

CT Trust Resource ID: 2389

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): Longman Studio; Chiselhurst-on-Farmington

Other Name(s) (Historic): Longman Studio at Loomis Chaffee School/Chiselhurst-on-Farmington

Street Address or Location: 1 Batchelder Road, Windsor

Town/City: Windsor

Village:

County: Hartford

Designation(s):

Owner(s): Loomis Chaffee School

Public/Private: Non-Profit

Latitude: 41.8446 Longitude: -72.6410

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Education: Dormitory

Historic Use: Education: Studio

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

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: Date of Construction: 1920

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

Structural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Wood Frame

Roof(Type): Hip (Material): Slate

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 30' x 80'

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Conversion to dormitory

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Barn

Surrounding Environment: Residential

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The studio building is located on the campus of the Loomis Chaffee School, a private secondary school in Windsor. The school campus occupies a 300-acre campus at the confluence of the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers. The Longman Studio is at the northwest corner of a perimeter drive, Batchelder Road, which encircles the academic and residential core of the campus.

Other notable features of building or site:

The studio is a 30' x 80' brick two-story brick building in an Arts and Crafts style. Oriented north-south, the building has a hip roof over the two-story central portion, with its north and south slopes extending down over the one-story end sections. A one-story hip-roofed wing at the north end forms a covered porch. Walls are brick Flemish bond, the roof is slate, and windows are multi-paned casements. Along the east wall at the exterior is a major sculpture by Longman, the Victory of Mercy.

The building was modeled after Chesterwood, the studio of Daniel Chester French, with whom Longman had worked. The main room has high ceilings, which allowed Longman to build tall statues, and originally a skylight decorated the roof of the building, although this was removed some years later. Like Chesterwood, the studio even had train tracks running through the first floor. These tracks allowed a train car to unload clay and other materials or to pick up completed sculptures directly in the building, without any intermediary transportation necessary. When the building was completed, Longman fondly named the new studio 'Chiselhurst-on-Farmington.' The building has been converted to a dormitory.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The Longman Studio was built in 1920 by the school's first head of school, Nathaniel Batchelder, for his new wife, Evelyn Longman Batchelder (1874-1954). When the Batchelders married in 1920, Evelyn was at the height of her career as a sculptor. When she married Batchelder, Longman decided to move her studio, which was originally in New York City, to the campus of the Loomis Institute, now the Loomis Chaffee School.

Sculptor Mary Evelyn Beatrice Longman (married name Batchelder, 1874-1954) was a longtime resident of Windsor, Connecticut, where her husband was headmaster at the Loomis-Chaffee School and her studio was in a building built for her on the campus. She also sculpted numerous other well-known monuments in Hartford, Windsor and around the country. Batchelder was the first woman to attain full membership in the National Academy of Design. She discovered her love of sculpture after visiting the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition at the age of 19. Shortly afterwards she began studies at the Art Institute of Chicago. As an art student, her talent was recognized by her instructors and she was invited to work as an assistant instructor. She completed her four-year program in only two years, graduating with highest honors in 1900. She worked with sculptor Daniel Chester French from 1901 on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Her first recognized large-scale sculpture, 'Victory,' was placed in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair Festival Hall. In 1915, the AT&T Company commissioned her 'Genius of Electricity.' She also designed the Founders of Windsor Memorial Plaque and the War Memorial to Patriots of Windsor, located on the Windsor Green.

Sources:

Batchelder, Evelyn Longman. 1994 inductee to the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Accessed at: <http://cwhf.org/inductees/arts-humanities/evelyn-longman-batchelder#.VvVq3ulrLOM> .
 Berg, David. 2012. Historic Resource Inventory Form, Longman Batchelder Studio, Windsor CT.
 Faude, Wilson H. 2010. 'A Love Story.' Hidden History of Connecticut. Charleston: History Press.
 Heinrichs, Lydia. 8/09/2010. Celebrating 90 Years – the Evolution of the Longman Studio. Pelican News. Windsor: Loomis Chaffee School.
 Heller, Jules and Nancy. 1995. North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century: a Biographical Dictionary. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc.
 Longman, Evelyn. UConn Artists database. Accessed at: http://lib.uconn.edu/find/collections/connecticut-artists-project/?item=2102&Last_Name=Longman .

Photographer: Loomis School **Date:**

View: East view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** June 1, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Longman Studio, courtesy of Loomis School

FOR OFFICE USE:

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