

CT Trust Resource ID: 2118

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): Fuentes-Vizcarrondo, Juan & Lucy, HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Fuentes-Vizcarrondo, Juan & Lucy, House/Street Address or Location: 107 Hebron Street, HartfordTown/City: Hartford

Village:

County: Hartford

Designation(s):

Owner(s):

Public/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.7902 Longitude: -72.7032

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: Ranch Date of Construction: c. 1951Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Concrete, Aluminum SidingStructural Systems(s): Balloon, Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 30' x 35'Structural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: Lawn and paved driveway, GarageSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The house at 107 Hebron Street is on a .161-acre lot on the south side of Hebron Street, a two-block long east-west residential street in the Blue Hills neighborhood of northwestern Hartford. A driveway enters the site and extends southward along the east side of the house, running slightly down hill to the back yard where there is a detached garage at the southeast corner of the property. This is a neighborhood of modest-sized mid-twentieth-century single-family homes bounded on the west by Granby Street and a rail line, and on the east by Blue Hills Avenue.

Other notable features of building or site:

The house is a 30' x 35' one-story ranch-type house with a gable roof oriented east-west. The north façade faces the street across a lawn and is a three-bay elevation with a centered entry. The entry has a porch with a concrete stoop and four wood columns supporting a flat roof. The entry is flanked by a double-hung window to the east and a combination double-hung and picture window to the west. A brick exterior chimney is on the west end of the building, indicating a living room with fireplace in the west part of the layout. Siding is vinyl, roofing is asphalt shingles, and the foundation is concrete, with basement windows at the sides and rear where grade slopes down.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The house was built in the post-World War II period of the early 1950s, when an extensive development of small single family homes filled an area of open land in the outskirts of the city of Hartford. Juan Fuentes and his wife Lucy purchased the house in 1971.

Juan M. Fuentes-Vizcarrondo (1932-2015) was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico. He left Puerto Rico for New York in 1963 and came to Hartford shortly after. He met his wife, Lucy, in 1966 and they married in 1967. Fuentes began to record the lives of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics in the city in 1967, when he had an opportunity to write a weekly column, in Spanish, for the Hartford Times, the city's afternoon newspaper. In order to illustrate the newspaper column, he learned photography and built a darkroom in his apartment. Fuentes began his

photography career in a period that included riots in 1968 and increasing activism among minority communities. Over the years his work has appeared in nearly all the newspapers published in Hartford. He taught photography skills to senior citizens and youth, being committed to fostering a sense of the value of Puerto Rican heritage among young people.

When Carol Correa de Best was developing the Hartford Puerto Rican Heritage Trail in 2009 as a program of Trinity College's Hispanic Studies program, she relied on Juan Fuentes for the histories of the Puerto Rican communities in Hartford. She quotes Fuentes, 'Things will change, todo cambia mi'ja. The only way we can show how we were is by photographs. Hay videos nena, pero once you freeze a moment with your camera, no matter what you do to the photograph, the moment is frozen por eternidad, for future generations.'

Sources:

CT Historical Society online exhibition. Accessed 2014 (subsequently removed).

Correa de Best, Carol. Puerto Rican Heritage Trail. <http://www.hispanichartford.org/scholarship/puerto-rican-heritage-trail-carol-correa-de-best/>

Dunn, Stephen. 'Juan Fuentes Photographer; Series: Hartford Legends.' Hartford Courant, 11/19/2000.

Kuckro, Anne. 1980. Hartford Architecture Volume Three: North and West Neighborhoods. Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy.

Main, Doug. 'Juan Fuentes: the Latino Community's Photographer for 45 Years' <http://ctlatinonews.com/2012/11/16/juan-fuentes-the-latino-communitys-photographic-witness-for-more-than-40-years/>

Ortiz, Benjamn, Guest curator. Exhibition catalog, 'A New Identity? Una Nueva Identidad?' New Britain Museum of American Art, 2000.

Porter, Micaela. 9/17/2015. Juan Fuentes-Vizcarrondo; Hartford Photographer, Activist, Dies. Hartford Courant.

Photographer: Google Maps **Date:** 2016

View: Northeast view

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Printed On: February 9,2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Northeast view - 107 Hebron St., Hartford (Google photo)

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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