

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

264



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)	
	Roadside, Rachel Crothers House	William Dikeman House
	2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
	Danbury	Fairfield
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)	
	55 Long Ridge Road	
	4. OWNER(S)	
	John Loomis <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) (Historic)	
	Dwelling Dwelling	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
	Colonial Revival	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	c. 1840, 1925	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
10. ROOF (Type)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		
Two + Attic		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
46 x 61		
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Old house moved & enlarged into present		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) structure <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		
The house is part of a rural streetscape of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses along Long Ridge Road.		

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

The house is L-shaped, with its long facade facing Long Ridge Road. The roof line is broken by a central hip with suggested balustrade, next to which is a stone chimney, and a central gabled dormer flanked by two eyebrow dormers. The facade has a central entry sheltered by a portico surmounted by a balcony which is accessed by French doors which are flanked by sidelights to form a Palladian motif. Windows elsewhere in the facade are paired, with eight over eight sash, except in the north section, which is lighted by banks of four casement windows.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house originated as a farmhouse which stood closer to the road and which was built for farmer William Dikeman during the 1840's. Dikeman died during the Civil War but his family continued to occupy the house until 1895. In 1918, it was acquired by playwright Rachel Crothers. In 1925, she had the old house moved back and enlarged, forming the central section of the present Colonial Revival structure. The house is significant as one of several large Colonial Revival houses along Long Ridge Road which contribute to the rural streetscape, and also as the home of Crothers, who was rated as one of the top playwrights in the United States and was a part of the arts and literary summer colony of Long Ridge during the 1920's and 1930's.

SOURCES

Danbury Tax Assessor's Records (133 & 1977); Danbury Land Records (DLR 30:67, 103:499, 153:475); Civil War Veterans Buried in Danbury, at the Scott-Fanton Museum; 1856 Clark map; 1867 Beers Atlas

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

William E. Devlin

DATE

Feb., 1986

VIEW

east facade

NEGATIVE ON FILE

Conn. Historical Commission

Place

COMPILED BY

NAME

Imogene Heireith

DATE

May, 1986

Photograph

ORGANIZATION

Danbury Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2201, Danbury, CT 06813

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers
 Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning



ASSESSOR'S CARDS

"Roadside" present name

STREET Long Ridge Rd LOT# I 24011

HOUSE OR BLDG. # 55 Rachel Crothers house 13 TC 6394 parcel A parcel D

OWNER(S) John N. Loomis

FRONT 500 REAR 1200' on old Past Rd AV. DEPTH _____

BLDG. 2 rm dwg 1-2-B TYPE 4+ YEAR BUILT 1925 CONDITION _____

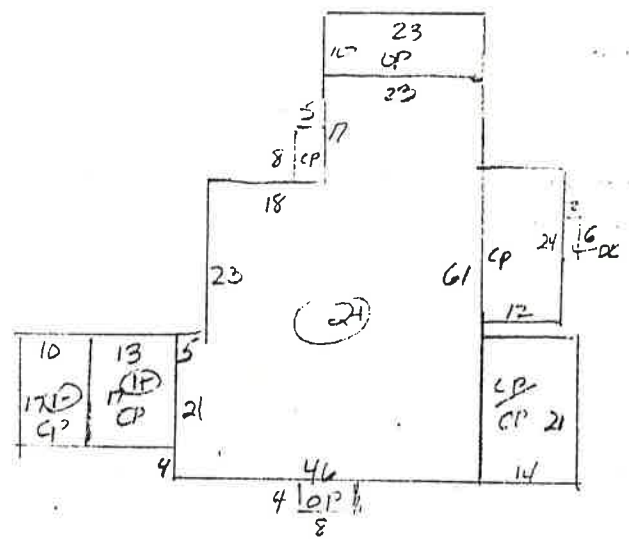
TYPE
1 fam
5 1st
72nd
FOUNDATION
Stone
full cellar
ROOFING
Shingles

ROOF SHAPE
Gable
EXT. WALLS
ced shingle

FLOORS
Cem cellar
pine
HEATING
forced hot air
oil
PLUMBING
4 Compl. 3 fix

INT. FINISH
plaster
f/s attic rms
3 firepl. 1 chr.

DIAGRAM VOLUME 577 / 7 PAGE _____



OUT BLDG. Det gar CONST. block ROOF Gable FLOOR Cone

pool - fieldstone not asable polluted water - fed through by stream dirt

55 W side Long Ridge Rd.
Rachel Crothers home - Loomis

34011
13

577/7 Anne Sheffield Anwyl
of 1155 Park Ave, N.Y.C. ex est
Angeline G. Hoagland \$175,000[±]

TC 6394

Card - 1925
1867 map Mrs Dikeman
1876 map W. Dikeman
old building torn down
old card has: moved

John N. Loomis

100 year old house
10 rm dwg 2 fire pl
Ch.
which would be
ca 1830's which fits
over

42 A

N n/f est David Osborn & highway
E Long Ridge

42 A
- 2.C

S n/f David Osborn, n/f Russel White
& Id Daniel White

W Id Daniel White & highway
except 2.6 A (map 1457) conveyed by
Rachel Crothers to Lucille Watson Shipman
252/266 22 Jan 1951

Same Amelia A. Field to Rachel Crothers 2 Nov 1918 153/475
also 4A

This N of
above

N by hwy

E n/f William Dikeman

S n/f William Dikeman

W highway

19 Dec. 1975

Same Alice Stuart to Rachel Crothers 164/383

349/598 Prob. Rachel Crothers
to

Angeline G. Hoagland of N.Y.C.

friend of doc & Id & bldgs

40 A Long Ridge

N Nellie M. Read, Id WM H. Brown &

E highway, Id James Albert Owens

formerly Lucille Watson Shipman

(E&S) & Id Virginia Tryon Brown

no words
listed in Land Rec
but these words

- (S) Id Walter Tittle & Id Arabel E Wickes

(W) Id Lake Tormid (Lake Waubesa) & by Id

Joseph Merriam et als

all boundaries now or formerly

Same 153/475 except 2.6 A 252/266

also. 4A Long Ridge

N & W highway

E & S heirs of William Dikeman

7 Dec. 1959

This N of
above

16A

252/266

Rachel Crothers
to Lucille Watson Shipman

2.6A Long Ridge
N other ld Grantor 530'
E Long Ridge rd 211.33
S ld n/ Virginia V. Tryon 445'
W ld William Brown Jr 20'
bounded by stone walls on E SFW
on map 1457 22 Jan 1951

153/475 Amelia A. Field of Brooklyn NY

to Rachel Crothers
ld & bldgs 42A+

Older building
no longer
standing by road
Card has 1925
built - old house
moved back &
used as central
hall portion of
this present house

N of David Osborn est
E highway
S of David Osborn est, Russell
White n/ of Daniel White off
W Daniel White of highway
2 Nov. 1918

Per. Monique Wredel
original building on lot stood by side of road. Rachel
Crothers was supposed to have moved the old house
back on the lot and used it as the central portion
of the existing house.

164/383

Alice C Stuart
to Rachel Crothers

this pc.
New of other

pc ld 4A
N & W highway
E & S land heirs William Dikeman
Same 164/383 2 June 1923

164/382

Orrin B. Morrell
to Alice C. Stuart
4A Same 153/314

pc. New of
other

22 May 1923

153/314

Jennie N. Light
to Orrin B. Morrell
last tract 64/159

pc New of
other

Joseph P. Wood to Orrin & Bronson.

16B

137/554 Mary A. Griffin

to

Amelia A. Field of Brooklyn Kings Co. N.Y.
42 A land & buildings Long Ridge

Same

2 Nov. 1910

103/499

Orson Dikeman

QC to

Mary A Griffin 1/2 interest

1 Apr. 1895

107/161

prob. R. Maria Dikeman

settled 24 Dec 1894

to Orson Dikeman of Waterbury New Haven Co

& Mary A. Griffin ea undiv 1/2 int

42 A Long Ridge

N David Osborn est

E highway

S est David Osborn & Daniel White

W Daniel White & highway

24 Dec 1894

85/282

we Orson Dikeman of Waterbury New Haven Co.

Mary A Dikeman & Mary E Dikeman

to "Reumah Maria Dikeman" (no mother)

42 A ld & bldgs being property of the
late William Dikeman decd

to con. all interest we have in est
as heirs

15 Dec 1886

DPR William Dikeman d 23 June 1864 ac 53 Soldie

(Chronic Diarrhea)

1867 map

Mrs. Dikeman

Co. A 11th Conn. Inf

1856 map

W. Dikeman

d 26 June 1864 ac 52

bur Wooster Cem.

DPR 26/214

land:

inv. est William Dikeman taken 16 Aug 1864

1 dwelling house

1 barn

This adds up

to 43 A

total

6 A front land

4 A Swamp 2 A buckwheat lot

1 A 4 A Mt Pleasant

3 A Griffin land 4 A lot

15 A Cooper Swamp

4 A Paddy lot

The only L&S for William Dikeman date from 1841 & 1839 32/237 3A would be the "Griffin land" mentioned in inv. above other land purchased

30/67 Judson White

\$1454

to

William Dikeman

5 pc. land Long Ridge (no buildings mentioned)

- ① 15 A N highway & Joseph P. Wood (was 4 pc)
house built on this pc David Osborn
E highway
S Russell White, Union Griffin & Selledo Leland
W Union Griffin
- ② 4 A N Noah Wood & wife Clark Smith (was Rider)
E Beaver Dam Brook
S & W highway
- ③ 4 A N David Osborn (she was Rider)
E wife Clark Smith
S Noah Wood
W highway
- ④ 15 A N Joseph Dibble
E highway
S & W Judson White
- ⑤ 5 A N Amos Hoyt
E highway
S & W Niram Dikeman

= 43 A

res. right of wife & heirs of Clark Smith to pass & repass through 2nd pc. 16 Feb 1839

There were no houses (or buildings) mentioned on any of the pieces purchased by William Dikeman in 1839 & 1841. The 100 year date for the original house on the 1933 assessors card then would be close to correct. House was supposedly moved back & incorporated into the central core of Radial Crothers house built post 1918 - ca 1925 per assessors card.