

CT Trust Resource ID: 2462

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): Eric Sloane Museum

Other Name(s) (Historic): Eric Sloane Museum/Sloane-Stanley Museum

Street Address or Location: 31 Kent Cornwall Rd., Kent

Town/City: Kent

Village:

County: Litchfield

Designation(s): SR, NR

Owner(s): State of Connecticut

Public/Private: Public

Latitude: 41.7380 Longitude: -73.4698

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Cultural: museum

Historic Use: Outbuilding: barn

Accessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: Public museum

Style of building: English style barn Date of Construction: c. 1930

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

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

Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 56' x 32'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: Moved Moved, When: 1969

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions added

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, log cabin, iron furnace

Surrounding Environment: Woodland

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property includes 12.26 acres of land on the west side of Kent Cornwall Road. A driveway extends to the west off the road and turns north, terminating at a parking lot. Just to the north of the parking lot is the museum, which is housed in an English style barn. To southwest of the barn is a small log cabin and to the west of the barn is the Kent Iron Furnace. Train tracks run along the east boundary of the property, and just to the west of the property is the Housatonic River. Surrounding the property are single-family houses. This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other notable features of building or site: The museum is housed in an English style barn that was moved to this property in 1969. The main portion of this gable-roof barn measures approximately 56' x 32', and is sheathed in vertical board siding with asphalt shingles on the roof. A cupola protrudes from the ridge-line of the roof. It has a gable-roof ell extending off the west side of the façade, a gable-roof addition attached to the west elevation, and a shed-roof addition on the east elevation. The façade faces south and what was once the main entry is located on this side. It consists of an overhung sliding door. The main entry into the museum has been re-routed and is through a doorway on the east elevation of the gable-roof ell.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Eric Sloane was born Everard Jean Hinrichs in New York in 1905. His father was a wholesale meat broker, and his family was wealthy. During his childhood, one of his next door neighbors was Frederick Goudy, the font inventor. Sloane spent much time with him and learned to hand paint letters and create signs from Goudy. At the age of 14, he had a falling out with his family and ran away from home. He earned a living traveling the country by painting signs on barns, stores, and buildings. He eventually attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and studied meteorology before going to Yale to study art. One of his mentors was the painter, John Sloan. Eric Sloane changed his name to Sloane in honor of his mentor, adding an 'e' at the end. He changed his first name to Eric, "as a prototypal American name" (Folkart 1985).

Some of Eric Sloane's first clients were pilots who hired him to paint signs on their planes. They would also take him flying, where Sloane became enamored with clouds and the sky. Many of his paintings incorporate these features. His first cloud painting was purchased by

Amelia Earhart. His largest cloud painting is a six-story mural at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. In the early 1950s, Sloane became fascinated with the Early American Settlers after restoring a farmhouse in Connecticut. He moved to Connecticut, first settling in the Candlewood area before eventually settling in Warren. In 1969, he donated his extensive early American tool collection to Stanley Works, Inc., to be housed in a museum for their 125th anniversary of their founding. Throughout his life, Sloane wrote over 30 books and created about 15,000 paintings (Smith 2012). Eric Sloane died in 1985 at the age of 80. His entire studio at his home in Warren was donated to the Sloane Museum after his death. It is housed in a gable-roof addition attached to the west elevation of the museum.

Sources:

Smith, Marshall, A Short Biography of Eric Sloane, www.eric sloane.com, November 21, 2012, accessed March 7, 2016 <http://www.eric sloane.com/>; Folkart, Burt A., Eric Sloane, Americana Artist, Dies, Los Angeles Times, March 9, 1985, accessed March 7, 2016 http://articles.latimes.com/1985-03-09/news/mn-23439_1_eric-sloane

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 2014

View:

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** March 7, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



South side (facade) of the barn, camera facing north.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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