

CT Trust Resource ID: 2496

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): Charles Ives House and Studio

Other Name(s) (Historic):

Street Address or Location: 240 Umpawaug Rd., Redding

Town/City: Redding

Village: West Redding

County: Fairfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Umpawaug Hill LLC

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.3068 Longitude: -73.4237

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential: single family dwelling

Historic Use: Residential: single family dwelling

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Cape, shingle style, Arts and Crafts Date of Construction: 1913

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

Structural Systems(s): Wood Frame

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

Number of Stories: 2 1/2 Approximate Dimensions: 50' x 60'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: New shingles added recently

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn, guest cottage

Surrounding Environment: Woodland

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property is situated on the east side of Umpawaug Road and consists of approximately 18-acres. The house is accessed by a long driveway that extends to the east off Umpawaug Road and leads to a parking area to the south of the house. Sitting close to the road, to the west of the house, is a small cottage. To the south of the house is a tennis court and a barn. A few outbuildings are to the north of the house by a small pond. Stonewalls run along the borders of the property. The hilly terrain includes numerous trees, and a grassy field.

Other notable features of building or site: This is a 3-story, gable-roof, Cape-style house with Arts and Crafts style decorative elements on the interior. The house is sheathed in wood shingles and has asphalt shingles on the roof. The ridge-line runs approximately north-south, parallel with the road. It measures approximately 50' x 60' with a small extension on the south gable-end, and an east wing on the east side of the house. The east wing of the house once contained Charles Ives's studio before it was removed to be re-created in New York City. The façade faces Umpawaug road, which is to the west. The front door (which is no longer used as the main entry) is on the façade towards the north corner. To the north of the door is a large window and to the south of the door is a rectangular eight-pane window. The north corner of the west façade of the house has a large shed-roof overhang held up by wooden pillars, creating a covered porch. To the south are three six-over-six double-hung windows with two six-over-six double-hung windows just above. On the slope of the roof is a shed-roof dormer with windows.

Architect: Charles Ives Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

Charles Ives was born in 1874 in Danbury, Connecticut in the house that is now located at 7 Mountainville Avenue (a property that is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places ID# 76001968). His father, George Ives, was a cornet player, band director, theater orchestra leader, choir director, and teacher. Needless to say, Charles Ives was greatly influenced by music. He began composing at the age of 13. Growing up, Ives played the organ at local churches and at the age of 14 he became the youngest salaried church organist in Connecticut. Due to his everyday exposure to music and his childhood career of playing the organ in churches, he began to associate music

with emotions and spiritual aspirations. In 1893, Ives started at Yale University in New Haven, studying under Horatio Parker, one of the finest composition teachers in the U.S. at the time. As a freshman, Ives became the organist at Center Church in New Haven, the most prestigious keyboard position in town. Shortly after he began at Yale, his father died which was very hard on Ives, and he had a hard time at school. He was a B average student in music but a D average student in all other studies.

After Ives graduated from Yale in 1898, he decided to not pursue music. Instead he moved to New York City and began working at The Mutual Life Insurance Company as a clerk. He had decided to go into business and compose his music at night or during his free time. Ives felt if he went into music after college, he would have to compromise his tastes for the likes of others, which he did not want to do. In 1907, he started his own company, Ives & Company, which would later go on to become Ives & Myrick, one of the largest insurance agencies in the country. They were noted not only for their great profits, but for Ives's innovative ideas on trading and selling. Between 1908 and 1917, Ives composed music at a fast pace. Much of his music during this time was heavily influenced by his childhood memories of Danbury. In 1912, he and his wife purchased the property in Redding as a summer retreat, and built a home upon it in 1913. By 1917, Ives and his wife had adopted a daughter, Edith. A year later, Ives suffered a massive heart attack that left him weak. His health and work never fully recovered from this. During the 1920s, the rise of modernism helped to promote his music. In 1927, Ives felt he could no longer compose music. He, instead, began to fine tune and fix his past compositions. Three years later, he left the insurance company he created and retired from the business world. He began to focus even more on his music, and during the 1930s and 1940s as his popularity began to rise, he often tracked where and when his music was performed. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1947 for his Symphony No. 3. Ives died in 1954, and a decade later his music was widely recognized and held in high esteem.

Sources:

Schling, Dorothy T., 'Charles Ives Birthplace National Register Nomination,' National Park Service, 1976; Biography.com; Charles Ives Biography; accessed 11/3/2014 at <http://www.biography.com/people/charles-ives-36963>; The New York Times (1851-2010) accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers on 11/3/2014 - Posterity Catches Up With Charles Ives – October 23, 1949, Charles Ives, 79, Composer, Is Dead – May 19, 1954, Charles Ives, Musical Inventor – October 20, 1974

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 9/26/2015

View:

Form completed by: 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:



Southwest view of the house, camera facing northeast.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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