

CT Trust Resource ID: 2402

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): The HavenOther Name(s) (Historic): The Haven/Katherine Dreier HouseStreet Address or Location: 193-195 Long Ridge Rd., DanburyTown/City: Danbury

Village:

County: Fairfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): RIDGE PROPERTIES JOINT VENTUREPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.3356 Longitude: -73.4438

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial: office buildingHistoric Use: Residential: single family dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: Office buildingStyle of building: Colonial Revival Date of Construction: c. 1930

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gable, Hip (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 11,396 sq. ft.Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Warehouse attached by covered walkway to north of the house.Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, guest cottage, poolSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property consists of 17.49 acres of land on the west side of Long Ridge Road, sectioned into two parcels. A long driveway extends to the west off Long Ridge Road and makes a 90 degree turn to the north, terminating in a parking area just to the east of a warehouse attached to the house. The driveway extends further off the parking lot to the south, making a 90 degree turn to the west and terminating at a loop in front of (to the southeast) of the house. Just to the west of the house is a pool and to the northwest is a guest house. The warehouse is attached to the house by a long, covered walkway that extends north from the house. The warehouse is to the north of the house. Just to the south of the property is a church. Surrounding the property are twentieth century single-family dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a "V" shaped dwelling with gable roofs and a hip roof in the center. An octagonal belvedere sits atop the hip-roof. The house is 2 ½ stories, sheathed in vinyl siding, and has asphalt shingles on the roof. Gable ends extend to the east and south off the center hip-roof section, forming a "V." The façade faces southeast, and the main entry is located on this side. A large gable-roof pediment extends from the façade and is supported by long, slender columns. The house has 11,396 square feet of living space, and 25 rooms. It is now a commercial property and no longer functions as a residential dwelling.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Katherine Dreier was born in 1877 in Brooklyn, New York to Theodore and Dorothea Dreier. Both her parents were from Bremen, Germany, and her father was successful in the iron and steel shipping trade in the United States. Her mother was active in social causes of the time. Dreier was the youngest of four daughters; all her sisters were active in the women's issues and labor laws of the era. Katherine Dreier began taking private art lessons at the age of 12. She continued art lessons at the Brooklyn Art Students League from 1895-1897. From 1900-1901, she attended the Pratt Institute and a few years later from 1903 to 1909, she studied under Walter Shirlaw. Dreier's parents died in the late 1890s, leaving her and her sisters a large inheritance. This inheritance enabled Dreier to live as she pleased and was financially secure. It also allowed Dreier to travel to Europe often and in 1909 she lived in Europe studying, collecting, and exhibiting art while networking with artists and dealers until 1912 when she returned to the United States.

After her return to America, Dreier exhibited her work in the 1913 Armory Show in New York City. Between this exhibition and the Sonderbund Exhibition in Germany, Dreier became devoted to modern art and the promotion of it. In 1916, she joined the Society of Independent Artists where she met Marcel Duchamp who she formed a lifelong friendship and partnership with. In 1920, Dreier, Marcel Duchamp, and Man Ray formed Societe Anonyme to teach and promote European and American modern art in the United States. At this time, modern art was often dismissed or misunderstood in America. Societe Anonyme became a "museum without walls," and promoted modern art through lectures, presentations, and exhibitions. Katherine Dreier tried hard to find a permanent home for the museum, but with the opening of the Modern Museum of Art in New York City in 1929, her hopes were reduced. After attempting to create a museum in her home, The Haven, in Redding, Connecticut, she approached Yale University to fund and maintain it. They agreed to take on the collection if she would gift it to the Yale Art Gallery. In 1941, Dreier gifted the collection to Yale University, and her and Duchamp dissolved the Societe Anonyme in 1950 on its thirtieth anniversary. In 1942, Dreier decided to sell her beloved home in Redding, and in 1946 she moved to a new home, Laurel Manor, in Milford, Connecticut. In 1952, after years of failing health, Katherine Dreier died at her home.

Sources:

http://www.variant.org.uk/14texts/William_Clark.html; <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Katherine-Dreier>;
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/27/arts/27iht-modern.html>

Photographer: Vidal/Wettenstein LLC **Date:**

View:

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** March 9, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:

Vidal/Wettenstein, LLC photo. Southeast view, camera facing northwest.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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