

CT Trust Resource ID: 2594

## 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): Charlton, Samuel; Dodge, Hannah & Ozias, House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Charlton, Samuel; Dodge, Hannah & Ozias, House

Street Address or Location: 8 Mediterranean Lane, Norwich

Town/City: Norwich

Village: Norwichtown

County: New London

Designation(s): SRHD, NRHD, LHD

Owner(s): PIERCE, ONIE T + PIERCE, NORALIE A

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.5506 Longitude: -72.0943

### 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: Cape Cod cottage Date of Construction: c. 1750

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame, Post & Beam

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

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 26' x 29'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions to rear

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn

Surrounding Environment: Residential

#### Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This house is located on a .16-acre parcel on the west side of Mediterranean Lane on a steep slope rising toward the west. It is a contributing resource in the Norwichtown National Register and Local Historic District.

#### Other notable features of building or site:

The house is set into the hill, with a brick basement exposed at grade in the front (east) side. The basement level has a center entry door flanked by two six-over-six windows on each side. Above at the main level is a 1 1/2-story Cape Cod Cottage-type wood-framed and gable-roofed house. The façade is five bays with a centered door opening to a full-width roofed porch, flanked by two two-over-two windows on each side. In the attic there are two gable dormers projecting from the roof plane. The south end has a bay window at the main level, off-center toward the east. Siding is horizontal wood clapboard with corner board trim.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

#### Historical or Architectural importance:

This eighteenth-century building was the home of Hannah Sprague Dodge (1877-1963) and Ozias Dodge (1868-1925), associated with Norwich Art School and Slater Memorial Museum. It was later owned by Blanche Browning, also associated with the Art School. Ozias Dodge had his studio next door at 12 Mediterranean Lane. Hannah Dodge lived here with her husband Ozias until his death and continued to live here for the remainder of her life.

Hannah Sprague grew up in Yonkers, NY and met Ozias Dodge when she was sitting for a portrait by Charles Dana Gibson. A family friend of the Spragues, Robert Porter Keep, the superintendent of the Norwich Free Academy, was a guest at their wedding. It was he who invited the Dodges to Norwich, where he was looking for a new director of the Norwich Art School, a division of the Free Academy. Ozias became that director in 1897.

'At the time, Norwich must have seemed a paradise for the young couple. The city's economic success was still in full flower, yet it was surrounded by a rural and rustic landscape familiar to the Vermont of Ozias' youth. The Norwich families with pre-Revolutionary Era roots,

made wealthy by manufacturing, shipping and commerce, were educated, traveled regularly, owned beautiful homes and family heirlooms and entertained in high style like those of Hannah's girlhood in New York. It was a small city; nevertheless, it boasted a beautiful museum which had opened eleven years earlier' (Zoe 2006).

The Dodges moved into a house on Mediterranean Lane, where other Academy faculty lived, and had a son, John. They entertained often, creating themed, costumed dinner events to which they invited new friends and colleagues. (Zoe 2006). Ozias Dodge left his academic position for a full-time art career, and then died in 1925.

Shortly after the death of her husband, Hannah Sprague Dodge joined the staff of the Slater Memorial Museum and served as its director for more than three decades, 1925-63. She took on the task of revitalizing the Slater Museum (founded in 1888) and became its first serious director and curator. She is given credit for organizing its collections and making it a serious museum and an integral part of the art education provided by the Norwich Free Academy (founded 1854).

**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=1442> .

Dodge, Hannah Sprague, obituary notice. 11/26/1963. New York Times.

Dodge, Hannah. 1958. Ozias Dodge 1868 – 1925. Norwich: Norwich Free Academy.

WPA Architectural Survey: Norwich historic building 022. Accessed at: <http://cslib.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p4005coll7/id/4756/rec/28> .

Zoe, Vivian. 2006. 'Biography: Ozias Dodge.' AskArt web site. Accessed at: [http://www.askart.com/artist/ozias\\_dodge/19920/ozias\\_dodge.aspx?stm=dodge,%20ozias](http://www.askart.com/artist/ozias_dodge/19920/ozias_dodge.aspx?stm=dodge,%20ozias) .

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:** East 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:**



8 Mediterranean Lane, Norwichtown

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

**Town #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site#** \_\_\_\_\_ **UTM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**District** ☐ S ☐ NR **If NR, specify:** ☐ Actual ☐ Potential