

CT Trust Resource ID: 2459

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): Segre's IronworksOther Name(s) (Historic): Segre's IronworksStreet Address or Location: 106 Reidville Dr., WaterburyTown/City: Waterbury

Village:

County: New Haven

Designation(s):

Owner(s): LOEHMANN-BLASIUS CHEVROLET INCPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.5379 Longitude: -73.0074

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Industrial buildingHistoric Use: Industrial buildingAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Industrial Date of Construction: c. 1940Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) ConcreteStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonryRoof(Type): Flat (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 130' x 55'Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: ShedSurrounding Environment: Industrial

Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This property consists of 5.51 acres of land on the south side of Reidville Drive. Located in the southeast of Waterbury, this industrial building is approximately a mile and a half to the north of the town of Prospect. The center of Waterbury is approximately two miles to the northwest of this site. To the east of this building are commercial and industrial buildings. To the west is forested land and residential areas.

Other notable features of building or site: This industrial, flat-roof, concrete building was constructed c. 1940. It appears the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The north elevation faces Reidville Road. It has a wooden staircase that leads to a door with three sets of three-pane rectangular windows to the west. At ground level on the east elevation of the building is another door. Protruding from the east elevation is a retaining wall, extending to the east. The grade rises toward the south along the east elevation. Seven overhead garage doors run along the east side of the building.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The building is significant because Alexander Calder had many iron stables constructed and produced at this facility during the 1960s and 1970s. During this time, many of Calder's works would be found on the property, displayed in the front of the buildings, visible from the road. A parking lot is currently located between Reidville Road and the building. However, when Calder was having his works of art created here, an additional building was located in this spot on this site.

Alexander Calder was born in 1898 in Pennsylvania to parents, Alexander Stirling Calder (who went by Stirling) and Nanette Calder. Both Calder's parents were artists and his father and grandfather were both sculptors. Calder moved with his family often during his childhood and in each place, his parents made sure to have a basement to be used as studio space for him. In 1915, Calder elected to study mechanical engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. He received his degree in 1919. In 1923, Calder moves to New York City to attend the Art Students League after deciding earlier in the year to become a painter. Three years later, Calder moved to Paris and established a studio. While traveling from Paris to New York in 1929, he met his future wife, Louisa James (1905-1996). They married in 1931

and resided in Paris until 1933. While in Paris, Calder became friends with avant-garde artists such as Joan Miro, Jean Arp, and Marcel Duchamp. When Calder and his wife moved back to the United States in 1933, they purchased a farmhouse in Roxbury, Connecticut, where they raised their daughters, Sandra (born in 1935) and Mary (born in 1939). In 1929, Calder had his first showing of his wire sculptures. In 1931, Marcel Duchamp termed Calder's hanging sculptures with moving parts that were powered by wind and air currents, mobiles. A year later, his self-supporting, static, abstract sculptures were termed as stabiles by Jean Arp to differentiate them from his mobiles. In 1934, Calder made his first outdoor works in his studio in Roxbury. These first pieces were unable to withstand strong winds. He began to create small scale maquettes and then enlarge them to monumental size. Places such as Segre's Iron Works in Waterbury, Connecticut would produce these monumental structures for Calder. In the 1950s, Calder focused his attentions on these monumental sculptures and continued to work on them throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Alexander Calder died of a heart attack in 1976.

Sources:

<http://www.calder.org/>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Calder, <http://whitney.org/Collection/AlexanderCalder>,
<http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/calder-and-abstraction-avant-garde-iconic>, http://rogallery.com/Calder_Alexander/calder-biography.htm,
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/alexander-calder/about-the-artist/78/>, New York Times articles on Alexander Calder.

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 4/2/2014

View:

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** January 21,2016

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:

Northeast view, camera facing southwest.

FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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