

SR,,
CT Trust Resource ID: 2394

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): Blackman Farm/Blackman-Cottingham Farm

Other Name(s) (Historic): Blackman Farm/Blackman-Cottingham Farm/Robert Cottingham House and Studio

Street Address or Location: 12 Blackman Rd., Newtown

Town/City: Newtown

Village:

County: Fairfield

Designation(s): SR.

Owner(s): Jane and Robert Cottingham

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.4199 Longitude: -73.3351

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: Colonial Date of Construction: c. 1760

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

Roof(Type): Gable (Material): Wood Shingle

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 37' x 46'

Structural Condition: Good

Exterior Condition: Good

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

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

Related outbuildings or landscape features: stone walls, wetland, hay fields, Shed, Barn

Surrounding Environment: Scattered buildings visible from site, Scattered buildings visible from site, Scattered buildings visible from site, Scattered buildings visible from site, Scattered buildings visible from site

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: As noted by Charlotte Hitchcock in the Blackman Farmstead State Register of Historic Places nomination, "This property includes two parcels totaling 11.4 acres, located in the northwestern part of Newtown. Blackman Road is a former section of Mount Pleasant Road (US Route 6 and CT Route 25) which was realigned, leaving Blackman as a local access road. The property is near the high point of a hill, which slopes south and east to Taunton Pond. To the east, Mount Pleasant Road connects with Main Street and leads to the historic town center. Interstate 84 runs east-west on the north side of the hill. In addition to the 11.4 acres, the Blackman Farmstead formerly included additional land to the south across the road and east of Tunnel Road. Much of the surrounding area has been developed with small cul-de-sac streets and single-family residential developments, although some belts of woodland remain."

Other notable features of building or site: As noted by Charlotte Hitchcock in the Blackman Farmstead State Register nomination, "The farmhouse is a 1 1/2-story Colonial-style building thought to date to c. 1760. The south block, 37 feet x 46 feet, oriented with its ridge-line east-west parallel to the road, appears to be the earliest construction. It has a roughly symmetrical façade with two doors, a pair of twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows between the doors, and outboard of the doors, two windows on the right (east) and three on the left (west). The leftmost pair are wider and closely-spaced, with a projecting bracketed cornice above. This treatment extends around the west gable-end, creating a well-lit interior at the southwest corner. The upper floor has four windows in the right side and three in the left, with the second from the left apparently filled in. According to the owners, the second floor windows had been replaced by six-over-six sash, but the originals were found in the barn and restored. A hip-roofed 1-story porch extends across the center part of the façade, over both doors. The porch is supported by square posts with Italianate-style detailing. Two chimneys match the locations of fireplaces in each side. The house is two rooms deep and has a modern rear extension toward the north (rear) consisting of a double-height living room with a cathedral ceiling and a window wall facing north. Between this space and the front block, a vestibule area leads from a 1-story on the east side of the building and serves as the functional entry. Siding is wood clapboards and the roof which was covered in metal shingles as recently as 2008, has been restored to wood shingles."

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Robert Cottingham was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1935. He attended Pratt Institute from 1959-1963 and received his BFA in art. After graduation, he began his art career as an art director in the advertising agency, Young and Rubicam. In 1964, he was transferred to Los Angeles. It was there he further studied art at the Arts Center College of Design in Pasadena. His first easel paintings were from his window of his office in LA. Four years later, in 1968, Cottingham resigned from his job and dedicated his life to becoming a full-time artist. In 1971, while living in California, he had his New York debut at the O. K. Harris Gallery. During this time, the gallery was also showing works by Robert Bechtle, Ralph Goings, Richard McLean, Malcolm Morely, and John Salt. Cottingham's pristine and concise representations of vernacular subject matter put him in the newly created photorealism category. However, Cottingham was unaware of this new trend and does not consider himself a photorealist. He is more interested in his environment and the subjects rather than in the techniques of photo-based painting. In 1972, Cottingham and his family moved to London where they remained for the following four years. In 1976, Robert Cottingham decided to focus on American scenes and he, his wife, and daughters moved back to the United States. He remains living in Connecticut, painting scenes of America.

Sources:

www.connecticutbarns.org/index.cgi/6765; Hitchcock, Charlotte, Blackman Farmstead State Register Nomination, Historic Barns of Connecticut, 2013; <http://americanart.si.edu/cottingham/essay-index.html>; <http://forumgallery.com/artist/robert-cottingham/>

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 3/6/2012

View:

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock and Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** February 24, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Southeast view of the house. Camera facing northwest.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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