

CT Trust Resource ID: 4193

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): Keller, Deane, HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Keller, Deane, HouseStreet Address or Location: 133 Armory Street, HamdenTown/City: Hamden

Village:

County: New Haven

Designation(s):

Owner(s): VILLANO, PETER F & FLORENCE APublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.3375 Longitude: -72.9160

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwellingHistoric Use: Domestic: single dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Craftsman Date of Construction: 1926Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) ClapboardStructural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Shed, Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 31' x 32'Structural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: GarageSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This house is located on the north side of Armory Street, on a .33-acre lot in a row of early 20th-century homes, across from the Regional Water Authority park and water treatment plant. To the north behind the lot, Mill Rock rises steeply. The lot has a driveway along the west edge, leading to a detached garage in the rear yard.

Other notable features of building or site:

This is a 2 1/2-story Craftsman-style house. The main volume is a side-gable type house with a transverse projecting wing presenting a 2-story gable toward the street. To the west of this, the main roof slopes down to the first floor eave line, covering a recessed porch and creating a bungalow effect. A shed dormer in this roof slope reinforces the illusion of a one-story bungalow type house. Siding is wide clapboards, and the original early 20th-century wood shutters are in place. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The Whitneyville neighborhood south of Mill Rock was a northern extension of the upper-middle-class suburban development along Prospect Hill in New Haven. Examples of New England and Spanish Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival sat together in new subdivisions of earlier estate properties. The houses on Armory Street date from the decade of 1920-1930, prosperous years of streetcar suburbs and the rise of automobile culture.

This was Deane Keller's home in Hamden during the post-war decades.

Deane Keller (1901 – 1992) was an artist, academic, soldier, art restorer, and preservationist. He studied at Yale, and was an instructor at the Yale School of Fine Arts when, during World War II he was asked by School of Fine Arts dean Theodore Sizer to serve as a fine arts officer in the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program. After the war, he returned to teach at Yale's School of Fine Arts. Keller taught at Yale for forty years, retiring in 1979, and was also professor emeritus of painting at the Paier College of Art and taught at the Lyme

Academy College of Fine Arts. He was a well-known portraitist and an adherent of traditional training in representational art, left him out of step with the modernist movements of the 20th century, but a good fit with the philosophy of the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts (see entry on Elisabeth Gordon Chandler).

Sources:

Town of Hamden Tax Assessor's Records. Accessed at: <http://gis.vgsi.com/hamdenct/Parcel.aspx?Pid=1665>.

Becker, Martha May. 1986. Hamden: Our Architectural Heritage. Hamden: Hamden Historical Society. Keller, Deane. Wikipedia. Accessed at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deane_Keller

See additional references in Wikipedia.

'Deane Keller: Serving His Country in Italy; Pursuing His Art in New Haven,' a talk by William Keller, the artist's son was presented at the New Haven Museum on December 7th, 2014. Accessed on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tzug_o90Bs4.

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 5/24/2016

View: South view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 25, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



133 Armory St., Hamden; Deane Keller House - SW view

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____

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