

CT Trust Resource ID: 2445

## 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): Capt. David Leavenworth House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Arthur Miller House

Street Address or Location: 232 Tophet Rd., Roxbury

Town/City: Roxbury

Village:

County: Litchfield

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Undisclosed

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.5765 Longitude: -73.2698

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residence

Historic Use: Residence

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Colonial Date of Construction: c. 1770

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

**Structural Systems(s)**: Wood Frame

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

**Number of Stories:** 2 **Approximate Dimensions:**

**Structural Condition:** Good

**Exterior Condition:** Good

**Locational Integrity:** On original site **Moved, When:** NA

**Alterations?**: No If yes, explain: NA

**Related outbuildings or landscape features:** stone walls, Shed, Barn

**Surrounding Environment:** Residential, Residential, Residential

**Interrelationship of building and surroundings:** This property sits on the east side of Tophet Road which at this point runs north-south. The house sits back from the road, and a stone wall runs along the west side of the property. A driveway extends to the east off the road and leads to a parking area just to the south of the house. To the north of the house is an outbuilding that was once used as studio space for Arthur Miller. A pond is to the east of the house. A stone wall borders the north side of the property. This is a wooded, residential area. This property is in the northeast section of Roxbury, approximately two miles from the center. It sits close to the border of the Town of Woodbury, just to the east.

**Other notable features of building or site:** As noted by Jan Cunningham in Roxbury: A Historic and Architectural Resources Survey, "232 Tophet Road is a gable-to-street Colonial house with wings on either side. A long rear addition across the rear of the main block and the right wing is attached to a garage. Because of extensive remodeling, both inside and out, little remains of the original c. 1770 house here, which once faced south. Clues to its orientation and age are provided by the double overhang on the original left elevation, now the facade, as well as the pitch of the main roof and the location of the original facade windows under the eaves, all of which confirm a pre-Revolutionary date of construction. Among the many features added to the main block is the shed-roofed entrance porch (a replacement for an older Victorian one), which is partially enclosed and displays a large multi-paned window on the left. The louvered fan in the gable peak and dormers on both slopes of the roof were also added."

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

### Historical or Architectural importance:

Arthur Miller was born in 1915 in Harlem, New York. He attended University of Michigan before moving back east to produce plays for stage. His first success was The Death of a Salesman which opened on Broadway in 1949. The Death of a Salesman was written while Miller worked on his small studio in Roxbury, Connecticut. In 1956, Miller left his first wife, Mary Slattery, and later that year married actress, Marilyn Monroe. This same year, the House of Un-American Activities Committee denied his passport renewal, and called him in to appear before the committee. He refused to give names of those who had been active in certain political activities. A reason he was called in to appear before the committee was because of his play The Crucible. This was a dramatization of the Salem Witch Trials in 1692, but was also an allegory of

McCarthyism. In 1961, Miller starred in *The Misfits*, a film for which he supplied the screenplay. Miller and Monroe divorced this same year and later he married photographer Inge Morath. They had two children. Miller's last well-known play was *The Price* (1968). In 2005 at the age of 89, Miller died in his home in Roxbury.

Inge Morath was born in Austria in 1923. Her parents were scientists who traveled often. In the 1930s, Morath and her family lived in Germany. She was attending University when World War II broke out. As noted by the Inge Morath Foundation website, "Towards the end of the war, Morath was drafted for factory service in Tempelhof, alongside Ukrainian prisoners of war. During an attack on the factory by Russian bombers, she fled on foot to Austria. In later years, Morath refused to photograph war, preferring to work on stories that showed its consequences." After the war, Morath worked as a translator and journalist. "Morath was briefly married to the British journalist Lionel Birch and relocated to London in 1951. That same year, she began to photograph during a visit to Venice" (Inge Morath Foundation website). She pursued a career in photography and applied for an apprenticeship with Simon Guttman. She divorced Birch and moved to Paris in 1953. During the 1950s, she photographed and wrote about Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the United States, and South America. In the 1960s, Morath met Miller on the set of *The Misfits*. During the 1970s, Morath raised a family and worked close to home while living in Roxbury with Arthur Miller. During the 1980s and 1990s, she worked on independent projects as well as outside assignments. She died in 2002 at the age of 78.

#### Sources:

**Photographer:** Kristen Nietering Date: 5/29/2014

#### View:

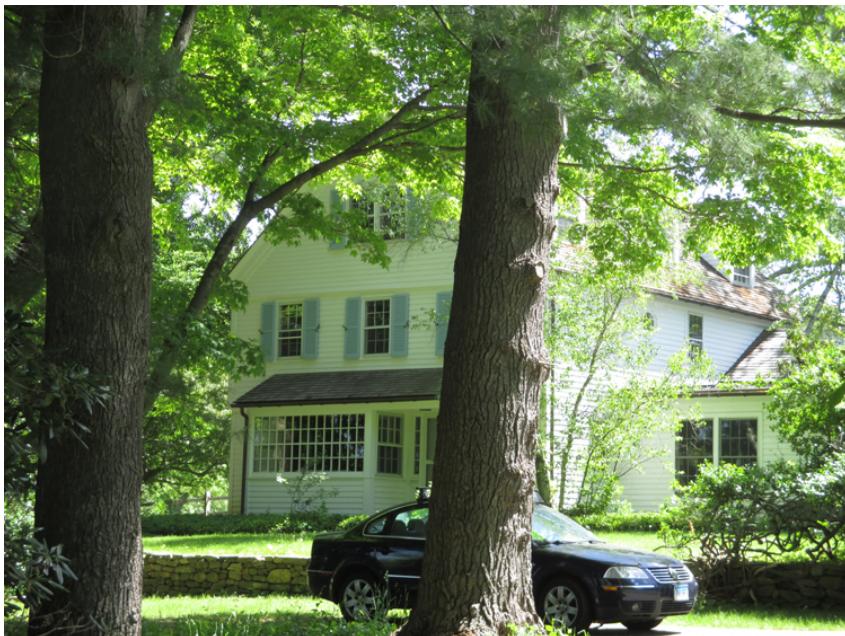
**Organization:** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

**Address:** 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

**Form completed by:** Printed On: January 25,2016

Threats: None known

#### Subsequent field evaluations:



West view (main facade) of the Arthur Miller House. Camera facing northeast.

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#### FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site# \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_

District  S  NR If NR, specify:  Actual  Potential