

CT Trust Resource ID: 1313

## 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): Anderson, Leroy, HouseOther Name(s) (Historic): Anderson, Leroy, HouseStreet Address or Location: 33 Grassy Hill Rd., WoodburyTown/City: Woodbury

Village:

County: LitchfieldDesignation(s): SR,NROwner(s): Eleanor F. AndersonPublic/Private: PrivateLatitude: 41.5384 Longitude: -73.2349

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential propertyHistoric Use: Residential propertyAccessibility to public: No Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: NAStyle of building: Modern Date of Construction: 1953Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Wood ShingleStructural Systems(s): BalloonRoof(Type): Flat (Material): Asphalt ShingleNumber of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 3,000 sq. ft.Structural Condition: GoodExterior Condition: GoodLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: ShedSurrounding Environment: Woodland, Woodland

**Interrelationship of building and surroundings:** As noted by Rachel Carley in the Leroy Anderson National Register Nomination in 2012, 'The 1953 Leroy Anderson House is a low-slung Modernist residence located in a thickly wooded district west of the village center of the rural town of Woodbury. Situated on the south side of a quiet country road, the geometrically massed structure – set well back on its secluded 11.53 acre site – stands atop a knoll and is banked into the incline, thus allowing for a partially excavated lower story at its west end. The property has been cleared to create a spacious, open lawn, accented with tight masses of groundcover and shaded by scattered conifers and mature specimen trees. Woodlands border the site, which features distant views toward village church spires to the east. A flat-roofed, three-bay garage of concrete block is located to the west of the house, where it is tucked beneath a rocky outcropping, and a Modernist sculpture stands to the east of the residence' (Carley 2011, sec 7)

**Other notable features of building or site:** For description see National Register application:  
<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/12000361.pdf>

As noted by Rachel Carley in the Leroy Anderson National Register Nomination in 2012, 'Erected with a balloon frame, this handsome but unassuming 3,000-square-foot building has a modified rectangular layout and a flat roof that accentuates the house's distinctly horizontal profile. The structure is finished with red-painted cedar siding, and the primary elevations are notable for their clean, uncluttered lines and large expanses of glass. The Anderson House has two principal elevations: the eighty-four-foot-long north façade, and the sixty-foot-long east living-room section. On the asymmetrically massed façade, the entrance is set off-center to the left (east), while the house's elongated main body stretches to the right (west) – gradually gaining depth as it adjusts atop its concrete-block foundation to the site's incline. A line of single-paned windows in varied configurations (primarily small, fixed picture windows and sliding pairs) runs ribbon-fashion across this main level. A second row of window sash – horizontal panes of slightly different sizes – lights the basement story. The asymmetrical entrance bay features a glazed door and a side window wall topped by transoms; the adjacent cladding is of vertical boards, designed to contrast with the broad (ten-inch) horizontal clapboards appearing elsewhere in this elevation. Sheltering the entry is a flat-roofed porch supported on a single corner post and accessed by an angled concrete stair. The entrance is approached by a terraced walkway running parallel to the house and climbing the grade from parking area. The porch is set flush with a small library wing to its east, which projects sixteen feet from the main body of the house. A fieldstone chimney with a distinctive rectilinear profile anchors the residence's northeast corner' (Carley 2011, sec 7).

Architect: Joseph Stein Builder/Maker: Unknown

### Historical or Architectural importance:

As noted by Rachel Carley in the Leroy Anderson National Register Nomination in 2012, 'Born in 1908 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Swedish immigrants, Leroy Anderson began studying at the New England Conservatory of Music while still in grammar school. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in Harvard University, earning B.A. and M.A. degrees (1929 and 1930) in music before going on to pursue a Ph.D. in language studies in the early 1930s. As director of the Harvard University Band during this period, Anderson arranged a number of highly regarded compositions that are still in use by the band today. Although he was an accomplished instrumentalist – playing the double bass, organ, piano, trombone, and tuba – Anderson's interests focused increasingly on arranging and composing. A 1936 assignment to arrange a medley of Harvard songs entitled Harvard Fantasy for the Boston Pops brought the young musician to the attention of Arthur Fiedler, famous Pops conductor, who soon began asking Anderson for original works. The first in a succession of light concert miniatures, Jazz Pizzicato premiered in 1938 and marked the beginning of a lifelong collaboration between the two men. After the war [World War II], Anderson and his wife Eleanor moved to Woodbury, where in 1947 he began composing one of his best-known works, Sleigh Ride, during a punishing Connecticut heat wave. Three years later the producers of the WCBS-TV's Late Show, a new showcase for vintage films, adopted the sprightly Clock piece as the program's theme song, and it soon became a nightly staple in American households. Anderson's melodic Blue Tango led to the Hit Parade in 1952, winning Anderson a gold record and landing his light orchestral piece a coveted and extremely rare place on juke boxes in the U.S. and abroad.

In 1953 the Andersons were able to begin work on their new house in Woodbury, thanks to royalties that were flowing in from Blue Tango. Although new residential design in the area then favored traditionally styled Capes and Colonial Revival houses, the Andersons opted for a Modern alternative. They hired architect Joseph Stein to design their new home.

### Sources:

<http://www.leroyanderson.com/>, <http://www.pbs.org/sleighride/>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy\\_Anderson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy_Anderson),  
[http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1180163/bio?ref\\_nm\\_ov\\_bio\\_sm](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1180163/bio?ref_nm_ov_bio_sm), <http://www.pbs.org/sleighride/Biography/Bio.htm>  
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/listings/20130111.htm>  
<http://www.leroyandersonfoundation.org/woodbury.php>  
 Carley, Rachel; Leroy Anderson House National Register Nomination, Nomination No. 12000361, National Park Service, 2012.

**Photographer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**View:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

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

**Form completed by:** Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** January 5, 2016

**Threats:** None known

**Subsequent field evaluations:** \_\_\_\_\_



Leroy Anderson House ([www.leroyandersonfoundation.org](http://www.leroyandersonfoundation.org))

### FOR OFFICE USE:

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

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