

CT Trust Resource ID: 2468

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

State Historic Preservation Office, DECD, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

Inventory form modified for the Creative Places - Arts & Letters Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common): Earl Norwell Thorp HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Name UnknownStreet Address or Location: 57 Greenwood Ave., BethelTown/City: Bethel

Village:

County: Fairfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Daniel and Maria RapleyPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.3717 Longitude: -73.4051

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: multi-family dwellingHistoric Use: Residential: single-family dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Greek Revival Date of Construction: c. 1850Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Aluminum SidingStructural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 30' x 45'Structural Condition GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Addition on north elevationRelated outbuildings or landscape features: BarnSurrounding Environment: Residential, Residential, Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property consists of 0.37 acres of land on the north side of Greenwood Avenue. A walkway extending off the sidewalk terminates at the stairs to the entryway of the house. A driveway extends to the east off Prospect Street to the west of the property. It terminates in a parking area to the northwest of the house. A long walkway leading from the parking area extends to the south past the west elevation of the house, curves, and terminates in front (south façade) of the house. Surrounding the property are residential dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a two-story, Greek Revival, front-gable house with an attic. It is sheathed in aluminum or vinyl siding with asphalt shingles on the roof. The eaves of the roof overhang slightly and have cornice returns. The house is in the shape of a 'T,' and the brick chimney is on the side-gable section. The façade faces south and the main entry is found on this side. It is reached by wooden steps with a railing. The entry is flanked by sidelights and a transom window is just above. Fenestration includes one-over-one double-hung windows. A rectangular window is in the gable-peak of the house. An addition is added to the rear (north elevation) of the house.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

As noted by the UCONN Connecticut Artists Project, 'An obituary in the Hartford Courant called Earl Norwell Thorpe [sometimes spelled Thorp] an internationally-known sculptor. His work decorated many buildings, including the War Department Building in Washington and the Nebraska State Capitol at Lincoln. Although he was born in MA, the family must have moved soon after to CT, for Thorpe received his early schooling in Bridgeport. Later he attended the Beaux Arts School of Design in NYC and Yale School of the Fine Arts in New Haven. He was one of the founders of the Danbury (CT) Art Center and the Danbury Historical Museum'

(http://lib.uconn.edu/services/collections/connecticut-artists-project/?item=3400&Last_Name=thorp)

Listed in the 1946 Bethel City Directory, Earl N. Thorp (as it's spelled in the directory) lives with his wife Beatrice and is listed as a sculptor.

Sources:

http://lib.uconn.edu/services/collections/connecticut-artists-project/?item=3400&Last_Name=thorp; 'Earl Norwell Thorpe.' New York Times

(1923-Current File). March 1, 1951. Accessed December 15, 2015 <http://search.proquest.com/docview/111829256?accountid=10341>

Photographer: Bethel Tax Assessor **Date:**

View:

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** December 21, 2015

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



South view, photo from Bethel Tax Assessor at <http://bethel.univers-clt.com/>

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____

District ☐S ☐NR **If NR, specify:** ☐Actual ☐ Potential