

CT Trust Resource ID: 1500

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): Marlborough Tavern; Buell, Col. Elisha, House; Central Connecticut Art Center

Other Name(s) (Historic): Marlborough Tavern; Buell, Col. Elisha, House

Street Address or Location: 3 East Hampton Road, Marlborough

Town/City: Marlborough

Village:

County: Hartford

Designation(s): SR, NR

Owner(s): M3-5 LLC

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.6312 Longitude: -72.4593

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commerce & trade: office & restaurant

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Commerce & trade: tavern

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: during open hours

Style of building: Colonial Date of Construction: 1760

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

Structural Systems(s): Post & Beam

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

Number of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 29' x 38'

Structural Condition: Good

Exterior Condition: Good

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: modern commercial additions & buildings

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn

Surrounding Environment: Commercial

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The historic tavern building is located on a 6.28-acre parcel at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and East Hampton Road, at the center of Marlborough. The building faces north and modern additions and commercial buildings have been attached to the east and south sides, leaving only the north and west sides visible. The rear of the lot is used for parking while a strip of lawn edges the west and north sides. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other notable features of building or site:

The Tavern building is a 2 1/2-story gambrel-roofed center chimney house built 1740-60. The five-bay facade has a central entry door and faces north. Siding is vinyl simulated clapboards. The building's most recent use was as a restaurant, until 2011.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The Historic Marlborough Tavern was built about 1740 by Colonel Elisha Buell and operated by him and his descendants for 167 years. In the mid-twentieth century, the building was owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Connecticut. They rehabilitated/restored the tavern and ran a tea house (Barbour Collection).

The Marlborough Tavern was notable as the home of the Central Connecticut Art Center at Four Corners during the 1930s. A group of artists who lived in the Connecticut River Valley area taught classes and exhibited here in the summers. The Central Connecticut Center for the Arts was the collaboration of a group of painters – Albert McCutcheon (1901-1990), W. Langdon Kihn (1898-1957), Northam R. Gould (1893-1963), Hilda Anderson (spouse of McCutcheon) and Harold Barbour (1889-1961) – and sculptors Henry Kreis (1899-1962), Helen Remsen (1895-1975), and Heinz Warneke (1895-1983). Eleanor Cody Gould ran drama classes. The art gallery opened its first season in the Marlborough Tavern Barn in 1936 (Barbour Collection). Also exhibiting were a number of other prominent artists including Rose Churchill, Irving Katzenstein, Margaret Triplett, and Homer Pfeiffer.

Northam Robinson Gould was born in Brooklyn, New York. His parents were Lucien Henry Gould, a business man, and Florence Robinson Gould, a native of England and former school teacher. Called by the nickname 'Tod' for all his adult life, Northam Gould grew up in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, then a distant suburb. He attended Erasmus Hall High School and the Pratt Institute, the Cleveland Art School, and the Art Students League, where he was taught by Frank Dumond and Robert Henri. He and his wife, Eleanor, lived in her home town in West Virginia for a decade and then moved to Connecticut. They lived in the area of Middletown and East Hampton for some years, and Gould became known as a portrait and landscape painter. In 1940 they purchased and restored the 1794 General Epaphroditus Champion house in East Haddam.

Harold Barbour and his wife moved to Higganum, Connecticut in 1929 and lived there until his death. In addition to illustrations and cartoons, Barbour wrote poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. He was active in the Brainerd Memorial Library, serving as chair of the Board of Trustees, and was a member of the Haddam Historical Society. The Haddam Historical Society now owns the Barbour Collection of cartoons and illustrations, his fiction, non-fiction, poetry, pencil sketches, photographs, and wood block prints. Barbour worked for the Public Works of Art Project. For the WPA, he painted 54 easel paintings and two murals, one depicting a scene from the Portland Quarry and the other, a shipyard in Portland. Both are in the Portland High School (now the Brownstone Intermediate School).

Albert McCutcheon was a Middletown native. He attended the Durant School, predecessor of the Eckersley-Hall School, where he later painted a mural. He studied at the Yale School of Fine Arts and in Paris. For a period of several years McCutcheon worked as a free lance easel painter, mural painter, and interior designer. He also worked as an ecclesiastical restorer. During the Great Depression he was employed by the Federal Art Project (FAP) of the Works Progress Administration (WPA); he completed three murals for the FAP. His wife, Hilda Anderson, was an artist, also involved in the Marlborough art center.

Sources:

Central Connecticut Art Center. Descriptive brochure accessed at the Haddam Historical Society Harold Barbour archives.

Gould, Northam Robinson biography. Accessed at: <http://www.blgould.com/nrgould1.html>

Marlborough Tavern history. Reflections of History web site. Accessed at:

http://www.reflectionsofhistory.org/towns/Marlborough/Marlborough_Tavern.php

WPA Art Inventory entries for Barbour, McCutcheon. Connecticut State Library. Accessed at: <http://ctstatelibrary.org/wpa-art-inventory/>
Zimmerman, Sarah. J. 1978. Marlborough Tavern National Register Nomination No. 78002866. National Park Service.

Photographer: Google Map street view Date: 2011

View: Northwest view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock Printed On: May 8, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Marlborough Tavern, 3 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough (Google)

FOR OFFICE USE:

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