

CT Trust Resource ID: 2720

## 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): Mather, Joseph H., House; McManus, James Goodwin, House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Mather, Joseph H., House; McManus, James Goodwin, House

Street Address or Location: 25 Joshuatown Road, Lyme

Town/City: Lyme      Village: Hamburg      County: New London      Designation(s): SRHD, NRHD

Owner(s):       Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.3951 Longitude: -72.3511

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Secondary outbuilding

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

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Vernacular Greek Revival Date of Construction: 1821

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

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

**Roof(Type):** Gable (**Material:**) Wood Shingle

**Number of Stories:** 2 1/2 **Approximate Dimensions:**

**Structural Condition:** Excellent

**Exterior Condition:** Excellent

**Locational Integrity:** On original site    **Moved, When:** NA

**Alterations?:** No If yes, explain: NA

**Related outbuildings or landscape features:** Shed, Barn

**Surrounding Environment:** Residential

#### Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located on a 1.3-acre site, Lot 18 (Ransom), is the first house west of the Hamburg Bridge, on the west side of Joshuatown Road, which continues northward toward Hadlyme. This property is a contributing resource in the Hamburg Bridge Historic District. The site for the bridge was chosen, in 1759, because it was the point where the Eight Mile River became narrow enough for construction of a bridge, and the highest point on the river to which navigation was possible. The bridge and several wharfs, contributed to the existence of the Hamburg Bridge community. After 1824, use of the wharfs at the bridge declined and the community has experienced virtually no development since that time (Ransom).

#### Other notable features of building or site:

This is a 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, 24' x 22', frame house on stone foundations with clapboard siding. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the interior chimney is off center to the right. The doorway, in the left bay, has shallow pilasters that support a plain architrave and frieze and thin projecting cornice cap. The south attic gable has a fan window, but the north attic gable has a window with small, square panes. Other windows are 6-over-6.

There is a large, 2 1/2-story barn with vertical flush boarding. Its gable roof is covered with wood shingles (Ransom).

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

#### Historical or Architectural importance:

Artist James Goodwin McManus (1882-1958) spent summers in this house from when he purchased it in 1934 until his death in 1958, and he painted many landscape scenes of the Lyme countryside. Like his neighbor Thomas Willoughby Nason (282 Joshuatown Rd.) he chose one of the more remote parts of the Lyme-Old Lyme artist colony area.

James Goodwin McManus was a noted American artist and is still considered one of the deans of Connecticut art. McManus was born in

Hartford in 1882 to C. James McManus, DDS and Eliza (Goodwin) McManus, a descendant of Ozias Goodwin, one of the original founders of the city. In his teens, McManus studied drawing under Charles Noel Flagg at the artist's studio in Hartford. McManus also trained under Robert B. Brandegee, Walter Griffin, William Gedney Bunce and Montague Flagg.

McManus began to teach at Hartford Public High School. Later, after helping to found the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, he taught there and at the Connecticut Art Students League. He spent summers at art colonies in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and at Old Lyme, Connecticut, the latter being where he vacationed after 1921. McManus often taught at Guy Wiggins Art School at Hamburg Cove in Lyme and later in Essex after Wiggins moved the school there in 1937. McManus worked under WPA Federal Arts Project as a 'non-relief artist' during the Great Depression, and was a member of the Hartford Salmagundi Club, the Salmagundi Club of New York, the Lyme Artists Association, and the New Haven Paint and Clay Club. His painting style was Impressionist to Regionalist.

**Sources:**

Connecticut State Library WPA Art Project. Accessed at <http://ctstatelibrary.org/mcmanus-james-g/>  
 Cooley Gallery, Old Lyme CT. [http://www.cooleygallery.com/a\\_1\\_cataloging/mcmanus\\_fieldsoflyme.pdf](http://www.cooleygallery.com/a_1_cataloging/mcmanus_fieldsoflyme.pdf) (bio from AskArt.com)  
 Ransom, David F. 1981. Hamburg Bridge National Register Nomination No. 83001288. National Park Service.

**Photographer:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 7/18/2014

**View:** East view

**Form completed by:** Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** April 25, 2016

**Organization:** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

**Address:** 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

**Subsequent field evaluations:**



SE view of 25 Joshuatown Road, Hamburg, Lyme

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site# \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_  
 District  S  NR If NR, specify:  Actual  Potential