

CT Trust Resource ID: 2170

## 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): Ezra Southworth Farmstead / Deep River Historical Society

Other Name(s) (Historic): Ezra Southworth Farmstead / Deep River Historical Society/ Ezra Southworth Farmstead

Street Address or Location: 245 Main Street, Deep River

Town/City: Deep River

Village:

County: Middlesex

Designation(s): SR

Owner(s): Deep River Historical Society, 245 Main St., Deep River CT 06417

Public/Private: Non-Profit

Latitude: 41.3805 Longitude: -72.4334

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Museum

Historic Use: Residence, agriculture

**Accessibility to public:** Yes Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: during open hours

Style of building: Italianate Date of Construction: 1840, 1889

**Material(s)** (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Cut Stone, Clapboard

**Structural Systems(s):** Load bearing masonry, Post & Beam

**Roof** (Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt Shingle

**Number of Stories:** House 2 1/2, Barn 1 1/2 **Approximate Dimensions:** 26' x 35' with 15' x 42' ell

**Structural Condition:** Excellent

**Exterior Condition:** Excellent

**Locational Integrity:** On original site **Moved, When:** NA

**Alterations?:** Yes **If yes, explain:** Late 19th-century renovations including porch and cross gable dormer.

**Related outbuildings or landscape features:** Bleach house, Barn

**Surrounding Environment:** Commercial, Commercial, Commercial

**Interrelationship of building and surroundings:** This site is associated with artist C. D. Batchelor, who lived and worked in Deep River. The house and barn are located on a 10.5-acre site on the east side of Main Street south of the town center. The buildings are set back behind a deep lawn, with the carriage barn to the northwest of the house. To the east are Devitt Field, a town park, and tidal salt marshes along the Connecticut River. A bleach house used for ivory was relocated to the site in 1998.

**Other notable features of building or site:** The house is a five-bay 2 1/2-story gable-roofed granite masonry building with its front eave-side facade facing west toward the street. A full-width 1-story porch extends along the west side and wraps around the ends. A cross-gable dormer is centered at the attic level. The main entry door is centered and flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows which are typical throughout. The east and west ends have pedimented attic gables with the stone masonry continuing full height. A 2-story ell extends east.

The barn is a 1 1/2-story eave-entry cross-gable carriage barn with a gable-roofed addition. The west eave-side of the barn faces Main Street while the east eave-side cross-gable is intersected by a smaller 1-story gable-roofed addition. The ridge-line of the barn does not correspond with the direction of the street, which runs roughly north-south, but rather is diagonal; running southwest-northeast. The main entry to the barn is the west eave-façade, which has a centered wall-dormer above the main entrance through a pair of hinged wagon doors with diagonal board panels. Two secondary entrances flank the main entry at the corners through paneled pass-through doors. The wall-dormer has a centered, arched, two-over-two double-hung sash window.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

### Historical or Architectural importance:

This site was listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 2014 as part of the Agricultural Heritage multiple property submission. The granite masonry house and post and beam-framed barn are significant as the home of Deacon Ezra Southworth from 1840 onward, with extensions and additions in the 1880s. The property was bequeathed to the Deep River Historical Society in 1946 and is the Society's museum and archives.

The house is architecturally significant for its unusual masonry work, alternating wide and narrow courses of cut granite masonry. The barn is a typical example of its type, the late 19th-century carriage barn.

Clarence Daniel (C. D.) Batchelor (1888-1977) was a noted political cartoonist for the New York Daily News and Pulitzer prize-winner in 1937 for his cartoon presaging the repetition of history on the eve of World War II. He was also known for a long-running series "Inviting the Undertaker" or the "ITUs" which dramatized the dangers of driving as the automobile age matured in the post-World War II years.

A native of Osage City, Kansas, Batchelor studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Students League in New York City. He was hired by the New York Daily News in 1931 and remained with the Daily News until his retirement in 1969. He had purchased his home in Deep River in 1929, but in 1969 moved full-time to his Deep River home and continued working as a painter and graphic artist. He had created the painting of Columbia for the town's World War II memorial Honor Roll which was unveiled in 1943. He was also a founder and board member of the Deep River Historical Society. He contributed drawings at various ceremonial events in the Deep River community (Deep River Historical Society archives).

Batchelor was a pre-eminent political cartoonist in the mid-20th century, and his Pulitzer Prize was the first awarded to a tabloid newspaper. His work placed the cartoon in the mainstream of journalism as political and social commentary.

**Sources:**

- Interview with Rhonda Forristall at the Deep River Historical Society, 3/27/2014.
- Town of Deep River Assessor's Records, <http://gis.vgsi.com/deepriverct/Parcel.aspx?Pid=1590>.
- Aerial views from <https://maps.google.com/maps> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 4/29/2014.
- Deep River Historical Society archives:
- Batchelor obituary, New York Daily News, 9/06/1977.
- Falk, Peter Hastings. Who Was Who in American Art 1564-1975. Sound View Press, 1999.
- Forristall, Rhonda, Kastner, Jonathan, Draft for Deep River CT 20th Century War Memorials.
- Levine, Todd, Southworth, Ezra Farmstead/Deep River Historical Society State Register Nomination No. 18513, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 2013.

**Photographer:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 3/27/2014

**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 31, 2015

**Threats:** None known

**Subsequent field evaluations:**



Deep River Historical Society / Ezra Southworth House, west view

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

**Town #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site#** \_\_\_\_\_ **UTM** \_\_\_\_\_

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