

CT Trust Resource ID: 4046

**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 &amp; Letters Project

**GENERAL INFORMATION**Building Name (Common): Wheeler, Jonathan, House; White, Paul L. & Howard, Leland, HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): White, Paul Lowell & Howard, Leland, House/ Wheeler, Jonathan, HouseStreet Address or Location: 2 New London Road, GrotonTown/City: GrotonVillage: MysticCounty: New LondonDesignation(s): SRHD, NRHD, LHDOwner(s): HALL, MICHAEL JOHNPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.3529 Longitude: -71.9724**PROPERTY INFORMATION**Present Use: Domestic: multiple dwellingHistoric Use: Domestic: single dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Federal Date of Construction: 1810Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Clapboard, BrickStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Post & BeamRoof(Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions: 26' x 38' plus additionsStructural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions, conversion to multi-familyRelated outbuildings or landscape features: BarnSurrounding Environment: Residential**Interrelationship of building and surroundings:**

This house is located on the northwest corner of Water Street and New London Road in the village of Mystic River. The .38-acre site slopes up toward the west. Directly east across the street are the Emporium Building at 15 Water Street, and the Mystic Museum of Art (formerly the Mystic Art Association). The building is a contributing resource in the Mystic River National Register and Local Historic Districts.

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

The building is a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, five-bay, clapboard house. The central doorway is plain, without trim, but there are paneled corner pilasters, and the eaves return briefly in the gable ends. At the east end, a two-story, three-sided bay starts at the basement level, which is exposed as the grade drops toward the west (Ransom 1979, Item 4, p. 31). A pair of chimneys indicate a center hall plan. Additions extend toward the northwest. The building is currently a multi-family dwelling with three apartments.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown**Historical or Architectural importance:**

Built about 1810 by Jonathan Wheeler, 2 New London Road was later owned by blacksmith Lyman Dudley. His daughter, Mystic Art Association founder Lorinda Dudley used the same studio space on the ground floor that Paul Lowell White would later use. The clapboard siding and full-height corner pilasters are representative of the early nineteenth century Federal period.

Paul Lowell White (1917-2012) grew up in Ohio, though his family had migrated from Essex, Connecticut. Classes at Ohio State University sparked his interest in art, and he later studied at the Chicago Art Institute. After a time working and exhibiting in New York, White and his partner, the actor Lee Howard, moved to Mystic in 1965 and opened the Emporium at 15 Water Street. White had his painting studio on the upper floor. When 2 New London Road, directly across the street, came up for sale, White purchased it and moved his studio here. He spent the remainder of his life painting and exhibiting. He supported the Mystic Art Association by hosting meetings in his home, and was president of the Association for a time.

**Sources:**

Curbstones Clapboards &amp; Cupolas: Four Self-guided Walking Tours. 1995. Mystic: Mystic River Historical Society.

King, Noelle Warden. 2013. Mystic as Muse: 100 Years of Inspiration, Exhibit catalog. Mystic: Mystic Art Association, p. 72-73.

Mystic Local Historic District inventory, accessed at <http://hdct.org/district/list/mystic-historic-district/P50>.Mystic Museum of Art web site. Accessed at <http://www.mysticmuseumofart.org/support/15-water-street/>

Ransom, David F. 1979. Mystic River National Register Nomination No. 79002718. National Park Service.

Town of Groton Assessor's Records & GIS viewer: <http://maps.groton-ct.gov/apps/GrotonViewer/> .

**Photographer:** Zillow photograph **Date:** 2013

**View:** Southeast view

**Form completed by:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** June 13, 2016

**Organization:** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

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

Threats: None known

**Subsequent field evaluations:**



Southeast view - 2 New London Road, Mystic River

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

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

District  S  NR If NR, specify:  Actual  Potential