

CT Trust Resource ID: 3463

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): Dawley, Rita and Patrick, House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Dawley, Rita and Patrick, House/Smith Farmstead

Street Address or Location: 351 Kitemaug Road, Montville

Town/City: Montville

Village: Uncasville

County: New London

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Rita & Patrick Dawley

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.4482 Longitude: -72.0887

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Cape Cod cottage Date of Construction: c. 1860

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

Roof(Type): Gable (Material):

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 32' x 34'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions, siding, replacement windows

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Shed, Barn

Surrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This 2.93-acre property is located on the west bank of the Thames River in the Uncasville area of Montville. A railroad line runs along the river bank; the property slopes up westward from the railroad right-of-way to Kitemaug Road. The parcel was formerly associated with 337 Kitemaug Road, adjacent on the south, and was subdivided in 1978. This parcel includes the original farmhouse, while 337 Kitemaug Road has the barn, of the nineteenth-century farmstead. A driveway from the road slopes down to the house. Modern outbuildings include a pentagonal enclosed gazebo east of the house overlooking a point of land that juts into the river; a gambrel-roofed studio building west of the house; and a large four-bay garage with a second-floor apartment and gambrel roof, located at the northwest corner of the site near the road.

Other notable features of building or site:

The building is a 1 1/2-story Cape Cod Cottage-style house, 26' x 34' with an 8' x 34' saltbox addition at the west side. The east facade facing the Thames River is the front, with a five-bay facade, center entry door flanked by two six-over-six double hung windows on each side. The house has vinyl siding and replacement windows, asphalt shingle roofing, and granite block foundation walls.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Rita Dawley and her spouse Patrick were friends of the poet William Meredith who had purchased property, historically known as the Smith farmstead, on Kitemaug Road in 1958. Meredith subdivided and sold an approximately 3-acre parcel of land to the Dawleys in 1978. They moved into the nineteenth-century farmhouse on their parcel, and later built an outbuilding with rooms for their children. This was later converted to Rita's art studio.

Rita Dawley (b. 1935) is a regionally-known artist in the Norwich area who has lived in a Kitemaug Road neighborhood cluster of artist homes since the late 1970s. Dawley is a mixed media artist whose work consists of imagery that appears both primitive and exotic. 'The

work ... has been described [as] abstract, pattern, quilt-ish, storyteller, playful, fearless and emotional' (Cassar 1022). Rita attended Paier School of Art and Connecticut College. She is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, Connecticut Women Artists, The Norwich Arts Canter Gallery, Mystic Arts Center, Guilford Art League, and New Haven Paint and Clay Club.

Sources:

Town of Montville Assessor's Records and GIS mapping: http://www.townofmontville.org/Content/Planning_Department/GIS/ .
Cassar, Matthew. NAC Corner: Dawley 'likes telling stories' with her work. 9/10/2011. Norwich Bulletin. Accessed at: <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/article/20110910/News/309109953/?Start=1>
Dawley, Rita. Norwich Arts Center. Accessed at: <http://www.norwicharts.org/participate/dawley.shtml#>
Dawley, Rita. Stonington Printmakers web site. Accessed at: <http://stoningtonprintmakersociety.weebly.com/rita-dawley.html> .

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

View: Southwest view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 4, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



351 Kitemaug Road, Uncasville southwest view toward Thames River view

FOR OFFICE USE:

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