

CT Trust Resource ID: 2370

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): Westville Post OfficeOther Name(s) (Historic): Westville Post OfficeStreet Address or Location: 95 Fountain Street, New HavenTown/City: New HavenVillage: WestvilleCounty: New HavenDesignation(s): SRHDOwner(s): United States Post OfficePublic/Private: PublicLatitude: 41.3267 Longitude: -72.9622

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Post OfficeHistoric Use: Post OfficeAccessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: Public building - Post OfficeStyle of building: Colonial Revival Date of Construction: 1937Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Brick, ConcreteStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonryRoof(Type): Hip (Material): TinNumber of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 60' x 50'Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: ShedSurrounding Environment: High building density

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The post office sits on a 0.38 acre lot on the north side of Fountain Street in the Westville section of New Haven. To the east of the building is a small parking lot with an entrance to it off Philip Street. The post office is bordered on the south by Fountain Street, to the west by Harrison Street, and to the east by Philip Street. Directly across the street from the post office is Alden Avenue. Westville is located in the western portion of New Haven, close to the border of the Town of Woodbridge. Less than a mile to the north of the post office is West Rock, and approximately 2.5 miles to the southeast is Downtown New Haven where numerous National Register listed districts and properties are located. Surrounding the post office are residential houses and commercial properties. This property is located within the boundaries of the Westville State Register Historic District.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a 1 1/2-story brick masonry Colonial Revival post office with a hip-roof. The building measures approximately 60' x 50' and has a metal roof and a concrete foundation. The ridge-line runs east-west, parallel with Fountain Street. An octagonal cupola with a metal weather vane is centered atop the ridge-line of the post office. Each side of the cupola has opaque windows with diamond shaped metal grates. The façade of the post office faces south, and the main entry is centered on this façade. The entryway is flanked by large eight-over-twelve double-hung windows, and an eight-pane window is situated above the entrance. Toward the east and west corners are arched fifteen-pane windows. Just below the eaves of the roof is a sign that reads, "United States Post Office Westville Station New Haven Connecticut." A concrete stairway and ramps with metal railings lead to the entrance of the building.

Architect: Louis A. Simon Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

In 1939, Karl Anderson painted the mural that is still extant today on the west interior wall of the post office. The painting, called "Pursuit of the Regicides" (regicides loosely translates to king killer), depicts the escape of Edward Whalley and William Goffe. In the 17th century, both men were involved with the execution of King Charles I. As King Charles II was restored to the throne in England, Whalley and Goffe fled to America. They traveled from Boston to New Haven, often hiding in sympathizers' basements. They also hid in what is called Judge's Rock in West Rock, located in New Haven. In the mural, Anderson shows Whalley and Goffe in a cave, surprised by a mountain lion. On the left a Native American looks on, supposedly witnessing the hideout of the regicides. On the right, two anonymous New Haven residents visit the

regicides, along with Reverend John Davenport. Davenport was a supporter of Whalley and Goffe, and often hid them in the basement of his own house. He is also connected to their escape from New Haven to Hadley, Massachusetts where they resided for the rest of their lives.

Karl Anderson was born in 1874 in Ohio. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and then went on to schools in Europe. He illustrated for such magazines as Scribner's Magazine, The Saturday Evening Post, and Collier's. He also practiced in landscape and portrait paintings, and was most known for his impressionist paintings of women drinking tea. In 1912, Anderson settled in Westport, Connecticut, and had a studio on Narrow Rocks Road. There he painted nudes, portraits, maternal themes, and genre subjects. Anderson was one of the only artists in the area that could support himself solely through his easel paintings which earned him the title, "Dean of Westport Painters." During the 1930s, Anderson painted decorative murals for post offices in Ohio and Westville, Connecticut through the Section of Fine Arts Department. From 1931-1944, he taught at the National Academy of Design. In 1956, after suffering a stroke, Anderson died at the age of 82.

Sources:

Dunne, Mary and Herzan, John; Suburban Westville Historic District, New Haven; State Register of Historic Places; accessed through files located at the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Pagliuco, Christopher; The Great Escape of Edward Whalley and William Goffe Smuggled Through Connecticut; Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2012, Spanierman Gallery LLC; Artist Biography: Karl Anderson (1874-1956); accessed 9/5/2014 at <http://www.spanierman.com/Anderson,-Karl/bio/thumbs/biography>, The New York Times (1851-2010) accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers on 9/5/2014 Karl Anderson, Painter, Is Dead – May 19, 1956

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 8/21/2014

View:

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** January 21, 2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



South view (facade) of the Post Office, camera facing north

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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