

CT Trust Resource ID: 2493

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): Eastover House & Dunbar, Alice, CottageOther Name(s) (Historic): Eastover House & Dunbar, Alice, CottageStreet Address or Location: 431 Pomfret Street (Route 169-44), PomfretTown/City: Pomfret

Village:

County: WindhamDesignation(s): SRHD, NRHDOwner(s): Pomfret School, Inc.Public/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.8906 Longitude: -71.9620

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; domestic: secondary structuresHistoric Use: Domestic: single dwelling; domestic: secondary structuresAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Queen Anne, Colonial Revival Date of Construction: c.1890, c. 1900 (cottage)Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Wood Shingle, Brick, ClapboardStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Wood FrameRoof(Type): Hip, Shed, Gable (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 1/2, Cottage 1 Approximate Dimensions: House: 55' x 52'; Cottage: 21' x 24'Structural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Cottage additions at east sideRelated outbuildings or landscape features: BarnSurrounding Environment: Scattered buildings visible from site. Scattered buildings visible from site. Scattered buildings visible from site

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Eastover House, the residence of the Head of School, is located at 431 Pomfret Street, on the east side of the street across from the main Pomfret School campus. A cottage at the rear was the home of teacher and sculptor Alice Walton Dunbar from 1957 until her retirement. The buildings on the 12.8-acre property are located in the Pomfret Street Historic District.

Other notable features of building or site:

The main house is a 2 1/2-story c. 1890 Queen Anne/Colonial revival-style house (Historic District Inventory No. 77). Four wood-framed gable-roofed wings are joined asymmetrically with a gable facing in each direction. The west front facade faces the street, with a steeply-pitched pediment at the attic level and a wrap-around porch at the ground floor. A porte-cochere extends north over the driveway. At the rear, a hip-roofed garage of c. 1930 is northwest of the main house.

East of the house is a second outbuilding, a 21' x 24' brick gable-roofed 1-story cottage with stuccoed attic gables. A pair of multi-paned double-hung windows in the north gable-end is topped by an arched multi-paned window in the attic gable. The entrance door is on the west side, off-center toward the south.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Alice Walton Dunbar (1923-1996) was a sculptor and teacher at the Pomfret School from 1957-1991. She grew up in Kingston, NY in a family of six children of a botanist father. Dunbar studied at the Boston Museum School from 1940-45 majoring in sculpture. She taught briefly at Concord Academy in Concord, Massachusetts and then at Spelman College of Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia until 1948. Following a fellowship from the Boston Museum School to study in Europe, Dunbar established a studio in Lomontville, New York near Kingston, where she worked from 1948-1956. In 1957, Dunbar joined the faculty of Pomfret School, where she taught and worked until her retirement (askART). Headmaster of the school Joseph K. Milnor was a supporter of arts education and supported Alice Dunbar during her first few

years teaching at Pomfret. She lived on campus in a cottage behind the Headmaster's residence (see Eastover House, 431 Pomfret Street). A studio was constructed as an addition to the west side of the then-new Monell Science Building and Dunbar taught there through her career (demolished, late 1990s).

Alice Dunbar exhibited in group shows throughout New England and New York State. She traveled to Afghanistan and Turkey (1958), around the world with her aunt, philosopher Dr. Suzanne Langer (1961), and to Africa (1963), Mexico (1969), and Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii (1983-84). The perspectives of travel informed her teaching and her artwork (Sloat 2014 interview).

Sources:

Interview by C. Hitchcock with Caroline and Robert Sloat, 8/22/2014, at the site; tour of campus and historic district.

Email from Mark Simon, Pomfret alumnus, 9/04/2014.

Town of Pomfret Assessor's Records <http://gis.vgsi.com/pomfretct/Parcel.aspx?pid=584> Parcel ID: Map 14/ A/ 008.00.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC: http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html.

Boyd, T. K. "Dunbar, Alice W.: Sculptor, teacher, friend." Web site accessed 8/22/2014 at <http://sheepdogsoftware.co.uk/biog/dunbar-alice-w.htm>.

Cunningham, Jan. 1998. Pomfret Street National Register Historic District Nomination No. 98000372. National Park Service.

Dunbar, Alice, Biography from the Archives of askART. Accessed 9/30/2015 at

http://www.askart.com/artist_bio/Alice_Walton_Dunbar/11160805/Alice_Walton_Dunbar.aspx#.

Pomfret School campus map. Accessed 9/30/2015 at <http://www.pomfretschool.org/Page/Visit>.

Pomfret School archives. Articles and photographs including: 10/18/1969. 'Cambridge Seven Associates Designs New Building.' Pomfret School publication. 2003. 'Alice Dunbar Sculptures Available for Sale.' Pomfret School Bulletin, Winter/Spring.

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 8/22/2014

View: Multiple views

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 24, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Rear (NE) view of Eastover House with Dunbar cottage

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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