

CT Trust Resource ID: 2951

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): Riverrun; Meredith, William, Foundation

Other Name(s) (Historic): Riverrun/Meredith, William & Harteis, Richard, House

Street Address or Location: 337 Kitemaug Road, Montville

Town/City: Montville

Village: Uncasville

County: New London

Designation(s): SR

Owner(s): Richard Harteis

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.4474 Longitude: -72.0887

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Domestic: secondary structures

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Domestic: secondary structures

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Vernacular Date of Construction: c. 1900, converted c. 1960

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Fieldstone, Wood Shingle

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

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

Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions: 16' x 35'

Structural Condition: Good

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Conversion to residence c. 1960.

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, Former garage converted to residence.

Surrounding Environment: Scattered buildings visible from site

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The property is located on the west bank of the Thames River. Kitemaug Road runs south from Massapeag Road, and parallels the river. The site slopes down steeply to the river bank and abuts a railroad right-of-way along the shore. The adjacent parcel to the north, formerly a part of this property, includes a rocky promontory projecting into the Thames River east of the railroad right-of-way. Buildings on the site include a bank barn converted to a residence (Building I) and to the southeast a garage converted to a residence (Building II). The adjacent parcel includes the farmhouse formerly associated with the barn. Driveways from Kitemaug Road lead to each building.

Other notable features of building or site:

The building I is a c. 1900 3-bay bank barn, 16' x 35', converted to a residence for William Meredith c. 1960. An upper grade-level entry is on the west side. The lower level opens to grade at the east side where there is a patio with views over a lawn to the Thames River. Building II has been converted to a library and apartment. Building I has six-over-six double-hung windows on the west and east sides and high casement or sliding windows in the basement level. A wood deck at the main level on the east side connects the buildings. Both buildings have wood shingle siding and asphalt shingle roofing.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

William Meredith (1919-2007) first began to write poetry as a student at Princeton University. He served as a naval pilot during the Second World War and Korean War. Beginning in 1955, he taught at Connecticut College. Meredith was Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (Poet Laureate) 1978-1980. Even after a stroke interrupted his career, he continued to write and won the National Book Award in 1987, and the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

He purchased the property in 1958, including adjacent land to the north and south, and to the west of the road. He sold the c. 1860 farmhouse in 1978, to his friends Rita and Robert Dawley and converted a barn on the property for his own residence. The rocky promontory and various specimen trees in the landscape served as inspiration for his poetry. Meredith also entertained colleagues and students at the

property, which he named *Riverrun*. In later years, parcels were subdivided and sold, reducing the property to the current 1.89 acres. The site was listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 2007.

Sources:

Interview with Richard Harteis at the site, 7/31/2015.

Montville Assessor's records and GIS mapping. Parcel ID: 026/ 011/ 000. <https://www.caigisonline.com/MontvilleCT/>

Carley, Rachel. 2014. Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Connecticut. CT Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office.

Library of Congress web site: <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/laureate-1971-1980.html>

Meredith, William, Obituary. 2007. New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/01/books/01meredith.html>

Poetry Foundation web site. <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/william-meredith>

William Meredith Foundation web site. <http://www.williammeredithfoundation.org/>

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 7/31/2015

View: Multiple views

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

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



337 Kitemaug Road, Uncasville. Southwest view of Building I

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ Site# _____ UTM _____

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