

CT Trust Resource ID: 2982

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): Island House/Douglas, Jack, HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Island House/Douglas, Jack, HouseStreet Address or Location: 1528 Ponus Ridge, New CanaanTown/City: New Canaan

Village:

County: Fairfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Harlan and Sabina StonePublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.1611 Longitude: -73.5391

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single-family dwellingHistoric Use: Residential: single-family dwellingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Modern Date of Construction: 1953Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) ConcreteStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonryRoof(Type): Flat (Material):Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 100' x 46'Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: Moved, When: NAAlterations?: If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: poolSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property consists of 2 acres on the south side of Ponus Ridge Road. A driveway extends to the south off the road and terminates in front (to the north) of the house. The house sits directly to the west of Mill River, which borders the east side of the property. To the southwest of the house is a pool. To the north of the property, across the street, is Collins Pond. Surrounding the property are twentieth and twenty-first century single-family dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a one-story, Modern style dwelling with a flat roof. It is constructed of concrete block and has a rubber roof. According to an interview by David Weible on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website, savingplaces.org, Elizabeth Ellsworth mentioned she would be putting a green roof on the house (Weible 2013). The main core of the house is a square block, and the form of the house consists of square blocks set together loosely forming an L shape. The roof has wide overhanging eaves. The house faces north, and the main entry is located on this side. It is set within an alcove, and includes a sidelight to the west. Fenestration includes large picture windows, small, single-pane windows, and one-over-one double-hung windows.

Architect: Bimel Kehm Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Jack Douglas was born Douglas Linley Crickard in New York in 1908 to Edwin Crickard (1878-1939) and Mabel Findlay (1886-1941). His father was an electrician who was born in Ireland and his mother was from England. He married Eleanor Thatcher in Michigan in 1936 and less than a year later they got a divorce. He married Merle Dean Crain in Texas in 1937 which ended in divorce 11 years later. His next marriage was to Marion Hutton in 1949, and his last marriage was to Reiko Hashimoto in 1960. Douglas was a comedy writer for radio and television. He wrote for people such as Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Jimmy Durante, Bing Crosby, Woody Allen, and Jack Paar.

In 1965, Douglas purchased Island House at 1528 Ponus Ridge in New Canaan with his wife, Reiko. He wrote the book, "The Neighbors are Scaring My Wolf" about his experiences of living in the suburbs while living in New Canaan. The Crickards (Jack Douglas and wife, Reiko) only lived on the property for four years until they sold it in 1969 to Mr. Drazenovich. Eventually Jack Douglas and Reiko moved to California where he died in 1989.

Sources:

<http://www.nytimes.com/1989/02/03/obituaries/jack-douglas-writer-for-tv-is-dead-at-80.html>,
<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwtv/article/Popular-TV-Talk-Show-Panelist-Reiko-Douglas-Dies-at-77-20130911>, Weible, David, National Trust for Historic Preservation, interview with Elizabeth Ellsworth on January 28, 2013 <https://savingplaces.org/stories/interview-elizabeth-ellsworth-maven-of-midcentury-modern#.VqvCi7IrdU>, Research done in 2012 by Elizabeth Ellsworth (the owner of the time), now in possession of the current owners, Ancestry.com

Photographer: New Canaan News **Date:** 2013

View:

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** January 29, 2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:

Photo from New Canaan News website

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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