

CT Trust Resource ID: 3206

## 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): Olmsted, Daniel, House; The Mowings; Warneke, Heinz and Jessie, House and Studio

Other Name(s) (Historic): //

Street Address or Location: 153 Wickham Road, East Haddam

Town/City: East Haddam Village:

County: Middlesex

Designation(s): SRHD, NRHD, LHD

Owner(s): Joseph Clark

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.5037 Longitude: -72.3781

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Secondary outbuilding

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Agriculture/subsistence: Agricultural outbuilding

Accessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Colonial, Colonial revival Date of Construction: 1738

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

Structural Systems(s): Post & Beam

Roof(Type): Gable (Material): Wood Shingle

Number of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 20' x 37'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Restoration to 18th-century appearance

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Garden, Shed, Barn

Surrounding Environment: Rural

#### Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The 1738 Daniel Olmsted House is located on the west side of Wickham Road. This property is a contributing resource in the Wickham Road Historic District / Wickham Sawmill Local Historic District. The property includes two parcels totaling over 47 acres, with woods, fields, ponds, and stone walls. Buildings include the house, a studio building to the west, a shed used to house oxen, and a garage facing the road. An English bank barn located to the north beyond a fenced paddock was constructed since 1994 by the current owner, with re-used material from other demolished barns.

#### Other notable features of building or site:

The main block of the house is a 1738 center-chimney Colonial saltbox, 20' x 37' in size, 2 1/2 stories with a clapboarded, three-bay facade, wood-shingle roof, eight-over-twelve sash, stone masonry chimney, and a central entry with a plain board surround and six-pane transom. The entry facade faces south toward a lawn. The east gable faces the road. The attic level projects over the lower walls at the east and west gables, with a deep overhang over the south elevation. A 10-foot-deep saltbox addition extends across the north side. A one-story addition, built in 1937, is 22' x 40' in size, attached at the north of the saltbox leanto, and offset toward the west. This has a gable roof oriented parallel to the main roof, and is joined to the main building by a cricket. The exterior siding and trim have been restored twice, by the Warnekes in the 1930s and by the current owner since 1994.

The Studio consists of a small outbuilding, formerly a horse barn and corn crib, with a 1939 addition. The older portions are a rectangular one-story gable-roofed block 10' x 20' in size, with a large multi-pane industrial sash window facing north, and a 10' x 15' wing, with a multi-paned window facing west. Attached at the west is a 20' x 30' addition. This has the floor dropped a half-level, banked into the hill. The apparently low structure opens into a high-ceilinged space large enough for monumental works of sculpture. This wing of the Studio has a large north-facing skylight in the gable roof. The interior is framed as a clear span with bracing similar to a gambrel barn. Siding is wood clapboards and roofing is wood shingles.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Daniel Olmsted

**Historical or Architectural importance:**

The early history of the site is identified in the Wickham Road Historic District nomination. The property has a 20th-century significance as an artist's rural retreat and an example of historic preservation in the Colonial Revival period. When the Warnekes purchased the property in 1931, it was a large parcel of former farm land with a house altered in late 1800s. A comparison of their first photographs of the house with photographs taken for the WPA Survey shows the extent of exterior restoration under their ownership. The rear addition was built to accommodate a modern bedroom, bath, and sitting room, keeping the new features apart from the historic structure. The Warnekes cooked in a small northwest room under the saltbox roof, and dined in the historic kitchen. Publication in Ladies Home Journal of 1951 demonstrates the period interiors. The Warnekes' restoration to what they established as the original condition places them within the tradition of the Colonial Revival movement.

Heinz Warneke (1895-1983) was born in Germany and studied in Berlin, where he trained as a craftsman before turning to sculpture. During World War I, Warneke was a member of the German Monuments Commission, and then left Germany for the United States in 1923. He lived in St. Louis initially and there met his wife Jessie. The Warnekes lived much of the year in Paris from 1927 to 1932. Heinz Warneke developed a sculptural style that combined social realism, art-deco, and primitivism, and began his work with animals as subjects. He became a United States citizen in 1930. Upon returning to the United States during the Depression years, the Warnekes purchased their home in East Haddam, which they named 'The Mowings.' Warneke worked on several commissions for the WPA Treasury Section, including the 1936 Express Mail Carrier for the Post Office building in Washington D.C. He lived either full time or seasonally at the Mowings, spending periods in Washington, D.C. He taught at the Corcoran School of Art and George Washington University from the 1940s through the 1960s. Warneke became known for his animal figures, including the Nittany Lion (1942) for Pennsylvania State University and Elephant and her Calf (1962) for the Philadelphia Zoo. In the 1960s he worked for the National Cathedral carving sculpture for the South Portal tympanum and clerestory decorations.

**Sources:**

Interview by C. Hitchcock with owner Joseph Clark 8/15/2015, at the site; deed research by Joseph Clark.  
 Town of East Haddam Assessor's Records, <http://gis.vgsi.com/easthaddamct/Parcel.aspx?pid=4157> .  
 Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC: [http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash\\_up/1934.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html) .  
 Clouette, Bruce and Maura Cronin. 1996. Wickham Road National Register Historic District No. 96000781. National Park Service.  
 Connecticut Artists Project. UConn Library. Accessed at: <http://lib.uconn.edu/services/collections/connecticut-artists-project/> .  
 East Haddam historic building 030. WPA Architectural Survey. Accessed at:  
<http://cslib.cdmhost.com/cdm/singleitem/collection/p4005coll7/id/1004/rec/37> .  
 Cunningham, Mary Mullen. 1994. Heinz Warneke (1895-1983): A Sculptor First and Last. Newark: University of Delaware Press.  
 Heinz Warneke, East Haddam's Modernist Sculptor. Exhibit. East Haddam Historical Society and Museum, East Haddam CT. Visit 6/13/2015.  
 Pratt, Richard. April, 1951. Connecticut River Houses. Ladies Home Journal.  
 Smithsonian American Art Museum. Accessed at: <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=5236> .

**Photographer:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 8/15/2015

**View:** South view

**Form completed by:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** June 3, 2016

**Organization:** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

**Address:** 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

**Threats:** None known

**Subsequent field evaluations:**



153 Wickham Road, East Haddam - south view

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

**Town #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site#** \_\_\_\_\_ **UTM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**District** ☐ S ☐ NR **If NR, specify:** ☐ Actual ☐ Potential