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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Mills, Beaven W. House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 31 Chichester Road not for publication

city or town New Canaan vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001-011 zip code 06840

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

[Signature] SHPO

7-8-10
Date

CCT / SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

[Signature]

9/16/10

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut, 1930 – 1979

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD – Weatherboard

roof: SYNTHETICS – Rubber

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Beaven Mills House is a local expression of a Bauhaus-derived Modern style house designed by William Pedersen of the New Haven firm Pedersen & Tinley in 1956 for a design executive. The house occupies an elevated ledge site and is designed as a group of three connected white rectilinear volumes and stepped planes set into the wooded slope with a two-level main mass facing the street. The irregular plan emphasizes alternating solid/void and symmetry/asymmetry, with different functions assigned to discrete sections of the house. The Beaven Mills House was one of the first mid-twentieth-century Modern houses constructed along Chichester Road on the west side of New Canaan, Connecticut. It is near two groups of Modern houses, including two earlier houses to the southeast and four later houses to the north. The property contains a contributing carport built circa 1957 and a non-contributing gazebo built by 1997.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Beaven Mills House is located at 31 Chichester Road, a wooded area that was developed with mid-twentieth-century Modern houses in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Infill construction has continued to the present, but the neighborhood retains a rural woodland ambience. The approximately one-acre site is one of the highest spots in the immediate neighborhood and is vegetated with mature native trees, primarily oaks, and other plantings, including rhododendron and laurel. The house is set back approximately 100 feet from the road and faces west. An asphalt driveway, lined with a low stone retaining wall on the uphill (south) side, sweeps up the hill in a gentle northeasterly arc from the road to a parking area at the base of the house in front of the carport. Circulation between the driveway and front is arranged in an S-shaped curve. Three broad, curved concrete steps between the end of the retaining wall and the carport lead from the parking area up to a bluestone terrace at basement level. A set of slate steps continue in an opposite curve up a steep planted slope with a concrete block privacy and retaining wall to a bluestone terrace at the main entrance. A third bluestone terrace is tucked in the south-facing U-shape created between the two principal wings of the house. A gravel path leads from the terrace to a screened gazebo and koi pond southeast of the house. The downsloping land to the east of the house is cleared and maintained as a lawn with expansive views from the bedrooms.

Exterior

William Pedersen conceived the Beaven Mills House as composed of two parallel, rectangular wings of different dimensions oriented roughly north to south with a connector. The west wing is aligned north to south, while the longer and narrower east wing angles northeast to southwest. The entrance hyphen extends between the north end of the west, living wing, and the center of the east, bedroom wing. The arrangement of rectangular forms is executed in wood frame and clad in vertical tongue and groove flush boards, with alternating solid walls and expanses of glass. A flat board running around the top of the walls creates a modest cornice. The windows are predominantly large single pane, 14 foot by 8 foot units extending to the cornice with horizontal ribbons of operable awning windows below. Three windows lighting the kitchen and bedroom hallway are composed of paired or triplet smaller casement ribbons. All the horizontal window units have identical scale and framing. The flat roof is constructed with a built-up system covered with white rubber membrane and has a copper coping around the edge. A narrow red brick chimney rises east of center from the west wing. The minimalist white painted volumes create a striking contrast to the surrounding natural environment.

The 22 foot by 40 foot west wing rests on a concrete block foundation and basement, also painted white. It is fully exposed on the west front elevation as a blank wall that slides out beyond the floor above at the north and south corners. Retaining wing walls of concrete block with a concrete cap extend the east line of the foundation to the north and south of the building. The wood-frame box of the main living floor overhangs the foundation on the front and presents a

symmetrical tripartite facade defined by a center full height window with a run of four small windows at the bottom, flanked by solid walls. The north end has a ribbon of three horizontal windows cut into the first floor. An off-center secondary entrance with a flush door is located on the basement level at the lower north terrace. The door is painted white with a dark metal circular knocker and has a white storm door and a shingled shed roof door hood. It stands between a large window with three lower lights (west) and concrete block wall (east). The south elevation contains a large window with two lower lights on the first floor and, like the north elevation, has a window with three lower lights next to a flush door on the basement level. The east elevation facing the south terrace has one large window with three lower lights and a full height flush door.

The main entrance to the house is on the north side of the 19 foot by 12 foot connector under a shallow recess created by a roof overhang and the walls of the adjacent wings. Two fieldstone steps with slate treads lead from the upper north terrace to a flush door, painted white, with a dark metal circular knocker and a white storm door. The south side of the hyphen overlooking the south terrace is fully glazed with a four-light ribbon of windows at the bottom.

The 17 foot by 58 foot east wing is a long structure set close to the ground. It is lit on the interior by two sets of two horizontal windows set high on the west side to the north and south of the connector and three large windows with three-light ribbons below alternating with solid wall sections across the east elevation. There are no windows on the north and south ends. Additional light enters the bedroom wing through square roof skylights. A five foot wide shed roof extension on narrow piers with a solid, flush door on the east side is located at the north end of the wing.

Interior

Pedersen organized the 2,082 square foot interior plan of the Beaven Mills House to accentuate the spacious main living area and maximize the option for complete privacy in the sleeping area. The interior plan is a binuclear arrangement with living areas to the west and private sleeping functions to the east linked via the circulation corridor. The walls and ceilings are consistently finished with smooth-surfaced drywall, painted white, that highlight the aesthetic qualities of the interior volumes. The floors across the main level, with the exception of the tiled bathroom, consist of hardwood maple plank installed circa 1997. The main entrance opens through an exterior blank wall and solid door to the hall with broad open views that orient the viewer through the fully glazed windows to the south terrace framed by the two wings of the house. Two closets flanking the front door create a small vestibule alcove. Opposite the entrance, stairs descend to the basement level through a cutout in the floor, surrounded by a simple wood railing. The railing was installed circa 1997 and was designed to be similar to the original but to provide narrower and safer spacing between spindles. The closets retain original brass hardware and some interior features, including shaped hat hooks (east).

Toward the west, the hall flows through a full height opening into the main living area, which is configured as a single 11 foot tall space that occupies the entire first floor of the west wing. The galley kitchen at the north end was formerly set off by a dividing wall with two openings. This wall was removed circa 1997 to open the main living space. Cabinetry and fixtures were replaced at that time but use natural wood and slate materials compatible with the house. The original orange tile floor remains in place under maple hardwood floors. The living/dining area receives abundant natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows on the west, south, and east. The focal point is a large, freestanding brick chimney placed off center in front of the full height, solid, exterior door with original brass door handle on the east wall. The chimney mass is painted white with contrasting natural wood flush lintels and bluestone hearth. The firebox opens on both the west side facing the living area and on the east side to the narrow space between the chimney and the door where it can be viewed from the outside terrace. Recessed can ceiling lights are controlled by the original rheostat set of three white plastic knobs against slate back plates located near the east door. The rheostat provides extraordinarily precise calibration of light and is of a type used in professional film studios.

The east bedroom wing is reached through a passage door from the entrance hall leading to three bedrooms and a bathroom. The door allows complete separation of the private and public realms of the house. The bedrooms have original built-in closets with paired louvered doors and one entirely glazed east wall. Square skylights and original recessed ceiling lights illuminate the hall and bathroom.

The basement is reached by a carpeted stair from the main hall. The basement contains a small circulation hallway, guest room, play room, bath, and a storage area. Finishes included gray, ceramic tiled floors, white gypsum board walls, and dropped acoustic tile ceilings. The guest room and play room at each end of the basement level connect to the outdoors through a door set in a full height glazed wall.

Alterations

Few alterations to the Beaven Mills House have been completed since its construction in 1956. The only change to the form of the house was the construction of the five foot wide shed-roofed addition at the north end of the east wing circa 1970. The exterior wall sheathing, which was originally natural colored was painted white after 1991. This alteration slightly changed the dynamics of the building with its setting, so that it currently pops out rather than blends in with the natural environment. The roof covering has been replaced multiple times with a rubber membrane. All of the windows in the house are original, except for one small kitchen window that was added in 1997. Minor interior renovations were completed on the main floor in 1997. These renovations included the installation of the maple plank floors over the original tile, removal of the partially open wall between the kitchen and living room, updating of the kitchen cabinetry and fixtures, and replacement of the stairway railing. In 1999, a former wet bar accessed from the main hall was converted into a laundry closet. The closet retains its original orange tile floor and spot lighting.

The landscape surrounding the house is also essentially unaltered. In about 1997, the bluestone terrace against the south elevation was rebuilt close to the original layout and the gazebo was constructed in the back yard.

Outbuildings

Carport, contributing (circa 1957)

A Carport constructed circa 1957 sits northwest of the house at the basement level and faces the paved parking area. The designer of the carport has not been identified but may have been William Pedersen. It is a 504 square foot, flat-roofed building framed with steel posts that support wood beams. The carport is open on two sides and is built against the slope with a concrete block retaining wall forming its east (rear) elevation.. The facade (west elevation) is completely open and a porous screen of wood slats extends across the south elevation. The north wall consists of vertical tongue and groove siding. Three small windows in the east wall provide natural light. The carport is painted white to match the house and was constructed shortly after the house was completed. It contributes to the property's historic and architectural significance.

Gazebo, non-contributing (by 1997)

A 182 square foot post-and-beam Gazebo, built most likely in the 1990s and before 1997, is located southeast of the house. The building does not contribute to the historic or architectural significance of the property.

Integrity

The Beaven Mills House designed by William Pedersen in 1956 and its associated carport constructed in about 1957 are intact and essentially unaltered. The buildings retain their original siting and spatial relationships within their historic, natural woodland landscape setting. Despite the small north addition to the east wing, joining of the kitchen and living areas, the installation of new flooring, and other minor changes, the overall design of the building is clearly discernable and materials and finishes are preserved.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1956-1979

Significant Dates

1956: House constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pedersen, William Francis

Pedersen & Tinley

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Beaven Mills House begins in 1956 when the house was erected and extends to 1979, the end of the mid-twentieth-century Modern architectural period as defined in the Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). It encompasses the timeframe of commissioning and ownership by Beaven Mills from 1956 to 1976.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The end date of the period of significance meets Criteria Consideration G as part of the exceptional significance of the development of mid-twentieth-century Modern style residential architecture in Connecticut as discussed in the MPDF.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Beaven Mills House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the state level for its associations with the development of affordable single-family homes, progressive architectural social milieu, and the development of the Modern style architecture during the mid-twentieth century. The building possesses significance under Criterion A in the category of Social History for its association with the emerging colony of mid-twentieth-century Modern style architects who were living, networking, and realizing their experimental designs in New Canaan. Under Criterion C, the building possesses significance in the area of Architecture as a local expression of a minimalist Modern style house and the first of two residences in New Canaan, designed by architect William F. Pedersen. The Beaven Mills House meets the requirements for listing under property type Number F.2 Geometric I, as defined in the Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), and contributes to the Modern Architecture Movement in United States, 1920–1979 and Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residential Architecture in Connecticut, 1930–1979 historical context themes described in the MPDF.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Areas of Significance: Criterion A

Social History

Beaven W. Mills (1918–1997) purchased a small one-acre lot on a knoll on the east side of Chichester Road near the intersection with Wahackme Drive in 1950. In the six years between the time that Mills purchased the lot and the completion of the house designed by William Francis Pedersen in 1956, the first two Modern houses in the neighborhood were built immediately to the southeast of his parcel, the Swallen House (1954), a prefabricated Techbuilt design by Carl Koch, and the Irwin House (1954), a Modernist box by Victor Christ-Janer. Mills' land acquisition occurred several years prior to local architect John Black Lee's purchase of 20 acres a short distance to the north on Chichester Road in 1954. Lee subdivided the Chichester Road property into six parcels during the mid-1950s, which he then sold to other architects who intended to build Modern houses. This may be the earliest intentional Modern neighborhood enclave in Connecticut. The Beaven Mills House is roughly contemporaneous with the initial implementation of this vision, which occurred when Lee completed his second house for himself, Lee House 2 (1956) and Hugh Smallen designed his own house, the Hugh Smallen House (1957). Smallen subsequently completed two other houses in this development, the Becker House (1963–1964), and the Parsons House (1964). All four residences are geometric boxes that combine white walls and expansive glass panels and, in some cases, natural stone.

Research has revealed little about the early and family life of Beaven Mills, who was born in 1918. However, his decision to move to New Canaan and build a Modern house on Chichester Road would have set him in the midst of the burst of Modern house construction and social activities at mid-century and positioned him to apply his management and sales expertise in a progressive design company. At the time he purchased the lot on Chichester Road, Mills would have been 32 years old. He was married to Gladys O. Mills and lived in Norwalk (Norwalk Directory 1952). Mills was a management and sales executive with New York and New Canaan firms and in the early 1950s commuted to his job as a sales manager in New York for the prominent Robert Gair Co., packaging manufacturers since 1864. The firm pioneered the production of the paper bag and invented the corrugated cardboard box. At the turn of the century the factory was located in Brooklyn between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges but it had relocated elsewhere in New York following Gair's death in 1927 (*New York Times* 2004). In 1956, Continental Can Company purchased the Robert Gair Co. By the early 1960s, shortly after Beaven Mills moved to his new Modern house on Chichester Road, he had left Continental Can and was working for Jens Risom Design of New Canaan and Putnam, Connecticut where he was named national sales manager in 1962, and rose to vice president of sales in 1964 (*Contract* 1962; *Interior Design* 1964).

Jens Risom, born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1916, became a highly influential designer in the European Modernist immigrant tradition that had begun with Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, and Alvar Aalto among others. He immigrated to New York in 1939, where he met entrepreneur Hans Knoll who started the Hans Knoll Furniture Company. Risom

served in the United States army during the war, where he “learned the importance of new and recently designed and manufactured products” intended to address contemporary lifestyle requirements (Risom 2009). He noted that army veterans returned home with an appreciation for simple, high-functioning contemporary products (Risom 2009). Knoll won a commission for the company to design the tables and chairs for numerous USO clubs, which increased the visibility of Risom’s designs (Risom 2009). Following the war, Risom started his own company, Jens Risom Design (JRD), which he advertised intensively using photographs taken by Richard Avedon of his designs set against stark white backgrounds (Risom 2010). Risom also marketed his products through their use in his own house, the Durisol/Risom House constructed in 1949 in New Canaan. This renewed interest in an enhanced quality of life, paired with the development of innovative new construction materials and mechanized conveniences, revolutionized preferences for residential design and provided opportunities for emerging Modern style architects to introduce strikingly new concepts that would be assimilated into popular culture in the following decades (Mock 1945:12–21). Risom’s designs offered a solution to American families attempting to furnish their new smaller open-plan Modern houses. By the late 1950s, when Beaven Mills joined the firm, JRD had shifted away from residential furniture design, focusing more on institutional work, particularly upscale executive office furniture. Risom sold the Durisol House in 1959, but by 1962 had already moved to Parade Hill Lane in New Canaan.

In the early 1970s, the JRD company was purchased by the Dictaphone Corporation, the first in a series of sales that eventually resulted in the closing of the business. Possibly as a result of this company restructuring, sometime around 1970, Beaven Mills relocated to High Point, North Carolina and joined the Alma Desk Company, where he was a regional manager in 1972 (*Interior Design* 1972). He appears to have retained the house on Chichester Road in New Canaan for a few years, until 1976. Beaven Mills died February 14, 1997 in High Point, North Carolina (*New York Times* 1997).

William Francis Pedersen (1908-1990), of the firm Pedersen & Tilney designed the Beaven Mills House. Pedersen’s career demonstrates the growth of the Modern style as an accepted design paradigm during the mid-twentieth century and his membership in the New Canaan, New York, and New Haven professional circles exhibits the importance of these networks to the dissemination design. The firm of Pederson & Tilney operated primarily on commercial and institutional commissions and Pederson did not use small-scale residential projects as a means for design experimentation like many of his architectural predecessors and contemporaries. The Beaven Mills House and the Hall House (1962), also in New Canaan, are the only known single-family houses designed by him in Connecticut.

Pedersen attended Harvard University as both an undergraduate and graduate student and received his Masters in Architecture from there in 1934, just prior to the transformation of Harvard’s program under Gropius and Breuer. He returned to Connecticut and established his own architectural practice in Stamford, which remained in business until just before World War II. After serving in the war, Pederson joined the large New York City firm of Harrison-Abramovitz that had opened in 1941. Pedersen gained experience on many large and highly visible projects there, including the design for the aluminum-clad Alcoa Building in Pittsburgh, PA (1953) that employed such innovations as reversible windows and a large-scale radiant heating/cooling system (LeMenager 1975). In 1946, Pedersen also opened a firm in New Haven in partnership with Bradford Sargent Tilney (b. 1908), a Yale-trained architect from Britain who had worked briefly with Pedersen for Antonin Raymond (1888–1976) before the war. Pedersen’s association with Harrison-Abramovitz ended in 1950. By 1962, Pedersen & Tilney had additional offices in New York, Boston, and Milan, Italy (AIA 1962). The firm was responsible for several multi-family developments in Connecticut, including the Brookside Houses in New Haven (1952) and the Northlake Apartments in Hamden (1957). They also designed the Joseph Barber House in Fortunes Rock, Maine (1953). Non-residential projects in the state include an addition to Christ Episcopal Church in Greenwich (1960) and an office building for IBM in Hartford (1962).

Area of Significance: Criterion C

Architecture

The Beaven Mills House is a local, minimalist expression of mid-twentieth century Modern design completed by a regionally and internationally active architect during the height of the stylistic period. It exhibits a combination of characteristically Modern architectural features that were becoming well established amongst the New Canaan architects

in the mid-1950s, when Pederson designed the house. Neither Pedersen nor Tilney were specifically trained in the Modern style and prior to World War II may not have been exposed to much Modern architecture. Their brief involvement with Antonin Raymond (1888–1976) around the time he designed the early Modern Joseph Delano Hitch, Jr. House, built in Westport, Connecticut, in 1940–1941, may have sparked an interest in the style (WPA 2010). However, working in New York City after the war, Pedersen would have been influenced by the large numbers of technologically innovative and strikingly Modern office buildings under construction there and in other metropolitan areas. He was particularly concerned about minimizing the impact of such large structures on the surrounding environment. Although he designed the occasional residence, the bulk of his work was for commercial and institutional clients, where his experience at Harrison-Abramovitz served him well. His designs for the Beaven Mills and Hall houses indicate that he was familiar with the basic tenets of the regional Modern residential architectural style. As a resident of New Canaan he would have been keenly aware of the innovative houses being designed by other architects and the air of excitement they caused in the locally active community of influential American and international architects. However, Pedersen does not appear to have been interested in creating novel designs that would have stood out on the landscape, but rather making a straightforward Modernist statement in a house that was economical, minimalist, and comfortable. In a 1975 interview for the local New Canaan newspaper, Pedersen remarked on the importance of retaining the town's "300-year-old . . . unique history," a somewhat traditionalist statement compared to the views of other mid-twentieth-century architects (LeMenager 1975). There is nothing significantly innovative or experimental about the rectangular forms and boxy massing of either of his New Canaan houses, when compared with the work of other contemporary architects who had been trained in the Modern ethos; however, the individual features of the designs convey Pedersen's awareness of the specific site characteristics and a clear intent to express Modern ideas of domestic architecture.

The Beaven Mills House is the earlier and most complex of Pedersen's two houses in New Canaan and was one of his first commissions after forming Pedersen and Tilney in 1952. The Hall House 1962 refines the arrangement of public and private spaces to a single box with a completely enclosed interior courtyard, a feature that appears in a modified form in the Beaven Mills House. The Beaven Mills house exhibits hallmark characteristics of Modern design. Pedersen designed the encounter with the house through the undulating flow of movement up the driveway past the dominant presence of the two-story grounded box and then ascending the stairs into a narrow semi-enclosed space. Upon entering the hall one experiences a similar scale, but in contrast to constriction, the expansive glazing opens the house to the terrace and woods beyond. Using large windows that incorporate moveable sash alternating with solid walls, Pedersen strove to establish a balance in the living and bedroom wings between maintaining private interior space while connecting to the natural surrounding environment. His careful attention to the relationship between the building and its sloped site provides at-grade intimate views in the secluded south terrace and expansive woodland vistas facing the back yard, while elevating the main living area above a basement affords both privacy and distance views into the surrounding tree foliage. The plan is strongly rectilinear, yet the east bedroom wing bends the formality by its angled placement to better catch the early morning sun. Residents' daily life is tracked by the sun from sunrise to sunset in the west living wing. The differing qualities of light throughout the day and the seasons provide sheltered and spacious places that accommodate a wide range of activities, intimacy, and repose.

In 1964, Tilney left the firm, which was renamed William F. Pedersen & Associates and maintained offices in New Haven and New York. The company moved away from residential designs to focus primarily on large office buildings such as the 1969 ICI Building in Stamford. Pedersen was involved with many urban renewal projects in New Haven in the 1970s, including the New Haven Savings Bank, a skyscraper with multiple angled walls that add visual interest to its large massing. The firm also worked on a master plan for the Museum of Natural History and an extensive housing development in Seward Park, both in New York City (AAIA 1970; LeMenager 1975). Pedersen served on the New Canaan Town planning and zoning commission in the 1970s. Pedersen retired from architectural practice in 1989 and died the following year (*New York Times* 1990).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Ownership History

The property has passed through several owners since its original ownership by Beaven Mills. William and Marjorie Hammond bought the house in 1976 and sold it in 1992 to Robert and Virginia Dunbar. In 1997, the current owners, Matthew and Erica Siegel purchased the parcel (Town of New Canaan 2010).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

1956 *American Architects Directory*. R.R. Bowker, LLC, New York, NY.

1962 *American Architects Directory*. R.R. Bowker, LLC, New York, NY.

1970 *American Architects Directory*. Third Edition. R.R. Bowker, LLC, New York, NY.

Contract

1962 Beaven Mills has been named national sales manager of Jens Risom Design, Inc. *Contract*, Vol. 2, 10.

Earls, William D., AIA

2006 *The Harvard Five in New Canaan*. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY.

Interior Design

1964 Jens Risom announces appointment of Beaven Mills as vice president of sales. *Interior Design*, Vol. 35, 236.

1972 "4. Office of regional manager, Beaven Mills, with oak table-desk".

LeMenager, Jack

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Mock, Elizabeth (editor)

1945 *Built in the USA Since 1932*. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

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1990 William Pedersen [sic.], Architect, 82 Dies; Led His Own Firm. *New York Times*, December 29, 1990.

1997 Beaven Mills, Paid Death Notice, *New York Times*, February 14, 1997

2004 Streetscapes/Robert Gair, Dumbo and Brooklyn; Neighborhood's Past Incised in its Facades. By Christopher Gray, *New York Times*, March 14, 2004.

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1952 Retrieved March 2010 from the world wide web: www.ancestry.com

Mills, Beaven W. House
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
County and State

Risom, Jens

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2010 "The Answer is Risom." Retrieved March 2010 from the world wide web: <http://risom.org/about.html>.

Roth, Leland M.

2001 *American Architecture: A History*. Icon Editions, Westview Press, Cambridge, MA.

Town of New Canaan

2010 Assessor's Records. On file, Town Hall, New Canaan, CT.

Wright, Gwendolyn

1983 *Building the Dream A Social History of Housing in America*. Pantheon Books, NY.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 0624228 4556059
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundaries encompass the legally recorded lines of Lot G35, shown on Map 26, Block 22 containing one acre.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the house and full extent of the associated outbuildings and landscape features that contribute to the setting and appearance of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia H. Adams/Sr. Architectural Historian; Jenny Fields Scofield, AICP/Architectural Historian and
Laura J. Kline, Architectural Historian

organization PAL, Inc.

date May 2010

street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue

telephone 401.728.8780

city or town Pawtucket

state RI

zip code 02860

e-mail jscofield@palinc.com; vadams@palinc.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Mills, Beaven W. House
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Beaven Mills House
City or Vicinity: New Canaan
County: Fairfield **State:** Connecticut
Photographer: Jenny Fields Scofield, PAL, Pawtucket, RI
Date Photographed: January 11, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 6. View of carport, north elevation and west facade looking southeast from parking area.
- 2 of 6. View of west facade and south elevation looking northeast from driveway.
- 3 of 6. View of south elevation showing west and east wings and connector looking north.
- 4 of 6. View of east elevation, looking northwest.
- 5 of 6. View looking south in living room, showing chimney and windows.
- 6 of 6. View looking east in connector hallway.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mathew J. and Erica H. Siegel
street & number 31 Chichester Road telephone _____
city or town New Canaan state CT zip code 06840

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

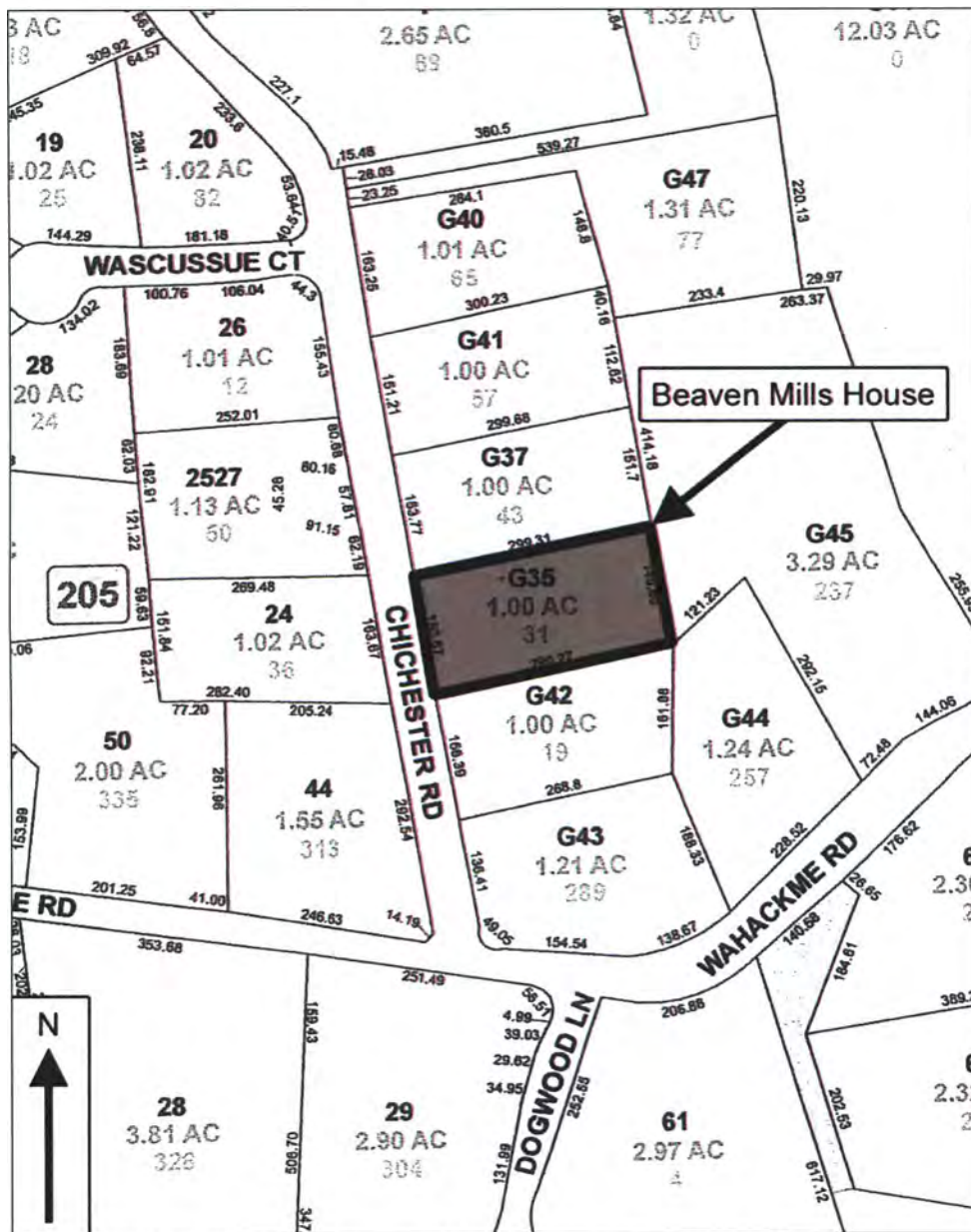
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mills, Beaven W. House

Fairfield County, Connecticut

Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Residences in
Connecticut, 1930 – 1979

Town of New Canaan Assessor's Map Number 26.



(Assessor's Map source: New Canaan Tax Assessor 2010).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

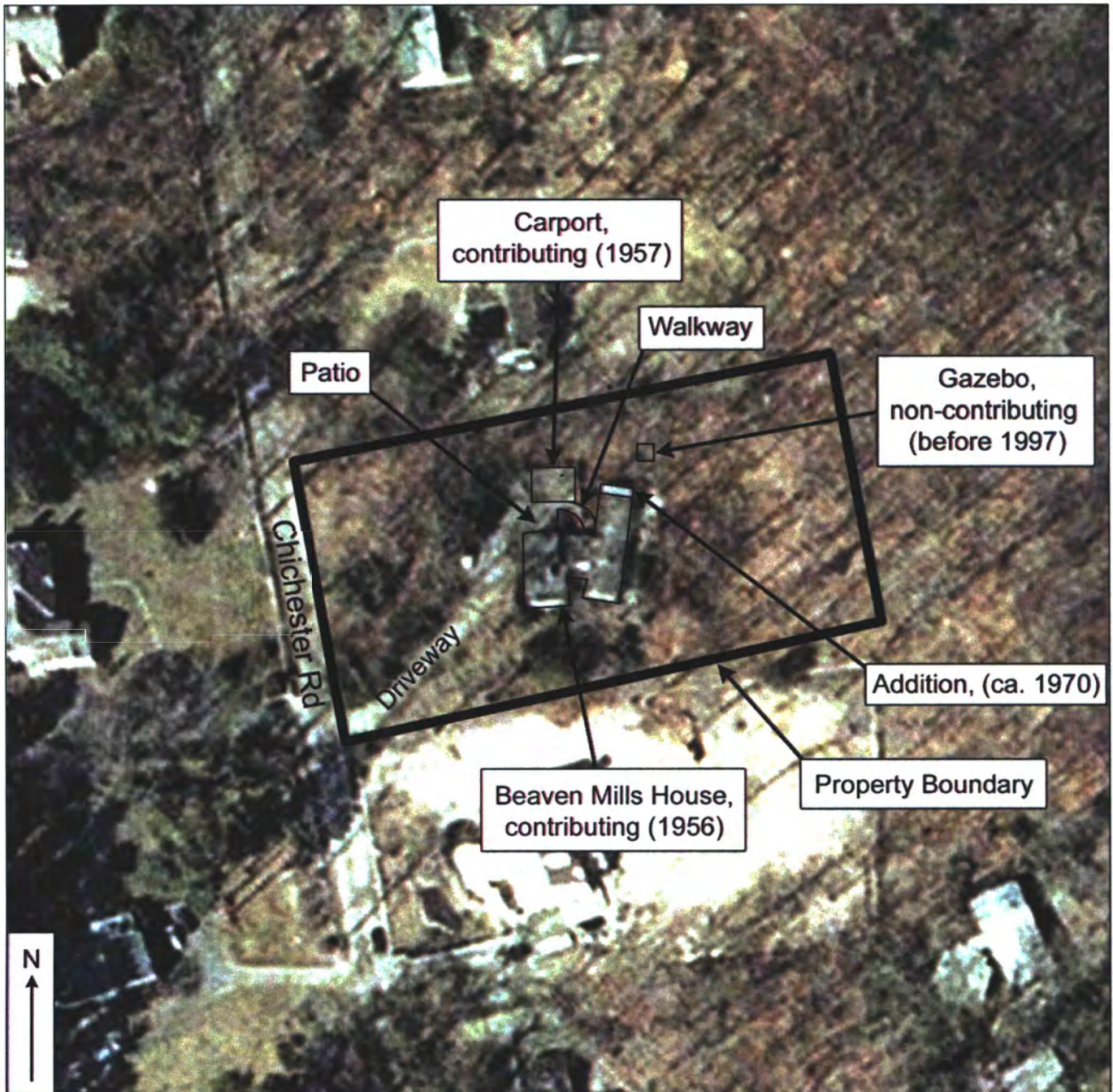
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mills, Beaven W. House

Fairfield County, Connecticut

Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Residences in
Connecticut, 1930 – 1979

Site Plan of the Beaven Mills House Property



(Base map source: www.yahoo.com. Accessed March 2010).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mills, Beaven W., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut 1930-1979, MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 7/12/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/18/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/02/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/26/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000565

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS:
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached sheet.

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER: *[Signature]* DISCIPLINE: *Historic*
TELEPHONE: *202-354-2278* DATE: *August 25, 2010*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Mills, Beaven W., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut 1930-1979, MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 9/14/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/10

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000565

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~SEE SLR~~

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER *J. D. A.*

DISCIPLINE *Historic*

TELEPHONE _____

DATE *9/16/10*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N







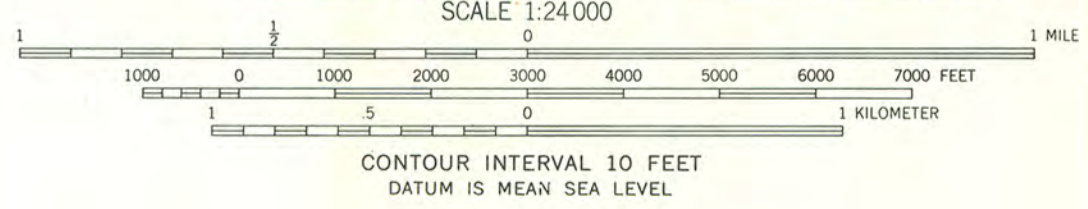
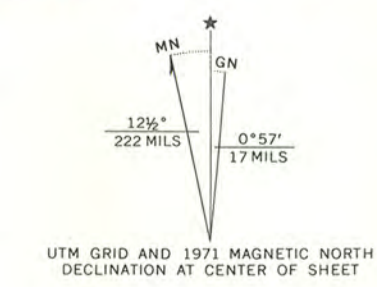








Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1951. Revised 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, east zone
and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheck
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

State Route
Interstate Route
POUND RIDGE, N. Y.—CONN.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

N4107.5—W7330/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 6266 II NE—SERIES V821





Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism



Arts
Tourism
Film
History

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2800
860.256.2811 (f)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger Reed
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

DATE: July 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Residences in CT, 1930-1979

The following materials are submitted for nomination of the **Mills, Beaven W. House, New Canaan, Fairfield County, CT** to the National Register of Historic Places:

- National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please review
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____

CONNECTICUT
www.cultureandtourism.org

An Affirmative Action
Equal Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Film Division

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2800
860.256.2811 (f)

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Recommendation: SLR Return Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues Discussion Sheet

State Name: CT County Name Fairfield Resource Name Mills, Beaven, House

Reference No. 10000 565 Multiple Name _____

Solution:

House built in 1956-57. Criteria Considered & not signed

Problem:

- 1) less than 50 yrs
- 2) Argument is more for local level than State ...

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change: _____