

CT Trust Resource ID: 3928

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): Hartford Fire Department Equipment Maintenance Shop

Other Name(s) (Historic): Hartford Fire Department Equipment Maintenance Shop/Walter Wick Studio

Street Address or Location: 36 John Street, Hartford

Town/City: Hartford

Village:

County:

Designation(s): SR,NR

Owner(s): Freeman Companies

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.7582 Longitude: -72.6768

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commerce/trade: professional

Historic Use: Government: Firehouse

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Neo-classical revival Date of Construction: 1920

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

Structural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Structural iron or steel

Roof(Type): Flat (Material): Built up

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions:

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Conversion to offices

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn

Surrounding Environment: High building density, High building density, High building density

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The property is a .3-acre site on the east side of John Street, south of the downtown section of Hartford. The site abuts the rear of 197 Main Street, the Engine Company 1 Fire Station, with which it formerly was a single parcel.

Other notable features of building or site: Two-story red brick industrial-type building with simple Neo-classical revival-style details including a symmetrical four-bay facade, central pediment flanked by corner piers. Windows are multi-pane industrial sash.

Listed on the National Register as part of the Firehouses of Hartford Multiple Property Submission.

Architect: Ebbets and Frid Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The building was built in 1920 as a maintenance facility for motorized fire-fighting equipment, which had by then replaced horse-drawn vehicles. By the early 1990s it was unused, and was sold to Lightspace LLC, to become the Walter Wick Studios. Wick created elaborate sets and optical illusions which he photographed for Games magazine, for the I Spy books which he created with author Jean Marzollo, and other books during the next two decades.

Walter Wick (b. 1953) grew up in the Granby area, and studied art and photography at Paier College of Art in Hamden. Wick worked as a landscape photographer before beginning his association with Games magazine and with Scholastic Publishing, who have published his work since the 1990s.

Sources:

Biography; Walter Wick. <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/walter-wick>

Walter Wick Studio web site. <http://www.walterwick.com/home/>

Walter Wick blog. <http://www.walterwick.com/blog/>

Hartford Courant articles.

http://articles.courant.com/2014-04-03/entertainment/hc-fillo-wick-0404-20140403_1_hartford-stage-walter-wick-studio-space

Walter Wick Studio tour. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qsNexHD8Kw> Elliot, Janice & David F. Ransom. Firehouses of Hartford, Connecticut Multiple Property Documentation Form. <http://focus.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/nrhp/text/64500077.PDF> National Register application: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/89000025.pdf>

Photographer: HartfordBusiness.com **Date:**

View: West view

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** December 29, 2015

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



36 John Street (HartfordBusiness.com photo)

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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