

571



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 System House
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 128 Chichester Road not for publication
city or town New Canaan vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 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
Signature of certifying official/Title 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)

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

**Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

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

New Canaan architects John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver designed the System House in 1961 as an innovative prototype for an affordable, single-family Modern style residence. The award-winning design was based on a modular system of panels that intentionally used standard-sized materials and minimal finishing to limit construction costs. The house consists of a single square-shaped volume placed at a lower grade than the driveway and outbuildings so that it appears smaller and more horizontal from the front. Its symmetrical aesthetic is defined by a flat roof with a deep overhang on all sides and its gridded wall pattern of alternating solids and voids. The house was built for Harrison DeSilver on land owned by John Black Lee and is part of a small subdivision of separately designed Modern style houses encouraged by John Black Lee in the west side of New Canaan, Connecticut. A small workshop built in 1975 and a three-car garage built in 2006, are also located on the property.

Narrative Description

Setting

The System House is located on the west half of an approximately five-acre lot on Chichester Road that was split into two lots during the 1960s after the house was built. The current lot is accessible from the road by a long gravel driveway that enters near the south end and turns north to terminate at a large gravel parking area. The house is sited at the center of the roughly rectangular lot and faces south. The workshop is on the east side of the parking area, and the garage is on the west side. The lot is graded so that the house is set five feet below the parking area and outbuildings, approximately 17 feet north of the grade change. When the house was built, the ground sloped gradually down toward it. A cut-stone retaining wall was added by the current owners to define the grade change more sharply. A flat wood plank bridge supported on metal I-beams and lined with flower boxes crosses from the higher ground to the main entrance of the house. The majority of the secluded lot remains densely wooded, although the area immediately surrounding the house and outbuildings has been cleared.

Exterior

The System House is a two-story square-shaped structure with a flat roof and a concrete block foundation. The house measures 32 feet square and contains 2048 square feet of interior space. The roof extends six feet beyond the wall plane on all four sides. The exposed framing members span east to west to meet thin steel piers boxed in wood supporting the outer edges of the roof. This framing structure does not require intermediate floor joists or internal load-bearing walls. Each exterior wall is divided into five bays of two-story, six-foot-wide, solid wood panels alternating with glazed panels of identical dimensions. The solid panels are clad in flush vertical wood siding painted a light gray color. The wood trim is painted dark brown. The central bay on the rear (north) elevation is filled with a large exterior red-brick chimney that rises above the roof. The glazed panels contain either metal-framed sliding-glass doors or fixed plate glass wood-framed windows. The main entrance is located in the glazed center bay of the facade (south elevation), which contains a set of double-leaf glass doors with wood frames and a single fixed window above. It is accessed from the 17-foot-long, 11-foot-wide, wood bridge that is level with the driveway and parking area. All the glass has been replaced with thermal panes. Three globe fixtures hanging from the roof light the entrance; two are the original aluminum lamps, one has been replaced. Flagstone patios beneath the roof overhang surround the house at ground level. Balconies with wood decks and metal railings extend across the three center bays on the east and west side elevations. Removable tea-light holders with an interlocking square motif are affixed to the west elevation and are not part of the original design.

Interior

The interior of the System House has a bi-level plan. The main entrance opens onto the landing of a stairway that leads up to the bedrooms on the second floor and down to the living spaces on the ground floor. Every room opens to a patio or balcony, and there are very few interior walls. On the first floor, the L-plan kitchen is located in the southwest corner. The dining room in the southeast corner is open to the living room that spans the back (north) half of the house. A large stone-faced fireplace is centered on the north wall. A small pantry and coat closet separate the kitchen and living room. A bathroom and storage closet that separated the living and dining rooms was removed after 2002 and replaced with a freestanding, enclosed bathroom near the center of the house. This alteration was completed to open the space. On the second floor, the southwest and southeast corners contain bedrooms, and one large bedroom with a fireplace is located above the living room. Two bathrooms with skylights are clustered at the center. The house also has a partially finished basement that contains a small office (formerly the laundry room) and a utility area.

Many of the original interior finishes in the house are intact, including the tray ceilings with pine paneling. The open-riser wood stairs with metal railings are also original. The original pine floors on the first floor have been covered with bamboo. The walls were originally all painted Homasote, some of which remain unaltered, particularly on the second floor. Others were replaced in the 2000s with contemporary Modern style treatments, including patterned laminate and maple panels. In the basement burlap coverings applied over the Homasote are visible. The kitchen has been updated with replacement fixtures and stone and tile wall treatments. One of the upstairs bathrooms contains the original corner tub and wall tiles. The original interior doors including hardware are mostly intact; some have had glass lights added to them. The closets have original painted louvered doors.

Alterations

Alterations to the System House are minimal. In about 2006, all of the glass doors and windows on the house were replaced with thermal double-pane glass. After 2002, the kitchen and bathroom fixtures were updated and new tile was installed on the walls. Other changes to the first floor that occurred at about the same time included the installation of bamboo floors, removal of the storage room and bathroom located off the dining room, and the application of decorative wall treatments in select locations.

Outbuildings

Workshop, contributing (ca. 1975)

The workshop located to the southeast of the house is a one-story 384-square-ft rectangular wood-frame building with a steeply pitched shed roof and concrete block footings. It was designed by local architect Gary Lindstrom and erected in approximately 1975. The walls are clad in plywood siding, and the roof, in asphalt shingles. The building faces west toward the parking area. The recessed entrance is located off-center on the west wall. Fenestration consists of asymmetrical aluminum casement windows on three sides, with a set of three placed off-center in the facade knee-wall. The interior of the building originally had unfinished walls with built-in workbenches and plywood floors. The current owners installed drywall and use the space as a seasonal office.

Garage, non-contributing (2006)

The garage located to the southwest of the house is a one-story 736-square-ft rectangular wood-frame building with a flat roof and a concrete slab foundation, built in 2006. The roof has a deep overhang on all sides that is supported by thin posts, similar to the house, and the walls are clad in flush vertical wood siding painted to match the house. Lighting is recessed in the soffits. The building faces east toward the parking area. Two asymmetrical glass-and-metal overhead doors, one single and one double, fill the majority of the east wall. A double-leaf glazed door similar to the house's main entrance is centered on the north wall, where a flagstone walkway connects the garage to the house terraces. An original carport was removed in 2006 when the garage was constructed.

Integrity

The System House remains on its original site within a quiet suburban setting surrounded by natural vegetation and mature trees. The house visually displays its original design intent and retains its original form, massing, and overall plan. Minor alterations to the interior layout and the construction of two small outbuildings on the property do not detract from the integrity of the house. The majority of original interior and exterior materials remain unaltered, including the exterior wood panels and the interior ceiling finishes.

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

1961-1979

Significant Dates

1961: House constructed

1969: Original owner and architect sells property

1975: Workshop constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lee, John Black (architect)

DeSilver, Harrison (architect)

Lindstrom, Gary (architect, workshop)

Rau, Ernest R. (builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the System House begins in 1961 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 architect Harrison DeSilver's ownership of the house from 1961 to 1969 and the construction of a workshop designed by notable local architect Gary Lindstrom in approximately 1975.

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 System 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 movement, and the development of 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 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 the first house constructed from John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver's innovative System House plan. Upon completion, the house was featured as a model work in national architectural periodicals and included in the 1961 Modern House Tour in New Canaan. The plan also won an American Institute of Architects (AIA) Merit Award in 1964. The System 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 considerably 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

Local architects John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver thrived as a result of their participation in the developing Modernist architectural enclave in New Canaan, Connecticut and used the System House property to experiment with their prototype for a "good custom home at reasonable cost" (LeMenager 1974). Lee (b. 1924) and DeSilver (b. 1914) joined the community in the 1950s and 1960s after the influential "Harvard Five" group established themselves in the town. Lee was working in Philadelphia for Oskar Stonorov (1905–1970), a former colleague of Louis Kahn's, when he decided to move his family to New Canaan because of its connections to Modern architecture as well as the availability of developable land. He obtained a job in Eliot Noyes' design firm and built a house for himself in 1952 (Lee House 1). Two years later, Lee established his own architectural practice in town.

In the mid-1950s, Lee purchased 20 acres of land along Chichester Road, which he subdivided into six lots and sold to other architects who intended to build Modern style houses. The subdivision may have been the first attempt to create a planned development of Modern style houses in Connecticut. His efforts followed the 1948 completion of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Usonia Homes" development in Pleasantville, New York, located a short distance northwest of New Canaan. The Usonia project involved the construction of 50 houses on 100 acres. Lee built his own house in the development in 1956 and sold a lot to his architect friend, Hugh Smallen who built a house for his family there in 1957. Smallen also designed the Becker and Parsons houses on Chichester Road in 1964 on lots previously transferred from Lee. He sold the last lot in the subdivision to his architectural partner, Harrison DeSilver and together they built the "System House" (1961), which received an honor award from the American Institute of Architects and publication in *Better Homes and Gardens* Magazine. Lee designed the garage constructed on the Parsons House property in 1971. The immediate neighborhood on Chichester, Wahackme, Toquam, and Greenly roads originally included John Black Lee's Day House (1965), three houses designed by Victor Christ-Janer (1953, 1954), two Techbuilt houses (1954), the Beaven Mills House designed by William Pederson (1956), and Jens Risom's second local home. Philip Johnson's Glass and Hodgson houses (1949, 1951) houses are located nearby on Ponus Ridge Road. John Johansen's own house (1949), also originally located on Ponus Ridge Road has been demolished.

John Black Lee was born in Chicago and studied math, civil engineering, and naval science at Brown University, graduating in 1947. During his childhood near Lake Forest, Illinois, he gained exposure to Frank Lloyd Wright and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, among other Modernists. Lee's mother, an interior designer, decorated many of Wright's houses in Lake Forest and was friends with Dr. Edith Farnsworth, who commissioned Mies van der Rohe to design her renowned Modern house in Plano, Illinois. Although Lee considered full-time graduate school in architecture, he instead moved back to Chicago to work as a carpenter on the advice of Walter Gropius (1883-1969), a Bauhaus architect and Harvard professor, who then operated his own practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While working for Illinois contractor Charles Miller, Lee met the Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, Paul Schweiker (1903-1997). Schweiker immediately hired Lee to work in his Roselle, Illinois architectural firm, Schweiker & Elting, Illinois, where Lee learned architecture by working directly in the field, drafting, building, and designing. Lee worked for Schweiker during the day and attended the architectural school at the Illinois Institute of Technology at night, which was directed by Mies van der Rohe. After briefly working as the lead architectural designer for Oscar Stonorov in Pennsylvania, Lee returned to the Northeast in 1951 and found employment with Eliot Noyes.

Harrison DeSilver relocated to New Canaan in 1960 because of its collection of Modern style architecture and influential designers. DeSilver was born in Brooklyn and followed a more traditional career path than Lee, earning his architecture degree from Columbia in 1952. During the 1950s DeSilver worked as an architect in New York City and traveled throughout Europe. After visiting New Canaan to attend one of the town's Modern House Tours, he was convinced he had found his new home (LeMenager 1974). Upon his arrival, DeSilver formed a partnership with Lee to design an affordable Modern house. The house based on their "System" was constructed on part of Lee's property in 1961, and DeSilver moved into it. It was included on the New Canaan Modern House Tour that year.

Areas of Significance: Criterion C

Architecture

The System House represents an innovative collaboration between Modernist local architects John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver that demonstrates their experimentation with an economical construction prototype. Both Lee and DeSilver strove to create affordable designs that applied the aesthetic elements of the Modern style to simple, functional family housing attainable at a modest cost. Prior to the creation of the System House prototype, Lee was already using substitutions of less expensive structural materials in his buildings such as wood framing in place of steel framing members. Lee designed two compact, minimalist wood-frame houses for himself in New Canaan (Lee House 1, 1952, and Lee House 2, 1956) before erecting the System House.

Lee and DeSilver minimized construction costs of the System House by devising an innovative, modular structural wood frame based on the standard dimensions of affordable stock materials. All of the structural, sheathing, and utilitarian components of the house were based on six-foot modules or "simple fractions thereof" (36, 24, 18, or 12 inches). Lee and DeSilver designed these dimensions to be "more compatible with the elements of a domestic interior" such as door openings and stairways than conventional framing (*Progressive Architecture* 1963). Lee and DeSilver left the wood structural components exposed to minimize expenses and serve a dual purpose as the interior surfaces. The framing plan incorporated space for utilities within the walls and floors. Exterior walls were constructed of two-story prefabricated panels with tongue-and-groove over plywood. This pioneering structural system eliminated the need for load-bearing interior walls and provided great flexibility in the plan, which could accommodate three or four bedrooms. The modular composition of the house naturally resulted in a symmetrical plan and exterior. Lee's design preference for symmetry, which is demonstrated in most of residential work, is related to his goal to achieve highly efficient but accommodating floor plans within a shell of minimal materials.

The System House was priced at \$32,000 to build. A 1963 *Better Homes & Gardens* publication, "Better Homes For All America" featured the System House on its cover and the magazine facilitated the sale of the plans for \$15.00 apiece (Lee 2010). More than 1,000 plans were eventually sold, although it is unknown how many of the houses were actually built. Lee noted that he occasionally received postcards or letters in the mail from people who had successfully

constructed System houses based on his design (Lee 2010). In 1964, the design won a “Homes for Better Living Award” in a program sponsored by the AIA, *House & Home* magazine, and The American Home.

DeSilver lived in the System House for nine years, until he moved to an early-twentieth-century home on Sunset Hill in New Canaan, which he subsequently remodeled in the Modern style. He also designed several commercial buildings in Connecticut, including the Phonograph Shop Building in Stamford (1962), as well as a residence on Martha’s Vineyard (Williams C. Bowie House, 1969). Lee designed at least eight Modern style houses in the New Canaan. He continues to live in New Canaan in the third house he designed for himself, which he completed in 1990.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Ownership history

The original five-acre lot on which the System House was built was subdivided in the 1960s, and the lot to the east of the house was developed separately. In 1969, Dr. Donald R. Homer and his wife Barbara purchased the System House and lived in it for almost 30 years. They hired local architect Gary Lindstrom to design the workshop on the property, which was built in approximately 1975. Ownership of the house changed in 1997 and again in 2002, when the current owners, Robert Pederson and Andrew Mersmann bought it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bloodgood, John D.

1963 "This is a great house!" *Better Homes and Gardens*, March 1963, 62-65.

Keyser, Elizabeth.

2006 "Modern age: These Connecticut houses are worth another look." *New York Post*, 16 November 2006, 56.

Lee, John Black

2010 Personal communication with Jenny Fields Scofield and Virginia H. Adams, May 18, 2010.

LeMenager, Jack.

1974 "Results of Busman's Holiday." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 21 November 1974.

New Canaan Advertiser

1961 "Unusual Homes Included in Tour." *New Canaan Advertiser*, 11 May 1961.

Progressive Architecture

1963 "'System House.'" *Progressive Architecture*, June 1963, 152-154.

House and Home

1964 "1964 Award Winners." *House & Home*, July 1964, 66-67.

Town of New Canaan

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

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 2.97 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>0623841</u>	<u>4556396</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The property boundaries encompass the legally recorded lines of Lot 53, shown on Map 26, containing 2.97 acres.

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 historic setting and appearance of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura J. Kline, Architectural Historian; Jenny Fields Scofield, AICP/Architectural Historian; and Virginia H. Adams, Senior 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 lkline@palinc.com; 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.)

System 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: System House

City or Vicinity: New Canaan

County: Fairfield **State:** Connecticut

Photographer: Jenny Fields Scofield, PAL, 210 Lonsdale Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Date Photographed: February 3, 2010

1 of 5. View of west elevation and facade looking northeast from garage.

2 of 5. View of north and west elevations looking southeast from yard.

3 of 5. View of north elevation looking south from yard; workshop is at left of house, garage is at right.

4 of 5. View of facade and east side elevation looking northwest from workshop.

5 of 5. View looking west through living room.

Property Owner:

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

name Robert M. Pederson and Andrew Mersmann

street & number 128 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

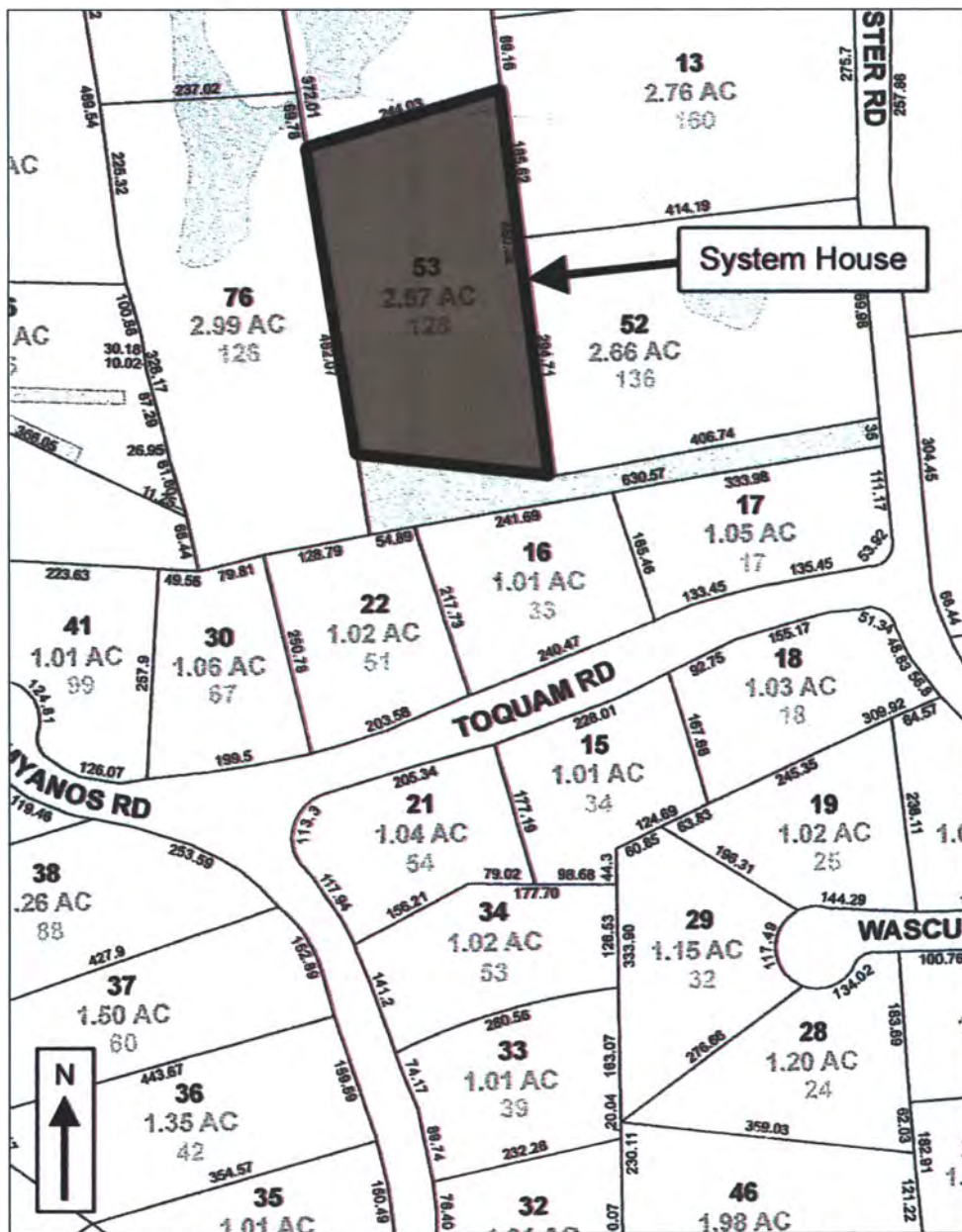
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

System 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 Assessor's Office 2010)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

System House

Fairfield County, Connecticut

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

Site Plan of the System House Property



(Base Map source: <http://www.yahoo.com>. Accessed March 10, 2010).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

System House

Fairfield County, Connecticut

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

Historic Images



1963 view of System House, looking northeast at west elevation and façade (Source: *Progressive Architecture* 1963).

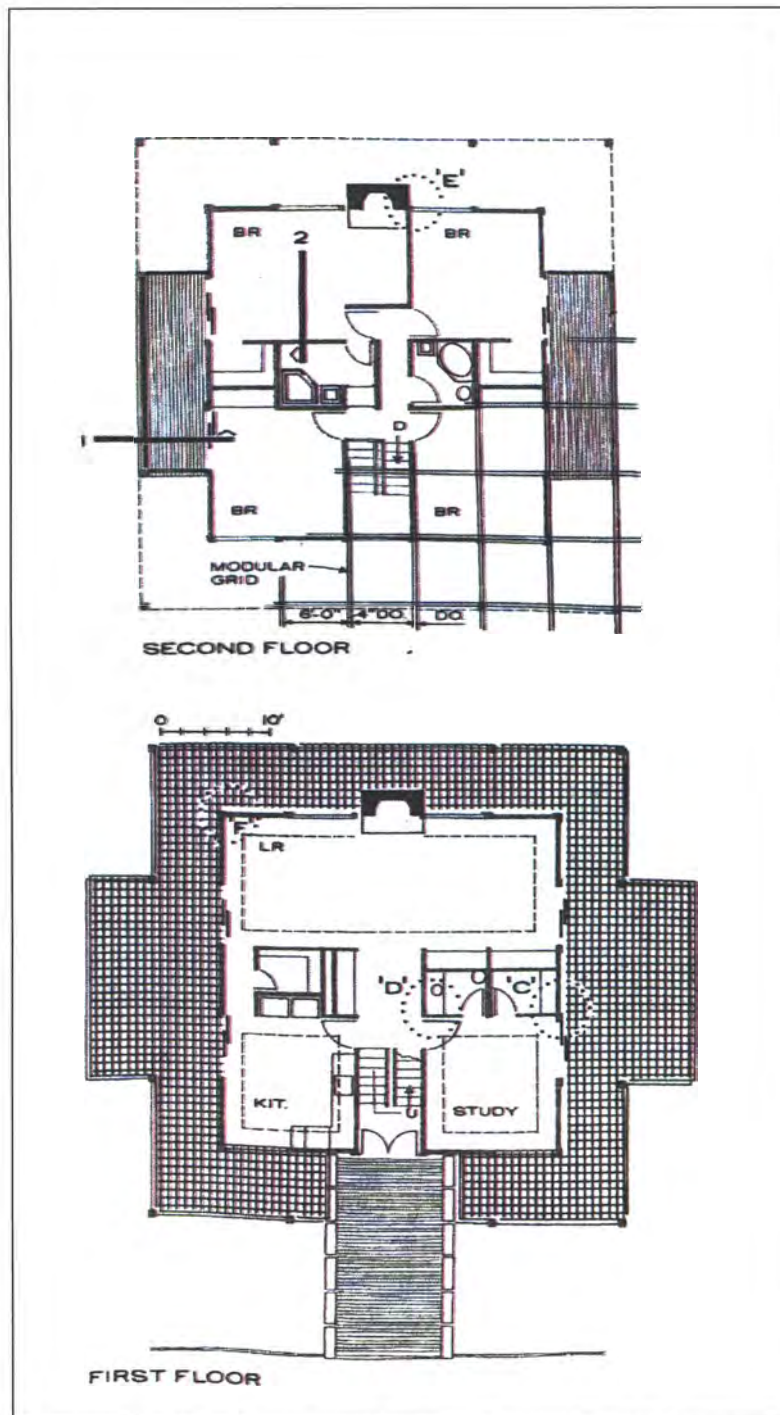
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

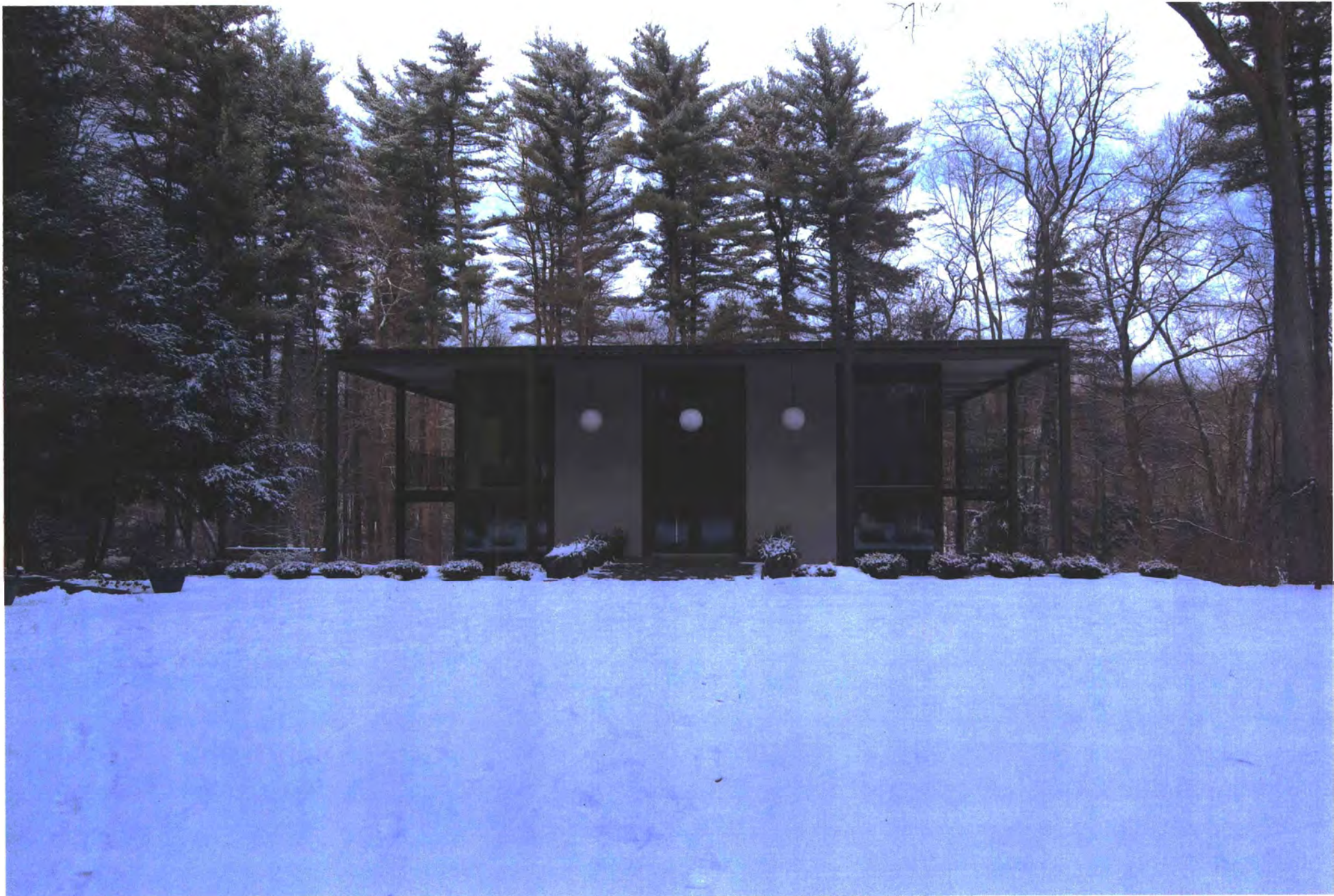
System House

Fairfield County, Connecticut

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



System House original floor plans (Source: *Progressive Architecture* 1963).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY System House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut 1930-
NAME: 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: 10000571

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

202-351-2278

DATE

Sept 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
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

System House
Name of Property
Fairfield County, CT
County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD


NRIS Reference Number: 10000571

Property Name: System House

County: Fairfield County State: CT

Multiple Name: Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Residences in Connecticut 1930-1979

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/16/10
Date of Action

Amended Item in Nomination

This SLR is issued to make the following technical and substantive corrections:

Section 5

The workshop is listed as contributing. This should be changed to noncontributing (see below).

Section 8

The house was built in 1961 and the nomination should indicate Criteria Consideration G. This appears to be justified, even though the architect is still living, as the design is a prototype of the innovative "System House plan". However, the workshop, built in 1975 and designed by Gary Lindstrom, may be sympathetic but should not be included as a contributing resource.

The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

Distribution

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY System House
NAME:

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

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 9/14/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000571

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER JJ, JDA

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 9/16/10

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





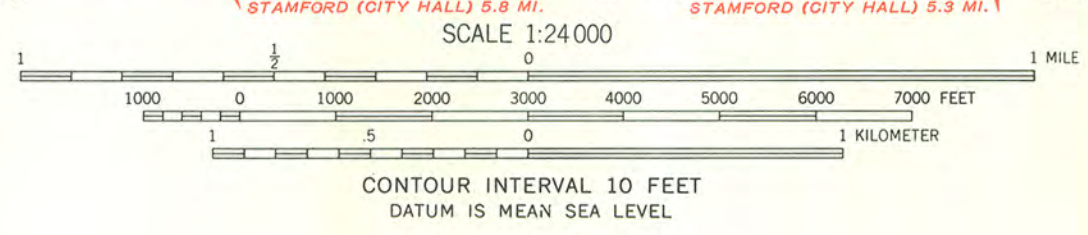
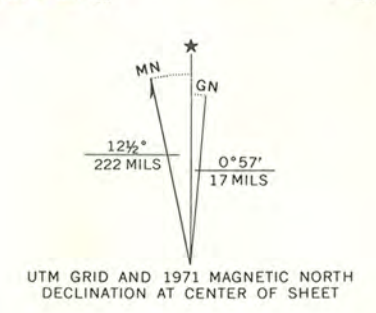








Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1951. Revised 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot 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 unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

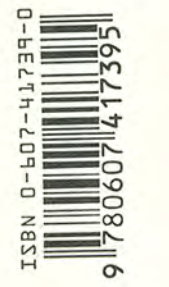
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

State Route
Interstate Route

POUND RIDGE, N. Y.—CONN.

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

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



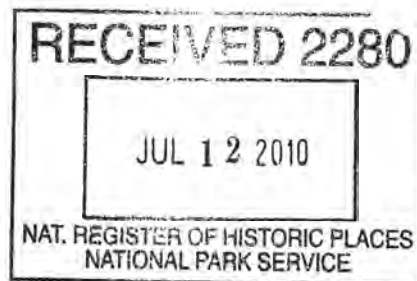


Arts
Tourism
Film
History

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 System 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: _____



Film Division

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