

CT Trust Resource ID: 2593

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): Jones, Parmenas; Browning, Blanche, House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Jones, Parmenas; Browning, Blanche, House/ Browning, Blanche, House

Street Address or Location: 14 Mediterranean Lane, Norwich

Town/City: Norwich Village: Norwichtown County: New London Designation(s): SRHD, NRHD, LHD

Owner(s): EASLEY, MADLYN F

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.5510 Longitude: -72.0941

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Secondary outbuilding

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Agriculture/subsistence: Agricultural outbuilding

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Colonial Date of Construction: 1777

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

Structural Systems(s): Post & Beam

Roof(Type): Gable, Shed (Material): Asphalt Shingle

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 26' x 30'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: No If yes, explain: NA

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, Shed

Surrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This house is located on a .27-acre parcel to the northwest of Mediterranean Lane on a steep slope rising toward the north. The slope up to the house is terraced with stone walls. North of the house is a barn, located adjacent to the street right-of-way. It is a contributing resource in the Norwichtown National Register and Local Historic District.

Other notable features of building or site:

This is a center chimney Cape Cod Cottage-type building, 1 ½ stories, and 26' x 30' in plan. The side facing the street is a four-bay façade with an entry door and transom, in the second bay from the left (west). The west end has another entry door, with two windows to the left (north) and one to the right. Windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash. There is a window in the attic gable at each end. The foundation is fieldstone, siding is clapboard with corner board trim, and roofing is asphalt shingles.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

This is significant as an 18th-century house, the Parmenas Jones House, and for its association with Blanche Browning.

Blanche Wilber Browning (1908-1997) restored this house before her marriage, as in 1937 the WPA Survey noted Miss Wilber as the owner. She subsequently lived here with her husband Warren. Browning later purchased No. 8 and No. 12 as well, after the death of Hannah Dodge. She then sold No. 12 to her colleague and friend, Raymond Baily Case.

Blanche Wilber grew up in Norwich on her family homestead on Elizabeth Street, along with a brother James and sister Hecla. Blanche studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, with a focus on textile design using wood and linoleum block printing. She restored her own house over a long period, storing salvaged materials in the barn. Browning taught art at the Norwich Free Academy and was Acting Director of the Art School from 1970-1977.

Sources:

Interview by C. Hitchcock with Vivian Zoe at the Slater Memorial Museum, 10/24/2014.

Norwich Tax Assessors Records and GIS Viewer. Accessed at: <http://gis.vgsi.com/NorwichCT/Parcel.aspx?Pid=1443> .

WPA Architectural Survey: Norwich historic building 045. Accessed at:
<http://cslib.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p4005coll7/id/4787/rec/55> .

Zoe, Vivian. Winter, 2011. 'The Slater Museum and Connecticut Artists: Unbreakable Bonds, Part II.' The Muse: Newsletter of the Slater Memorial Museum. Norwich: Slater Memorial Museum.

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 10/13/2014

View: South view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 17, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



14 Mediterranean Lane

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ Site# _____ UTM _____
District ☐ S ☐ NR If NR, specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential