

CT Trust Resource ID: 2339

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): New Haven Railroad CabooseOther Name(s) (Historic): New Haven Railroad CabooseStreet Address or Location: 0 Main Street and Railroad Street, CanaanTown/City: CanaanVillage: Falls VillageCounty: Litchfield County

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Falls Village - Canaan Historical SocietyPublic/Private: Non-ProfitLatitude: 42.0269 Longitude: -73.3295

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Visitor's CenterHistoric Use: Train car/cabooseAccessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: Open to the publicStyle of building: train car/caboose Date of Construction: c. 1944

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Structural Systems(s): Structural iron or steel

Roof(Type): (Material):

Number of Stories: n/a Approximate Dimensions:Structural Condition GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: visitor's information signSurrounding Environment: Residential, Residential, Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The caboose is situated on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Street in the center of Falls Village. Found on an abandoned piece of track, the caboose sits to the north of "Jacob's Garage," an auto shop. The railroad line is just behind (to the west) of the caboose, and a visitor's sign is found at the site, directly to the south.

Other notable features of building or site: This caboose (C621) is a class NE-5 center cupola car built in 1944 by the Pullman Standard Company. The car is constructed of metal with a metal roof. The caboose faces Main Street to the east. Painted in white on this side (the east side) is the New Haven Railroad logo which consists of a large "N" just above a large "H." "New Haven" is painted in white to the south of the logo. Near the north corner of this side, the car number (C621) is painted in white. Two windows are found on this side, one to the north and one to the south. Staircases are found on the north and south corners.

On the south side of the caboose is a staircase that leads to a platform. To the north is a door, and directly across the platform, to the south, is a metal ladder and a brake wheel. A window is located on each side of the doorway. Around on the west side of the caboose, the "NH" logo is painted in white and a window is found near each corner (the north and south corners). Metal staircases are also found in each corner. On the north side of the train, the staircase leads to a platform. A door, flanked by a window on each side, is to the south. Directly across the platform from the door is a brake wheel and a metal ladder that leads to the roof. The cupola on the roof has windows on each side of it, and a metal railing above.

Architect: Herbert Matter Builder/Maker: Pullman Standard Company

Historical or Architectural importance:

Herbert Matter was born in 1907 in the Swiss Mountains. In 1925, he began attending Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Geneva. Two years later, he left after becoming intrigued by Modernism. He moved to Paris and attended Academie Moderne. In 1932, Matter was expelled from France for not having the proper papers, and returned to Switzerland. In 1936, he was offered a roundtrip passage to the U. S. as payment for work he did for a ballet troupe. He traveled throughout the country and decided to remain in New York instead of returning home. Matter soon became photographer for Harper's Bazaar and Saks Fifth Avenue. In 1944, he became design consultant for Knoll International and in 1952,

he joined the faculty at Yale University as professor of photography and graphic design. From 1958-1968, he worked as a design consultant for the Guggenheim Museum. His first major art exhibit was in 1978 at the Yale University School of Art, and in 1980 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship for photography. Matter died in 1984 in Southampton, New York.

This caboose is culturally significant as an example of the New Haven Railroad logo that changed the face of the company and their trains. After the NHRR was absorbed by the Penn Central System, the train cars along with the track were sold off. This caboose was purchased, restored, and now serves as the Falls Village Visitor's Center. Thus, the logo was preserved. The sleek design shows off the new graphic design techniques that were beginning to be utilized in corporate marketing during this period. It remains a popular design, and is indicative of the modern movement that happened in the mid-20th century. The 'NH' logo designed in the 1950s is still found on Shoreline East passenger trains.

Sources:

Helfand, Jessica; The Design Observer Group; Annals of Small Town Life: The Logo Stops Here; 9/4/2006, accessed 7/30/2014 at <http://designobserver.com/feature/annals-of-small-town-life-the-logo-stops-here/4697/>; Carley, Rachel. Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Connecticut. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2014; Palmer, Barbara; Exhibit celebrates photographer and graphic designer Herbert Matter; Stanford University News Service, October 19, 2005; accessed 1/14/2015 at <http://news.stanford.edu/pr/2005/pr-matter-101905.html>; Ransom, David F.; Falls Village District; National Register Historic District Nomination No. 79002622,

National Park Services, 1979; The New York Times (1851-2010) accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers on 7/30/2014

Herbert Matter, 77, A Graphic Designer And Photographer – May 9, 1984

The Graphic Designs of Herbert Matter: Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street Through Dec. 3 – July 26, 1991

Photographer:Kristen Nietering **Date:** 7/23/2014

View:Multiple

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:



Southeast view of the caboose. Camera facing northwest.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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