by architect Carl Koch in 1953 as a pre-fabricated house prototype. At least two other Techbuilt Houses were constructed in New Canaan: the Techbuilt House/Aderer House in 1954-55 and the Techbuilt House/Wilson House in 1958. Koch designed several affordable prefabricated housing prototypes starting in the late 1940s. The Techbuilt House was one of the most successful and would eventually be available in twenty-two models. When first designed, the Techbuilt House could be constructed (on average) for $7.50/square foot, as compared to $10/square foot for a conventional builder's house and $15/square foot for a custom-built house.

The exterior design of the Techbuilt House was characterized by a pitched roof, large plate glass windows on the gable ends, and deep eaves. Koch had determined that the most economical use of space was achieved by a two-story plan that was essentially an "attic" with high side walls stacked on a partially recessed "basement," allowing for adequate light and ventilation at both levels. The shell of the house was composed of stress skinned panels on a four-foot-wide module. The main entrance could be located either at the gable ends or on the side walls, depending on how the building was situated to the street. The utility core and stairs were located at the core of the house to allow for flexible use of the interior spaces.

The pre-fabricated shell of the house, which included wall panels, end panels, floor panels, roof panels, and beams, girders, and trim, was designed for shipment in a single truckload delivery to a site with a prepared foundation. Once on site, four men could unload the components, frame the house, and roof it within two days. All of the finishing work could then be completed inside. The primary cost savings were created through the delivery method and fast pace of construction. The Techbuilt House could be customized to different sizes and floor plans and allowed owners to finish the interiors to individual taste and budget.

In 1960, two sheds were added to the property. In 1964, a corridor and one-story addition were added to the west of the home. Harvard Five architect Landis Gores designed the addition. The elevated plinth where this house sits offers a feeling of security and privacy, which allows the outdoor living spaces to be located on the front side of the house and facilitated the extensive use of glass in the construction of both the original building and the addition.

Sources

"In the market? Another New Canaan Modern." DOCOMOMO Newsletter, Summer 2004, 11.
Koch, Carl, and Andy Lewis. At Home With Tomorrow. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1958.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Techbuilt House/Aderer House

Current Building Name: Techbuilt House/Aderer House

Architect: Carl Koch

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954-55

ID #: 45

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Techbuilt House/Aderer House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Techbuilt House/Aderer House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Techbuilt House/Aderer House was completed between 1954 and 1955. Alexander P. Aderer et. ux. acquired the property for the house in 1954. Aderer attended City College (NYC) and Columbia University and served in the Army and Navy during World War II. After the war, he worked for the Atomic Energy Commission. By 1966, Aderer was president of Victor O. Kubes, Inc., a color lithographic plant in New York. His wife Janice was a guidance counselor. Alex, Janice, and their daughter Noel all ran for State Senate at different times, but none of them were successful.

According to notes on the assessor property field cards, the house was one of architect Carl Koch's prefabricated Techbuilt houses. When completed, the Techbuilt House/Aderer House had a rectangular plan, a concrete block foundation, a gable roof, and was of plywood and glass construction. The house was 80% complete by October 1954 and finished in 1955. The Techbuilt House was designed by architect Carl Koch in 1953 as a pre-fabricated house prototype. At least two other Techbuilt Houses were constructed in New Canaan: the Techbuilt House/Swallen House in 1954 and the Techbuilt House/Wilson House in 1958.

Koch designed several affordable prefabricated housing prototypes starting in the late 1940s. The Techbuilt House was one of the most successful and would eventually be available in twenty-two models. When first designed, the Techbuilt House could be constructed (on average) for $7.50/square foot, as compared to $10/square foot for a conventional builder's house and $15/square foot for a custom-built house.

The exterior design of the Techbuilt House was characterized by a pitched roof, large plate glass windows on the gable ends, and deep eaves. Koch had determined that the most economical use of space was achieved by a two-story plan that was essentially an "attic" with high side walls stacked on a partially recessed "basement," allowing for adequate light and ventilation at both levels. The shell of the house was composed of stress skinned panels on a four-foot-wide module. The main entrance could be located either at the gable ends or on the side walls, depending on how the building was situated to the street. The utility core and stairs were located at the core of the house to allow for flexible use of the interior spaces.

The pre-fabricated shell of the house, which included wall panels, end panels, floor panels, roof panels, and beams, girders, and trim, was designed for shipment in a single truckload delivery to a site with a prepared foundation. Once on site, four men could unload the components, frame the house, and roof it within two days. All of the finishing work could then be completed inside. The primary cost savings were created through the delivery method and fast pace of construction. The Techbuilt House could be customized to different sizes and floor plans and allowed owners to finish the interiors to individual taste and budget.

Between 1956 and 1957, a two-car gable-roofed garage with an upstairs studio was constructed on the property. Between 1982 and 1983, a 10'x16' glass-and-steel greenhouse and a 8.5'x13' entrance vestibule were constructed on opposite sides of the house. At an unknown date, a 10'x8' second-story wood deck at the side of the house was completed. According to a 1985 realtor notice, the roof was replaced (1979), the chimney and flashing were redone (1984), and new "thermo" windows were installed in the living room and master bedroom. In 1985, the property was sold to Marilynn H. Love. In 1998, the house transferred to John P. Love. By the 1990s, the studio above the garage had been determined unlivable.

Sources

"Aderer, Alex, Tech Built House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Karp, Naomi. "Meet the Candidate…Democrat—Alex Aderer." The Westport News, 13 October 1966, 7.
Koch, Carl, and Andy Lewis. At Home With Tomorrow. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1958.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Techbuilt House/Wilson House

Current Building Name: Techbuilt House/Wilson House

Architect: Carl Koch

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1958

ID #: 46

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Techbuilt House/Wilson House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Techbuilt House/Wilson House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Techbuilt House/Wilson House was designed by architect Carl Koch and constructed in 1958. The property was acquired by Charles E. and Frances E. Wilson in 1956. Frances Wilson worked for SMS Architects (formerly Sherwood, Mills & Smith) in Stamford. In 1970, she was elected president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Interior Designers. In 1971, she became the head of SMS Interiors, an offshoot of SMS Architects. The original house had a rectangular plan with a second-floor wood deck on one end and a screened porch at the rear. The house had a concrete foundation, vertical wood siding, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

The Techbuilt House was designed by architect Carl Koch in 1953 as a pre-fabricated house prototype. At least two other Techbuilt Houses were constructed in New Canaan: the Techbuilt House/Swallen House in 1954 and the Techbuilt House/Aderer House in 1954-55. Koch designed several affordable prefabricated housing prototypes starting in the late 1940s. The Techbuilt House was one of the most successful and would eventually be available in twenty-two models. When first designed, the Techbuilt House could be constructed (on average) for $7.50/square foot, as compared to $10/square foot for a conventional builder's house and $15/square foot for a custom-built house.

The exterior design of the Techbuilt House was characterized by a pitched roof, large plate glass windows on the gable ends, and deep eaves. Koch had determined that the most economical use of space was achieved by a two-story plan that was essentially an "attic" with high side walls stacked on a partially recessed "basement," allowing for adequate light and ventilation at both levels. The shell of the house was composed of stress skinned panels on a four-foot-wide module. The main entrance could be located either at the gable ends or on the side walls, depending on how the building was situated to the street. The utility core and stairs were located at the core of the house to allow for flexible use of the interior spaces.

The pre-fabricated shell of the house, which included wall panels, end panels, floor panels, roof panels, and beams, girders, and trim, was designed for shipment in a single truckload delivery to a site with a prepared foundation. Once on site, four men could unload the components, frame the house, and roof it within two days. All of the finishing work could then be completed inside. The primary cost savings were created through the delivery method and fast pace of construction. The Techbuilt House could be customized to different sizes and floor plans and allowed owners to finish the interiors to individual taste and budget.

In 1959, a flat-roofed, two-car garage was completed. An addition was constructed in 1963. In 1980, Frances E. Wilson became the sole owner of the property. In 2000, Garrett A. Camporine acquired the house.

Sources

"Frances E. Wilson…" Stamford Advocate, 6 May 1971.
Koch, Carl, and Andy Lewis. At Home With Tomorrow. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1958.
"Mrs. Frances E. Wilson…" Stamford Advocate, 10 December 1970.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Unknown, Fran Wilson House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Crichton House

Current Building Name: Crichton House

Architect: William Landsberg

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1961

ID #: 47

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 95' x 46'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding possibly cedar; glass.

Are Walls Painted? No

Trim Material: Wood natural finish

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Rolled composite

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: Plain; painted wood and copper gravel stop

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Eave of main house roof

Porch Roof Type: Flat

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Sliding sash, fixed plate glass; single casement windows

Sash Material: Aluminum replacement sliding sash (some), steel sliding sash (ribbon windows and regular)

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Sliding glass; painted hollow wood; screen doors

Door Material: Wood and glass, aluminum

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights

Locations: Soffit of eave at primary entrance

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Slate at front entrance, fieldstone walks at side and rear of house

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set field stone at rear and side of house. Main entry of house is at grade

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Wood fence partial

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Concrete tiles with large aggregate

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Planting beds, stone staircase with metal pipe railing up the grade of the site behind the house, planting island for trees, young white birch trees at front entrance

Alterations

Alterations: No major alterations. Central air conditioning added; built-in bookcases added; closets added; some windows replaced with aluminum sash.

Years of Alterations: NA

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Carport attached to house.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Wood clad steel columns, concrete block knee wall, vertical wood siding, and open wood screen

Doors and Windows: Painted wood door and screen door, sliding steel windows. Both elements on the house façade of the carport.

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat; rolled paper

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: James Fanning, Richard Bergmann

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.11.07

Survey Notes: Very closely spaced siding, wall almost looks monolithic.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Crichton House, side and rear façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Crichton House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Crichton House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Sited on a two-acre parcel with mature trees and stone walls, the Crichton House is a one-story, slab-on-grade, wood-frame house with vertical wood siding, a flat roof, and an attached carport. With the attached carport, the five-bedroom house has an L-shaped floor plan.

Glass surfaces were incorporated into the façades with the inclusion of sliding glass doors, fixed plate glass sash, sliding sash, and casement windows. Although the roof is flush with the plane of the walls, it cantilevers beyond the plane of the exterior walls over window bays, including the bays of sliding glass doors at the back of the house. The terraces at the back of the house are paved with square concrete pavers.

Minor alterations include replacement of some original casement sash with aluminum windows. Between 1982 and 1998, two solar panels were added to the roof over the utility room adjacent to the carport.

Significance

In 1959, John Crichton purchased an unimproved parcel from Chichester Estates, Incorporated. Crichton and his wife Zula commissioned architect William Landsberg to design a house on the parcel for themselves and their four children. Ted Hobbs was the contractor for the project. The house was completed in 1961. Landscape architects James Fanning and Richard Bergmann are credited for work at the site, but details regarding their designs are not known at this time.

John Crichton passed away in 1977. John and Zula's son, Michael Crichton, was a physician and a popular author; his notable books include Jurassic Park, The Andromeda Strain, Prey, and State of Fear. The house is still held in the Crichton family. No major alterations have been made to the house since its construction and it retains remarkable integrity at both the exterior and the interior.

Sources

"John Crichton Succumbs; Led Advertising Industry." New Canaan Advertiser, 29 December 1977, 5A.
"Landsberg, William, Zula Crichton-Brigham," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Lewis, Nancy Blumenthal to Sandra Bergmann, 19 March 2001. Letter in the New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"New Canaan ad agency leader, John Crichton, dies at age 58." Stamford Advocate, 29 December 1977, 9.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
Wilford, John Noble. "For Michael Crichton, Medicine Is For Writing." New York Times, 15 June 1970.
"Young Author Set Out to Fill Refrigerator, Hit Big Success." Stamford Advocate, 10 March 1969.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Lee House 1

Current Building Name: Lee House 1

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1952

ID #: 48

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 25' x 52'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: No

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Wood boxed steel micro-piles set into rock ledge or concrete

Structural System: Post and beam

Piers: No

Pilotis: Yes, see description of foundation

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed, only at overhang

Soffit: Painted plywood at eaves

Fascia: Painted wood at eaves

Gutter Material: Metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Metal stove pipe

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed single glazed; awning; glass block

Sash Material: Wood, some vinyl

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Sliding doors with screen doors, not original

Door Material: Aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed circular downlights

Locations: Soffits

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, scattered residential, on street with several other Moderns

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Wood

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 3

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House on massive stone ledge, land slopes steeply downward at back to heavily wooded area

Alterations

Alterations: 1993: two-car garage was constructed, wood deck on south façade was extended, interior alterations completed. 1997-2007: Current owners replaced the roof, exterior lighting, and pathways . Other undocumented changes apparent from historic photographs include replacement of fixed glass for sliding doors, addition of new wood deck and sliding doors at rear facade, and replacement of some windows with vinyl sash.

Years of Alterations: 1993, 1997-2007

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2 car

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead doors of painted plywood. Flush wood door

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: Front entrance has wood steps with deck and glass block window. Overhang at side protects porch with cantilevered beams that extend from interior of house. Cantilevered balcony off back with wood railing.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Lee House 1, north façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Lee House 1, south façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Lee House 1 appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by architect John Lee Black for his family, Lee House 1 is an excellent example of a compact Modern "box" designed with an efficient interior plan with a central utility core. The house was featured in national publication House & Home, which noted its innovative construction, and was also part of at least one Modern House tour in New Canaan.

Description

Lee House 1 is a one-story rectangular structure set on pins on a massive stone ledge overlooking a heavily wooded valley. The house is clad in tongue-and-groove v-channel vertical wood siding and has a flat roof. The main entrance to the house is located in the street-facing west façade, but the primary view from the driveway is of the north façade. The north façade has a large area of fenestration in the center of the wall consisting of two large fixed sash windows each flanked with fixed and awning windows stacked vertically. The west façade has a recessed entry accessed by a wood deck at the northern end and a blank wall at the southern end; the entry consists of sliding glass doors and an opening filled with glass block located in the north wall.

The southern façade is entirely glazed with sliding glass doors and fixed sash located under a deep overhang which has cantilevered beams at the soffit that extend from the interior of the house; a wood deck extends off of this façade. The east façade, where the land drops off steeply, has sliding glass doors leading to a cantilevered deck.

Significance

Lee House 1 was designed by architect John Black Lee as a home for his family, which included his wife and two children. It was the first house designed by Lee in New Canaan. Lee purchased the property in 1951 and filed for a building permit in 1952. Ernest Rau was the contractor. According to the assessor records, the house was 85% completed by October 1952 and was likely completed by the end of the year or in early 1953. Lee drew inspiration from the work of Mies van der Rohe in the design for his own house (Lee, 2008).

Lee House 1 was included in the 1953 Modern House Tour in New Canaan and featured in the June 1954 issue of House & Home. The article described the house as remarkable in its construction, in part because the house was supported on 15 pins on top of a rock ledge: "Nobody, as far as we know, has yet figured out a smaller foundation for a four-bedroom house." In addition, "Lee closely integrated plan and structure, was able to use interior partitions and solid exterior wall panels to brace some of the bays in his open grid frame…and use[d]…freestanding posts…to help support a built-in piece of furniture" (House & Home, June 1954, 106-110).

The one-story house had a rectangular plan. The center of the house contained utility space and the bathroom. The northern part contained the study/guest room and three bedrooms. The southern part contained the living room (which had a metal fireplace), the kitchen, and a multipurpose/family room. House & Home was enthusiastic about the inclusion of this multipurpose room: "The room also works as a dining area, as a laundry and workroom, and as a playroom. It is so placed that it can be controlled from the kitchen" (House & Home, June 1954, 106-110). A large deck, sheltered by the cantilevered roof overhang, extended across the southern façade of the house.

After the Lees sold their house and moved to Lee House 2, the property had several different owners: John Morton Poole IV (1955 acquisition), Kathlyn C. Thurrott (1964 acquisition), Tyrus L. and Kathryn V. Homewood (unknown, acquired between 1964 and 1971), C. Kleinsinger (1971 acquisition), and Donald Swisher (1977 acquisition). Swisher, an architect at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), reversed some alterations made by earlier owners, returning the house to Lee's original design, although the fireplace was moved to a new location (Lee, 2008). In 1978, Katrina Giuriata purchased the house, and in 1991, Suzanne Cerny acquired the property.

In 1993, Peggy S. McConnell purchased the property. During this same year, McConnell completed some interior alterations, constructed a two-car garage on the property, and extended the existing wood deck to create an uncovered wood deck at the southeast corner of the house. When McConnell was selling the house, a note in the realtor listing stated "house rebuilt from studs up since 1993." It appears that this is referring to the interior alterations. In 1997, Eugene A. and Roseanne C. Diserio acquired the property.

Sources

Lee, John Black. Interview with Janet Lindstrom, New Canaan Historical Society, June 2008.
"Lee, John Black, Poole House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Living the Modern Way in New Canaan." Stamford Advocate, 17 October 1953, 8.
"Modern House Tour Sunday." New Canaan Advertiser, 15 October 1953, 1-2.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Post and Beam: Its frame must be braced and balanced." House & Home, June 1954, 106-110.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Lee House 2

Current Building Name: Lee House 2

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 49

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 72'x46'

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: Paschall Campbell **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Toshiko Mori (1992). Kenjo Kuma (2007-08)

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:**

Survey Notes:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Lee House 2 does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

Lee House 2 is a rectilinear one-story house with a flat roof and a veranda that wraps around the house. The roof extends beyond the plane of the walls to cover the veranda and is supported by columns at the outside perimeter of the veranda. At the center of the house, the roof is raised above rectangular clerestory windows. The plan and façades of the house are largely symmetrical. The house is currently clad in vertical wood siding and characterized by extensive glass walls. The house was originally clad in 5'x 8' and 3/4"-thick ping-pong tables painted white.

In 2006, a storm felled a large tree on the property, which crashed through the roof of the house. The damage to the house was substantial. The owners of the house decided to use the damage from the storm as the impetus to redesign the landscape and house itself. Many of the tall pine trees surrounding the house, which is set on a terrace in the center of an irregular-shaped and sloping site, were cleared away to open the house to the rolling landscape beyond its glass walls. The plan of the house was redesigned. The original open kitchen was removed, leaving the central portion of the house a wide-open space set between two window walls. One of the four bedrooms (originally located at each corner of the house) was converted to open space. A new glass pavilion with a large kitchen, formal dining room, and master bedroom suite will be built to the designs of architect Kengo Kuma. The addition will be connected to the house by a glass-walled corridor extending from one side of the house.

Significance

Lee House 2 was designed by John Black Lee for his family after they had outgrown their first house on Laurel Road. Lee acquired the lot in 1955 (transferred to John Black and Clara S. Lee in 1974) and the house was completed in 1956. This lot was part of the twenty acres on Chichester Road that Lee and Hugh Smallen had purchased in 1954 to be subdivided into six parcels with the provision that the new houses built on the lots were of Modern design. Lee chose a low, flat site for his house because it provided a different challenge than the site of Lee House 1 (Brooks, Fairfield County, n.d.). The house was built by Ernest Rau. The landscape was designed by Paschall Campbell, who lived in the Campbell House designed by John Johansen (1952, largely demolished and rebuilt as the Goldberg House).

Lee House 2 had a rectangular footprint with a veranda extending around the perimeter of the house. The upper roof extended over the veranda and was supported on wood columns. The plan of the house was very symmetrical. In the center of the house was the living space, including the entry, the living/dining room, and the kitchen, all of which were open to each other. A clerestory window provided additional light to the living space. Two bedrooms and a bath were on each side of the house: one side contained the children's bedrooms, and the other side contained the master bedroom and guestroom/study. The bathrooms were lit by skylights. Sliding glass doors provided access to the veranda from each room. The basement contained a playroom. In an article in New York Times Magazine, Lee said he placed the family living space in the center of the house because "my wife, three children and I like being together most of the time" (New York Times Magazine, 3 November 1957, 82-83).

The house was featured in several publications, including the New York Times Magazine, Architectural Record, Better Homes and Gardens, and House & Home. According to the article in Architectural Record, the exterior siding of the wood-frame house was formed of ping-pong table tops painted white (Architectural Record, November 1957, 152-166). In 1959, Lee House 2 won an award of merit from the American Institute of Architects. The house was included in the 1963 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

In 1990, Susan L. and L. Eric Pollish acquired the property. The Pollishes hired architect Toshiko Mori to renovate the house and design a new studio/garage building. The renovations included raising the roof by 18 inches, thereby creating a larger clerestory window; replacing the rotting wood columns with T-shaped sandblasted stainless-steel posts; replacing the sliding doors and large plate glass fixed sash with stainless-steel pivoted doors and stainless-steel insulated fixed sash; replacing the skylights; extending the width of the bedroom windows; and updating the baths and kitchen. The original aluminum sliding doors were reused in a new freestanding glass-and-steel pavilion containing a studio, bath, and two-car garage. The renovations were completed in 1992. In 2004, Thomas Phifer and Partners designed a new family room for the basement, accessed through a stair in the main floor. Currently, the house is undergoing extensive renovations, as outlined above.

Sources

"Award of Merit: Residence, New Canaan, Conn." AIA Journal (June 1959): 93.
Bernstein, Fred A. "Postscripts: Building on Sacred Ground." New York Times, 8 May 2005, 2.20.
Brooks, Patricia. "Architects' Hideaway." Fairfield County, n.d., 45-46.
"Contemporary Homes on Tour Itinerary." New Canaan Advertiser, 2 May 1963.
"Eight houses to help homebuyers raise their sights…" House & Home, December 1958, 120-140.
"In the market?" DOCOMOMO Newsletter (Summer 2004): 11.
"The John Lees-New Canaan." Connecticut Life, 7 March 1963.
Kellogg, Cynthia. "Heart of the House." New York Times Magazine, 3 November 1957, 82-83.
Kellogg, Craig. "Tea and Sympathy." House Beautiful, November 2000, 144, 146.
Kuehnl, Neil R. "Now, space unlimited in a new house!" Better Homes and Garden, October 1958, 58-59, 153, 156.
"Lee, John Black, Lee House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Rectangular Houses." Architectural Record 122 (November 1957): 152-166.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Rogers House

Current Building Name: Rogers House

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1957

ID #: 50

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 93'x43'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: H-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical redwood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: A-frame, shallow pitch

Roof Material: Bitamous, recently installed on top of tar and gravel

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain wood with cantilevered beams

Fascia: Plain wood with aluminum flashing, used to be copper

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: NA

Door Types: Metal sliding glass doors, bedroom wing doors are insulated replacements. Front doors are elaborate paneled wood. Flush wood doors.

Door Material: Aluminum, wood

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round recessed metal downlights

Locations: Soffit, above glazing

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Concrete block patios. Flagstone patio next to garage

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Wire fence and split rail fence

# of Terraces: 4

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Concrete pavers, flagstone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set away from street along long drive. Berm at driveway to shield house from headlights. Driveway has octagon-shaped planting area. Two large concrete planters at front, possibly original to house. Site relatively flat, with lawn area at rear.

Alterations

Alterations: 1973: house extended to east by construction of a new incorporated two-car garage. Existing garage converted to family room and sliding glass doors installed between family room and terrace. Maid's room at the northeast corner of the house was also enlarged. Sliding glass doors on bedroom wing replaced at unknown date.

Years of Alterations: 1973

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA (described under garage)

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 2 wood overhead doors. Wood awning windows.

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Charles Middeleer

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.08.07

Survey Notes: Terraces with concrete pavers at north and south facades and at bedroom wing under deep overhangs. Long vent on roof near ridge, used to be copper but recently replaced not in kind. Skylights, some original. Living room has raised brick fireplace and wood passthrough to kitchen. V-channel vertical redwood siding on walls in living room. Boxed exposed beams extend to exterior. Original shoji screens on interior.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Rogers House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Rogers House, front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Rogers House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Rogers House is a one-story, A-frame structure clad with vertical tongue-and-groove wood siding painted white and a shallow-pitch gable roof. The house originally had a symmetrical H-shaped floor plan. An entry terrace and a larger backyard terrace, each finished with rectangular concrete pavers, are sited at the center of the house off of the setback portions of the north and south façades.

The roof extends beyond the planes of the east and west walls, forming deep eaves. At the north and south façades, the roof is flush with plane of the wall except over the setback portions of the façade, where the roof cantilevers deeply to partially cover the entry and backyard terraces. The setback walls of the north and south façades each have five bays defined by mullions which line up with exposed rafters at the soffits. These walls are largely finished with floor-to-ceiling glass.

As with many of the Modern houses in New Canaan, the house plan was divided into zones: the central part of the building, which opens onto the entry and backyard terraces, contained the social spaces, including the entry hall, study, living/dining room, and kitchen, with a passthrough between the dining room and kitchen; the west wing contained the sleeping areas, including three bedrooms and two baths; and the east wing contained the utility spaces, including the garage, multipurpose room, and maid's room and bath. The garage was originally incorporated into the east wing of the main house.

In 1973, the house was extended to the east with the construction of a new incorporated two-car garage. The existing garage was converted into a family room. Sliding glass doors were installed between the new family room and the terrace. The maid's room at the northeast corner of the house was also enlarged. The sliding glass doors in the bedroom wing were replaced with insulated units in 1974.

Significance

The Rogers House was constructed in 1957 for Virginia D. and Theodore Rogers. Theodore Rogers was a producer for the "Today Show." Virginia D. Rogers acquired the lot in 1956. The house was designed by architect John Black Lee and constructed by Ernest Rau. Landscape architect Charles Middeleer designed the landscaping. A note on the assessor property street card notes that the building was assessed at 25% in July 1957, suggesting that it was finished in late 1957 or 1958.

The Rogers House was featured in the 1959 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. The New Canaan Advertiser described it as "exemplif[ying] an imaginative use of symmetry and the architect's fondness for oriental detail" (New Canaan Advertiser, 30 April 1959). According to this article, Lee intended the multipurpose room to act as a decompression space where a person could leave the western world behind after exiting the garage before entering the eastern serenity of the main space. The multipurpose room functioned as a laundry room, storage space, and an area for crafts, sewing, or flower arranging. Lee included a similar room in his first house, Lee House 1. The article also noted the bedroom wing: "Of particular interest in this wing…is the 'master suite' arrangement made possible by the strategic placement of doors in the connecting hall and the use of brilliant color in an unexpected way on the cabinet, closet and connecting doors." Sliding fiberglass shoji screens, made by a Japanese resident of neighboring Darien, provided privacy to interior spaces without blocking light (New Canaan Advertiser, 30 April 1959).

In 1959, Jason D. Dana et. ux. purchased the property (transferred by quitclaim to Bertha B. Dana in 1965). In 1965, Janet F. Rowley acquired the house. In 1968, David R. and Alice E. Jennings bought the house from J. Clifford Norby and Eunice R. Norby. The Jennings family still owns the house today.

Sources

"Lee, John Black, Edward Rodgers House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Rogers' Home to be Tour Feature." New Canaan Advertiser, 30 April 1959.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Teaze House

Current Building Name: Teaze House

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1960

ID #: 51

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 98'x44'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: H shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete, copper drip at foundation in front

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, stained beige

Trim Material: Mahogany

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Copper

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Cut stone

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, awning, fixed, clerestory. All replacement.

Sash Material: Mahogany

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Glazed. Sliding doors. All replacement.

Door Material: Mahogany

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed metal downlights

Locations: Fascia

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Irregular flagstone pavers and honey colored stone

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Honey colored stone at front. Flagstone steps at rear.

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Metal fence at rear around swimming pool

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Honey colored stone

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on hill overlooking Noroton River. Swimming pool. Japanese-style gardens with raked gravel, Japanese maples, azalea, bamboo.

Alterations

Alterations: 1968: John Black Lee designed two 20'x18' additions at the front of house. 1975: Mike Hobbs added deck at rear, no longer extant. 2001: house extensively remodeled. Roof raised, clerestory windows inserted, and overhangs added. New addition constructed. New windows, doors, trim, and likely wood siding. 2-car garage constructed and attached to house with breezeway. Interior largely gutted.

Years of Alterations: 1968, 1975, 2001

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed, casement, clerestory

Sash Material: Mahogany

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2 car, connected by breezeway

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush horizontal wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed mahogany ribbon

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Lillian Wolfe and Wes Wolfe

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.20.07

Survey Notes: Remodeled house has Japanese aesthetic. Extensive use of mahogany. Japanese style landscaping all appears to be part of 2001 alterations. Front of house has floating panels formed by raising the wood siding above the foundation and copper drip, and projecting it out slightly. This was more pronounced in the original construction before alterations. New swimming pool and stone terrace. House expanded from 2,500 to 3,900 square feet.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Teaze House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Teaze House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Teaze House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Teaze House is set on a hill overlooking the Noroton River. The house was heavily remodeled beginning in 2001. Although the original house had a minimalist, stripped-down aesthetic, the remodeled house is more opulent with an extensive use of mahogany and deep eaves. The redesign was influenced by Japanese architecture, heightened by the landscaping which includes Japanese-style gardens with raked gravel beds and plantings including Japanese maples, bamboo, and azaleas.

The flush vertical wood siding at the front of the current house is designed to “float” by raising the siding above the foundation and copper drip and projecting it out slightly. This may be an homage to architect John Black Lee’s original design, which had “floating” rectangular panels in the front glass wall formed by the rear walls of closets and bookshelves in the hallway. This “floating” quality was more pronounced in the original construction. The front of the house is largely blank with the exception of the glazed front doors and the clerestory windows that run under the eaves.

At the rear of the house, which faces the Noroton River, the façades are characterized by an extensive use of glazing. The landscaping is terraced to accommodate a stone patio adjacent to the house and a swimming pool located slightly downhill from the house.

Significance

The Teaze House was designed by John Black Lee for David A. and Jane Teaze. According to Jane Teaze, she and Lee started looking for land in 1958 and "found a difficult piece which had been abandoned by Miles Olson who had intended to put up a traditional colonial but was stymied by the rocks & couldn't get a full cellar" (Jane Teaze, 28 March 2001). The land was acquired by the Teazes in 1959 and the house was completed in 1960. The Teaze House was included in the 1967 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

Jane Teaze wrote in 2001, "it's been a heavenly house to live in. The symmetricality of John [Black Lee]'s design make for a very harmonious life! His balance is peaceful, the way he placed it on the land isolated us from other lights & noise, & the expanses of glass brought all the season in" (Jane Teaze, 28 March 2001).

The original house had an H-shaped plan with narrow wood decks running along the front and rear. The living spaces were zoned with the bedrooms at one end and the public spaces (living room, dining room, and kitchen) at the other end. At the glass wall at the front of the house, Lee placed built-in closets and bookshelves on either side of the front door which appeared to be floating masses from the exterior. In 1968, two 20' x 18' additions designed by John Black Lee were built at the front of the house. These additions were clad in translucent plastic panels and wood slats to allow light to pass through while maintaining privacy. In 1975, a new wood deck (no longer extant) was added at the rear of the house.

In 2001, Carter F. and Lillian W. Wolfe acquired the property. The Wolfes undertook an extensive remodeling of the house beginning in 2001. The roof was raised in height from 7' 6" to 9', clerestory windows were inserted, and overhangs were added. A new addition containing a master bedroom and bath on the first floor and an exercise room and bath at the basement level was constructed. New windows, doors, trim, and likely new wood siding were installed. A new two-car garage was added and attached to the house with a new breezeway. The interior was largely gutted and remodeled. Japanese-style landscaping, a swimming pool, and a stone terrace were all installed. The house was expanded in size from 2,500 to 3,900 square feet.

Sources

Brown, Hal. “Modern Houses: A New Canaan Claim to Fame, They’re As Much a Spirit as a Style.” New Canaan News-Review, 28 October 2004, A3, A25.
Cary, Bill. “Masters of Modernism.” The Journal News, 16-17 October 2004, 1G-2G.
Dove, Jane K. “A Sympathetic Renovation Enhances the Openness and Harmony of a Modern Home.” HOME Monthly (Ridgefield, CT), January 2005, 16-17.
"Lee, John Black, Teaze House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“Stops for Sunday tour.” [New Canaan Advertiser], 18 May 1967.
Teaze, Jane, to Janet Lindstrom, 28 March 2001. Letter on file at the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: System House

Current Building Name: System House

Architect: John Black Lee, Harrison DeSilver

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1961

ID #: 52

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 32'x32'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Square

Basement: No

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, grey with brown trim

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Open

Soffit: V-channel wood

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Painted metal

Gutter Type: Spillway at front entrance

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, double glazed

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Does not appear original

Door Types: Main entrance has double leaf, insulated narrow stile doors with fixed transom, others are insulated sliding doors with screen doors

Door Material: Wood narrow stile doors, metal sliding doors

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: 3 hanging glass globes, rectangular sconces

Locations: Globes at soffit, sconces on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Cut flagstone mortared pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel, Belgian block curb, asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 5

# of Decks: 2 at second fl

Terrace Paving Material: Cut flagstone

Deck Material: wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Wood bridge leading to main entrance supported by thin layered cut stone wall. Brick firepit set in flagstone patio.

Alterations

Alterations: Workshop constructed in 1975. Garage possibly converted from carport at unknown date. Lot subdivided from 4.97 acres to 2.97 acres probably during the 1960s. Windows and doors likely replaced.

Years of Alterations: 1975

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate 3-car garage

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Two overhead doors of glass and metal

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Workshop

Foundation: Concrete block footers

Wall Cladding: Plywood

Doors and Windows: Wood sliding door on overhead track that slidesout beyond exterior wall, similar to a barn door. Aluminum casement windows placed in sets of 2, 3, or 4.

Roof Material and Configuration: Shed, asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good, studio is poor

Structural: Good, studio is poor

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ernest Rau

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes: Bi-level house has roof that overhangs on all four sides supported by slender piers. Two full stories of living space. Enter via bridge that takes you to interior stair. Balconies with wood decks at second floor.

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: System House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: System House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The System House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. The award-winning building served as a model for an economical, custom-built Modern house and over 1,000 copies of its plans were sold through Better Homes & Gardens. It appears to retain a high level of integrity.

Description

The System House is set on a terraced site with the house placed at a lower grade than the driveway and outbuildings. It is accessed by a wood bridge leading to the front door. The two outbuildings, a garage and a workshop, are located on either side of the driveway.

The house has a square-shaped footprint and is very symmetrical. The roof of the building extends beyond the wall plane on all four sides, creating a deep overhang that provides shelter for the ground-level patios and second-floor balconies, and sun protection for the large windows and doors. The outer edge of the roof is supported on thin piers. The house has a bi-level plan: the main entrance opens onto a stairway that leads upstairs to the bedrooms and downstairs to the public living spaces.

Significance

The System House was constructed in 1961 and designed by John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver. The house was built to show that good design and construction could be completed at a reasonable price by building on a modular system, in this case, a 6' module. The System was devised to use stock materials to keep costs down. The exterior wood panels were prefabricated in two designs: a solid wall panel and a panel designed for fenestration. To cut down on expensive finishing costs, structural elements were designed to be exposed. The deep overhangs allowed for simple and inexpensive glazing details.

One of the architects, Harrison DeSilver, was the first occupant of the house. DeSilver came to New Canaan in 1960 after attending a Modern House Tour, and the System House was one of his first projects. He purchased the lot in 1960 and the house was completed in 1961 in time to be part of the 1961 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

In March 1963, the house plans were featured in "Better Homes For All America," published by Better Homes & Gardens, and were offered for sale at $15. Over 1,000 plans eventually sold. In 1964, the house won a "Homes For Better Living" award in a program sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, House & Home magazine, and The American Home. The article in House & Home stated that the sloping land was bulldozed 5' below grade before construction began, and John Black Lee confirmed that he designed the site to be terraced, a technique he often used in sloping lots (Lee, 2008). Each room in the house opened to a terrace or balcony and the interior had a flexible floor plan. The house was priced at $32,000 without the cost of land (House & Home, July 1964, 66-67).

In 1969, Donald R. and Barbara A. Homer acquired the house. The house lot was subdivided from 4.97 acres to 2.97 acres probably during the 1960s. A workshop was added to the property in 1975. In 1997, Benjamin S. Thompson and Rebecca A. MacDougall purchased the property. Robert M. Pederson and Andrew Mersmann acquired it in 2002. The windows and doors were replaced in 2006. It appears that no other major alterations have been made to the exterior of the house since its construction.

Sources

Bloodgood, John D. "This is a great house!" Better Homes & Gardens, March 1963, 62-65.
Faulkner, Ray, and Sarah Faulkner. Inside Today's Home. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, n.d.
"Floors, Floor Coverings, and Ceilings," undated clipping in the New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Keyser, Elizabeth. "Modern age: These Connecticut houses are worth another look." New York Post, 16 November 2006, 56.
Lee, John Black. Interview with Janet Lindstrom, New Canaan Historical Society, June 2008.
LeMenager, Jack. "Results of Busman's Holiday." New Canaan Advertiser, n.d.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"1964 Award Winners." House & Home, July 1964, 66-67.
"'System' House." Progressive Architecture (June 1963): 152-154.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Unusual Homes Included in Tour." New Canaan Advertiser, 11 May 1961.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Day House

Current Building Name: Day House

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1965

ID #: 53

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 87' x 50'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular C-shaped

Basement: Yes

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: Yes. Brick walls read as piers in glass walls

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: The entrance is like a courtyard, open on one side

Wall Cladding: Red brick with yellowish-white finish; glass; black glass

Are Walls Painted? Yes, brick rubbed with paint

Trim Material: Wood, painted

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Open; deep cantilever

Soffit: Plain; concrete plaster

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 3

Chimney Cladding: Brick above kitchen, painted at other two

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Sliding. Only windows are at the back of the house on the basement level. They are paired sliding windows.

Sash Material: Metal

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Wood panel (primary and secondary entrances) full height doors, sliding glass pocket doors, sliding glass doors, pocket screen doors

Door Material: Wood, narrow stile metal with glass

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights; surface mounted sconces

Locations: Soffit for downlights; fascia for sconces

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Concrete

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Treads are Welsh tile (red) set on concrete plaster finish stairs. Stone (granite) block stairs lead down

Swimming Pool: Yes, indoor

Fence or Gate: Metal entry gate (mechanical) and chain link fence

# of Terraces: 4

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Herringbone pattern red Welsh tile

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House on a sloping site. Grade slopes down to the pond. Pond, fieldstone bordered tree pits, planting beds in terrace at entrance (now filled with gravel). Curving mortar set fieldstone retaining walls at sides of house.

Alterations

Alterations: Garage bay, sitting room, and kitchen island changed by current owners; current owners also reconfigured closet space in basement level into a laundry room; bathroom added in 1970s to one of the upstairs bedrooms, indoor pool addition by previous owners (described below). c 1994; ivy in planter beds replaced with gravel by current owners.

Years of Alterations: c. 1994; c. 1975; c. 2006

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Brick to match finish of original brickwork

Doors and Windows: Sliding glass doors

Sash Material: Metal

Roof Shape and Material: Flat

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Brick to match original brickwork

Doors and Windows: Horizontal panel overhead wood garage doors; sliding metal windows

Roof Configuration and Material: NA - Garage is in basement level of house

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 1.04.08

Survey Notes: House has high level of integrity at both the interior and exterior. Interiors retain original thermostats, telephones, light switches, closet doors and closets, butternut wood paneling in library, original fireplaces, original layout for master bedroom, original wood flooring at main floor, original cabinetry, sliding pocket doors (both at interior and exterior), original lighting fixtures, original kitchen cabinetry (refinished) with new hardware, original interior stair. At the exterior, railing along perimeter of balconies off of first floor spaces have a rectangular profile, black finish, ferrous metal railing. A newer, square profile (heavier) railing is mounted at the top of the curved stone retaining walls and encloses a yard area at the pool side of the house.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** January 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Day House, oblique view of front and side façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** January 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Day House, swimming pool addition (foreground) and side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Day House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Using an open floor plan, extensive window walls, flat roofs, and cantilevered balconies, architect John Black Lee designed the Day House with rich finish materials, dramatic symmetrical pavilion siting, and a generous floor plan. This remarkable showcase house, one of few Modern houses in New Canaan to be clad with brickwork, retains an unusually high degree of integrity at both its interior and exterior.

Description

Located off a long winding driveway running through a nature preserve, the flat-roofed, one-story Day House is set on a platform placed in a clearing on a gently sloping, wooded site. The primary entrance is three steps above grade and the basement is fully exposed at the rear of the house. The house originally had a square footprint with an upside-down, squared-off Y-shaped floor plan. Balconies and terraces, all paved with red Welsh tiles set in a herringbone pattern, are covered by the deep cantilevers of the flat roof. At the front of the house, the roof extends 21' beyond the plane of the walls and is supported by two square-shaped, brick-clad piers. The red bricks of the exterior walls and piers are handmade and rubbed with white paint (Lee, 2008).

The primary entrance to the house is off of a courtyard through paired, floor-to-ceiling, carved wood paneled doors centered on the façade and set back 26' from the projecting, parallel wings of the squared-off Y. The doors are flanked by broad, floor-to-ceiling expanses of fixed plate glass. Secondary entrances facing the entry courtyard, each a single floor-to-ceiling carved wood paneled door flanked by fixed plate glass sidelights, are found on the projecting wings. The end walls of the projecting el's are solid brick-clad surfaces. Sliding glass doors and sliding windows symmetrically define the bays of the brick-clad walls at the other façades at both the first floor and exposed basement level.

In 1993, an indoor swimming pool addition was built at the southeast corner of the building. The addition is clad with brick to match the original brickwork and has a flat roof. An open terrace at the basement level of the southeast corner of the house was also enclosed at this time. In 2006, the open terrace at the basement level (northeast) was enclosed to become a garage.

Significance

In 1957, Lafayette Page III sold an unimproved parcel to Lee G. Day, Jr., who later commissioned architect John Black Lee to design a house to be built on the site for his family. By 1965, the house was completed. The parcel and house stayed in the Day family until Conway M. Day sold the property to Gary and Judith Witkin in 1992. The Witkins built an indoor pool addition and enclosed one of the open terraces at the back of the house. In 1996, the Witkins sold the parcel to Thomas McCaughey, who enclosed the second basement level terrace to create a garage in 2006.

John Black Lee designed the Day House with a Palladian-influenced plan and siting and rich finishes at the interior and exterior, marking it as a high-style example of mid-century Modern residential design. Despite minor changes, the house retains a very high degree of integrity at both the interior and exterior.

Sources

Kellogg, Craig. "A Day to Remember." Wallpaper, December 2001, 113-114.
Lee, John Black. Interview with Janet Lindstrom, New Canaan Historical Society, June 2008.
"Lee, John Black, The Day House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Monroe House

Current Building Name: Monroe House

Architect: John Black Lee

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1968

ID #: 54

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 90'x28'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Yes

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, beige

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Hipped

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain, flush vertical wood boards

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Part of main roof overhang

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: None

Sash Material: NA

Window Hardware: NA

Door Types: Sliding glass doors

Door Material: Wood with tinted glass in gold color

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Prairie Style lanterns

Locations: Mounted on wall at entrance

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential, low-density.

Paving- Pedestrian: White gravel, brick

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Wood spiral stairs with metal handrail between deck and pool area

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Wood split rail fence with wire mesh

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Cut flagstone

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Site slopes sharply downward to Five Mile River with wood stairs leading down the hill. Area along river is open and undeveloped. Large swimming pool surrounded by flagstone patio. Scored concrete retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: Swimming pool constructed in 1969. Small addition at basement level under cantilevered porch at south end of house in 1971. Carport enclosed to create 2-car garage on unknown date, likely after 1988, altering symmetrical cantilevered roofline.

Years of Alterations: 1969, 1971, unknown

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated 2-car

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Single overhead door

Roof Configuration and Material: Part of main roof

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Poolhouse

Foundation: Concrete footers

Wall Cladding: Plywood

Doors and Windows: Single door. Small fixed multipane windows.

Roof Material and Configuration: Gable, asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Charles Middeleer

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

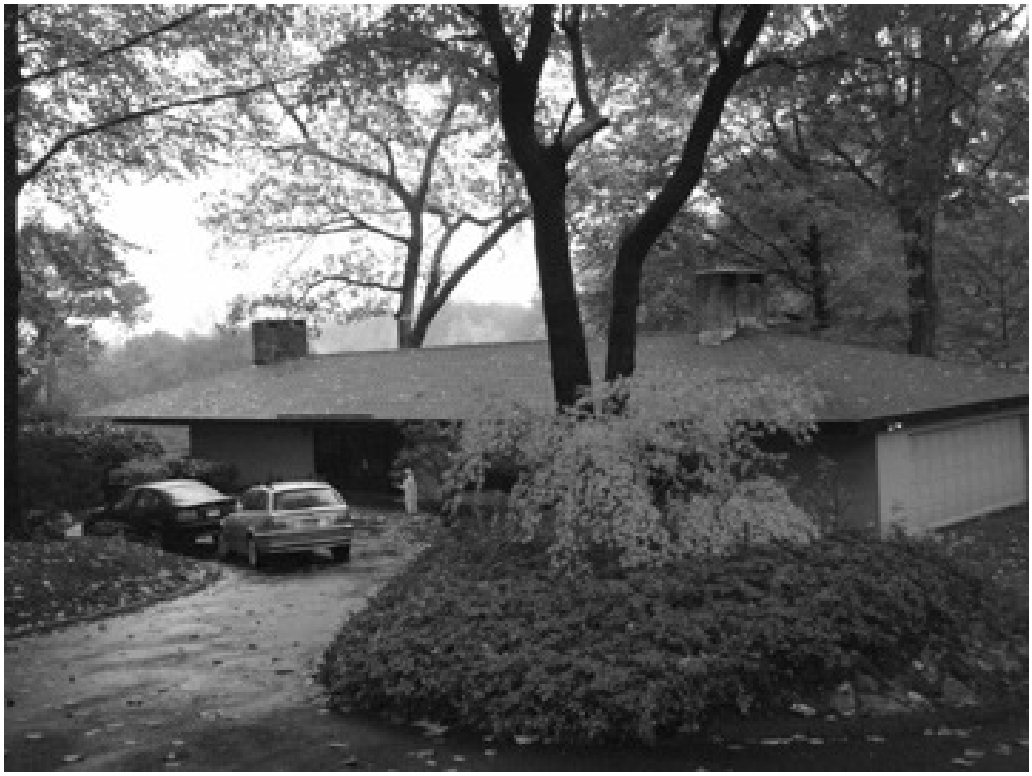
Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.20.07

Survey Notes: House has very deep overhang all around perimeter. Concrete retaining walls form part of base at rear and are scored to mimic vertical lines of wood siding. Wood decking at porch under overhang extends along back of house with wood handrails and posts with thin metal balustrades. Exposed wood rafters with steel bracing at overhang over porch.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Monroe House, front façade



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Monroe House, side façade and swimming pool

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Monroe House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Monroe House is a long, low-slung, one-story house constructed on a steep hill overlooking a valley and the Five Mile River. The hipped roof originally cantilevered dramatically at both ends; one end sheltered a deck, and the other end sheltered a carport. The carport was enclosed as a two-car garage at an unknown date.

The house features a full-height basement level at its south and west sides. A deep overhang extends around the perimeter of the building. The long west elevation has a cantilevered deck that serves as an overhang to protect the lower level of the house. A spiral staircase leads from the deck to the ground-level patio, swimming pool, and a playhouse/poolhouse.

Significance

The Monroe House was constructed in 1968 on a stretch of Brookwood Lane that was extended in 1964 for new development. All of the houses in the new development had to conform to an easement that protected the view of the valley from a house on Country Club Road. The original owner, Andrew P. Monroe, Jr., was a vice president of Uniweb International, Inc.

The Monroe House was designed by architect John Black Lee. Lee devised an innovative roof framing system consisting of steel and wood flitch plates and a three-dimensional truss hanging off of two chimneys. This allowed uninterrupted views of the valley from the house. According to Lee, the system caused some controversy with the local building inspector (Lee, 2008).

The Monroe House was part of the “Bicentennial House Tour” held by the New Canaan Historical Society in 1975.

In 1969, a swimming pool was constructed on the property. In 1971, a small addition at the basement level under the cantilevered deck was completed. At an unknown date, likely after 1988, the carport was enclosed to create a two-car garage, altering the symmetrical cantilevered roofline.

According to the assessor records, the property title is as follows: James M. and Susan R. Dillon acquired the property in 1988; Peter M. and Diane E. Thom purchased the property in 1998, and Alan M. Engelson acquired the house in 2000.

Sources

"Christine D. Shelly is the Bride of William Townsend Monroe," New York Times, 6 July 1975.
Lee, John Black. Interview with Janet Lindstrom, New Canaan Historical Society, June 2008.
"Lee, John Black, Monroe House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
New Canaan Historical Society. "New Canaan Historical Society's 'Bicentennial House Tour'," 24 May 1975.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Lindstrom House

Current Building Name: Lindstrom House

Architect: Gary Lindstrom

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1963-64

ID #: 55

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 36'x57'

Integrity of Place: Original

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: I-shaped

Basement: No

Volume: Floating

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Round concrete piers, concrete block

Structural System: Frame

Piers: Yes

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Are Walls Painted? No

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Not visible, wood spillway

Gutter Type: Not visible except wood spillway at front door

# of Chimneys: 1, 2 stovepipes

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash. Fixed.

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Sliding doors

Door Material: Aluminum

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: None visible on main house

Locations: NA

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential. Other Moderns on street.

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel. Flagstone.

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Gravel with stone risers

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Wood stockade fence at garage

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set below street grade on sloping site. Spillway along side of driveway. House built on piers. Multiple structures are connected by wood decks (1 with drawbridge), flagstone paths, stone retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: 1966-67: garage/workshop and toolshed constructed. 1969: additions to house and wood deck constructed. 1976: freestanding studio constructed. Glass in sliding doors replaced over time.

Years of Alterations: 1966-67, 1969, 1976

Foundation: Round concrete piers, concrete block

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Doors and Windows: Horizontal sliding sash. Fixed.

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, asphalt shingles

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2-car

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead wood doors, 1 flush wood door. At basement, large wood barn door, fixed wood windows, large skylight.

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, asphalt shingles

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Studio (described below) and tool shed (described in survey notes)

Foundation: Concrete piers

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles, flush wide wood boards

Doors and Windows: Glazed wood door with fixed sidelights. Large wood skylight. Greenhouse window. Wood awning window.

Roof Material and Configuration: Shed, asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: None, landscape by original owner

Lighting Designer: Gary Lindstrom

Interior Designer: Gary Lindstrom

Builder: Emil Toikka

Alterations Designers: Gary Lindstrom

Survey

Surveyors: EB,MS

Date Surveyed: 3.12.08

Survey Notes: Tool shed has large wood barn doors on overhead track that open by sliding to the side; track extends beyond width of building. Shed-roofed tool shed is on concrete block foundation and clad in wood shingles. Garage on slope with workshop in basement. Studio has partially false front (main wall extends beyond intersecting side wall). House interior almost completely intact with furniture, sculpture, light fixtures, and other built-ins designed by Gary Lindstrom.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Lindstrom House, side façade with addition at right

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** March 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Lindstrom House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Lindstrom House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by architect and craftsman Gary Lindstrom, the Lindstrom House is a good example of the types of houses produced by the second wave of architects in New Canaan, who moved away from the flat-roofed "glass box" into more organic forms. The property is characterized by its multiple buildings, forming almost a small village on the sloping site.

Description

The Lindstrom House is set on a sloping site below street grade. A stream runs from the street down the hill through the property. The property consists of multiple structures connected by wood decks and flagstone paths. The structures include the main house, a studio, a garage/workshop, and a tool shed. The main house and studio are set on tall concrete piers because initial porosity tests indicated that the soil absorbed water very slowly, increasing the potential damage from a flood; the remaining structures have concrete block foundations (Janet Lindstrom, 13 May 2008). All of the structures have shed roofs and are clad in wood shingles.

The main house is accessed by a wood bridge leading to an enclosed shed-roofed vestibule. Recessed clerestory windows are placed at the peak of the main shed roofline to project light down into the house. The main house also has a large opening cut into one wall to expose a brick chimney set at an angle to the wall plane. The design of the house creates a modular effect with rooflines set at different intersecting angles and heights.

The studio has a partially false front (the main wall extends beyond the intersecting side wall at one end) and a greenhouse window. The studio connects to the main house by a wood drawbridge. The garage/workshop is placed on the hillside so that the garage is at the level of the driveway and the workshop is below the garage but opens at grade. The workshop has a large skylight. The tool shed has large wood barn doors installed on an overhead track that extends beyond the width of the building; the doors open by sliding to the sides.

Significance

The Lindstrom House was designed by architect Gary Lindstrom for his wife Janet and their young daughter. The Lindstroms were able to acquire the land fairly cheaply because it was sloping lot that would have required a large amount of fill for a traditional house. The Lindstroms were attracted to this particular piece of land because it was originally filled with native dogwoods of which seven trees still survive (Janet Lindstrom, 13 May 2008). Janet E. Lindstrom acquired the lot in 1963. The house was built by Emil Toikka of Greenwich and completed in 1964.

Architect Gary Lindstrom had worked for noted lighting designer Richard Kelly and designed the house with solar principles in mind to allow for natural lighting and ventilation. Trained as a carpenter, Lindstrom designed many of the furniture, artwork, and lighting fixtures in the house. Janet Lindstrom graduated from Penn State University and received a master's degree at Columbia University. She was a teacher at several schools in New Canaan. She later served as president of the New Canaan Historical Society before becoming executive director in 1985. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the New Canaan branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 2004. The Lindstroms eventually had two daughters.

The original house was 30'x36' with a wood walkway leading to the main entrance. A separate 9'x11' building containing the furnace sat just adjacent to the house. Between 1966 and 1967, a garage with a basement workshop was constructed on the site. It appears that a freestanding tool shed was also constructed at this time. In 1969, the house was expanded with a 28'x27'6" addition at the rear containing a family room/game room on the first floor and a master suite on the second floor. The family room featured a conversation pit with a brick fireplace designed to radiate heat. Also around this time, a small addition containing an eating area was constructed between the house and the furnace building, along with a wood deck.

In 1976, a freestanding studio was constructed on the property. It was connected to the house by an elevated wood deck with a drawbridge to allow a tractor to pass through, necessitating the removal of an earlier wood deck at this side of the house.

Sources

Brooks, Patricia. “Architects’ Hideaway.” Fairfield County, n.d., 45-46.
“Executive Director of Historical Society Named Woman of the Year by AAUW.” New Canaan Advertiser, 20 May 2004.
"Lindstrom, Gary, Lindstrom House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Lindstrom, Janet, to Eileen Brackenbury (BCA) and Martin Skrelunas (Philip Johnson Glass House), email correspondence, 13 May 2008.
Maher, Tom. “The Past Lives on in New Canaan.” Profiles, September 1984, 5-7.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Bremer House

Current Building Name: Bremer House

Architect: Eliot Noyes

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1951

ID #: 56

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Bremer House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Bremer House was designed by architect Eliot Noyes for Nina and Paul Bremer. According to Nina Bremer, her husband Paul had been injured while serving in the Navy and was bedridden. While he was recuperating, they decided to build a house and wanted something modern but weren't sure exactly what that meant. She reached out to her friend Eliot Noyes, who drew up a conservative plan for a house, thinking that's what the Bremers wanted. When Nina told him she didn't think it was interesting, Noyes was elated and tore up the plan. The next day, he had drawn what she called the "upside-down house," which they loved. Nina said, "El was a lot like the rest of us - young, had been through the war, had young kids…He understood us" (Fairfield County Magazine, October 2000, 58). The Bremer House was constructed by builders Borglum & Meek and was completed in 1951.

Noyes was inspired to create the "upside-down house" by Le Corbusier's Villa Savoie in Poissy, France (House & Home, February 1953). The Bremer House has a deeply overhanging upper floor supported on thin columns. The house was designed on a modular plan with 11'6" bays. Concrete-filled pipe columns partially supported the roof. The upper floor was zoned into public and private spaces: one half contained the kitchen, living room, and dining room, and the other half contained four bedrooms, a dressing room, and two baths. The lower floor contained the service spaces: an entryway, bedroom, bath, playroom, laundry room, dumbwaiter, and heating room. A partially covered open porch extended across the front of the upper floor with a terrace below. One half of the open porch is a deeper, room-sized volume, open to the sky.

The Harvard Five often congregated at the Bremer House for parties. The house was included on the second Modern House Tour in New Canaan in 1952. It was also featured in the February 1953 issue of House & Home, which noted its practical aspects, including placing the living spaces upstairs for a better view; recessing the lower level so it was shaded and provided with a covered play terrace for use in the rain; stacking the kitchen above the utility space so the two could be connected by a dumbwaiter; and using an "economical flat roof, sloped gently toward a central drain, the only kind of roof that is drip and icicle-proof in New England winters and requires no messy gutters" (House & Home, February 1953).

Around 1953, a 24'x24' guesthouse designed by Eliot Noyes was completed. The kitchen and bedrooms were remodeled around 1968. In 1969, a pool was constructed. In 2004, Stephen Dayton acquired the property.

Sources

"Noyes, Eliot, Bremer House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Survey to document modern architecture in New Canaan." New Canaan Advertiser, 29 March 2001.
"This Stilt House is Practical." House & Home, February 1953, 118-121.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
Williams-Rohr, Laura. "Modern Love." Fairfield County Magazine (CT), October 2000, 59.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Ault House

Current Building Name: Ault House

Architect: Eliot Noyes

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1952

ID #: 57

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Ault House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this property.

Significance

The Ault House was designed by architect Eliot Noyes and constructed in 1952 by Paul Borglum, Inc. Lee A. Ault purchased the property in 1951 (transferred to Dorothy Ault in 1958). Lee Ault was the editor of Art in America and owned an extensive art collection. Noyes designed the house with a glass-walled gallery along an open courtyard to display the collection. The flat-roofed house had an H-shaped plan with an incorporated 2-car garage. According to the assessor property street card, the exterior materials were glass, brick, and vertical wood siding. The assessor described the house as "very modern."

The Ault House was included in the 1953 Modern House Tour. An article about the tour stated: "Designed to permit full appreciation of their art collection, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Ault…has freely flowing indoor and outdoor spaces. Living areas are in the center with bedroom and service wings flanking them. The home was designed by Eliot Noyes to permit the spatial aspects of an open plan while preserving privacy for the inhabitants" (Stamford Advocate, 17 October 1953). The Ault House was featured in the November 1958 issue of Architectural Record.

In 1959, William Feick, Jr., purchased the property. It was transferred to Joan M. Feick in 1987. The house is still held in the Feick family. Around 1970, an outbuilding with a C-shaped plan was constructed. An oval in-ground pool was added to the property at an unknown date, possibly around 1980. In 2005, the house was on the "Architects, Designers and Artists in the Garden" tour that benefited the Silvermine Guild Arts Center. According to an article on the tour, the Ault House has a landscape designed by noted Modernist landscape architect Thomas Church (Ridgefield Press, 16 June 2005).

Sources

Helle, Nancy. “A Different Garden Tour.” The Ridgefield Press, 16 June 2005, 1B, 3B.
"Living the Modern Way in New Canaan." Stamford Advocate, 17 October 1953.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Noyes, Eliot, Ault House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Pepis, Betty. "Six Modern Homes Invite the Public." New York Times, 17 October 1953, 12.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Weeks House

Current Building Name: Weeks House

Architect: Eliot Noyes

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1952

ID #: 58

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 56' x 32'

Integrity of Place: Original Location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block and concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes, dividing garage door bays

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Painted (spray painted)

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed with unusual flat-roofed dormer

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; painted wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone with copper flashing and slate

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed sash and sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Flush panel hollow wood doors; sliding glass doors to terrace

Door Material: Painted wood; aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spot lights from 1980s alts

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland; lawns; scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Mortar set flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 4

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Mortar set flagstone

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Planting beds in raised and level terraces, islands planted with large mature trees, open lawns, stone walls, beech trees, gently sloping site.

Alterations

Alterations: Major alterations and additions by Goldberg in 1987-89. Original house lost to new design work. Includes addition of a semi-circular dining room, new family room, relocation of the main entrance, new interior stair, enclosed second floor loft, new master bedroom suite, larger living room, new kitchen, new bathrooms, and construction of a new separate two-story 3-car garage/guesthouse/studio. New courtyard at entrance and new stone terraces and wall.

Years of Alterations: 1989

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel wood vertical siding, wood framed plate glass

Doors and Windows: Awning windows, Fixed curved glass, sliding glass doors

Sash Material: Aluminum awning windows, Wood frame single pane curved glass

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, flat. Asphalt and asphalt shingle.

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate 3-car garage

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed plate glass

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed, asphalt shingle

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Garage

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall Cladding: Unpainted wood shingle with painted wood trim

Doors and Windows: Wood six over six double hung and six light outswinging casements

Roof Material and Configuration: Gable, wood shingle

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Alan Goldberg

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.14.07

Survey Notes: House has large raised terrace at the side of the house, an entry courtyard, formed by a wall connecting the house to the garage, and then the garage, the house, and the stone walls leading up to the entry. Windows at entry façade of the house have shallow shed roof fixed wood and asphalt shingle awnings.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Weeks House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Weeks House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Weeks House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Weeks House is situated on a very open, manicured site bounded by fieldstone walls to the south and east. The site is ringed with mature hardwood trees that predate the house and formal elements that regulate the landscape. The lot is situated with its longest dimension running parallel to the street; the house was constructed with its longest dimension running perpendicular to it.

The house, as Eliot Noyes designed it, had a rectangular plan. Renovations by Alan Goldberg in 1988 include a semi-circular addition at the west end of the south elevation, which is complemented by an interior curved wall that encloses a wet bar. The expansion also created a new master suite above the family room, a larger living room, a new kitchen and bathrooms, and a separate two-story guesthouse studio that is connected to the house by a courtyard patio. At this time, the main entrance to the house was relocated and offset from the entrance point of the driveway. A floating stair was added in the new entry to access the second-floor balcony that was enclosed to create privacy for the bedrooms.

The current two-story house was constructed with large expanses of glass. The foundation is constructed of stone. The house is wood-framed with a rolled asphalt roof that slopes down towards the south. A fieldstone chimney and a curved clerestory window puncture the roof. The walls are clad with vertical redwood siding, which has been painted white. A flagstone terrace runs the length of the south elevation. To the north are a courtyard and a three-car garage, which were constructed during the 1988 construction campaign. This garage has a roof that slopes down towards the north; the southeast corner of the garage is cantilevered over the terrace. A well house is located on the east edge of the terrace. An older garage structure is located northeast of the house.

Significance

Originally, this lot was the site of a 18th-century salt box farmhouse owned by Ruth and John Weeks. After a plane crashed into their home in 1942, completely destroying it, the Weeks commissioned Eliot Noyes to design a new house. The simple massing and exterior treatment of his design focused attention on the site. The house was completed in 1952. It was featured in the New York Times Magazine and included on the 1953 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

In 1977, James P. and Flora L. Lee acquired the house. From 1988 to 1990, the house was extensively renovated and expanded by Alan Goldberg, a partner of Noyes. Goldberg's design introduced curves and circular shapes, which softened the appearance of the structure and contrasted with the rectangular form of Noyes's building. The main entrance was relocated during this renovation. In addition, a three-car garage, an entrance courtyard, and stone terraces and walls were constructed.

In 1993, John D. and Sally N. Hough purchased the property (later transferred to Sally N. and John D. Hough, Trustees, in 1997). The property's trees, stone walls, and expansive lawns were restored by the Houghes. In 2005, Felipe Ferrand acquired the property.

Sources

"Goldberg, Alan, Weeks House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Helle, Nancy. "Architectural innovations fits into suburban landscape." New Canaan Advertiser, 22 October 1992.
"In the market? And Another New Canaan Modern." DOCOMOMO Newsletter, Summer 2004, 11.
"Living the Modern Way in New Canaan." Stamford Advocate, 17 October 1953.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Pepis, Betty. "The Changing American Home." New York Times, 17 May 1953, SM50.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Noyes House 2

Current Building Name: Noyes House 2

Architect: Eliot Noyes

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954-55

ID #: 59

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 102'x58'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular with interior courtyard

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Wood frame, steel columns and girders

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Fieldstone, glass, vertical wood sheathing

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood stained dark brown

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain plywood

Fascia: Sheet metal

Gutter Material: Not visible but projecting copper on outbldgs

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone and parging

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, horizontal sliding sash with horizontal sliding screens

Sash Material: Steel

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Massive wood sliding barn-type doors, steel sliding doors with screen doors, narrow-stile wood doors with storm doors

Door Material: Wood, steel

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round metal can lights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Metal with mesh

# of Terraces: 1 at courtyard

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House placed in open area amongst white pine trees. Lawn at west of house. Stream runs to west of house, partially dammed to create natural pool. Boulders.

Alterations

Alterations: Small flagstone patio installed in the interior courtyard early on. 1964: builder Borglum & Meek constructed an 18'x20' storage shed designed by Noyes. In 1976, a freestanding studio designed by Noyes was constructed. Around 1979, a partition was removed to create a larger master bedroom, thereby eliminating one of the other bedrooms.

Years of Alterations: Unknown, 1964, 1976, ca. 1979

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ No

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Studio (described below), storage shed (described in survey notes)

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Sliding aluminum doors with clerestory windows, wood canopy. At sides, fixed narrow sash with ventilators and exterior screens. At rear, horizontal sliding aluminum sash with clerestory windows, wood canopy. Bubble skylights.

Roof Material and Configuration: Flat, not visible

Conditions

Exterior: Fair to good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: None

Lighting Designer: Richard Kelly

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Eliot Noyes

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 10.30.07

Survey Notes: Inner courtyard with slender wood columns, flagstone pavers, and massive Calder sculpture. Bedroom wall facing courtyard has vertical wood sheathing. Storage shed has concrete block footers, flush vertical wood siding, sliding wood barn door with original hardware, screened clerestory openings above barn door, flat roof, and metal scuppers.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Noyes House 2, side and rear façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Noyes House 2, west façade and studio

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Noyes House appears to be eligible for the National Register individually under Criterion C as a National Historic Landmark and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. It is an exceptionally important resource for American architectural history both because it was designed by prominent architect Eliot Noyes and because it embodies the defining characteristics of Modern architecture of post-World War II America.

Description

The Noyes House is sited in a grove of trees adjacent to a brook on a six-acre lot. The one-story, flat-roofed house was designed with a courtyard plan: a bedroom wing in one rectangular pavilion separated by a square, open courtyard from a parallel living wing in a second rectangular pavilion. Covered but open concrete walkways were designed to connect the separate pavilions of the house. The roof is flat and is continuous over the entire building.

Noyes emphasized the difference between the axes of his house by contrasting solidity and transparency. On the north (entry) and south (rear) façades, he used solid fieldstone walls with no openings except the entries into the courtyard (which can be closed with heavy barn doors). On the east and west façades of the perpendicular axis, he used five bays of floor-to-ceiling glass set between wood-covered steel columns. This arrangement gives the house privacy from the road (north), effectively using the stone to camouflage the house within the rocky, wooded setting. On the other axis, the arrangement allows the natural settings to merge with the interiors. The east and west window walls and the window wall in the courtyard allow light and air to move through the house. Plastic “bubble” skylights give additional natural light to both pavilions of the house.

The window sash and the sliding doors are made of steel, painted black, with ¼” plate glass panes. All exposed trim is square edge cypress stained a deep brown. The barn doors and wall of the bedroom pavilion facing the courtyard are covered with flush, tongue-and-groove vertical boards. The exterior soffits are plywood, painted white.

The courtyard was treated as an active living space and an integral part of the designed landscape. Additional structures on the property include a shed (built 1964), and a studio (built 1976), both designed by Noyes. Along the side of the property is a brook dammed by Noyes to create a natural pool.

Significance

Noyes House 2 was designed by Eliot Noyes for his family after they outgrew their first house in New Canaan (Noyes House 1, 1947, no longer extant). According to the assessor property street cards, the property for Noyes House 2 was acquired by purchasing at least two different lots. Noyes and his wife Mary acquired the lots between 1952 and 1953 from Annis S. Gilbert. Completed between 1954 and 1955, Noyes House 2 was featured in Life and Time magazines, was awarded the AIA Award of Merit in 1957, and based on the amount of media coverage it received, is the most famous of all the houses Noyes designed. The Noyes House was featured on multiple Modern House tours in New Canaan, including the 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, and 1963 tours. The house was built by Borglum & Meek, who also built Noyes House 1.

The house demonstrates Noyes’s appreciation for New England’s natural materials, particularly fieldstone walls. Though the major walls were built of local stone, the secondary and courtyard façades are primarily glass and steel, rendering the house decidedly Modern. In Noyes's words, the house is “a fortress on one side and all glass on the other” (Bruce, 116). The house was among the first to use wall-size sheets of glass to open up the living area into the outside courtyard. This allowed the house to blend with its environment and to make an unobtrusive statement from the exterior. With basic, rectilinear spaces separated by elements of function rather than configurations of material, the Noyes House is the ultimate expression of its designer’s concepts of what an ideal house should be. Noyes himself referred to it as “a very hard-boiled piece of architecture” (Bruce, 110).

Noyes wrote in his 1963 essay in Life Magazine, “It is no coincidence that an architect often expresses himself most clearly in a house designed for himself and his family. As an architect, he will have thought a lot about how people could live as opposed to how they do and how by architectural means he could expand the scope and richness of life within the house” (Life, 15 February 1963). As the house built expressly for Eliot Noyes’s own family, the Noyes house stands as the perfect encapsulation of the architect’s structural and aesthetic ideal.

After Eliot Noyes's death in 1977, the ownership of the house was transferred to Mary D. Noyes and the Estate of Eliot Noyes. In 1979, it was transferred to Noyes Family Properties, Inc. The property is still owned by the Noyes family.

Very few alterations have been made to Noyes House 2. The Noyes family sold two acres of their original lot to the Blake family c. 1970, leaving them with just over six acres. The original tar and gravel roofs have been replaced with EPDM. The "bubble" skylights were replaced with flat glass units. The courtyard walkways and the shallow terraces along the east and west façades, left as bare concrete to save money, were later finished with flagstone pavers as originally intended. After Noyes's death, his wife enlarged the master bedroom c. 1977 by removing a partition wall. The master bedroom plan changed from a rectangle to an L-shape and the number of bedrooms was reduced to four from the original five. The original plywood ceiling tiles were replaced in kind. The storage shed, studio, and natural pool have not been altered since their original construction.

Sources

“A House for All Seasons.” Life, 15 February 1963.
Bruce, Gordon. Eliot Noyes. New York and London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2006.
Cook, Joan. “Planks, Nails and Dreams.” New York Times, 3 September 1965, 30.
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“house: New Canaan, Connecticut.” Progressive Architecture (December 1956): 98-105.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Noyes, Eliot, Noyes House II," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“Noyes House, New Canaan, Connecticut, 1955.” Architectural Record (January 1966): 130.
“Patio Splits Two-Zone House.” Architectural Record Houses of 1957 (mid-May 1957).
“Residential Design.” Progressive Architecture (January 1954): 122.
Ryder, Sharon Lee. “House as Home.” Progressive Architecture (June 1973).
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
“Wall Houses.” Art in America (January-February 1968): 56-65.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Chivvis House

Current Building Name: Chivvis House

Architect: Eliot Noyes

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1978

ID #: 60

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 90'x22'; 81'x32'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular H-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding and mortar set field stone

Are Walls Painted? Wood is painted

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed and open

Soffit: Plain; painted wood boards

Fascia: Plain; sheet copper

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Fieldstone

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Continues from house roof

Porch Roof Type: Flat with copper fascia

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed sash; sliding sash; awning

Sash Material: Aluminum double glazed

Window Hardware: Not visible

Door Types: Flush panel hollow wood door with painted wood transom panel, painted vertical wood siding narrow stile glazed doors; wood screen doors

Door Material: Wood or glazed aluminum

Door Hardware: Some original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Downlights

Locations: Soffits of eaves in front of glass walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland; residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Mortar set flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with a slate curb

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Mortar set slate or flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood planks at hot tub

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Planting island with slate curb; rocky outcropping; dry set field stone wall at borders; there is a creek in a ravine on the property.

Alterations

Alterations: Three car garage added in 1982. Two additions were also added to the house in 1982. In 2006, a new roof (to match the original) was installed. Presently, there are plans to build a small guest cottage, separate from the main house, on site.

Years of Alterations: 1982; 2006

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding painted dark brown

Doors and Windows: Sliding doors and windows

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, composite roofing

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding painted brown with sheet copper fascia

Doors and Windows: Three car garage

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat composite

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Tool shed with sliding doors

Foundation: Unknown

Wall Cladding: Painted vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: No windows. One wall of shed is sliding wood doors and the other is open.

Roof Material and Configuration: Flat, material not visible

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.30.07

Survey Notes: Design similar to Noyes 2, but with a glass hallway and more solid walls off of the courtyard. Courtyard between living wing and bedroom wing. Additions done well. New roof installed a year ago, including new copper fascia. Garage designed to match the original house design.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Chivvis House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Chivvis House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Chivvis House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criteria C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The one-story, flat-roofed Chivvis House is finished with vertical wood siding, solid fieldstone walls, and glass walls. The house has an irregular H-shaped plan, with the primary uses (public and private) of the house separated into two parallel rectangular pavilions connected by a wide corridor. The corridor serves as the main entry lobby for the house and opens onto a landscaped courtyard between the pavilions. The entrance side of this 18'-wide corridor is faced with fieldstone while the courtyard façade is a window wall.

The house was originally built with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, an entry lobby, a kitchen, an open living/dining room, and a courtyard. Except the courtyard-facing wall, which is a 12'-tall solid fieldstone wall, the bedroom wing walls are clad with vertical wood siding relieved with fixed and sliding sash. The walls of the wing containing the public living spaces are more open, with vertical wood siding on the primary façade, window walls along the long façades, and both wood siding and glass walls at the rear façades.

In 1982, a separate 3-car garage was added along with two additions which seamlessly extend the rectangular plan of each pavilion of the house.

Significance

Mary-Lynette Chivvis (nee Mary-Lynette Bremer) purchased the four-acre site in 1976. She and her husband Arthur Beecher Chivvis, Jr., commissioned architect Eliot Noyes to design a house for their family. Mary-Lynette Chivvis grew up in the Bremer House (1951), also designed by Noyes. The design of the Chivvis House is reminiscent of the New Canaan home the architect designed for his own family in 1954 (Noyes House 2). The house was completed in 1978 after Noyes's death.

Although completed at the end of the Modern period in New Canaan, the house is clearly marked as a Modern structure by its open plan, expressive use of glass and local materials, architectural details, and its interior/exterior living spaces. The house retains very high integrity.

Sources

Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Papp House

Current Building Name: Papp House

Architect: Laszlo Papp

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1959-64

ID #: 61

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 66' x 41'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular U-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical redwood siding; concrete

Are Walls Painted? Clear finish on redwood. Concrete painted red

Trim Material: Painted wood; white

Roof Type: Shallow gable roof with exposed rafter ends at one side

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: Plain; wood stained finish

Gutter Material: Aluminum on garage

Gutter Type: Hanging gutter on garage

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Outswinging casements; fixed sash; in-swinging casements

Sash Material: Painted wood

Window Hardware: Not visible

Door Types: Painted flush panel hollow wood door at primary entrance and hyphen, sliding glazed narrow stile doors to living room.

Door Material: Painted wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Original, replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Glass and metal elongated globe, spotlights

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland; hillside; residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Mortar set slate and brick pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set slate

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Yes; chain link fence at side yard

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Brick pavers

Deck Material: Wood planks

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on top of a hill. Dry set fieldstone retaining walls are used along the grade. Pool with wood post and rail fence. Metal sculpture, terraced planting beds, perimeter dry set fieldstone walls found on site.

Alterations

Alterations: The house began as a 1 room summer cottage, built circa 1950 (designer unknown). Papp winterized the cottage, built a large fireplace and later added two large additions to the cottage. The first addition was garage and living space wing and the second was the two story wing with bedrooms, a kitchen, and a dining room. The bedroom addition has balconies and a sun room.

Years of Alterations: 1962 and 1964

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Horizontal wood siding; natural finish

Doors and Windows: Casement windows; fixed plate glass sash

Sash Material: Aluminum; wood

Roof Shape and Material: Gable

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Attached. Includes 2 story living space

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Painted horizontal wood siding

Doors and Windows: Wood, painted in-swinging

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed roof with asphalt shingle and exposed rafter ends

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Andrew Pirro

Alterations Designers: Laszlo Papp

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.16.07

Survey Notes: Papp added a fireplace and modified existing conditions at a one room cottage on the site when he bought it for his family. Then he added the corridor to connect the existing living space to a new two-story garage addition. In 1964 he added the two story wing with the existing kitchen, bedrooms, and balconies. The dramatic site has a swimming pool with a wood deck, brick paved pedestrian paths lined with low dry set fieldstone walls. One of the balconies in the 1964 addition was modified to be a glass enclosed sun room.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Papp House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Papp House, side façade, 1964 addition

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Papp House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criteria C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. This highly individualistic house was built in three phases to the designs of architect Laslo Papp for himself and his family as funds became available. The three wings of the house are designed to conform to the sloping grade of the site. Interior flow is dynamic and fluid with living, working, and sleeping areas connected by a central hearth and open stair. The architect's interpretation of post-World War II residential

Description

The Papp House is set near the top of a sloping site in the woods and is bordered by fieldstone walls. The house faces west, overlooking a valley and a lake.

The house was originally constructed as a one-room summer cottage. Several additions were added between 1959 and 1964 to create an asymmetrical U-shaped plan around a terrace and oak tree. The foundation of the house is concrete. The walls are clad with redwood vertical siding. The building has asphalt-shingled roofs of varying pitches. Irregularly spaced rectangular windows puncture the façades. The two-story structure that comprises the south end of the house was constructed in 1964 and contains a dining room, kitchen, and playroom on the first floor. Three bedrooms and two bathrooms are located on the second floor. A fireplace, open to both the living and dining rooms, connects and balances the two rooms despite the change in floor level (the dining area is below the living room). The projecting balcony of the second-floor master bedroom is enclosed with a solarium, and the first-floor balcony below is open. A patio is located at the rear of the building.

Significance

The original cottage on this site was constructed c. 1945. After the original owners passed away, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, who eventually sold it to Laszlo and Judith Papp in 1959. The Papps were Hungarian refugees who were forced to leave their homeland in 1956. Given their limited resources, they altered the small cottage on the site to create a more ideal home. The design of the house responds to the challenging slope of the site through the construction of several levels that flow into one another and create a dynamic space.

The Papps winterized the cabin and dug out a partial cellar/partial crawl space under the structure. In addition, they built a fireplace and chimney and replaced the doors and windows with large glass units. In 1961, a second room and a two-car garage were constructed to Laszlo Papp's designs to the north of the cabin. The rest of the house was essentially built to Papp's designs in 1964, with the exception of the second floor solarium, which was added later at an unknown date.

Sources

"Architect gets national award for contribution to profession." [New Canaan Advertiser], 16 September 1982, 11A.
Fricke, Amanda. "Former Town Council member leads Stamford redevelopment." [New Canaan Advertiser], 22 March 2001, 2A.
Kalman, Timon. Papp Laszlo. Budapest: Hungarian Architectural Museum of the National Office for Historic Preservation, 1996.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Papp earns highest honor from architects' institute." [New Canaan Advertiser], 8 January 1998, 4D.
"Papp, Laszlo, Papp House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Fine House

Current Building Name: Fine House

Architect: Laszlo Papp

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1965

ID #: 62

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Andrew Pirro

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Fine House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Fine House was designed by Laszlo Papp for William M. Fine. Fine was the publisher of Harper's Bazaar and Town & Country magazines. According to Papp, Fine asked him to design a house that would resemble a remodeled barn (Papp, "Fine/Flaschen House," n.d.). The builder was Andrew Pirro of Norwalk. William M. Fine et. al. acquired the property in 1964. The house and swimming pool were completed around 1965. The original two-story and one-story house had an L-shaped plan with a large terrace. A two-car garage with living space above was attached to the house. The Fine House had a concrete block foundation, a gable roof, and was clad in vertical board siding and brick veneer. In 1975, a 10'x6' poolhouse was completed.

In 1978, Joyce D. Flaschen acquired the property and lived there with her husband Stewart. Flaschen hired Laszlo Papp to design a kitchen addition and new vestibule for the house, completed in 1980. Andrew Pirro was the contractor on the addition work as well. The addition had a greenhouse barrel roof. In 1990, the property was transferred to the Joyce D. Flaschen Revocable Investment Trust. In 2002, Craig R. Kingsley acquired the property. A building permit for an addition was filed in 2003 and completed in 2004; it is unknown what this work entailed, but it may have included the extension of the fieldstone patio.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Papp, Laszlo. “Fine/Flaschen House.” Undated memo in the files of the New Canaan Historical Society.
"Papp, Laszlo, Flaschen House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Beaven Mills House

Current Building Name: Beaven Mills House

Architect: William Pedersen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 63

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 40'x22'; 15'x58'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular H-shaped

Basement: Full basement

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Concrete block; vertical wood siding; glass.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat; shed

Roof Material: Tar and gravel. Asphalt shingles.

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain painted wood planks.

Fascia: Plain; copper flashing.

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Asphalt shingle

Porch Roof Type: Shed roof

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass sash; awning single light sash.

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware:

Door Types: Flush panel door

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Square fixtures, flush with soffit

Locations: Soffit above main door.

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential, woodland

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Cut flagstone pavers on poured concrete

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Cut flagstone pavers

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Sloping site. Flagstone patios, concrete block retaining walls.

Alterations

Alterations: In c. 1958, a separate carport was built. In c. 1970 a storage area was built next to one of the bedrooms. Insulation was added to the house in 1979. Hardwood floors were installed at the central living space in 1997. The wetbar was replaced with a laundry room in 1999. In 2004, the wall between the kitchen and great room was removed and kitchen remodeled.

Years of Alterations: c.1958; c.1970; 1979; 1997; 1999; 2004

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Separate

Foundation: Concrete footings

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood siding, one side is spaced like fence

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat roof with tar and gravel finish.

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Separate screened in porch, c. 1970.

Foundation: None

Wall Cladding: Wood frame with screens

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: Gable

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good, except concrete block retaining walls

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder:

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 10.30.07

Survey Notes: The house is divided into living spaces and a bedroom wing with a connecting corridor. The bedroom wing is at grade while the living spaces have a full basement. The upper floor of the living space section of the house is supported on concrete block walls that extend beyond the plane of the wall.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Beaven Mills House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Beaven Mills House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Beaven Mills House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Designed by architect William Francis Pedersen, the Beaven Mills House is a one-story (plus basement), flat-roofed house with an irregular plan set on a sloping, wooded site. The house is clad with painted vertical wood siding and there are broad expanses of glass throughout. The house was designed to have separate living and sleeping wings connected by a corridor. The primary entrance to the house is at the north wall of the connecting corridor. Passing through the main entrance to the south side of the corridor, the space opens to a courtyard between the bedroom and living wings. The living wing was designed with a full-height, finished basement level containing guest quarters, and the bedroom wing was designed with three bedrooms.

In 1960, a separate carport was built. A small addition for storage was built adjacent to one of the bedrooms ca. 1970 and the house was fully insulated in 1979. Minor interior alterations took place in 1997 and 1999, when hardwood flooring was installed in the major living areas and the wet bar was remodeled to become a laundry room. In 2004, the wall between the kitchen and the great room was removed and the kitchen was remodeled.

Significance

In 1950, Beaven Mills bought an unimproved parcel of land from Chichester Estates, Incorporated. Beaven Mills commissioned architect William Francis Pedersen to design a house for the site. The house was completed in 1956. In 1976, William and Marjorie Hammond bought the parcel. Robert and Virginia Dunbar purchased it in 1992. Five years later, in 1997, Matthew and Erica Siegel bought the parcel and they are currently the owners of record.

The Beaven Mills House appears to be one of the earliest Modern houses built on Chichester Road, a road that had been developed with several Modern houses by 1960. Local architect John Black Lee took an active role in encouraging the development of Modern Houses on Chichester Road; in 1954, Lee purchased twenty acres of land to be subdivided into six parcels with the provision that the new houses built on the lots were Modern, although the Beaven Mills House was not part of this development.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Pedersen, William, [address redacted]," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Hall House

Current Building Name: Hall House

Architect: William Pedersen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1962

ID #: 64

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 112'x36'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes, located between garage and house

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding with wide boards

Are Walls Painted? Yes, green with orange trim

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: Boxed, very deep in places

Soffit: Plain wood

Fascia: Plain wood, set away from face of bldg

Gutter Material: Copper scuppers, other downspouts metal

Gutter Type: Copper scuppers at roof

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Appears original

Door Types: Flush doors with storm doors, sidelights and transom. Sliding doors.

Door Material: Wood. Sliding doors are aluminum

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Globe sconces. Recessed square fixtures.

Locations: Globes wall-mounted. Recessed fixtures in soffit.

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers, brick

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Wood, flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 4

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes, **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is sited on hillside among specimen trees that predate house. Lot originally part of larger estate. Large lawn, huge beech tree, flagstone patio. Long, narrow decks under overhangs at either side of house.

Alterations

Alterations: House is largely unaltered since construction. Around 1975, an addition supported on piers was constructed to provide additional living space. Fieldstone patio likely added at this time. Current owners filled in windows at entrances to provide additional interior wall space, although the framing is extant, and cut one new window opening in living room. Also hired landscape architect Anne Mackenzie to install a larger terrace and flower gardens.

Years of Alterations: ca 1975, unknown

Foundation: Supported on steel piers, footers not visible

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Horizontal sliding sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead wood doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: House for sale

Credits

Landscape Architect: None, landscaping done by owner

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.29.07

Survey Notes: House is long and narrow with 15' x 18' addition breaking line of structure. From driveway, only view is of garage. Hidden courtyard between garage and house, which is only accessible from the house interior. At rear, the house cantilevers over basement level, creating space for a wood deck on upper floor finished with exposed beams at ceiling that extend from living room.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Hall House, side façade with hidden courtyard at right

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Hall House, rear façade, looking towards living room (upper level) and bedrooms (lower level)

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Hall House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Hall House is a long, rectangular structure sited on a gently sloping hill. The driveway leads to a two-car garage at the narrow end of the rectangle, essentially masking the remainder of the house from view. The long sides of the rectangle are characterized by inset narrow wood decks sheltered under overhangs that connect the garage to the main house. An internal courtyard, accessible only from the house interior and not visible from the decks, sits between the garage and house. At the other narrow end of the rectangle, the house cantilevers over the basement level. This end of the house is heavily glazed and has a wood deck on the upper level finished with exposed beams at the eaves that extend from the living room, and large plate glass windows flanked by casement windows at the lower level. The entire structure is clad in V-channel vertical wood siding painted a dark green, creating an unbroken line between the garage and house. The flat roof also is continuous with the exception of an opening for the courtyard. An addition supported on piers sits off of the kitchen, extending perpendicularly from the original structure.

Significance

The Hall House was built in 1962 for the Hall family. According to Cornelia Walworth, who moved to the house with her parents in the early 1980s, the Halls originally lived with their five children in the Lambert House, a large Gothic-style mansion adjacent to the current Hall House property. After some of the children had grown up and moved out, the Halls decided to subdivide the property and construct a new house on a hill next to one of the massive beech trees. The lot the Hall House is located on (which presumably included the Lambert House) was purchased by I. Davis Hall in 1950. Hall hired architect William Pedersen to design a house of wood and glass to complement his love of nature and light, and the house was completed in 1962 (Cornelia Walworth to Marty Skrelunas, 25 October 2007).

Around 1975, an addition supported on piers was constructed to provide additional living space. It appears that the fieldstone patio was added at this time.

According to the assessor records, Edward (Ned) H. and Nancy Z. Walworth purchased the Hall House in 1979, although Cornelia Walworth remembers them buying it in 1981. The Walworths filled in the windows at the entrances to provide additional interior wall space, although the framing is extant, and cut one new window opening in the living room. They also hired landscape architect Anne Mackenzie to install a larger terrace and flower gardens.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Pedersen, William, Hall House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
Walworth, Cornelia, to Marty Skrelunas, email correspondence, 25 October 2007.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Mills House 1

Current Building Name: Mills House 1

Architect: Willis N. Mills

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1939

ID #: 65

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: Willis N. Mills **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House 1, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House 1, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Mills House 1 appears to be individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The house was designed by Willis N. Mills, who became one of the most prominent architects in New Canaan in the post-war period as part of Sherwood, Mills & Smith. Although based on a traditional house, Mills used Modern elements, materials, and interior design principles, foreshadowing his later work. The house was included in Landmarks of New Canaan in 1951, underscoring its importance as one of the first houses in the town to be influenced by Modern architecture principles.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on Mills House 1.

Significance

Architect Willis N. Mills acquired the property for Mills House 1 in 1938. He designed a house for his family, which was completed between 1938 and 1939. According to an article written by Mills's wife Esther, the house "attracted the stares and amazed comments of New Canaan" during its construction (Esther Mills, 1951). Mills would later come to prominence as a partner in the Sherwood, Mills & Smith firm and would design several residences and public buildings in New Canaan. Mills graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1929 where he received a traditional Beaux-Arts education, unlike many of the architects who would come to New Canaan in the post-World War II period.

Mills's simple house had a gable roof, horizontal beadboard and flush wood siding, and a fairly standard plan, although the living room and dining room were open to each other. The most unusual aspects of the house were the steel casement sash, corner window units, glass block, brise-soleil, the cut-out second-floor corner porch, outdoor living space with exterior fireplace, and the extensive use of glass at the rear, more private side of the house.

The May 1944 issue of Pencil Points, published six years after construction began, featured a four-page spread on the house, remarking on the careful planning of the interior: "[U]nusual attention has been given to improved arrangement and location of familiar facilities. A good instance is the placement of laundry equipment on the ground floor…a convenient arrangement of utilities that are too often relegated to the basement for no obvious reason." The article also pointed out that the house design was suited to the area: "more and more new New England houses have been built that are both congenial with the region and suited to the tastes of twentieth-century livers. It is agreeable to publish such a house that an architect designed for his own family" (Pencil Points, May 1944, 65-68).

In 1956, Willis N. Mills completed Mills House 2 and sold his first house to Alfred A. Muenchen. In 1962, the existing porch on the east side was enclosed. In 1964, Norman S. Hewitt acquired the house. According to a realtor listing for the house, the property included a two-stall barn. In 1968, Lynn D. Bannister purchased the property. In 1974, the one-car garage was converted to a living space, a curved addition was added to the west façade, and a two-car carport was constructed by extending the roofline of the former garage. A fieldstone patio along the west side and rear of the house was also constructed at an unknown date.

In 2006, Edward G. Mellick, Trustee of the New Canaan Country Day School, acquired the house.

Sources

"Country Home in Connecticut." Pencil Points 25 (May 1944): 65-68.
Mills, Esther. "House of Willis N. Mills." Landmarks of New Canaan. New Canaan, Connecticut: The New Canaan Historical Society, 1951.
"Mills, Willis, Willis Mills House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Rantoul House

Current Building Name: Rantoul House

Architect: Sherwood, Mills & Smith

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1947-48

ID #: 66

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Rantoul House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Rantoul House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on the Rantoul House.

Significance

The Rantoul House was built for Talbot and Claire Rantoul and completed in May 1947 or in 1948. Designed by architects Sherwood, Mills & Smith shortly after their firm was founded in 1946, the house is one of the earliest Modern houses in New Canaan and could be considered the first Modern. (The brochure for the first Modern House tour lists Noyes House 1, generally considered to be the first Modern, as being completed in December 1947; the Rantoul House is listed as being completed in May 1947, although the assessor notes the house was finished in 1948.) Claire Angert Rantoul acquired the property for the house in 1946.

Talbot Rantoul was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts and attended Harvard College. He became an administrative officer at the Harvard Business School in 1967. In 1969, he became president of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Claire Angert Rantoul was an artist who had graduated from the Childe Walker Art School in Boston. She later became a trustee of the Silvermine Guild of Artists in New Canaan. The Rantouls had three children (Stamford Advocate, 20 May 1969).

The Rantoul House was included on the first Modern House Tour in New Canaan in May 1949 and featured in a November 1948 article in Progressive Architecture. The Progressive Architecture article shows an L-shaped plan with a large combination living/dining room, a kitchen/laundry room, a master bedroom and bath, a nursery, a baby's room, a nursemaid's room, and a second bath. The baby's and nursemaid's room were separated by a temporary partition to allow conversion to a larger bedroom. The Rantouls praised the efficient layout and easy maintenance of the house, along with the many "gadgets," including the pass-through window between the dining room and kitchen, built-in storage units, and drop-leaf tables. The exterior of the wood-frame house was sheathed in painted striated plywood and local stone with a composition shed roof over plywood sheathing. Fenestration consisted of horizontal sliding wood-sash windows, awning windows, and fixed sash with double glazing. The house had a radiant heating/cooling system in the concrete slab floor. Interior finishes included slate, linoleum, or carpeted floors; wood-fiber acoustical tile ceilings; and two-panel fir doors with striated plywood veneers. The article noted that the house was designed to "spread out to provide desirable southeast exposure for main living rooms…solar principles used in design of fenestration and roof framing" (Progressive Architecture, November 1948, 73-76).

In 1949, a 20'x13' addition containing a new entry, bedroom, and bath was constructed on the east end of the building in place of the terrace. The house had originally been held to 1,500 square feet because of wartime restrictions; the addition was likely part of the original plan. In 1960, according to the assessor, a "small old building 10x12" was acquired for use as a studio. In 1961, a swimming pool was constructed. A flagstone terrace off the north side of the house was also added during this time period. Around 1968, the 2.124-acre lot was subdivided. Although the assessor records for the 1960s are not currently available, other sources indicate that Robert E. Greer acquired the house with 1.124 acres, and Harold D. and Mary Williams acquired the remaining 1 acre, which contained the swimming pool and studio building, in 1969. In 1975, Zachariah and Mary Ellen Allen acquired the house. In 1980, Doris Driver purchased the house. A small addition was constructed in 1987 at the northeast corner of the house; a wood deck at this corner was completed sometime after 1988.

Sources

“Art at Church Fair.” New Canaan Advertiser, 9 December 1965.
“Consulting Firm Names Local Man Vice President.” New Canaan Advertiser, 12 May 1977.
“House, New Canaan, Connecticut.” Progressive Architecture (November 1948): 73-76.
"Modern House Day, May 14, 1949, 11 to 5." Brochure on first Modern House tour in New Canaan.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“Rantoul Elected President of School of Design.” Stamford Advocate, 20 May 1969.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Durisol House/Risom House

Current Building Name: Durisol House/Risom House

Architect: Sherwood, Mills & Smith

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1949

ID #: 67

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 62' x 38'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Irregular L-shaped

Basement: No

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Load bearing masonry, Durisol

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Stucco, brickwork, plywood, plate glass

Are Walls Painted? Yes - stucco is painted white

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Shallow pitched gable roof

Roof Material: Appears to be gravel over tar

Eave: Open with exposed rafters

Soffit: Plain; exposed rafters and horizontal wood siding

Fascia: Plain; painted wood and aluminum flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed box gutters

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1

Porch Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Porch Roof Type: Continues from gable roof of house

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash, fixed sash windows at entry door

Sash Material: Wood with wood frame screens

Window Hardware:

Door Types: Single flush hollow wood doors and glazed narrow stile doors with storm doors

Door Material: Painted wood; glass; metal replacement doors

Door Hardware: Original at many doors

Exterior Lighting

Types: Downlights

Locations: Soffit of entry porch

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Dry set slate pavers (individual units form path) **Paving - Vehicular:** Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Single step up to entry porch mortar set slate **Swimming Pool:** No

Fence or Gate: No **# of Terraces:** 1 **# of Decks:** 0

Terrace Paving Material: At rear of house dry set flagstone pavers **Deck Material:** NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Chinese paper maple; tall mature pine trees

Alterations

Alterations: c. 1954: original porch was enclosed and original master bedroom was enlarged. c. 1959: garage remodeled into living space, including a bedroom, bath, and storage space. c. 1972: Laurent DuPont designed office addition at south end of house and gable-ended open carport with wood frame (wood boxed columns support structure, but roof is all wood frame); walls and roof (line and details) designed to seamlessly match original. Plate glass windows in living room replaced.

Years of Alterations: c. 1954; c. 1959; c. 1972 **Foundation:** Concrete

Wall Cladding: Painted stucco

Doors and Windows: Horizontal sliding sash **Sash Material:** Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Shallow pitch gable to match original

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Attached

Foundation: Concrete **Wall Cladding:** Open

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable, appears to be gravel over tar

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA **Wall Cladding:** NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good to fair.

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown **Lighting Designer:** Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Tudisco & Diehl

Alterations Designers: Laurent DuPont

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS **Date Surveyed:** 11.14.07

Survey Notes: House has wide eave overhang on north side with outdoor storage. Porch paving is mortar set slate. Porch soffit is closed with a downlight. House built to showcase Durisol. Land originally owned by the Grey Family of the Grey Bottling Glass Works. No basement. Only a small attic crawlspace.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Risom House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Risom House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Durisol House/Risom House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criteria C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Durisol House/Risom House is a one-story, slab-on-grade structure sited at the center of a small, open parcel with a significant old-growth Chinese paper maple tree. The house has an irregular L-shaped plan, gable roofs, and a painted stucco exterior wall finish. The stucco wall surfaces are relieved with broad expanses of glass, primarily found at the back of the house. The original garage area (now a bedroom) is clad with red brickwork. The attached carport has painted wood-encased steel columns, a wood-frame gable roof, and an asphalt floor.

In 1954, the original porch was enclosed and the master bedroom was enlarged. Between 1958 and 1959, the garage was remodeled into living space, including a bedroom with a bathroom and storage space. A carport and an office, designed by architect Laurent DuPont, were added in 1972.

Significance

In 1950, Jens Risom (1916-), the renowned Modern furniture designer from Denmark, bought a three-bedroom house from Robert Jahn. The house was designed by architecture firm Sherwood, Mills & Smith and was completed in 1949 by contractors Tudisco & Diehl.

The house was built as a showcase for a construction material known as "Durisol." According to the New York Times, the Risom house was the first house to be built entirely of Durisol, a material described as a "light-weight pre-cast concrete employing chemically mineralized wood shavings for its 'aggregate,' and formed in modular slabs, blocks and tiles, over which various surfaces can be applied if desired" (New York Times, 6 November 1949). The article states that the blocks used for the walls of the house were laid in staggered rows, interlocking at their ends and laid without pointing mortar. The voids within the blocks were filled with concrete to form load-bearing walls. The corner units were reinforced with steel bars. Stucco was applied directly to the units' surfaces for an exterior finish. Durisol was also used for the roof sheathing, which was left exposed at the interior for a ceiling finish and for acoustical ceiling tiles.

Featured in articles in the New York Times (1949), the New York Times Magazine (1954), House and Garden (1955), and the Herald Tribune Magazine (1958), the house was acclaimed for the use of Durisol, its efficient layout, and the prominence of its owner, Jens Risom.

In 1959, Risom sold the house to Lester and Patricial Brooks, who still own the house today. Despite additions and alterations, the house retains its plan, character-defining features, and most of its original materials, including the Durisol.

Sources

Herald Tribune Magazine, 17 August 1958.
House & Garden, September 1955.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"New Canaan House Uses New Methods." New York Times, November 6, 1949, R1.
Pepis, Betty, "Nature Built In." New York Times Magazine, 4 July 1954, SM20.
"Sherwood, Mills & Smith, Risom House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Mills House

Current Building Name: Mills House

Architect: Sherwood, Mills & Smith

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1950

ID #: 68

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Very irregular T-shaped

Basement: Partial. Original house had furnace room.

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical cedar siding. Brick.

Are Walls Painted? Wood unpainted. Brick is painted cream color.

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Gable, shallow

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Eave: Open eaves with exposed rafters

Soffit: Wood

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 1, screened

Porch Roof Material: Asphalt shingles

Porch Roof Type: Shed

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed

Sash Material: Wood

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Paneled wood door with wood screen door. Narrow-stile doors.

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Appears original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Metal round downlights

Locations: In soffit above windows

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Brick with flagstone treads

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 1, at addition

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on natural knoll on rocky, wooded site. Stream at edge of property. Views to Jeliff Pond in winter. Original flagstone patio.

Alterations

Alterations: 1992: large addition constructed containing an expanded kitchen, additional living space, deck, and screened porch. The interior of the original house was also modified. All windows were replaced; several original windows were bumped out to create bay windows. Siding was replaced in kind but not painted, as it had been when the current owners purchased the house.

Years of Alterations: 1992

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical cedar siding

Doors and Windows: Casement, awning

Sash Material: Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Gable, shed

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car, not original

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Overhead wood door with partial glazing

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers: Gary MacIntyre

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.28.07

Survey Notes: Original house has prow at one end, although glazing has been altered. Main entrance leads into foyer where large fixed window provides views outside. Interior heavily altered, but living room intact: has glazed wall protected by deep overhang with wood brise-soleil. Brick wall containing fireplace is extended end wall. House cantilevers over foundation in some areas; may have been added in the 1992 renovation.

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Mills House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Mills House is set on a natural knoll on a rocky, wooded site with a stream running along the edge of the property. The original house was a low, long structure with a shallow gable roof and V-channel vertical wood siding. The main entrance is at one intersection of the T-shaped plan. A brick wall steps down adjacent to the path leading to the front entrance.The entry foyer has a large fixed window overlooking a flagstone terrace at the rear. At one leg of the "T" is a prow and at the top of the "T" is a window wall overlooking another terrace protected by a deep overhang and a brise-soleil. The interior brick wall in the living room encompassing the fireplace forms an extending end wall that borders the terrace, blurring the line between interior and exterior space.

The additions to the house, completed in 1992, were designed using the same materials, but are more eclectic in their plan and detailing, including triangular bay windows and bumped-out window bays.

Significance

The Mills House was constructed in 1950 for Barbara and James Mills. James Mills acquired the property in 1950 and hired architects Sherwood, Mills & Smith to design a house. The builder on the project was Ted Hobbs. According to the current owner, the Mills had a child with cerebral palsy, so the house was designed to accommodate the child's needs. The assessor records indicate that the house was ready for plastering in October 1950 and was likely finished by the end of 1950 or in 1951.

In 1951, the assessor found a one-story cabin with a bar and screened porch in the "back land." It is unknown if this cabin predated the house or was part of Sherwood, Mills & Smith's design. It was destroyed by fire in 1980.

In 1963, Alison P. Cullinan (later McKee) acquired the property. In 1980, Jacob T. and Bette J. Chachkes purchased the house. The Chachkes built a large addition to the house in 1992 consisting of a two-car garage, an expanded kitchen, additional living space, a wood deck, and a screened porch. All of the windows were replaced and several of the openings on the existing house were bumped out to create bay windows. The exterior siding, which had been painted when the Chachkes acquired the property, was replaced in kind but left unpainted.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Sherwood, Mills & Smith, Mills House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Mills House 2

Current Building Name: Mills House 2

Architect: Willis N. Mills of Sherwood, Mills & Smi

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 69

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 98' x 26'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Partially

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2.5

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Both grounded and floating

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Vertical redwood siding; painted wood panels; painted concrete block; fieldstone

Are Walls Painted? Siding is natural finish

Trim Material: Painted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Tar and gravel

Eave: None, except under cantilevered sections of house

Soffit: Plain; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; stained and clear finish wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Concrete block

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed sash and sliding sash

Sash Material: Steel

Window Hardware:

Door Types: Painted flush hollow wood door at entry, sliding narrow stile glazed doors

Door Material: Wood; aluminum; glass

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types: Spotlights, not original

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland; residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Slate, no visible mortar

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Slate with no visible pointing mortar

Swimming Pool: Yes, installed in 1986

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1 **# of Decks:** 3

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood set on short end

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is cantilevered over a rocky bluff. Terraced planting beds, mortar set fieldstone retaining walls, swimming pool and pool pavilion with stone pavers.

Alterations

Alterations: In 1985, a bedroom and bathroom were added. New roof was installed in 1993. Between 1999 and 2003 extensive interior alterations were done, including remodeling the kitchen, removing interior partition walls, installing a tall glass wall at the back facade of the house, replacing the wood flooring with terrazzo, and redesigning the bathrooms and the master bedroom suite. A separate 2-car garage was built.

Years of Alterations: 1985, 1993; 1999-2003

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Cut stone no visible pointing mortar

Doors and Windows: Natural finish overhead garage doors; flush panel hollow wood door

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat; tar and gravel

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Craig Bassam, Christopher Scott Fellows

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.16.07

Survey Notes: Entry deck has railing that mimics wall cladding, back deck has pipe railing, planters are used as railing on mid deck on front of house. House is perched on a rocky ledge and partially cantilevers over the dramatic drop in grade. Mature trees throughout site.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House 2, side and rear façades

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Mills House 2, master suite end façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Mills House 2 appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Mills House 2 is situated on a rocky, wooded hillside. The site drops 45 feet from the street level entrance and the three-story house follows suit, with cantilevered sections at each level. The house is oriented north-south. Fieldstone walls run along the eastern edge of the property.

The house has a rectangular plan. The upper story has a rectangular plan. The foundation of the building is concrete block. The exterior walls are clad with clear-finished vertical redwood siding. The house has a flat built-up roof. Wood decks are located on the east façade of the upper level and the west façade of the lower level, and a cantilevered stone patio is located on the east side of the first-floor level.

The house was renovated between 1999 and 2003. This resulted in a number of alterations to the structure, including the removal of several interior walls and the replacement of a section of the solid wall on the rear façade with a wall of glass. At the time of this renovation, the wood decks had rotted and were replaced with new decks in the same footprint. Steel and wood windows were restored, wood windows were replaced with steel units, and aluminum windows were replaced with aluminum units. A new stone-clad garage was constructed to the north of the house. The original garage was integrated into the living quarters and the north wall of the house was reclad with stone to match the garage.

Significance

The house was built in 1956 by Willis N. Mills, a principal in the architectural firm of Sherwood, Mills & Smith, as his private residence. The house received design awards from Architectural Record and the Boston Arts Festival. It was constructed on a rocky slope where many thought it was impossible to build. The uncomplicated geometry of the rectangular floor plans was offset by the diagonal balconies and terraces.

Mills House 2 was included in the 1957 Modern House Tour in New Canaan and featured in Architectural Record Houses of 1957, Progressive Architecture (March 1957), and House & Garden's Book of Building (1958-59).

In 1999, the house was purchased and renovated by architect Craig Bassam and Christopher Scott Fellows. The property was sold to James C. Seuss in 2007 (transferred to Willis Mills House LLC that same year).

Sources

"The Architect and His Community: Sherwood, Mills & Smith, Stamford, Connecticut." Progressive Architecture 38 (March 1957): 107-123.
“Balconies Add Charm and Space.” Architectural Record Houses of 1957 (Mid-May 1957): 50-53.
“Featured in Modern House Tour.” New Canaan Advertiser, 7 April 1955.
“House No. 10: On a Rugged, Rocky Slope.” House & Garden’s Book of Building (Fall-Winter 1958-1959): 76-79, 170.
Loecke, John. “Modern Art.” AtHome, Spring/Summer 2006, 54-65.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Sherwood, Mills & Smith, Mills House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“To Be In Modern House Tour.” New Canaan Advertiser, 18 April 1957.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Smallen House

Current Building Name: Smallen House

Architect: Hugh Smallen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1957

ID #: 70

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular with rectangular addition

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: Metal

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Metal stove pipes

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Very large fixed windows. Horizontal sliding windows.

Sash Material: Fixed windows are wood. Sliding windows are aluminum.

Window Hardware: Not visible

Door Types: Flush doors

Door Material: Wood

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round spotlights

Locations: Mounted on wall above windows

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential. Two other Smallen houses next door.

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt and gravel

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** Yes **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Stone walls, wood decks, lawn, wood bridge to main entrance. Stone walls around property set in sculptural fashion, framing and defining the space around the house.

Alterations

Alterations: 1962: 3-car garage constructed. 1969: studio added to garage. 1979: addition to dwelling built, but of temporary construction, unfinished walls and floors. 1986: complete existing studio.Unknown dates: wood deck replaced, new lighting fixtures installed.

Years of Alterations: 1962, 1969, 1979, 1985

Foundation: Concrete block footers

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Horizontal sliding window

Sash Material: Appears to be aluminum

Roof Shape and Material: Flat

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 3 overhead doors. Awning and casement windows.

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Good. Fair at addition

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Hugh Smallen

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes: Addition to house is awkwardly sited and constructed and does not meld with the landscape like the original house. New stone wall at driveway.

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Smallen House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Smallen House, side façade and 1979 addition

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Smallen House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by architect Hugh Smallen for his own family, the Smallen House was featured in national publication House & Garden and included on at least two Modern House tours in New Canaan. The Smallen House served as a showcase for Smallen's work and influenced the design of his other projects, including the neighboring Parsons House and Becker House.

Description

The Smallen House is set in a clearing on a gently sloping wooded site. The one-story house is simply finished with flush vertical wood siding painted white, large fixed sash, and flush doors. Geometric in its design, the shed-roofed house is sited to provide one floor of fenestration at its lowest pitch, and two floors of fenestration at its highest pitch. The main entrance is at the slope of the roof and consists of a flush door flanked by fixed sidelights and an irregularly shaped transom that follows the line of the low-pitched shed roof. The entrance is accessed by a wood deck anchored at one end by a mortared stone wall that bridges the slope at the front of the house.

The public living space is fenestrated with a five-bay glassed wall. A pair of full-height flush doors in the fourth bay leads to a wood deck terminating at a mortared stone wall; the remaining bays contain fixed sash. The opposite side façade is demarcated by two rows of horizontal sliding sash ribbon windows, indicating the split-level plan on the interior. At the rear of the house is a flat-roofed addition on concrete-block footers connected to the main building by a small hyphen with sliding glass doors. This addition is clad in V-channel vertical wood siding and fenestrated with horizontal sliding sash.

The property also has a one-story, flat-roofed, three-car garage/studio building. Sited on a hill, the building is designed to follow the slope of the land, creating an angled foundation similar to Smallen's Parsons House (1964). A wood deck at the side of the building leads to the entry to the lower-level studio.

Significance

The Smallen House was designed by architect Hugh Smallen for his family and completed in 1957. The Smallen House was part of a Modern enclave along Chichester Road. Architect John Black Lee purchased twenty acres of land in the mid-1950s to be subdivided into six building parcels with the stipulation was that houses constructed on the lots had to be of Modern design. Two other Smallen-designed houses are next door. The Smallen House parcel was purchased by Lee in July 1955 and sold to Smallen in September of that year. The builder for the project was Borglum & Meek.

The Smallen House was featured in the 1959 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. An May 14 article in the New Canaan Advertiser described the house: "…a nice division of sleeping areas is made possible by the way the architect planned his home to the sloping site. Going up one half flight of open structure walnut steps will be found the master bedroom, bath and a guest-study, while by descending a half flight one finds three bedrooms for the daughters of the family and an extra guest or maid's room. In both sleeping areas there are giant, walk-in closets, considered to be a monument to the architect's wife, that are expected to bring sighs of appreciation from most of the women who make the modern pilgrimage" (New Canaan Advertiser, 14 May 1959).

The house was also included in the 1965 Modern House Tour along with Smallen's Parsons House. In a May 13 article about the tour, Smallen called the design of the Small House as "the essential quality of interspacial relationships" (New Canaan Advertiser, 13 May 1965). The Smallen House was also featured in the October 1964 issue of House & Garden. This article discussed how the kitchen was divided from the dining room and entrance hall by partitions that did not extend to the ceiling, allowing light and air to flow through the house.

In 1962, a three-car garage was constructed on the property. A lower-level studio was added to the basement in 1969. In 1979, Smallen designed an addition for the house, but the assessor noted that it was of temporary construction with unfinished walls and floors. Hugh Smallen sold the property to Celia B. Berg in 1981. In 1986, the assessor noted that the existing studio was completed, but it is unclear if this refers to the house addition or the garage studio. In 1993, Clyde B. and Barbara A. Crebs acquired the house. Michael McDermott purchased the property in 2003, and David Strine purchased the house in 2007.

Sources

Brooks, Patricia. “Architects’ Hideaway.” Fairfield County, n.d., 45-46.
“Chichester Road Contemporary.” New Canaan Advertiser, 14 May 1959.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
“New Highs in Livability.” House & Garden, October 1964, 180-183, 243.
"Smallen, Hugh, Smallen House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“Tour Stop Shows Design and Site Link.” New Canaan Advertiser, 13 May 1965.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.s

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Tatum House

Current Building Name: Tatum House

Architect: Hugh Smallen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1962

ID #: 71

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 86'x76'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: T-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Narrow vertical wood (cypress) siding; glass

Are Walls Painted? Painted

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed with unfinished wood at entry

Soffit: Flat natural finish wood siding at entry, rear

Fascia: Plain sheet metal, bronze or copper

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Outswinging casement, polished plate glass fixed sash

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Original casement operator

Door Types: Narrow stile glazed

Door Material: Painted wood except entry which is natural wood

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types: Flat round globe lights

Locations: Wall adj to entry door and elsewhere

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Wood, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Beech trees, grassy lawn

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Wood deck stairs

Swimming Pool:

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 4

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Wood decking with wood set on side rather than flat

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations: 1967: two great rooms were added to the house by the original owners, which altered the floor plan from a rectangle to a T-shape. 1970: three-car garage/barn constructed (not in the Modern style), which stands separate from the house. 2003-04: interior alterations, new entryway, decks rebuilt and added, new landscape

Years of Alterations: 1967, 1970, 2003-04

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall Cladding: Narrow vertical wood siding painted

Doors and Windows:

Sash Material:

Roof Shape and Material: Flat and composite

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐ Detached barn for garage added in 1970

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Unfinished V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material: Gable; asphalt shingle

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Peter Rolland (2003-04)

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Roy Varian

Alterations Designers: Dan Kistler; John Black Lee

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.14.07

Survey Notes:

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Tatum House, primary façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Martin Skrelunas **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Tatum House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Tatum House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Tatum House was constructed on a two-acre plot of gently sloping land that includes natural woods and a stream. A three-car garage/barn (not designed by Hugh Smallen) is situated southeast of the home. Landscape architect Peter Rolland was hired for a 2003-04 renovation of the property. His design included planting a line of birches along the north side of the house; these contrast with the natural surroundings while complementing the geometric formality of the building. Rolland also designed a black pebble border around the house, which keeps the stark white exterior pristine and facilitates drainage.

The one-story house, built in 1962, initially had a square plan. The frame of the house divided the building into four zones, which reflected the internal uses of the space. Adjustable vertical blinds were installed to further accentuate the rhythm of the building. Five years after the house was built, it was converted to a T-shaped plan when the original owners erected additions on the north and south façades of the westernmost bay.

The house has a concrete block foundation and vertical cypress siding. The walls are largely composed of aluminum sash with plate glass. The roof is flat. The outdoor living space includes more than 1,000 square feet of decking. During a 2003-04 renovation, interior alterations were made to the 1967 addition rooms, built-ins were restored, and a new main entryway was added. Decks off the two addition rooms were rebuilt with ipe (a species of wood) and similar decks were added under all of the overhangs (as was originally considered).

Significance

Hugh Smallen designed the Tatum House in 1962 for Liston and Corinne Tatum and their three boys. The intention was to create optimum living space for a moderate budget. The four structural bays of the house coincide with the four general zones of activity. These zones were constructed to account for the requirements of individual privacy as well as the activities performed in each space. The property originally had a tool shed, which was later demolished. In 1967, the original owners added two "great" rooms (a home office and a music room). Dan Kistler, an associate in Hugh Smallen's office, supervised this work. A three-car garage/barn was added in 1970.

In 1995, the property was purchased by Paul Bertin-Boussu. The new owner removed an outdoor sculpture added in the 1967 renovations and dismantled much of the built-in furniture.

In 1999, Craig Bloom and Ashlea Ebeling bought the property and began renovating it in 2003-04 with architect John Black Lee and landscape architect Peter Rolland, who both knew Hugh Smallen.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"New Canaan Man Aids In Dominican Republic." n.p., n.d.
Rozhon, Tracie. "Boxes Full of the Past, But Loved by So Few." New York Times, 19 October 2000.
"Seasons In Transition." New Canaan Advertiser, 28 March 1963.
"Smallen, Hugh, Tatum House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Tatum, Liston, to William Pitt, Inc., 27 May 1964. Letter in the New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Becker House

Current Building Name: Becker House

Architect: Hugh Smallen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1963-64

ID #: 72

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 59'x24'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Yes, full height at downslope

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Fieldstone, flush vertical wood siding, plywood

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood is painted grey

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed, only at courtyard

Soffit: Plywood, only at courtyard

Fascia: Metal

Gutter Material: Galvanized metal

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed and awning

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Flush wood door with screen door. Aluminum sliding doors with screen doors.

Door Material: Wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: 2 wall mounted globe lights

Locations: At entrance in stone wall

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone pavers set into hillside

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Cut flagstone mortared pavers

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Stream, pond, two wood bridges placed over stream lead to separate lawn area, courtyard with pergola roof

Alterations

Alterations: 2003-04: interior remodeled. Unknown date: windows and sliding doors likely replaced.

Years of Alterations: 2003-04

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Carport, incorporated

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Wesley Stout (later landscape design)

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Roy Varian

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

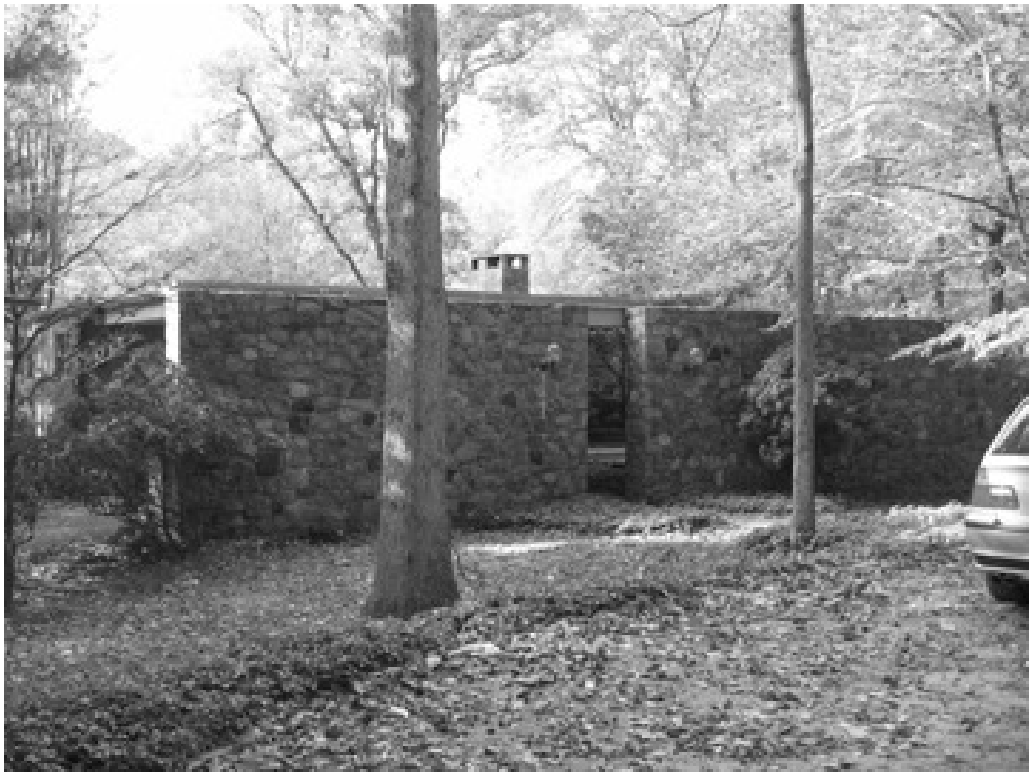
Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.01.07

Survey Notes: High stone wall facing street with narrow opening leads to courtyard on right with pergola roof and carport to left with plywood ceiling. Roof of carport extends above stone wall.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Becker House, front façade



Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Becker House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Becker House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Becker House is set on a hillside overlooking a pond and stream. The street-facing façade of the house is sheltered by a high fieldstone wall. The main entrance is through a narrow opening in the fieldstone wall which leads to a secluded courtyard with a pergola roof. A carport is located adjacent to the courtyard, also behind the stone wall. The main part of the house is rectangular in plan. At the lower level of the hill, the house is two stories high; this rear wall is heavily glazed. A wood deck extends across the back of the house. The house is clad in flush vertical wood siding, which contrasts with the heavy stone wall and stone base of the building.

Significance

The Becker House was designed by architect Hugh Smallen, who designed several other houses in the area. According to the assessor records, Nathaniel Becker purchased the lot in 1962, construction began in 1963, and the house was completed by April 1964. It was shown on the 1967 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. The original owners, Nathaniel and Theo Becker, owned the house until 2002. Nathaniel Becker was president of Becker and Becker Associates, Inc., an architectural planning firm which he founded in 1950. The firm relocated to New Canaan in 1973. Becker and Becker Associates completed numerous planning studies; their projects included work at Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., the Winterthur Museum, various museums at the Smithsonian Institute, Boston City Hall, Philadelphia Municipal Services Building, and the Town of New Canaan. His wife, Theo, was a painter, designer, and partner in the firm. They had three sons: Todd, Kenneth, and Bruce. Theo Becker completed the overall landscape design for the property and courtyard and created the pond. The interior cabinetry was designed by Jens Risom.

Marianne Dolan purchased the property in 2003. Theo Becker completed the overall landscape design for the property and courtyard and created the pond. The interior cabinetry was designed by Jens Risom. The current owners, Thomas and Carol Herbig, acquired the house in 2006.

Sources

"Another Stop On Coming House Tour." New Canaan Advertiser, 4 May 1967.
"Nathanial Becker, FIDSA." Undated resume in "Smallen, Hugh, Becker House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Smallen, Hugh, Becker House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Parsons House

Current Building Name: Parsons House

Architect: Hugh Smallen

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1964

ID #: 73

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 27'x45', 18'x45'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Open

Basement: Partial

Volume: Floating

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete pads

Structural System: Wood frame, 8 structural steel columns

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding; glass

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: Painted wood.

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain; painted wood

Fascia: Plain; galvanized sheet metal

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed plate glass sash; sliding sash single light ribbon clerestory windows; outswinging casement windows.

Sash Material: Aluminum

Window Hardware: Appears to be original

Door Types: Painted flush panel doors, sliding glass doors

Door Material: Wood, glass, aluminum

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed downlights; surface-mounted can lights

Locations: Downlights at soffit, can lights at fascia.

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Built up residential; woodland

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone and white gravel

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Flagstone

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House sited on top of steep rock ledge; house molded to sloping landscape, wood deck flanked by wood planters; Cubist sculpture in lawn; second deck cantilevered at basement.

Alterations

Alterations: No major exterior alterations. John Black Lee designed the separate garage/studio building at the base of the site.

Years of Alterations:

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate 2 car with studio.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed sash; 1 overhead door; flush hollow wood doors.

Roof Configuration and Material: Shed roof with asphalt shingles.

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Varian Construction Company

Alterations Designers: John Black Lee (garage)

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 10.30.07

Survey Notes:

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Parsons House, side façade as viewed from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Parsons House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Parsons House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

Sited on top of a rock ledge forty feet above street level on a three-acre woodland site, the Parsons House is clad and framed in wood and supported by eight exterior thin steel columns set in concrete footings. Architect Hugh Smallen enhanced the parcel's dramatic grade changes in both the siting of the house and its design. Although the footprint of the house is square and its roof is flat, the base of the house is angled to match the grade change of the rock ledge it straddles, resulting in two stories at one end of the house and one story on grade at the opposite side of the house. Stone stairs lead up from the driveway at street level to the entrance of the house.

Unrelieved walls clad in vertical wood siding face the street and the rear of the house. The one-story end of the house is divided into four equal bays that stretch across the full width of the house and contain sliding glass doors and fixed plate glass sash. The ground floor of the two-story façade is divided into four bays centered on the façade. The primary entrance is located in the first bay and has a painted flush panel door and a floor-to-ceiling fixed plate sash. The other three bays have fixed and operable window sash. The second floor is divided into five bays and has horizontal sliding sash windows.

Significance

Architect John Black Lee bought twenty acres of land on Chichester Road in the mid-1950s and subdivided the land into six parcels for the development of Modern residences. In September 1955, Erik Simonsen bought an unimproved three-acre parcel from Lee, but never developed the land. In 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Parsons purchased the plot for their dramatically-sited Modern house from Erik Simonsen; Simonsen purchased the Gratwick House (1953, Christ-Janer) that same year. The Parsons House was finished in 1964.

The Parsons House was featured in the May 1967 issue of House & Garden and the New York Times Magazine in July 1965. In 1971, the property was sold to Norman Rowe. Rowe built a separate two-story, two-car garage with a studio and workshop at the base of the hill, designed by John Black Lee. In 1999, the property was transferred to Michael and Ulrike Gavin. In 2006, the property was sold to Michael Formica and Bob Hiemstra.

The house, included on the 1965 Modern House Tour, is significant for its association with Modern architects Hugh Smallen and John Black Lee and for its creative design solutions in plan, massing, and framing. The house retains high integrity at the exterior.

Sources

"An Illusion of Doubled Space." House & Garden, May 1967, 134-35.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Plumb, Barbara. “Down-to-Earth Tree House.” New York Times Magazine, 25 July 1965, 38-39.
"Smallen, Hugh, Parsons House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
“Stops on Modern House Tour.” New Canaan Advertiser, 20 May 1965.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Celanese House

Current Building Name: Celanese House

Architect: Edward Durell Stone

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1959

ID #: 74

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 98'x51'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Rectangular

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Steel frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Cedar shingles. Painted wood lattice screen in front of cedar walls.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, grey

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat with pyramidal skylights

Roof Material: Cedar shingles, flat not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain painted wood with galvanized flashing

Fascia: Plain painted wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Pyramidal skylights. No other windows.

Sash Material: Skylights have wire glass

Window Hardware: NA

Door Types: Primary entrance has glazed wood door with wood lattice over frosted glass. Sliding glass doors, all replacement aluminum with IGU.

Door Material: Wood with frosted glass. Aluminum. Hardwood.

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Square downlights with flat glass diffuser

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers set in mortar. Flat round flagstone rocks in white gravel.

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel and asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Mortar set flagstone at main entrance. Mortar set fieldstone at rear.

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 3

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Flagtone at front. White gravel at bedroom garden. Concrete at rear.

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: See survey notes

Alterations

Alterations: 2006-07: House completely restored and renovated. Dining room courtyard enclosed and converted to expanded kitchen. Original kitchen converted to enlarged master bedroom. Roof replaced, skylights rebuilt, new HVAC system installed, portions of damaged wall cladding and latticework replaced in kind. Original marble-patterned vinyl floor replaced in kind. Fixtures and finishes in the kitchen and baths updated, not in kind. Bedroom terrace restored to original design.

Years of Alterations: 2006-07

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Sliding glass doors, hardwood door screened by latticework gate

Sash Material: Aluminum, wood

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, same material as main roof

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2-car garage

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Overhead doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: James Fanning

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: John and Earline Brice

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.08.07

Survey Notes: House close to street but grade is below street level. Set on slight berm with lawn sloping down at back with massive fieldstone stairs. Flagstone path winds around property. Viewing platform with original metal balustrade close to street, altered to three-tier platform due to erosion. Garden off bedroom wing enclosed by latticework, recently restored to original design. Stone-lined water course at north side of property with small bridge. Square planters. Large trees around perimeter of property, including many weeping willows.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Celanese House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** October 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Celanese House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Celanese House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. The Celanese House was a unique project conceived to showcase the products of the Celanese Corporation of America, involving leading American designers including architect Edward Durell Stone and furniture designer Edward Wormley. It was featured in national publications like House & Garden and Architectural Record and included in at least one Modern House tour in New Canaan.

Description

The Celanese House is set on a gently sloping site at a grade below street level. At the rear of the house are a lawn and a set of curving flagstone and fieldstone stairs bordered by massive fieldstone walls. The property is bounded by trees.

The Celanese House is a flat-roofed structure with walls clad in wood shingles painted grey. The roof extends to create deep overhang on all four sides of the structure. Twelve pyramidal skylights partially clad in wood shingles provide light to the interior spaces. Almost the entire building is covered by a wood trelliswork screen featuring a star-shaped pattern. The trelliswork on the main façade is unbroken with the exception of the front door, which is a glazed wood door finished with wood detailing matching the pattern of the trelliswork . On one side of the house is an incorporated two-car garage; the opposite side has a terrace area off of the bedrooms that is shielded by the wood trelliswork. At the rear façade, the trelliswork is interrupted for sliding glass doors leading to a concrete terrace.

The house originally had a rectangular plan with an internal roofed dining courtyard between the garage wing and the main house, and a unroofed terrace at the bedroom wing, all enclosed in wood trelliswork. The garage wing contained a two-car garage, a family room/guest room, and a bath. The main house was divided into three zones: the north area contained the dining room, kitchen, and master bedroom and bath; the central area contained an entry atrium with small pool separated from a large living room by a fireplace; and the south area contained a study, two bedrooms, and two baths. The dining room, living room, atrium, and study were fitted with shoji screens that could be opened up to create a large, T-shaped entertainment space, which could be extended to the bedroom terrace, the back terrace, and the dining room courtyard.

Significance

The Celanese House was commissioned by the Celanese Corporation of America, a leading chemical manufacturer in the United States, to showcase the company's various products during their 1959 promotional program titled "The American Idea." The company hired architect Edward Durell Stone to design the house after Celanese executives decided that only Stone or Frank Lloyd Wright would be considered for the commission (New York Times, 20 September 1959). The Celanese Corporation home furnishings consultants, John and Earline Brice, were in charge of interior design and furnishings, and Dunbar furniture by noted designer Edward Wormley was also showcased. The structural engineer on the project was Henry Gorlin, the mechanical engineer was Harold Hecht, and the contractor was New Canaan builder Ted Hobbs. The property was acquired by Theodore (Ted) de Freyne Hobbs et. al. in 1957 as a development venture; the Celanese Corporation provided products at cost but Hobbs carried the building expenses except for the architect's fee (House & Home, September 1959, 88). The house was finished in early 1959. By September 1959, Hobbs had put the house on the market for $150,000 (New York Times, 20 September 1959). After the house closed for tours, a duplicate version of the house was installed at W. & J. Sloane's in New York City.

The Celanese House received national press when it was completed and was featured in House & Garden (October 1959), House & Home (September 1959), and Architectural Record (October 1959). The Celanese House was also included in the 1963 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

The house was designed for privacy. Interior spaces originally opened to terraces screened by latticework or to the backyard terrace. At the street-facing main façade, the latticework provided an unbroken screen aside from the main door. Because the house was screened, lighting was provided mainly by the twelve pyramidal skylights. Below the skylights on the interior were inverted pyramids containing planters and concealed lighting fixtures. The dining room courtyard was originally covered by a translucent plastic roof with latticework gates at each end. Pots of flowers hung from the roof. Doors leading to courtyards were fitted with four sliding panels: insulated glass on the exterior, screen doors, translucent plastic panels, and opaque fabric shoji screens at the inner layer. Some doors also had curtains. Interior spaces were separated by sliding shoji screens. The interior was designed with a neutral color scheme.

In 1960, the Celanese House was purchased by Frederick and Velma Willcox. Frederick, an inventor, lived in the house with his wife Velma until his death in 1996. Velma Willcox remained in residence until her death in 2005 at age 102. It appears that the Willcoxes undertook no major alterations to the house. In 2006, after the house had been on the market for over a year, Laidlaw LLC became the owner of record. New owners Bruce Capra and his wife Jackie undertook a major renovation and restoration of the house, which had become badly deteriorated, between 2006 and 2007. The most significant alteration was the enclosure and conversion of the dining room courtyard to an expanded kitchen. The original kitchen became an enlarged master bedroom. Capra also replaced the roof, rebuilt the skylights, installed a new HVAC system, replaced the original marble-patterned vinyl floor in kind, and updated the fixtures and finishes in the kitchen and baths. Damaged portions of the wall cladding and wood trelliswork were replaced in kind. The bedroom terrace was restored to its original design.

Sources

Bernstein, Fred A. "Stay Put, or Move to a Modern Icon?" New York Times, 7 October 2007.
"Contemporary Homes on Tour Itinerary." New Canaan Advertiser, 2 May 1963.
"Edward Stone puts fanciful ideas to practical use in his newest house." House & Home, September 1959, 88-94.
"The house with the built-in sky." House & Garden, October 1959, 140-153; 212-214.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Noted Architect Designs Home Here." New Canaan Advertiser, 22 January 1959.
"Space and Light Used as Design Elements." Architectural Record (October 1959): 199-201.
Spielvogel, Carl. "Advertising: Celanese at Home in Sloane's." New York Times, 20 September 1959, F11.
"Stone, Edward Durell, Celanese House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Waxberg House

Current Building Name: Waxberg House

Architect: Nathaniel Streitman

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 75

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 48' x 36'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style: Usonian

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Irregular T-shaped

Basement: Full

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Yes, supporting roof of carport

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Red brick at basement level and base of building, horizontal tongue and groove wood siding above

Are Walls Painted? No, unfinished wood

Trim Material: Unpainted wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Rolled

Eave: Open

Soffit: Plain; unpainted wood siding

Fascia: Plain; horizontal wood siding and metal flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed and interior. Some scuppers visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Brick

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Outswinging casements, custom made for the house with storm and screen sash (interior) also custom made for the house

Sash Material: Unpainted wood

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Ornamental paneled wood doors at entry and paired glazed narrow stile wood doors and storm/screen doors. All custom made for the house.

Door Material: Wood, unpainted.

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Column-shaped frosted glass globe fixtures

Locations: Soffit of eaves

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Woodland, residential

Paving- Pedestrian: None

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Brick leading from carport up to deck off of living room

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: Brick

# of Terraces: 1

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: Roofing material of carport

Deck Material: Wood off of living room

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Korean grass

Alterations

Alterations: Original condition, no major alterations. Wood siding at carport appears to have been recently replaced in kind to original design.

Years of Alterations: NA

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ Carport attached to house

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Horizontal tongue and groove wood siding and red brick matching house

Doors and Windows: Same as house.

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, rolled with horizontal wood siding parapet walls

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Fair

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect:

Lighting Designer:

Interior Designer:

Builder: Louis Folb

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.11.07

Survey Notes: Original owners still live in house. Retains original kitchen, bathrooms, and built-in furniture. Entry to house is at basement level from carport. Brick retaining walls contribute to overall massing of house and site. Wood stairs lead up from deck off of living room to patio off of master bedroom. This patio is on the roof of the carport. All three floors of the house have fireplaces. Architect of house is owner's cousin. Still alive lives in Florida. Minor damage visible at exterior woodwork, including possible termite damage, wood damage, and UV degradation. Screen / storm doors are missing their screens. Otherwise house is in good shape. Minor movement and evidence of recent construction to repair brick retaining walls. Retaining walls have soldier course coping.

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Waxberg House, carport and primary façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Heather McGrath **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Waxberg House, side façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Waxberg House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Designed by Nathaniel Streitman for Dr. Joseph Waxberg and his family, this custom-designed Usonian-style house is still occupied by its original owners. The house is an excellent example of the Usonian style including a central hearth, intersecting linear planes, and expressive use of natural materials. The original cypress siding, custom wood windows and doors, and interiors retain remarkable integrity.

Description

The Waxberg House, set on a grassy plot in a residential neighborhood, is a Wrightian-inspired wood-frame house clad with cypress siding and covered with low, flat roofs. However, unlike many sprawling Prairie-style houses, the Waxberg house is decidedly vertical, with an irregular floor plan featuring living spaces on three compact floors organized by a central staircase and a central hearth. Decks or terraces at each level connect the interior spaces to the outdoors. The property also has an attached two-car carport and brick retaining walls.

Significance

In 1956, Joseph D. Waxberg purchased an unimproved 1.3-acre parcel from Hearthstone Park, Incorporated. Waxberg and his wife Carol commissioned architect Nathan Streitman to design a house for the site. The Waxbergs have maintained the house in its original condition and continue to live there today. The house retains remarkably high integrity, including the exterior wood siding and brickwork, custom wood windows and doors, and on the interior, the kitchen cabinets and countertops, built-in furniture, bathroom finishes and furnishings, and the layout of the house.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Dana House

Current Building Name: Dana House

Architect: Ulrich Franzen & Associates

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1964

ID #: 76

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Emil Toikka

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed. Structural engineer: Vladimir Busch, mechanical engineer: John Altieri

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Dana House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Dana House was designed by Ulrich Franzen & Associates. James D. Dana acquired the property in 1962. Construction began in 1963 and the house was completed in 1964. The contractor for the project was Emil Toikka, the structural engineer was Vladimir Busch, and the mechanical engineer was John Altieri. According to the assessor property street cards, the original house had a concrete foundation, brick veneer exterior cladding, and a flat composition roof. The assessor noted that the house had a sunken living room.

The Dana House was featured in Architectural Record Houses of 1966. In historic photographs, the exterior of the two-story house resembles a fortress, with strong vertical lines, plain brick walls, and projecting brick bays extending the full height of the building containing fixed or awning sash. In the article, the house is described as "representative of a couple of the relatively newer directions in house design: the treatment of a building's massing as big, powerful sculpture, and more clear-cut and definitely expressed separation of 'public' and 'private' areas within a home" (Architectural Record Houses of 1966, 114). Franzen described the dwelling as a country house placed in an apple orchard: "As the design evolved, the concept became a cluster of articulated masonry masses, freely arranged but sheltering a central meeting hall. The large space is the 'covered yard,' the precinct between the smaller structures containing the more intimate activities" (Architectural Record Houses of 1966, 114).

The central public living space contained a living room and dining room with large decks extending off of both rooms. The first floor of the towers contained a kitchen; bedroom (likely maid's room), bath, laundry and mudroom; a playroom; a two-story study; and a garage. On the second floor, two towers contained two bedrooms and a bath, one tower contained the upper part of the study, and the remaining two towers formed a master suite consisting of a bedroom, bath, and sitting room. The exterior finishes like the brick veneer, hardwood floors, and hemlock soffit, continued into the interior, creating an unbroken line between exterior and interior.

By 1969, Bertha B. Shepard was the owner of the Dana House. Shepard filed for a name change in that year, but since the 1960s assessor property cards are currently being conserved and are unavailable, it is unclear if Shepard's original last name was "Dana" or if she had acquired the house from the Danas. A tennis court was constructed on the property in 1969. In 1977, a shed was completed. In 1999, Shepard changed her name to Bertha R. Betts.

Sources

"Franzen, Ulrich, Dana House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Private Residence in New Canaan, Connecticut." Architectural Record Houses of 1966 (Mid-May 1966): 114-119.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Zucker House

Current Building Name: Zucker House

Architect: P. Whitney Webb

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1961-62

ID #: 77

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Reed & Lord

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Zucker House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Zucker House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Since the Zucker House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Zucker House was designed by architect P. Whitney Webb and constructed by builders Reed & Lord. The house was completed between 1961 and 1962. M.W. and Kathlyn Zucker acquired the property by quitclaim from M. William Zucker in 1961 (possibly the same M.W. Zucker). M. William Zucker had acquired the property in 1958 by quitclaim from C.P. Morton et. als.

The gable-roofed house was L-shaped in plan and had a two-car garage in the basement level. It was finished on the exterior with vertical wood siding.

In 1964, Andre C. DePrez et. al. acquired the property (transferred to Andre C. and Jocelyn C. DePrez in 1965). In 1995, Robert B. and Thea Ross purchased the house. A wood deck was added to the rear of the house sometime after 1988.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Ford House/Edward Winter House

Current Building Name: Ford House/Edward Winter House

Architect: Edward Winter, Russell Ford

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1961

ID #: 78

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 117'x53'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Originally double H-plan (2 adjacent H-plans)

Basement: Yes, crawl space

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: 2

Wall Cladding: Narrow vertical flush wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Finely detailed, stucco panels in wood framing

Fascia: Plain wood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Stone

# of Porches: 1, with clay tile pavers

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: Incorporated under main roof

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Casement, fixed, horizontal sliding sash, clerestory, glasshouse

Sash Material: Aluminum, some replacement

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Aluminum sliding doors, appear to be replacements. Flush wood door with metal screen door in main courtyard.

Door Material: Aluminum, wood

Door Hardware: Original and replacement.

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round fixtures

Locations: In soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Asphalt with Belgian block curb at access drive

Exterior Stairs: None

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Wood stockade fence

# of Terraces: 1, at pool

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Black gravel

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes, **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House on flat site set back from road on long access drive. Large ponds on two sides of property, stream, swimming pool, large lawn area.

Alterations

Alterations: 1963: round glass-and-aluminum greenhouse built. 1967: in-ground pool built. 1968: poolhouse built. 1992: brick courtyard at south end of building converted to enlarged master bathroom by architect Michael Irving, greenhouse window also likely added; 2-car carport converted to garage. 1994: kitchen renovated by architect Mella Kernan. Unknown date: porch at rear of house enclosed.

Years of Alterations: 1963, 1967, 1968, 1992, 1994

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Sash Material: NA

Roof Shape and Material: NA

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Poolhouse, has Figure 8-shaped plan, open at front with roof supported on turned wood columns

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Flush vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: 4 doors of flush vertical wood siding

Roof Material and Configuration: Hip, wood shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Borglum & Meek

Alterations Designers: Michael Irving (1992), Mella Kernan (1994)

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.29.07

Survey Notes: House is entered through courtyard shielded by decorative wood screen. Courtyard has large evergreen tree and white gravel. Second courtyard next to garage also with wood screen. Clerestory window over living room right beyond courtyard entrance. Red clay tiles at rear porch continue on interior of house.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ford House/Edward Winter House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Ford House/Edward Winter House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Ford House/Edward Winter House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The Ford House/Edward Winter House is located on a flat, secluded site accessed by a long driveway. Surrounding the house are lawns bordered by stands of trees, two large ponds, and a stream. A swimming pool and poolhouse are also on the property.

The house is a long, low, one-story structure clad in vertical flush wood siding. Larger than many of the Modern houses in New Canaan, the original house had a double H-plan (two H-plans set adjacent to each other); the inset areas served as courtyards or terraces. Some of these inset areas were later enclosed as living space. At the main façade, the two inset areas are shielded by decorative wood screens: one leads to a graveled courtyard with a large evergreen tree and a glazed wall that allows views through the living room to the backyard; the second is adjacent to the garage and contains a service entrance. Above the living room is a four-sided clerestory window that rises above the main roof line. The remaining façades are heavily glazed with casement, fixed, and horizontal sliding aluminum sash, and aluminum sliding glass doors. At the rear of the house, adjacent to the living room, is an inset terrace paved with red clay tiles.

Significance

The Ford House/Edward Winter House was designed by architects Edward Winter and Russell Ford as a home for Ford and his family. Ford had been a partner in the firm of Gates and Ford, but Frederick Taylor Gates had left New Canaan in 1957. Ford's wife, Hope, purchased the lot in 1959. Construction began under builders Borglum and Meek in 1960 and was completed in 1961. In 1963, a round glass-and-aluminum greenhouse was added to the site. An in-ground pool was completed in 1967, and the associated pool house was finished in 1968.

In 1976, Victor H. and Eleanor Q. O'Neill purchased the property. According to the DOCOMOMO documentation for the house, in 1992, the 9'x14' brick courtyard at the south end of the building was converted to an enlarged master bathroom; the glasshouse window at this façade was also likely added at this time. Michael Irving was the architect. The incorporated two-car carport was converted to a garage during this same year. The assessor records indicate that there was an addition to the house in 1990, but this was likely the master bathroom work, as no other additions are apparent. In 1994, the kitchen was renovated by architect Mella Kernan and builder Joseph Catalfamo. At an unknown date, it appears that one of the incised porches at the rear of the house was enclosed by a glass wall and converted to interior living space; assessor records indicate that it was originally a screened-in porch.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Winter, Edward, Edward Winter House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Arlt House

Current Building Name: Arlt House/Pogacnik House

Architect: Evans Woollen III

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954

ID #: 79

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 84'x25', 27'x28'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village:

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: L-shaped

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block and concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: Wood piers at back porch

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: None

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: None

Soffit: None

Fascia: None, metal flashing

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Not visible

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Stove pipe

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash, fixed, glass block

Sash Material: Aluminum. Fixed are double glazed with wood sills but no surrounds

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Flush wood doors, aluminum sliding doors, aluminum screen doors

Door Material: Wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round fixtures, not original

Locations: Above doors

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Large field stones

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Wood swinging gates at pool area

# of Terraces: 1 **# of Decks:** 3

Terrace Paving Material: Flagstone pavers

Deck Material: Wood, decks are raised above ground

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on granite outcropping on steep, rocky site overlooking wooded valley.

Alterations

Alterations: The Arlt House has been almost completely obscured by two additions designed by Boris Pogacnik, completed in 1982 and sometime after 1988. A large swimming pool, flagstone terrace, and pool house were also added sometime after 1988. Due to the extent of the alterations, the house is recorded as it currently exists.

Years of Alterations: 1982, 1998-2007

Foundation: See note in alterations

Wall Cladding: See note in alterations

Doors and Windows: See note in alterations

Sash Material: See note in alterations

Roof Shape and Material: See note in alterations

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2-car

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: Two overhead metal doors

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Poolhouse

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding

Doors and Windows: Narrow-stile wood door with aluminum screen door. Casement windows which appear to be wood, but not easily visible from the ground.

Roof Material and Configuration: Pyramidal, metal seam roof

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers: Boris Pogacnik

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: House heavily altered by current owner. Very large swimming pool with pavilion style pool house and extensive stone walls and flagstone patio. Original house completely obscured. Remnants of concrete block foundation may be from original house. Brise soleil over second story above garage. Round tower in addition.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Arlt House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Arlt House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Arlt House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Arlt House is set on a massive rock outcropping overlooking a wooded valley. Fieldstone walls that predate the house run throughout the property. The original house was a one-story glass box, but it has since been completely obscured by later additions.

The current house is considerably larger than the original structure. It is a two-story, flat-roofed structure clad in vertical wood siding with an L-shaped plan. The house is heavily fenestrated and has multiple projecting wood decks. The recessed main entrance is at the driveway and is adjacent to a two-story semicircular tower and two narrow openings filled with glass block. To the north of this entrance is a two-car garage shaded by a brise-soleil located above the second-story windows.

To the north of the garage are tall fieldstone walls and a set of steps formed from large stones that lead to an in-ground swimming pool surrounded by a flagstone terrace and stone walls, with a pavilion-style poolhouse at the northern end of the terrace.

Significance

The Arlt House was designed for Paul Arlt and his wife by architect Evans Woollen III. Paul Arlt was a cartoonist and artist and a member of the Silvermine Guild and the Rowayton Art Center. At one time, he worked as a political cartoonist at the New York Herald Tribune. His wife worked at Bloomingdale's.

Paul Arlt acquired the property in 1953. Construction began shortly thereafter under builder Ted Hobbs. The house was completed in 1954. In 1955, the Arlt House was featured in Architectural Record. In this article, architect Evans Woollen III described the challenges with the site: "a beautiful, wooded 2 acres with a high, narrow ridge of rock running north and south through the center of the property. The decision was to place the house on top of the ridge with the long side of the rectangle opposing the direction of the ridge; the ridge being the fulcrum with the house overhanging on either side" (Architectural Record, February 1955). The house, which was essentially a rectangular glass box, had posts, beams, frame, and trim constructed from a 3" by 6" section of fir, with fixed glass and outswinging ventilators. In plan, a combination dining/living room was placed in the center of the structure, divided from rooms at either end of the house by 4-foot-wide sliding doors. One end held the kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom, and the opposite end held the study, a bedroom, and a bathroom.

The Arlt House was included on the 1959 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. In 1966, the property was sold to William P. and Irma J. Kennedy. Architect Leon Boris Pogacnik and Tatjana Pogacnik acquired the house in 1978. Boris Pogacnik designed a two-story addition, which was constructed in 1982. Sometime after 1988, a second large addition designed by Pogacnik was completed, which enveloped the original house. The fenestration pattern on the original house was completely altered, making it difficult to recognize the original Arlt House, although the new design is in sympathy with the Modern aesthetic. A large swimming pool, bluestone terrace, and pool house were also constructed.

Sources

"Architect designs doctors' 'street'." n.p., [post-1983].
"Connecticut: A Narrow Rocky Ledge." Architectural Record (February 1955): 170-171.
"Former Cartoonist Opens One-Man Show in Capital." Stamford Advocate, September 1965.
"New Canaan Artist's Home Included in House Tour." Stamford Advocate, 10 April 1959, 50.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Woolen, Evans, Arlt House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Naill House

Current Building Name: Naill House

Architect: Evans Woollen III

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1954

ID #: 80

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 83'x29'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 2

Plan: Rectangular with some additions

Basement: Partial crawl space

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Symmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding, fieldstone

Are Walls Painted? Yes, wood is painted white

Trim Material: None

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain wood, probably plywood

Fascia: Plain wood, probably plywood

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed with downspouts in soffit

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Metal stove pipe

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, casement

Sash Material: Fixed are wood. Remaining windows appear to be vinyl.

Window Hardware: Replacement

Door Types: Glazed doors. Sliding doors.

Door Material: Glazed are wood. Sliding are aluminum and vinyl.

Door Hardware: Replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Recessed round downlights

Locations: Over main door

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Gravel with Belgian block curb. Flagstone

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel with Belgian block curb

Exterior Stairs: Fieldstone with flagstone treads

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 2

# of Decks: 1

Terrace Paving Material: White gravel. Flagstone.

Deck Material: Not visible. Deck at second story.

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: Site is relatively flat and lightly wooded. Lawns around house. Swampy pond at the rear of the property. Curved mortared field stone walls.

Alterations

Alterations: House heavily altered. Originally one-story house with a flat roof. 1963: workshop/carport and swimming pool added. 1984: second-story addition containing a bedroom and bath, and a first-story family room addition built. 1987-88: another second-story addition constructed and first floor altered. 1993: new garage/storage room built. House will be recorded as it currently exists.

Years of Alterations: 1963, 1984, 1987-88, 1993

Foundation: See note in alterations

Wall Cladding: See note in alterations

Doors and Windows: See note in alterations

Sash Material: See note in alterations

Roof Shape and Material: See note in alterations

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Separate, 2-car, 2 stories

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: V-channel vertical wood siding, fieldstone

Doors and Windows: 2 overhead wood doors. Glazed wood door. Vinyl casement windows. Fixed wood windows.

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, material not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Playhouse, appears to be new prefab

Foundation: None

Wall Cladding: Wood shingles

Doors and Windows: Wood Dutch door. Wood multipane casement windows.

Roof Material and Configuration: Gable, asphalt shingles

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, MS

Date Surveyed: 12.12.07

Survey Notes: Altered house uses fieldstone as accent, curved walls.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Naill House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Naill House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Naill House does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register because it has undergone significant alterations.

Description

The Naill House was originally a one-story, flat-roofed, 29'x52' structure with a rectangular plan. According to the assessor property street cards, it was originally sided with concrete block and plywood. Multiple alterations and additions have completely obscured the original house.

The house lot is relatively flat. Lawns and sparse woodland surround the house; at the rear of the property is a shallow pond. Due to the number of additions over the years, the two-story, flat-roofed house does not have a unified design aesthetic, but is loosely characterized by V-channel vertical wood siding, deep roof overhangs, recessed wall planes, semicircular projections, and the use of fieldstone veneer as an accent. The first floor is heavily fenestrated with sliding glass doors, glazed doors, fixed sash, and casement windows. The second floor contains a series of small square windows. The two-story round tower at the rear elevation has narrow rectangular windows. A two-story garage/workshop is similar in appearance and utilizes the same finishes as the main house.

Significance

The Naill House was designed for Eugene J. and Karin E. Naill by architect Evans Woollen III. Eugene Naill was an engineer and Karin Naill was a teacher at the Community Nursery School. As part of her job requirements, Karin worked at the Modern House Tours in New Canaan and developed an appreciation for Modern architecture (Naill, 2008).

The Naills acquired the property in 1954. The road that the property was located on was considered less desirable than roads like Oenoke Ridge, Ponus Ridge, and Smith Ridge, so the lots were more affordable (Naill, 2008). The owner of the land had commissioned Evans Woollen III to design a house for the lot but didn't like it and refused to pay for the plans. The Naills acquired the property for about $1900 and contacted Woollen to purchase the plans; he had just graduated from Yale University and was working as a caretaker to pay his rent. He assisted the Naills with choosing interior furnishings and was paid an architectural fee of about $1800. Woollen eventually spent his honeymoon at the house (Naill, 2008).

Construction on the house began in 1954 and was completed by August 1955. Karin Naill stated that the house originally had a very large pane of glass that was laid on leather to absorb the weight and helped allow the glass to flex in the wind (Naill, 2008). In 1963, a 18'x27.5' structure consisting of a workshop flanked by carports on either side was completed; an above-ground swimming pool and possibly a pool house were also added at this time.

By 1981, according to a realtor listing, the property had a swimming pool with an outdoor shower and changing rooms, a redwood deck, a workshop and two-car carport, a shed, a small pond with a waterfall, gravel terraces, and Japanese plantings. In 1981, Anthony Marino purchased the house.

In 1983, Thomas and Josephine Arnone became the owners of record, although the property was transferred back to Anthony Marino in 1984, and then back to the Arnones later that year. In 1984, two additions were constructed: a second-story addition containing a bedroom and bath, and a first-story addition containing a family room with a wood stove. In 1987, Gina Lorezato acquired the house. Lorezato added another second-story addition (completed in 1988) and renovated the first floor. In 1989, Stanley Scholsohn became owner of the property through foreclosure, and in 1991, the Dime Savings Bank of New York took over the house through foreclosure. The bank offered the house for sale in 1992 "as is" with no certificate of occupancy.

In 1992, Richard A. and Elizabeth W. Rowley bought the house. The Rowleys constructed a two-story garage and storage room in 1993, presumably demolishing the original carport structure. Due to the additions and alterations, the existing house is largely unrecognizable as the original Naill House.

Sources

Naill, Karin, interview with Martin Skrelunas, Philip Johnson Glass House, 8 May 2008.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Woolen, Evans, Naill House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Tirranna/Rayward House

Current Building Name: Tirranna/Rayward House

Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1956

ID #: 81

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: Very irregular

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Curved L-shaped plan

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Unknown

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: Yes

Courtyard: Yes

Wall Cladding: Concrete block

Are Walls Painted? No

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Flat

Roof Material: Not visible

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Philippine mahogany laid in checkerboard pattern

Fascia: Philippine mahogany, decorated

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed with downspouts in soffit

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Concrete block

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Fixed, casement, clerestory, skylights

Sash Material: Philippine mahogany

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Glazed

Door Material: Philippine mahogany

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Round recessed lights

Locations: Soffit

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Scattered residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone. Gravel. Moss.

Paving - Vehicular: Red gravel aggregate set in asphalt

Exterior Stairs: Steel

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Metal entry gate designed by Wright

# of Terraces: 4

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Cement. Flagstone.

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set above a large pond with a waterfall, fish ladder, and fountain. Swimming pool hangs over pond. Brook runs through property. Smokehouse adjacent to pond. Extensive property with trails, 3 bridges, stepping stones in brook. Tennis courts.

Alterations

Alterations: 1964-67: Addition containing family room and new entry, creating an interior courtyard; expansion of master bedroom and bath; garage storage space converted to servants' quarters and arboretum added; new carport constructed; swimming pool terrace added; tennis courts constructed; new landscaping. 1992-96: house restored and interior remodeled.

Years of Alterations: 1964-67; 1992-96

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Concrete block

Doors and Windows: Fixed, casement

Sash Material: Philippine mahogany

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, not visible

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☑ NA

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Guesthouse/greenhouse (described below). Smokehouse/sunbathing platform. Barn.

Foundation: Concrete

Wall Cladding: Concrete block

Doors and Windows: Glazed mahogany doors. Arboretum window of metal tubing welded with glass, triangular-shaped awning windows. Mahogany casement and clerestory windows.

Roof Material and Configuration: Flat, not visible

Conditions

Exterior: Excellent

Structural: Excellent

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Frank Masao Okamura, Charles Middeleer (1960s)

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Frank Lloyd Wright

Builder: Allan Gelbin

Alterations Designers: John de Koven Hill, William Wesley Peters

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS, RP

Date Surveyed: 12.14.08 and 3.27.08

Survey Notes: Concrete block retaining walls. Four terraces: 1 with cement block walls and cement floor at house, 2 cement (1 with fountain) at master bedroom, 1 flagstone around pool with wooden benches. Smokehouse constructed of concrete block and has metal ladder leading to sunbathing platform on roof. Tennis courts and barn hidden on property. House attached to guest room via breezeway that used to serve as carport. Extensive curving pergola/breezeway leading to guest quarters/greenhouse and carport.

Photographer: Ray Pepi **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Tirranna/Rayward House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Ray Pepi **Date:** December 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Tirranna/Rayward House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

Tirranna/Rayward House appears to be eligible for the National Register both individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing. Tirranna is individually eligible as the work of a master, architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and is a good example of the influence of his Usonian design principles on the design of his later large-scale projects.

Description

Tirranna/Rayward House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is located on a large, hilly, forested site. The Noroton River runs through the property. According to the current owners, Wright dammed the section of the river next to the house site to create a pond and waterfalls.

The one-story, flat-roofed house is constructed of concrete block with Philippine mahogany trim, doors, windows, and soffits. The plan of the main part of the house is essentially semicircular with an enclosed rectangular courtyard. Attached to the house is the former carport (now a porch) and former staff quarters (now guest quarters), a long, curving pergola, staff quarters with an attached greenhouse, and a large carport. The rear of the house overlooks the view of the pond, which features a dramatic fountain added in the late 1960s. On an island in the pond is a two-story concrete playhouse that originally contained a Chinese smoke oven.

According to Allan Gelbin, who acted as the contractor during construction, the original house was constructed of 8-inch concrete block with Philippine mahogany trim and a roof clad in 5-ply built-up tar and gravel. The glass in the house was ¼" polished plate glass. The floors were poured concrete "topped with red coloratum, terracotta, and sealed with the W.R. Grace sealer that was typical in Mr. Wright's houses, unit lines being scored in" (Gelbin, 4). The ceilings were ¼" plywood overlaid with mahogany in a checkerboard pattern placed in alternating grain patterns. The original furniture was custom-built for the house.

Significance

Tirranna/Rayward House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for John L. Rayward, his wife Joyce, and their two daughters, Jennifer and Victoria. Rayward was originally from Australia and worked as a paper broker. The name of the house, "Tirranna," is an Aboriginal word for "running waters." John L. Rayward acquired the property in 1955 and construction began that same year. Architect Allan Gelbin, then studying for his architectural exams, acted as contractor and master-of-the-works. He had previously built three Wright houses in Ohio: Rubin House, Dobkins House, and Feiman House. According to Gelbin, Rayward insisted on using cheap, non-union labor, making it difficult to find qualified subcontractors, but Gelbin eventually hired Alfred Eliasson as carpenter-foreman; Eliasson had acted as contractor on Wright's Sanders House in Stamford. The doors and windows were custom-made by Ben Mollo, and the built-in furniture was also made by either Eliasson or Mollo. The house was completed in 1956 for about $180,000, not including the architect's fee, land, or interior work aside from the built-in furniture (Gelbin, 1990).

Originally, the project included a one-story house and a three-car garage with an attached storage space, but Rayward--notoriously difficult to work with--made several changes during construction. In 1956, Rayward requested that a swimming pool overlooking the pond and a master bedroom wing with a two-story observatory be added to the project, creating an L-shaped wing off of the elliptical main structure. Gelbin left the project around 1956, but by 1959, other changes had been made, including construction of a curved pergola connecting the house to the garage, completion of the dam and fish-ladder, the addition of servants' quarters in the carport area adjacent to the house, and construction of a playhouse in the pond. Most or all of this work was apparently completed by contractor Alfred Eliasson.

In 1963, the property was acquired by Mid Continent Properties Inc. In 1964, Herman R. Shepherd et. al. purchased the house. Between 1964 and 1967, major renovations to the property were undertaken by Taliesin Associated Architects. It appears that architect John de Koven Hill designed the additions with assistance from architect William Wesley Peters (Wright's son-in-law). Gelbin acted as supervisor on the project and the contractor was Tom Riordan of Norwalk. Work included an addition containing a new entry and a family room attached to the L-shaped wing, creating an enclosed courtyard, expansion of the master bedroom and bath, converting the garage storage space to staff quarters and adding a new attached greenhouse, constructing a new carport, and construction of a steel-framed terrace off of the swimming pool. Tennis courts were also added at this time. New landscaping was designed by landscape architects Charles Middeleer and Frank Masao Okamura. This work included installation of a curved bridge, stepping stones, a dramatic fountain in the pond, and new paths. The remodeled house was included in the 1967 Modern House Tour in New Canaan.

In 1980, the property was acquired by Ranko Santric. The Shepherds took much of the custom-built furnishings with them when they moved. In 1992, it was acquired by Vada S. Stanley. The Stanleys completed an extensive restoration of the house and landscape between 1992 and 1996. John de Koven Hill consulted on the project and the work was completed by interior designer Ronald Bricke and landscape architects Heritage Landscape. The primary work involved repairing or replacing the Philippine mahogany in kind and interior alterations.

Sources

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Eskesen, Hall. "Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright: Home for sale displays the master's touch." Stamford Advocate, 8 August 1978.
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"House by Frank Lloyd Wright sold." New Canaan Advertiser, 20 November 1980.
Interview with Vada Stanley and the Shepherd family at Tirranna, 26 March 2008.
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The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Papzian, Rita. "Tirranna—where man is guest of environment." New Canaan Carriage Trader, October 1991.
Simmons III, Daniel Paul. "Walking the Wright Path." Avenue, November 1999, 18-26.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.
"Wright, Frank Lloyd, Rayward House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: Goldmark House/Salant House

Current Building Name: Salant House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1941

ID #: 82

NR Eligible as Individual: ☑

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions: 86'x115'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? No

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1.5

Plan: Irregular C-shaped

Basement: Partial crawl space

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete

Structural System: Load-bearing masonry

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Concrete block with chamfered brick cornice

Are Walls Painted? Yes, white

Trim Material: None

Roof Type: Hipped, gable, and flat

Roof Material: Asphalt shingles with sheet copper flashing

Eave: Boxed on both flat and hipped roofs

Soffit: Plain painted wood

Fascia: Plain with sheet copper on flat roofs. Concealed by gutters at hipped roofs.

Gutter Material: Aluminum

Gutter Type: Hanging

# of Chimneys: 1

Chimney Cladding: Metal

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Rolled steel multi-light and single pane outswinging casement windows. Fixed plate glass window at some corners. Glass block.

Sash Material: Rolled steel, painted wood, glass block, replacement vinyl

Window Hardware: Original

Door Types: Painted wood glazed doors with horizontal glazed panels. Solid wood door with horizontal scoring and original hardware. Painted wood

Door Material: Wood, aluminum

Door Hardware: Original

Exterior Lighting

Types: Metal lantern, not original

Locations: Hanging from entry ceiling

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Large open meadow, wooded

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone pavers

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Curving brick entry stair with painted steel handrail and stone threshold at entrance door

Swimming Pool: Yes

Fence or Gate: Split-rail wood fence with metal mesh around pool

# of Terraces: 3

# of Decks: 0

Terrace Paving Material: Brick. Flagstone pavers.

Deck Material: NA

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House set on slight berm on flat site on very secluded 1-car lane. Huge open meadow at rear. Site left largely naturally landscaped, but lawn area at back with terraces and swimming pool.

Alterations

Alterations: 1951: new bedroom wing constructed, 14'x33' flat-roofed addition overlooking new brick terrace, brick steps at front added. 1-car addition to garage also likely added at this time. 1966: swimming pool constructed. 1979-80: new kitchen constructed. Built by Dinyar Wadia and designed by Chris Mooman of Ridgefield. Unknown dates: roof recently replaced; some original steel casements replaced with aluminum casements; tennis court constructed.

Years of Alterations: 1951, 1966, 1979-80

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Concrete block

Doors and Windows: Flush wood doors. Steel multi-light casements. Fixed windows, some corner

Sash Material: Wood, steel

Roof Shape and Material: Flat, not visible

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 3 car

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall Cladding: Concrete block

Doors and Windows: Overhead doors. Glass block in large rectangular openings. Steel multilight casements. Replacement vinyl casements.

Roof Configuration and Material: Flat, not visible

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: None

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: NA

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: George Hickey

Alterations Designers: Unknown (1951). Chris Mooman (1979-80)

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.02.07

Survey Notes: House has zigzag massing. Gutters have been relocated. Hanging gutters not original, possibly indicating that roof frame and profile have changed. Possibly originally a box gutter resting on the chamfered brick cornice. Many original wood doors and screen doors remain. Wood thresholds at entry doors. Glass block may be original or later alteration.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Goldmark House/Salant House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Goldmark House/Salant House, rear façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The Goldmark House/Salant House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria B and C. It appears to be eligible under Criterion B for its association with original owner Peter Goldmark, a National Medal of Science recipient who invented the world's first long-playing record and was also integral in the development of color television. It also appears to be eligible under Criterion C on a local level as an excellent example of a transitional house displaying Modern influences, including the use of glass block and steel windows, and the design of the flat-roofed garage.

Description

The Goldmark House/Salant House is essentially a traditional house with some Modern features and elements; it can best be classified as a transitional house, similar to Mills House 1 (1939, Willis N. Mills). The house is set on a large, flat lot on a secluded road. At the rear of the house is a very large open meadow. Directly adjacent to the rear of the house is a lawn area containing a small swimming pool. Brick and flagstone terraces border the rear façades of the house.

The main part of the house was designed as a series of connected hipped-roof pavilions set in a staggered line at the rear façade. The house walls are concrete block painted white with a chamfered brick cornice. Most of the windows are rolled steel multi-light casement sash; some openings contain glass block. The original doors are glazed wood doors with horizontal panes of glazing, and wood screen doors. The front entrance is located in an inset porch accessed by a set of curving brick and flagstone stairs with a metal handrail; the main door is solid wood door scored with horizontal lines.

At the front of the house, set at a 90-degree angle, is a flat-roofed, concrete-block structure containing the original laundry room, a two-car garage, and a one-car garage (added around 1951). The garages have large horizontal openings filled with glass block. At the other end of the main façade is a flat-roofed, concrete-block bedroom wing (1951). A flat-roofed dining room addition at the rear (1951) includes a deeply overhanging roof line that partially shades a brick terrace (1951). At one side of the house is a multi-sided breakfast room addition (1979-80) clad in vertical wood siding with a large solar panel mounted on its flat roof.

Significance

The Goldmark House/Salant House was constructed in 1941 for Peter and Frances Trainer Goldmark. The Goldmarks had been married in January 1939 and eventually had four children. In 1940, Frances T. Goldmark acquired the land for the house. According to Frances, the land was part of an old farm being divided up and her lot was an open cow pasture without a single tree on it. The house was completed in 1941. Frances stated that she and her husband Peter acted as architects for the house, and the builder was George Hickey of Stamford. A note on an early assessor property street card states, "fancy glass similar looking to quartz," suggesting that the existing glass block may have been original to the house.

In 1951, two additions were completed: a new flat-roofed bedroom wing containing two bedrooms and a bath, and a 14'x33' flat-roofed dining room extension with an overhang extending above a new brick terrace at the rear. The curving brick steps at the front entrance were also added. The one-car addition to the garage may also have been constructed in 1951; the two-car garage and laundry room were already extant. In 1954, Peter and Frances were divorced. Frances retained title to the house. She married Richard Salant in 1955 and had one daughter with him. In 1966, an in-ground swimming pool was constructed. Between 1979 and 1980, an addition containing a new kitchen and breakfast room was added to the house. According to Frances Salant, it was built by Dinyar Wadia and designed by Chris Mooman of Ridgefield, Connecticut. Later alterations (at unknown dates) include the replacement of some original rolled steel casement windows with single-panel aluminum or vinyl casement windows, the replacement of the roof, and the construction of a tennis court.

Both Peter Goldmark and Richard Salant had remarkable careers and were well-known in their respective fields. Peter Goldmark (1906-77) was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1906. He received his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Vienna. After coming to America in 1933, he landed a job at CBS as chief television engineer. In 1940, according to the New York Times, Goldmark "built the first practical color TV system" (New York Times, 17 December 1967). During World War II, he worked on technology to jam German radar. After the war, in 1948, he created the first long-playing record in the world, an accomplishment for which he is best known. In 1954, he became president of CBS Laboratories. By the late 1960s, he was working on the development of EVR (Electronic Video Recording). He retired in 1971 and founded the Goldmark Communications Corporation. In 1967, the New York Times called him "one of the 10 top inventors today" (NYT, 17 December 1967). Goldmark received the National Medal of Science in 1977 and was killed in a car crash a few weeks later.

Richard Salant (1914-1993) was born in New York City and receiveed a B.A. in 1935 and a law degree in 1938 from Harvard University. In 1952, Salant left the law firm of Goldmark, Colin & Kaye to become a vice president at CBS. Despite no background in journalism, he served as president of CBS News from 1961-1964 and 1966-1979. While Salant was leading CBS News, he oversaw the establishment of "60 Minutes," "CBS Morning News," and "Sunday Morning." Salant died in 1993. In his obituary, CBS Broadcast News president Howard Stringer said Salant was "one of the founding fathers of CBS News" (New York Times, 17 February 1993).

Sources

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McElheny, Victor K. "Crash Kills Dr. Peter Goldmark, Scientist Who Invented LP Disk." New York Times, 8 December 1977, 57.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Schonberg, Harold C. "Long-Play Tape Machine Shown By CBS Inventor of LP Disks." New York Times, 24 March 1960, 35.
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Weber, Ernst. "Peter Carl Goldmark 1906-1977." Washington DC: National Academy of Sciences, 1985.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: MacKnight House

Current Building Name: MacKnight House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1947

ID #: 83

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the MacKnight House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The MacKnight House was constructed in 1947 and possibly designed by Wilton architect Lewis Gelders. Dorothy MacKnight, a local decorator and painter, acquired the property—which overlooks the Silvermine River—in 1939. The original one-story house was described in the assessor field property cards as having a foundation of concrete block and posts, board-and-batten siding, and a flat composition roof. Between 1950 and 1951, a small 13'x15'6" addition containing a bedroom and a flagstone terrace were completed. A 3'x6' shed was attached to the house off the entry porch likely in the early 1950s.

In 1957, prominent New Canaan builder Paul Borglum acquired the house. In 1960, a barn and shed were built. In 1973, a 21'x21' one-story addition was constructed; a 14'6"x5'6" addition had also been added by this time. In 1975, a carport was completed. The house was transferred to Harriet M. Borglum in 1975 and to Linda B. Fry in 1986.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Silvermine to Exhibit Portraits by Gutman." Bridgeport Post, [30 September 1973].
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Harding House

Current Building Name: Harding House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1953

ID #: 84

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Harding House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Harding House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Harding House was constructed in 1953 for Richard B. and Beatty P. Harding. Beatty Harding acquired the lot in 1952. As of 1977, Richard B. Harding was the president of New York construction company Humphreys & Harding (New York Times, 12 June 1977).

The assessor property street card notes that drawings by Page & Franklyn were filed on 5 June 1953, suggesting that they were the architects or builders. The original wood-frame house had a concrete block foundation, wood clapboard exterior sheathing, and an asphalt shingle roof. The house consisted of a two-story, hipped-roof central building with a square plan flanked by a one-story wing with a rectangular plan and a one-story, shed-roofed, two-car garage. The entire house had a four-foot overhang.

In 1967, a one-story, multi-sided addition was completed. A fieldstone patio adjacent to the house was added at some point before 1967.

In 1994, Richard G. and Eva McCarrick acquired the property.

Sources

"Catherine Cullum Bride of William Harding 2d." New York Times, 12 June 1977.
The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Sasanoff House

Current Building Name: Sasanoff House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1955

ID #: 85

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Sasanoff House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Sasanoff House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Sasanoff House was constructed in 1955 by an unknown architect and builder. The property was acquired by Michael Sasanoff et. ux. in 1954 from New England Homes. According to the assessor property street cards, the house had a cinder block foundation, clapboard siding, and a wood-shingled hipped roof. In plan, the house was rectangular with a wing off the front surrounded by a wood deck at the main level and a carport at the basement level; a second wood deck off the side; and a screened-in porch at the rear. The assessor property street cards describe the house as having a "master bedroom - raised 4 steps from LR and open to living room with garage underneath."

Ownership of the house during the 1960s is unknown since the assessor property cards from the 1960s are currently undergoing conservation. In 1978, Hannelore M. Ross acquired the property. In 1980, Dennis B. Ross became the owner of the property through a quitclaim, and it was transferred to Dennis B. and Whitney B. Ross in 1988 through another quitclaim. In 1997, the house underwent some alterations: the wood deck at the side of the house was reduced in size, the screened-in porch was removed, and a large addition was constructed at the rear of the house. In 2006, Robert G. Doctors acquired the property.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Docters House

Current Building Name: Docters House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1957

ID #: 86

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Blitz & Price

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Docters House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Docters House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Docters House was completed in 1957. The architect is unknown, but according to a 1966 realtor listing for the house, it was constructed by builders Blitz & Price. It appears that Gerard J.G. Docters was the first resident of the house. In 1956, the property was purchased by Rocky Brook Corp. and transferred by quitclaim to Parting Brook Homes, Inc., suggesting that the house was built by developers as a speculative house. In 1957, Raymond J. Kautz et. al. acquired the property (no purchase price is listed). In 1958, Docters purchased the property. The one-story, L-shaped house had an incorporated garage at one end.

In 1964, Norman E. Pennels et. al. acquired the house. In 1966, James F. Sirmons purchased the house. In 1977, Richard H. Ference became the owner. In 1984, Robert and Francine A.T. Schechter purchased the property. The Schechters had a 34'x18' addition containing a bedroom and bathroom constructed in 1988 to the designs of architect Chris Moomaw.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Kirkpatrick House

Current Building Name: Kirkpatrick House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1959

ID #: 87

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:** Ted Hobbs

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Kirkpatrick House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Kirkpatrick House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Kirkpatrick House was built in 1959 for William T. Kirkpatrick and his wife. The New Canaan Historical Society archives identify this house as the "Pederson House," designed by architect William Pedersen and built by Ted Hobbs, but the assessor records show no evidence that a Pederson (or Pedersen) ever owned the property and further research is required to determine if Pedersen designed the house.

William T. Kirkpatrick acquired the property in 1957 from Dino Olivetti. According to the assessor property street card, construction on the one-story house had begun by March 1959. The house had a 25'x67' rectangular plan with a 10'x64' patio along one façade. A flat-roofed carport with a dirt floor was attached to one corner of the house.

In 1976, the house was acquired by Bruce S. and Elizabeth A. Beresford. During that same year, the carport was enclosed and enlarged as living space, and a new two-car garage was constructed and connected to the house by a new fieldstone patio.

In 1993, Michael A.F. and Cynthia B. Roberts purchased the house. Between 1993 and 1994, the Roberts enlarged the former carport addition, constructed a new addition on the site of the 1976 fieldstone patio, and altered the garage. In 1996, the assessor notes that alterations to the "garden and laundry room" were completed. Between 1996 and the present, another addition was constructed adjacent to the garage and a wood deck and small patio were added on to the house.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
"Pederson, William, Pederson House," Modern house file in collection of the New Canaan Historical Society.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Fiore House

Current Building Name: Fiore House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1960-61

ID #: 88

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Fiore House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Fiore House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this property.

Significance

The Fiore House was completed between 1960 and 1961. The architect is unknown. Lorenzo J. Fiore et. al. acquired the property in 1960. The house had a rectangular plan with roof overhangs at either end. In 1964, a two-car garage was constructed adjacent to the house, creating an L-shaped plan. Some unspecified interior alterations were also completed at this time.

In 1974, John and Sheila Owen-Smith acquired the property. In 1978, a swimming pool was completed. Between 1980 and 1981, an addition was constructed at the rear containing a guest bedroom and bath and a sewing/laundry room. It appears that the roof overhangs may have been altered or eliminated at this time. In 1990, PHH Homeequity Corporation acquired the property. In 1991, Cornell D. Cornish, Jr. and Marie A. Cornish purchased the house. In 1998, Giovanni and Girolamo Soro acquired the house.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Jones House

Current Building Name: Jones House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1960-62

ID #: 89

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Jones House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this house.

Significance

The Jones House was designed by an unknown architect for Henry S. and Virginia Jones. The Joneses acquired the property in 1955. According to the assessor records, although a tool shed for the builders had been erected in 1956 and plans had been filed, no work started through 1958. It appears that construction finally began in 1960 and was completed by 1962. The original house had an L-shaped plan and included an attached garage. Two bedrooms and a bathroom were added in 1963, altering the plan to a C-shaped plan with an open courtyard between the original building and addition. A wood deck set at a diagonal to the building was also completed by 1963, but may have been part of the original construction. Sometime between the late 1970s and 1982, the garage was converted to a family room. A wood deck was also added to the open courtyard sometime between 1963 and 1982.

R. Munger purchased the property from Henry and Virginia Jones in 1970. Stuart D. Watson and Sarah and Sperry A. DeCew purchased the property in 1976. The DeCews became sole owners in 1979, then sold the house to Donald J. and Joan E. Carroll. James J. Farrell, Trustee, acquired the property in 1985 which passed to Andrew J. Ross in 1987 by a quitclaim, then Don H. Jones purchased it that same year. After a foreclosure on the house in 1981, John L. and Alice Mitchell acquired it in 1992. In 2000, Daniel J. and Kelly A. DeFrancesco purchased the house. The current owner, Frank Ramppen, acquired the property in 2006. At some point after 1988, the angled deck was reduced in size by half and extended slightly across the front of the house.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☐ **No** ☑

General Information

Historic Building Name: Archer House

Current Building Name: Archer House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1963

ID #: 90

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☐

Dimensions:

Integrity of Place:

Town or City: New Canaan

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road?

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories:

Plan:

Basement:

Volume:

Massing:

Foundation:

Structural System:

Piers:

Pilotis:

Breezeway:

Courtyard:

Wall Cladding:

Are Walls Painted?

Trim Material:

Roof Type:

Roof Material:

Eave:

Soffit:

Fascia:

Gutter Material:

Gutter Type:

# of Chimneys:

Chimney Cladding:

# of Porches:

Porch Roof Material:

Porch Roof Type:

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types:

Sash Material:

Window Hardware:

Door Types:

Door Material:

Door Hardware:

Exterior Lighting

Types:

Locations:

Site Description

Surrounding environment:

Paving- Pedestrian: **Paving - Vehicular:**

Exterior Stairs: **Swimming Pool:**

Fence or Gate: **# of Terraces:** **# of Decks:**

Terrace Paving Material: **Deck Material:**

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: **Cut Stone Wall:** **DRY SET Field Stone Wall:** **Cut Stone Wall:**

Landscape:

Alterations

Alterations:

Years of Alterations: **Foundation:**

Wall Cladding:

Doors and Windows: **Sash Material:**

Roof Shape and Material:

Garage

Garage? ☐ **Carport?** ☐

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Configuration and Material:

Outbuildings

Outbuildings:

Foundation: **Wall Cladding:**

Doors and Windows:

Roof Material and Configuration:

Conditions

Exterior:

Structural:

Threats to Building or Site: Unknown

Credits

Landscape Architect: **Lighting Designer:**

Interior Designer: **Builder:**

Alterations Designers:

Survey

Surveyors: **Date Surveyed:** NA

Survey Notes: House not surveyed

Photographer: Allyson Mehley **Date:** February 2008 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: Archer House, view from street

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: **Date:** **Negative on File?** N/A

View:

Location of Negative:

NR

Since the Archer House was not accessible for field survey, National Register eligibility has not been determined for this property.

Description

Field survey was not conducted on this property.

Significance

The Archer House was constructed in 1963 by an unknown architect for Harry and Margaret Archer. A realtor listing from 1990 identifies the original builder or architect as someone named "Platts." Margaret A. Archer acquired the property in 1962 and the house was completed by July 1963. The original gable-roofed house had an L-shaped plan, two attached garages, and vertical wood siding. Adjacent to the house were a flagstone patio and an L-shaped wood deck set at an angle to the building.

In 1973, Alois A. and Genevieve Stauber acquired the property (transferred to Genevieve Stauber in 1986). In 1990, Peter M. and Sally J. Finnican purchased the house. The Finnicans undertook a major renovation to the house starting in 1990: the house was expanded in size, a second story was added, the garages were converted into living space, and the wood deck and flagstone patio were altered. In 1994, a new separate two-car garage was completed. A second addition connecting the house and garage was completed at some time after 1994.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Field Surveyed: Yes ☑ **No** ☐

General Information

Historic Building Name: James House

Current Building Name: James House

Architect: Unknown

Address: Confidential

Year Built: 1965

ID #: 91

NR Eligible as Individual: ☐

NR Eligible for District: ☑

Dimensions: 39'x39', 18'x19'

Integrity of Place: Original location

Historic Use: Single-family dwelling

Present Use: Single-family dwelling

Public or Private: Private

Visible from Public Road? Yes

Town or City: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** CT

Village: NA

Architectural Description: Main Structure

Style:

# of Stories: 1

Plan: Square with square addition

Basement: Partial

Volume: Grounded

Massing: Asymmetrical

Foundation: Concrete block

Structural System: Load-bearing masonry and wood frame

Piers: No

Pilotis: No

Breezeway: No

Courtyard: No

Wall Cladding: Concrete block. Vertical wood tongue and groove siding.

Are Walls Painted? Yes, tan

Trim Material: Wood

Roof Type: Shed, multiple roofs

Roof Material: Synthetic membrane, silver

Eave: Boxed

Soffit: Plain painted wood. Tongue and groove with rafters

Fascia: Plain

Gutter Material: Not visible

Gutter Type: Concealed

# of Chimneys: 2

Chimney Cladding: Stucco

# of Porches: 0

Porch Roof Material: NA

Porch Roof Type: NA

Windows and Doors Main Structure

Window Types: Horizontal sliding sash, in-swinging hopper, fixed plate glass, outswinging casement

Sash Material: Aluminum, except for wood frame fixed windows and painted wood casements at round tower

Window Hardware: Original and replacement

Door Types: Sliding glass doors, one operable and one fixed

Door Material: Aluminum

Door Hardware: Original and replacement

Exterior Lighting

Types: Prairie Style copper lanterns

Locations: Mounted on walls

Site Description

Surrounding environment: Residential

Paving- Pedestrian: Flagstone, gravel

Paving - Vehicular: Gravel

Exterior Stairs: Wood

Swimming Pool: No

Fence or Gate: No

# of Terraces: 0

# of Decks: 2

Terrace Paving Material: NA

Deck Material: Wood

MORTAR SET Field Stone Wall: No **Cut Stone Wall:** No

DRY SET Field Stone Wall: Yes **Cut Stone Wall:** No

Landscape: House is set on slight rise overlooking pond and stream, which parallel the road. A small wood footbridge spans the stream. Owner's sculpture is placed around the property. Owner currently constructing a serpentine rock wall.

Alterations

Alterations: 1975: house expanded by constructing a one-story addition with a two-story round tower capped with a wide floating roof, a gazebo, and new decks. 1990: new enclosed porch constructed at the northeast corner of house and entry foyer built at basement adjacent to the garage door. 1994: new side entry constructed.

Years of Alterations: 1975, 1990, 1994

Foundation: Concrete footers

Wall Cladding: Vertical wood tongue and groove siding

Doors and Windows: Fixed, casement

Sash Material: Wood

Roof Shape and Material: Shed, synthetic membrane

Garage

Garage? ☑ **Carport?** ☐ Incorporated, 2 car garage

Foundation: NA

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: 1 overhead door

Roof Configuration and Material: NA

Outbuildings

Outbuildings: Hexagonal gazebo with stone fireplace

Foundation: Concrete footers

Wall Cladding: NA

Doors and Windows: NA

Roof Material and Configuration: Hipped

Conditions

Exterior: Good

Structural: Good

Threats to Building or Site: None known

Credits

Landscape Architect: Unknown

Lighting Designer: Unknown

Interior Designer: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Alterations Designers: Unknown

Survey

Surveyors: EB, HM, MS

Date Surveyed: 11.02.07

Survey Notes: Wood decks at balcony above garage and wrapping around side of house, connecting gazebo to house. All railings are wood frame with steel rails in body of railing. Basement level is fully exposed at the base of the hill and then underground upwards. House is fairly close to the road.

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: James House, front façade

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Photographer: Eileen Brackenbury **Date:** November 2007 **Negative on File?** Yes

View: James House, front façade and addition

Location of Negative: The New Canaan Historical Society 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

NR

The James House appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register as a contributing resource in the proposed New Canaan Mid-Century Modern Houses multiple property listing.

Description

The James House is sited midway up a gently sloping plot overlooking a pond and a stream. The original house was a one-story-plus-basement structure with a square footprint. The house currently has a complicated roofline with a gable roof with deep eaves over the original section of the house. The walls are clad with painted vertical tongue and groove wood siding. The basement is fully exposed at the south and east sides of the building and wood decks are found off of the first-floor spaces. The two-car garage at the basement level is incorporated in the square footprint of the original section of the house. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls open the living rooms in the house to the landscape beyond.

Significance

The James House was constructed around 1965 and designed by an unknown architect.

In 1962, Miles B. Olson acquired the property from Robert Roles, likely the same Robert Roles who was a prominent builder in town. It appears that Olson died in 1963. A note on the assessor property field card dated 1 July 1963 states, "Remove dev. disc.," likely referring to a developer's discount on the property assessment. This suggests that Olson was a developer. In 1964, Phillip A. James et. al. purchased the property. According to the assessor, the house was constructed in 1965. The original house had a square footprint with wood decks wrapping around the south and east sides.

In 1971, Alfred E. and Glenna Fischer purchased the property. In 1975, the Fischers added a one-story addition with vertical wood siding and a gable roof; a gazebo with a hexagonal plan was also constructed and the decks were extended around the house to integrate the new construction. The Fischers also created the pond on the property. The 1975 work was designed by architect Chris Moomaw. Sometime between 1975 and 1990, an attached two-story round tower capped with a wide floating roof was constructed adjacent to this addition. In 1990, a new enclosed porch was constructed at the northeast corner of the house and an entry foyer was built at the basement level adjacent to the garage. In 1994, the assessor lists a permit for a new side entry, but the location of this alteration is unclear.

Sources

The New Canaan Historical Society general house files.
Town of New Canaan, Assessor's Office field cards.

Appendix O
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About Building Conservation Associates

Building Conservation Associates, Inc. is a private consulting and research firm practicing preservation design, conditions assessments, materials science, and historic building documentation.

Since 1985, BCA has provided custom technology and planning services to architects, private institutions, developers, building owners, museums, and government agencies. BCA's pragmatic philosophy is rooted in construction technology and museum practices. Our company's mission is to make building conservation an economically viable option within the normal parameters of property development and rehabilitation.

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