

CT Trust Resource ID: 3054

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): Knollenberg HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Knollenberg HouseStreet Address or Location: 35 Parkers Point Road, ChesterTown/City: Chester

Village:

County: Middlesex

Designation(s):

Owner(s):

Public/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.4284 Longitude: -72.4419

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwellingHistoric Use: Domestic: single dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Colonial Revival Date of Construction: 1938Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) ClapboardStructural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gambrel, Gable (Material): Wood ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 99' x 38'Structural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: Garage, ShedSurrounding Environment: Scattered buildings visible from site

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The site is an 11.7-acre wooded lot fronting on the west bank of the Connecticut River in the northern part of the town of Chester. A lawn along the east side of the house faces the river. A circular drive at the west side provides access and parking. A modern garage is located northwest of the house.

Other notable features of building or site:

The house is a Colonial Revival-style building composed of three blocks. The center section is an asymmetrical 4-bay 2 1/2-story gable-roofed structure with a projected upper story, resembling a center-chimney Colonial house; this block is oriented with the ridge-line running northwest-southeast, parallel to the river bank.

To the north is a 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed wing canted at a slight angle; the upper level has three dormer windows in the steep pitch of the gambrel roof. A large multi-pane arched window is in the north gable. The south block is turned perpendicular to the main block and has an arched western gable-end window over two double-hung windows on the ground floor and a gable roof.

Architect: Alberta Pfeiffer Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

This was the home and studio of sculptor Mary Tarleton Knollenberg and her husband, Yale librarian Bernhard Knollenberg (1892-1973).

Mary Tarleton Knollenberg (1904-1992) was raised in Great Neck, Long Island. She won a Guggenheim fellowship to study in Paris. She also studied under Mahonri Young in New York and Heinz Warneke in East Haddam, CT. She worked in bronze and stone and specialized in female forms, often nudes. Like Warneke, her work in stone incorporated the 'direct carving' technique.

The house was designed in 1938 by locally notable architect Alberta Pfeiffer (1899-1997).

Sources:

Lansing, Amy Kurtz. Modern Figures: Mary Tarleton Knollenberg, a Retrospective. Florence Griswold Museum, 2014.

Obituary, 1/07/1993. New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com/1993/01/07/obituaries/mary-tarleton-knollenberg-sculptor-88.html>
Obituary, 12/30/1992. New London Day.

Photographer: Town of Chester Assessor **Date:**

View: West view

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** December 28, 2015

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



35 Parkers Point Road, Chester CT (assessor photo)

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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