

CT Trust Resource ID: 2434

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): Crosswicks

Other Name(s) (Historic): Crosswicks/Madeleine L'Engle and Hugh Franklin House

Street Address or Location: 93 West St., Goshen

Town/City: Goshen Village: _____

County: Litchfield

Designation(s): _____

Owner(s): Josephine Morrison Franklin Jones

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.8263 Longitude: -73.2342

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single family dwelling

Historic Use: Residential: single family dwelling

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Colonial Date of Construction: c. 1800

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

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

Number of Stories: 2 **Approximate Dimensions:** 42' x 41'

Structural Condition: Good

Exterior Condition: Good

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

Alterations? Yes If yes, explain: Additions added

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Garage is attached. Garage, Shed

Surrounding Environment: Rural

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property is located on one acre of land on the east side of West Street. It sits directly to the north of the intersection of West Street and Lyman Lane. A short driveway extends to the east off West Street and terminates in front of (to the west of) the attached garage. The house sits close to the road, facing Lyman Lane. Deciduous trees run along the west, north, and east borders of the property, around an open field. The house is surrounded by rural area, woodland, and scattered around are single-family dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a two-story, gable-roof Colonial house with additions. A brick chimney protrudes from the center of the ridgeline of the roof. A large two-story addition (attached garage) is located on the west elevation of the house, and a single story addition is on the east elevation of the house. The house is sheathed in clapboard siding and has asphalt shingles on the roof. The façade faces south, and the main entry is centered on this side. A gable-roof overhang supported by columns protects the main entry. It is reached by two stone steps. Fenestration includes eight-over-eight double-hung windows.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Madeleine L'Engle Camp was born in 1918 in New York City to Charles Wadsworth Camp and Madeleine L'Engle. Her father was a critic, writer, and foreign correspondent, and her mother was a pianist. After attending and graduating from Ashley Hall, a boarding school in South Carolina, L'Engle went on to Smith College where she graduated in 1941. She then moved to Greenwich Village in New York City to become an actress. While performing in "The Cherry Orchard," by Anton Chekhov, L'Engle met her husband, Hugh Franklin. Franklin would later go on to become an actor who is most remembered for his role as Dr. Charles Tyler on "All My Children." L'Engle and Franklin were married in 1946 and a year later in 1947, she gave birth to their first child.

In 1952, while pregnant with their second child, L'Engle and her family moved to a 200-year old farmhouse in Goshen, Connecticut, which they called, Crosswicks. They also purchased a general store in the area. L'Engle's first novel, "The Small Rain," was published in 1945, however, her writing career took off after the publication of, "A Wrinkle in Time" which was published in 1962. This novel won both the Lewis Carroll

Shelf Award and the Newberry Medal. Although "A Wrinkle in Time" was inspired by her cross-country trip she took with her family, many of L'Engle's novels were inspired by her home in Goshen, including the Austin Family series. After her husband's death in 1986, L'Engle continued to write and receive awards and honors until her death in 2007. During her life, she received numerous awards and honors as well as honorary doctorates from colleges and universities such as Trinity College in Hartford and St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. She was also a librarian and writer-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine in New York City. The Crosswicks Foundation, which was formed by L'Engle and her husband, created grants to support arts and community-based organizations in New York and northwest Connecticut, and continues to function to this day.

Sources:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/writers-journalists/madeleine-lengle>; Berg, David C., Crosswicks Cottage Historic Resource Inventory, The Ottery Group, December 2011.

Photographer: Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame **Date:**

View:

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** March 24, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame photo of the facade of the house. Camera facing north.

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ Site# _____ UTM _____

District S NR If NR, specify: Actual Potential