

CT Trust Resource ID: 2918

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): Bernhard Gutmann and Vance Packard House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Buttery Mill

Street Address or Location: 87 Mill Rd., New Canaan

Town/City: New Canaan

Village:

County: Fairfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Martin Weinberg

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.1584 Longitude: -73.4528

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single family dwelling

Historic Use: Residential: single family dwelling

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Colonial Revival Date of Construction: 1915

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

Roof(Type): Gable (Material): Slate

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 77' x 69'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Many additions added over time.

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn. Guest cottage

Surrounding Environment: Woodland

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This dwelling sits on 4.87 acres of land at the intersection of Mill Road and Borglum Road. The property is just to the west of Silvermine River. The house is set back from the road, and is obscured from view by deciduous and coniferous trees. The driveway extends to the east off Mill Road and forms a horseshoe, terminating at the guest house just to the southwest of the house. An attached garage is to the south of the house. A pool is to the east of the house. Running along the border lines of the property is a stone wall. Surrounding the property are nineteenth and twentieth century single family dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a two-story, Colonial Revival dwelling with a cross-gable roof that was built in 1915. Multiple additions have been added to the house over time. It is sheathed in wood shingles with slate shingles covering the roof. Three brick chimneys protrude from the roof. The façade faces west, but the main entry faces northwest and is located between the gabled ells. The main entry is reached by concrete steps. The paneled door is set within a breezeway that includes Corinthian columns and includes a simple door surround with a fan light and sidelights. To the west of the entryway is a large multi-pane window. Fenestration includes ten-pane, eight-pane, and six-pane windows as well as fanlights.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Bernhard Gutmann was born in 1869 in Germany. He studied art at Dusseldorf and Karlsruhe Academies before moving to the United States at the age of 23. He settled in Virginia and first became an electrician before becoming the supervisor of the Lynchburg Public Schools art programs. While living in Lynchburg, Gutmann became a strong influence in the art community and founded the Lynchburg Art Club. In 1899, he moved to New York City and worked as a magazine illustrator. He then went on to form a fine art publishing company. In 1907 he married Bertha Goldman, granddaughter of the founder of the investment banking firm Goldman Sachs. They moved to Europe and lived there for the next five years while Gutmann embraced impressionism. In 1912, Gutmann and his wife returned to the United States and he exhibited his art at the New York Armory Show of 1913. Later that year, they moved to New Canaan, Connecticut. Gutmann helped to form the Silvermine Guild, and in 1934 he became the regional director for the Works Progress Administration in the area. Bernhard Gutmann died in 1936. Throughout his life, he exhibited his artwork but sold very little. It remained in the family. Because of this, he became relatively unknown until

he was "rediscovered" in 1988. Gutmann was a muralist, illustrator, master of ceramics, art educator and administrator. Many of his garden paintings were done on this property. The property passed on to Gutmann's daughters after his wife's death, and in 1940 it was sub-divided. In 1949, Vance Packard purchased the property which by this time had fallen into disrepair.

Vance Packard was born in 1914 to parents Philip J. and Mabel Case Packard. Philip J. Packard was the superintendent of Pennsylvania State University's college farm. In 1932, Packard graduated from high school and went on to attend Penn State where he majored in English. He graduated in 1936 and won a scholarship to Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism program. He received his master's degree in 1937. He married Mamie Virginia Mathews, an artist, in 1938. Packard worked for The Boston Daily Record and then The Associated Press until 1942 when he joined American magazine. In 1956, American magazine folded and Packard took a job with Collier's until it too folded at the end of that year. His first and one of his best-selling books, "The Hidden Persuaders," was published in 1957, and gained him national attention. Packard died in 1996 at the age of 82.

Sources:

Interview with owner - June 13, 2015; [http://www.williamsamericanart.com/Artist_Biographies/Bernhard_Gutmann__\(American,_1869_-_1936\)/](http://www.williamsamericanart.com/Artist_Biographies/Bernhard_Gutmann__(American,_1869_-_1936)/); <http://www.abbeville.com/bookpage.asp?isbn=1558596119>; <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/13/arts/vance-packard-82-challenger-of-consumerism-dies.html>; http://pabook2.libraries.psu.edu/palitmap/bios/Packard__Vance_Oakley.html

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 6/13/2015

View:

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** June 9, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Northwest view of the house. Camera facing southeast.

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____

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