

CT Trust Resource ID: 4075

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): Gordon Building; Union Place Apartments

Other Name(s) (Historic): Gordon Building; Union Place Apartments

Street Address or Location: 74 Union Place, Hartford

Town/City: Hartford

Village:

County: Hartford

Designation(s):

Owner(s): UNION PLACE REALTY LLC

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.7692 Longitude: -72.6811

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: multiple dwellings

Historic Use: Domestic: multiple dwellings

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Neo-classical Date of Construction: 1914

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Cut Stone, Brick

Structural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry

Roof(Type): Flat (Material):

Number of Stories: 4 Approximate Dimensions: 60' x 200'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Modernization of apartments.

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn

Surrounding Environment: Commercial

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This 1914 building occupies the southeast corner of Union Place and Church Street, in downtown Hartford. It is directly across Union Place from the Richardsonian Romanesque-style 1887 Hartford Union Station.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a four-story flat-roofed brick masonry commercial building, measuring 60' x 204', and is roughly rectangular except for a diagonal wall at the northwest corner. The building is built in a minimally-ornamented neo-classical style. The ground floor of both street frontages facing Church Street and Union Place are commercial storefronts. At the upper floors, the west façade has 20 bays each with a double-hung window; these are generally grouped in pairs separated by shallow brick pilasters. At the center (marking the entrance to the upper floors), and at the north corner and entire north elevation, there is a single bay between pilasters. Walls are brown brick with stone window sills and lintels. A shallow corbelled brick cornice runs along the top of the building at the roof level. An eye-brow shaped sign projects above the center of the west façade, and has applied letters '74 UNION PLACE.' Windows appear to be replacements, with a twelve-over-twelve muntin pattern.

Architect: Walz, Frederick C. Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The building is a typical example of its period, the early twentieth century when Hartford was a prosperous center of manufacturing and of the insurance industry. It preserves the area context for the more distinctive buildings such as the adjacent railroad station.

Richard Welling (1926-2009) was a native of Hartford, and grew up in West Hartford. After military service in World War II, he studied art at Parsons School of Design. He came back to work as a commercial artist in Hartford, and during the 1960s Welling experienced urban renewal at close range. He was forced to move his studio multiple times as the older buildings where he found rental space were demolished to make room for the Bushnell Tower, Civic Center, and other new developments. He made a habit of recording the urban renewal process in drawings. He observed but he also expressed his opinions, liking the best modernist design but also treasuring the historic buildings: 'he loved the Old State House, the Connecticut State Capitol, and Union Station. His last apartment and studio were located in Union Place' (Finlay 2014). Welling's archives are at the Connecticut Historical Society, and examples of his work can be viewed online. Drawings include

memorable events of the urban renewal period. Among them are views of the construction of the I-84 viaduct adjacent to Bushnell Park, the Capitol building (built in the 1870s and rehabilitated 100 years later), the 1978 Civic Center roof collapse, demolition of the Garde Hotel, and construction of Constitution Plaza.

Sources:

City of Hartford GIS viewer and Assessor's records accessed at <http://gis1.hartford.gov/propertyviewer/index.html> and <http://www.hartford.gov/assessment/real-property>.

Finlay, Nancy. 2014. Richard Welling: Hartford's Artist Historian. Connecticut Explored, Vol. 12/No 4.

Welling, Richard, archives at the Connecticut Historical Society. Accessed at <http://emuseum.chs.org/emuseum/view/objects/asimages/443?t:state:flow=cafeeee4-1adf-422f-82bb-2e4645758346>

Kuckro, Anne C. 1978. Hartford Architecture Volume One: Downtown. Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy.
Welling, Richard, obituary. 11/5/2009. Hartford Courant.

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 10/20/2015

View: Northeast view

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** February 9, 2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Northwest view - 74 Union Place, Hartford

FOR OFFICE USE:

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