

CT Trust Resource ID: 2376

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): Harry Russell Ballinger HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Name UnknownStreet Address or Location: 1133 Litchfield Tpke., New HartfordTown/City: New HartfordVillage: BakersvilleCounty: Litchfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Todd and Jennifer GillPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.8308 Longitude: -73.0298

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: Colonial Revival Date of Construction: c. 1940Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Clapboard, Cut StoneStructural Systems(s): Wood FrameRoof(Type): Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 58' x 28'Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: ShedSurrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property consists of 0.9 acres of land on the south side of Litchfield Turnpike, just to the west of the intersection of Litchfield Turnpike and East Cotton Hill Road. The house sits on a slight hill close to the road, and is reached by a horseshoe driveway in front (to the north of) it. A garage is just to the west of the house, and stone walls line the south and north borders of the property. Just to the north of the property is a triangular parcel of land bordered by Litchfield Turnpike, Maple Hollow Road, and Knipe Road. Surrounding the property are nineteenth and early twentieth century single-family dwellings.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a two-story Colonial Revival dwelling built c. 1940 with a cross-gable roof. It has clapboard siding, asphalt shingles on the roof and a stone foundation. A brick chimney runs up the east elevation of the house. The façade faces north and the main entry is located on this side and is flanked by side-lights. The door is reached by concrete steps with metal railings and is protected from the elements by a protruding gable roof supported by slender columns. Fenestration includes two large 42-pane fixed windows on the east side of the entry, and three six-over-six double-hung windows with three six-pane windows above.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Harry Russell Ballinger was born in Washington State in 1892 to James Guy Ballinger (1867-1924) and Lourena Lulu Russell (1867-1960). He studied art at the University of California in San Francisco, the Art Students League in New York City, and Academie Colarossi in Paris. In 1922, Ballinger married Madeleine Grace Waters in New York City. According to State and Federal Census Records found on Ancestry.com, it appears the Ballingers moved from New York to New Hartford, Connecticut between 1935 and 1940. Harry Russell Ballinger was married a second time to Katharine Rice who pre-deceased him in 1980.

Ballinger's preferred medium of painting was with watercolors and oil. He illustrated for many magazines such as Yankee Magazine, McCall's Magazine, and the Saturday Evening Post. He also taught art in Bristol, Connecticut from 1945 to 1946, and at Central Connecticut State University from 1945-1959. Ballinger wrote and illustrated four books: "Painting Surf and Sea" (1957), "Painting Boats and Harbors" (1959), "Landscapes" (1965), and "Painting Sea and Shore" (1966). According to his obituary in the Hartford Courant, Ballinger painted from sight and

began from shorthand style sketch that only he could decipher. He mostly painted seascapes as he felt they were the most challenging scene to paint due to the fact that they are always moving and changing. Harry Russell Ballinger's last painting was done at the age of 95, and he died in 1993 at the age of 100.

Sources:

Harry R. ballinger, 100; was artist and illustrator. (1993, Jul 07). Hartford Courant Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/255343801?accountid=10341>; <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=117367317&ref=acom>; http://www.calart.com/Data/Artists/Harry_Russell_Ballinger.asp; <http://www.artprice.com/artist/40851/harry-russell-ballinger/biography>

Photographer: Bing.com **Date:**

View:

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** April 14, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Bing.com Photo of the north facade.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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