



HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*** Note:** Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Geisinger House
 Building Name (Historic) Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Geisinger House
 Street Address or Location 125 Stevenson Road
 Town/City New Haven Village Westville County New Haven
 Owner(s) Snow, Sandra L. Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Residential - Single Family
 Historic Use: Residential - Single Family

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist - Wrightian Date of Construction 1964

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Wood</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other _____

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 _____

Number of Stories: one Approximate Dimensions 32' x 75', 18' x 98'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden
- Other landscape features or buildings: Carport, Patio, Driveway paving

Surrounding Environment:

- Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural
- High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The house is located on the north side of Stevenson Road, a curving street of suburban-style ranch and split-level homes dating from the post WW II period. The .61-acre parcel is larger than average for the area. It occupies a prime hill-top site and at the rear (north) side, it abuts a wooded buffer area belonging to the Yale golf course (the Course at Yale), affording an unusual degree of privacy and access to a natural environment.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

The house is sited at the top of a rise. A driveway leads up a slight rise to a paved court. The house is a T-shaped brick structure with long low hipped roofs defining the volumes. At the right an open car port has a southward roof extension of the main block floating above a brick screen wall. The main mass of the building, behind the court, is oriented southwest to northeast, roughly parallel to the street, and consists of a long one-story volume with hipped roof. The pale pinkish brick walls have several vertical slit window openings and the entry is a glazed area near the inside corner formed with the car port wing. There are two massive battered brick chimneys at the north and east sides, projecting above the roof planes. There is a wing extending north from the east end of the main volume, toward the rear, which steps down along the slope of the land. The lower level has battered brick walls carrying a wood and stucco main level and balcony. A porch and patio are extensions of the space into the garden on the north side.

Architect Julius Hoechel, Engineer-Vincent C. Amore design Builder Mrs. Ruth Geisinger

• Historical or Architectural importance: One of the last areas of New Haven to be developed, Stevenson Road and Kohary Drive form a dead-end loop with a series of interior curving roads rising over a hill and dipping into a hollow. The roads were laid out and developed as a suburban enclave; almost all the houses built in just a few years between 1955 and 1960. The houses are consistent in style and alignment, varying mainly in their elevations, as the topography lent itself to split level layouts on the slopes and ranch style homes for the flatter parcels. 125 Stevenson Road is unique in exhibiting a custom design in a Wrightian modernist idiom. Horizontality is emphasized by the dominant hipped roof forms with deep eave overhangs, the sprawling 1-story layout, and the massive brickwork. The parking court and open carport at the front and the patio at the rear integrate the flow of interior and exterior space. The emphasis on privacy provided by the front landscaping and secluded rear garden differ markedly from the typical homes of the area which have manicured front lawns and driveways perpendicular to the street leading directly to the dominant garage doors.

See continuation sheet.

- Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976.
- Carley, Rachel D., *Tomorrow is Here: New Haven and the Modern Movement* (Privately published by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.
- New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 414/1249/002, Building Department permit files.
- Pannenberg, Frank, personal communication & examination of permit drawings, 2011.
- Amore, Vincent C., Project List provided at personal interview, July 1, 2010, New Haven Preservation Trust.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/19/2011

View South views from street Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/17/2011

Organization New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 934 State Street, P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Threats to the building or site:

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

125 Stevenson Road, New Haven CT

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• Historical or Architectural importance (*continued*):

Architect Vincent C. Amore studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, worked for several years as a staff architect for the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, and was involved in the Agency's strategies for directing the quality of design in renewal building projects. Other projects in which he was involved include 843 State Street, 426 East Street (see Inventory forms), and several others in the Wooster Square and Hamilton Street areas. He continued his architectural practice through the end of the 20th century. This is an example of a Modernist Wrightian design in which the detailing of brick and horizontal roof planes contribute to a harmony with the natural aspects of the site. Although Amore did not sign the drawings for the building permit, he includes this house in his project list. The drawings are readily recognizable as his work (Pannenberg).



1. South view from Stevenson Road, camera facing north.



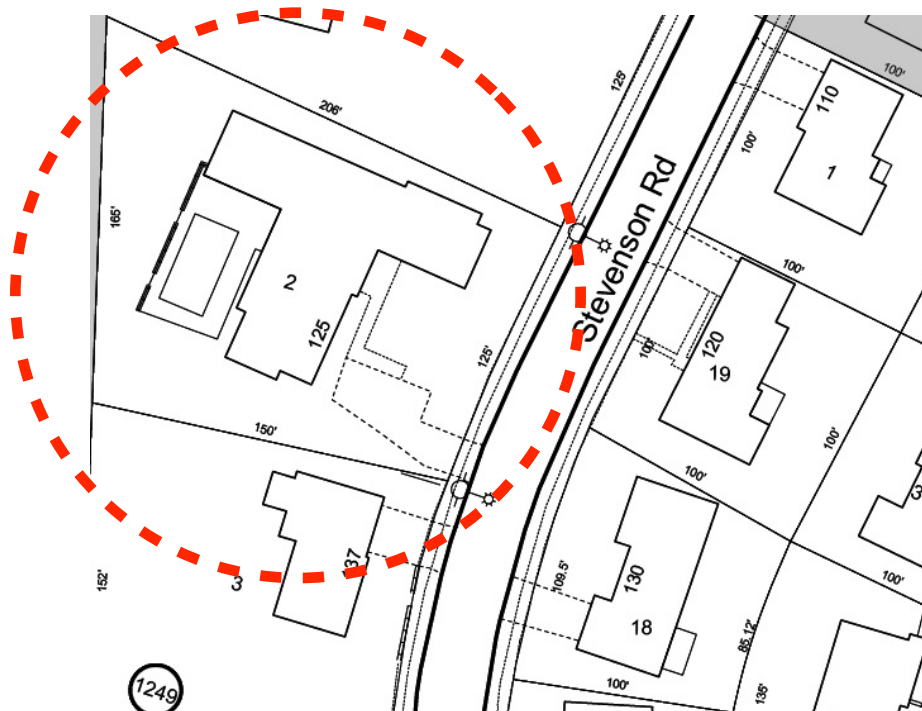
2. Southeast view from Stevenson Road, camera facing northwest.



3. South detail view of raised front yard garden from Stevenson Road, camera facing north.



4. South aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 1/19/2011.



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 414/1249/002.