

CT Trust Resource ID: 2444

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): Forrest, Katherine, House/studio

Other Name(s) (Historic): Forrest, Katherine, House/studio

Street Address or Location: 56 Church Street, Groton

Town/City: Groton

Village: Noank

County: New London

Designation(s): SRHD, NRHD,

Owner(s): Pratt, Charles T.J.

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.3275 Longitude: -71.9868

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Italianate vernacular Date of Construction: c. 1860

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

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

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 **Approximate Dimensions:** 14' x 26', 14' x 35

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

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

Alterations?: No If yes, explain: NA

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Shed

Surrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The house is located on a 0.14-acre trapezoid-shaped parcel on the east side of Church Street, at a slight bend in the direction of the street. The house is surrounded by lawn and shade trees. and unpaved drive enters the site near the northwest corner.

Other notable features of building or site:

The house is a 1 1/2-story Italianate-style vernacular cottage with an L-shaped plan. A gable facade at the southern part of the house faces the street and has a shed-roofed open porch over the entry. A lateral wing extending north is set back further from the street. An ell extends east from the northeast corner. Windows are double-hung (two-over-two and four-over-four) and awning types. There are exterior brick chimneys in the south side and north gable wall. Siding is horizontal clapboards with corner board trim. The eaves and rakes have simple scroll-sawn brackets. The roof is diamond-shaped asphalt shingles and the foundation is concrete or block masonry.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

This house is a contributing resource in the Noank Historic District, dated at c. 1860. It is a vernacular building which along with other unpretentious houses, form much of the fabric of the village. The house is thought to be an assemblage of three small buildings (). In the early- to mid-twentieth century when Noank became popular as an artist colony, Katherine Forrest lived and worked in the house.

Katherine Forrest (1883-1952) was a graphic designer and part of the Arts & Crafts movement of the early 1900s. She specialized in textile design and printmaking. Forrest came to Noank in 1914 and purchased her house in 1926. She was locally known by the nickname 'Speedy' and was remembered for dying textiles in a bathtub outside the house (Noank Historical Society archives). She exhibited at the Mystic Art Association (later Mystic Art Center/Mystic Museum), and is represented in their collection.

Sources:

Cover illustration for Mystic Arts Center 2011 Annual Report. Accessed at http://mysticmuseumofart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/MAC_Annual_Report_2011_Web.pdf.

Groton Assessor's records accessed at <http://gis.groton-ct.gov/homepage/mapservices.asp>.

Noank Historical Society archives and exhibit on the Noank Art Colony (site visit by C. Hitchcock 6/16/2014).

Clouette, Bruce. 1978. Noank Historic District National Register Nomination No. 79002656. National Park Service.

Mystic as Muse: 100 Years of Inspiration. 2013. Catalog of exhibit at the Mystic Art Center. Groton: Mystic Art Center.

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock Date: 6/16/2014

View: Northwest view

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock Printed On: January 22,2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Forrest, Katherine, House, Northwest view

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ Site# _____ UTM _____
District S NR If NR, specify: Actual Potential