

CT Trust Resource ID: 2770

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): Evarts, Nathan, House; Warner-Robinson Farmstead

Other Name(s) (Historic): Country Squire Restaurant/ Robinson, Ruth, House/Evarts, Nathan, House; Warner-Robinson Farmstead

Street Address or Location: 243 Route 80, Killingworth

Town/City: Killingworth

Village:

County: Middlesex

Designation(s):

Owner(s): POLETTI, MICHAEL & LAUREL

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.3579 Longitude: -72.5643

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Secondary outbuildings: Commercial (vacant)

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Agriculture/subsistence: Agricultural outbuildings

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Date of Construction: 1794, additions

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame, Post & Beam

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

Number of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 28' x 36', 1-story additions

Structural Condition: Fair

Exterior Condition: Fair

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions c. 1930 for restaurant use

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, Shed

Surrounding Environment: Rural

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The property is a 4.5-acre parcel located on the north side of Route 80, east of the intersection with Route 81. The main house faces south toward the road and is located close to the property line. Extensive one-story additions extend to the east and north, comprising a vacant restaurant facility. At the southwest corner of the parcel there is a former corn crib with a one-story gable-roofed extension, now identified as a dwelling. To the northwest of the main house is a barn with a one-story gable-roofed addition on the east end, identified as a retail store, now vacant.

Other notable features of building or site:

The 1794 main house is a 2 1/2-story center-chimney side-gable roofed Federal period building with a five-bay façade. The windows are 12-over-12 double-hung sash. The entry door in the center bay of the first floor has a semi-elliptical fan light above the door. A small gable-roofed porch with two slender columns shelters the entry. Siding is wood clapboards with corner board trim. The roof has an overhang at the façade eave with shallow modillions in the soffit. The foundation is granite cut stone.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Ruth Warner Robinson (1913-2000) was a farmer, writer, and artist. She wrote and illustrated several books about farm life in the early 1900s, based on the experiences of her family. She lived as a child in the Mt. Carmel section of Hamden until increasing suburban development drove her parents to move. The Harris J. Warner family moved to this property in Killingworth in 1919 when they felt that Hamden had become over-developed, and they searched for a more affordable rural location to continue farming. Following her marriage to Frank G. Robinson, Jr. in Boston in approximately 1935, the couple moved back to Killingworth where the 1940 census recorded them living at the property on Route 80. In addition to illustrating her books with line drawings, Robinson painted in a naïve folk art style. Examples of her work can be seen in the Killingworth Town Hall and Public Library. She also worked as the telephone dispatcher for the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Department.

The acreage of the property associated with the house appears to have decreased over subsequent years. The property was the site of the Country Squire Restaurant operated by Robert Glenn beginning in the late 1940s. The current owners acquired the property in the 1990s and dealt in antiques until retiring.

Sources:

Town of Killingworth Assessor's Records <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/SearchMaster.aspx?towncode=070> . Parcel ID: 28-34.
Aerial views from: <http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> .
Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC: http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html
http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.html .
USGS Historical Maps at <http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm> .
Fisher, Stan. 3/01/2009. 'Fabled Killingworth restaurant dishes it out again.' New Haven Register. Accessed 4/24/2016 at <http://www.nhregister.com/article/NH/20090301/NEWS/303019961> .
Killingworth Historical Society and Killingworth Public Library archives accessed 9/25/2014.
Lundberg, C. 1980. Historic & Architectural Survey of the Town of Killingworth, Inventory Item 56-22 (1978). Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (now River Council of Governments).
Obituary notice, Robinson, Ruth W. 2/03/2000. Hartford Courant.
U.S. Federal Census, accessed at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic> .

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock Date: 6/16/2014

View: South view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock Printed On: April 24, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: Deterioration

Subsequent field evaluations:



SW view of 243 Route 80, Killingworth

FOR OFFICE USE:

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