

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

15

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: N/A Historic: Noble House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Norfolk VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Litchfield
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Highfield Road, southwest corner of Greenwoods Road East
- 4. OWNER(S): Roscoe J. & Muriel E. Dusek, Highfield Road, Norfolk, CT PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: 06058 Summer residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Georgian Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1919

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

- clapboard asbestos siding brick
- wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
- board & batten stucco cobblestone
- aluminium siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: _____
- other: _____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip round other _____
- material:
- wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
- asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 100' x 75' x 150'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
- Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
- Alterations: no yes, explain: _____

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Staff cottage
- carriage house shop garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The house is surrounded by spacious grounds.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

By its front facade, the Noble House appears to be made up of a principal rectangular section in the center with a wing at an acute angle at the south end and a wing at an obtuse angle at the north end. From the garden front, however, it is apparent that the house has greater depth than anticipated and the central block is nearly square in plan. This observation is borne out by the fact that the house has nine bedrooms.

The central front entrance is protected by a projecting two-story porch. The porch roof is supported by two slender columns and has an eyebrow dormer. To the right is

Landscape Architect: (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Taylor & Levi ~~KBUNDA~~ Herbert Durand, Bronxville, NY

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

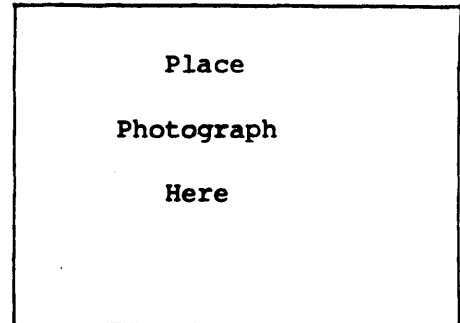
The Noble House continues the use of the classical idiom as introduced with the Eldredge Garage and the Country Club. This house is more ambitious and elaborate and involves eccentricity of plan that sets it apart. The feeling of airiness on the interior, however, is similar to that at Moss Hill, resulting from similar use of relatively large portions of the wall areas for windows. Although two important outbuildings have been lost, the general setting of house and grounds probably is better maintained at the Noble House than at other early Taylor houses.

The Noble House and grounds is significant in Taylor's work because it is probably the largest of the many Georgian Revival houses he designed and because in its general appearance and setting it continues very much as it appeared when built, despite the loss of two valuable outbuildings.

(continued)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: D. Ransom
date: October 1978 view: Southwest & northeast
negative on file: Connecticut Historical Commission



COMPILED BY:

name: D. Ransom date: Oct. 30, 1978
organization: Connecticut Historical Commission
address: 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

19. SOURCES:

Prints of construction drawings in possession of owners.

20. ~~SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:~~

Verbal boundary description: NLR 54/110, 3 acres

UTM Reference: 18/650340/4649580

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 17 Date: Oct. 30, 1978

Noble House - #17

a vertical, oblong window that lights the spiral staircase indoors. Further to the right, the roof slopes down over an open porch. In this roof section there is a gabled dormer with Palladian window. The porch is arcaded. To the left of the entrance is a 2½-story section whose gable suggests a pediment, and has a half-round window with radial glazing. This gable treatment is repeated at the north end of the garden front, this time with a Palladian window over the entrance, surrounded by pilasters and pediment. To its south, the arcade of the open porch is repeated on two sides of a large sun porch that has permanent glazing so the arcade is blind. The sun porch is the first floor of a two-story block. Its corner is truncated, and provides a doorway to the garden.

The interior rooms are large, airy, and well-lighted by the expanse of windows. The entrance vestibule leads to a six-sided central hall. The six sides are archways under elliptical arches leading to the dining room, living room, sun room, cloak room, and the entrance vestibule.* There are several fireplaces in the house, including three in bedrooms.

A chauffeur's house is on the grounds, as carefully planned in the classical idiom as the main house. A carriage house was destroyed by fire, c. 1970, and a gazebo blew down in a high wind.

*and stairwell.

#18 The arrangement of main block, wings and infill give the house irregular mass and plan that cannot be called Georgian in antecedent, but the overall effect achieved through use of classical details keeps the house within the Georgian Revival category of Taylor's work. The Palladian window, semi-elliptical arch, fanlight and pedimented entrance porch, used here profusely, tie the design together in the Georgian Revival mode. The house is a leading example of the Georgian Revival style in Norfolk and of Taylor's work in the style.