

= House at 130 Mohegan Avenue =

The House at 130 Mohegan Avenue , also known as the House of Steel or Steel House , is a prefabricated , modular , International Style house in New London , Connecticut , United States . The House was designed by Howard T. Fisher , who founded General Houses , Inc. in 1932 . Winslow Ames , a professor of art history at Connecticut College and the art director of the Lyman Allyn Museum , had the home built after attending the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago . The House is a single story 21 feet ( 6 @. @ 4 m ) by 37 feet ( 11 m ) rectangular steel prefabricated home that rests upon a concrete slab . It originally had a flat roof and included an attached garage . Throughout the years , the house has undergone significant alteration , including the addition of a gable roof .

The house was used by Ames , and later by Connecticut College , as a rental property , until the structure was slated for demolition in 2004 . The push to restore the house is credited to Doug Royalty , who worked with the college 's Abigail Van Slyck . Completed in 2013 , restoration cost \$ 500 @, @ 000 and involved several phases , including the dismantling , transportation , and reassembly of the house . The house was added to the Connecticut Historic Register in July 2007 and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 28 , 2009 .

= = Construction and use = =

The house was designed by Howard T. Fisher , who founded General Houses , Inc . , and commissioned by Winslow Ames , a professor of art history at Connecticut College and the art director of the Lyman Allyn Museum . In 1933 , Ames decided to construct two houses on the museum @-@ owned property after seeing prefabricated homes at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago . Ames had a strong interest in the Modernism movement and believed such houses would become predominant .

Completed in November 1933 and costing about \$ 4 @, @ 500 in total , the House is a single story 21 feet ( 6 @. @ 4 m ) by 37 feet ( 11 m ) rectangular steel prefabricated home that rests upon a concrete slab . The house is frameless , with the weight borne by 4 feet ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) by 9 feet ( 2 @. @ 7 m ) steel panels ; the exterior panels are flanged and vertically bolted through wooden T @-@ shaped pieces . The interior wall panels are made of steel and filled with insulation . Originally the house had a flat roof , but it changed to a gable roof at an unknown time . The house has two bedrooms , one bathroom , and an open living @-@ dining @-@ kitchen space . The house also has an attached garage .

After its completion , Winslow Ames used the house as a rental property until 1949 when he went to work in a museum in Springfield , Missouri . The house was sold to Connecticut College . Connecticut College continued to rent it to staff and students until 2004 , when plans were made to demolish the house . Changing the flat roof to a gable roof was a significant alteration from the original plan ; the date of the alteration is unknown , but it preceded 1995 .

= = Restoration = =

In 2008 , an article in The Day stated that the push to restore the house came from conservation specialist Doug Royalty , who was researching prefabricated homes from the 1920s and 1930s . Royalty approached Abigail Van Slyck , the chairwoman of Connecticut College 's art history department and architectural studies program about the house . The Day referred to the house 's historic value as a new discovery , but its history was included in the Winslow Ames House National Register of Historic Places nomination in 1995 . The Winslow Ames House nomination detailed the House 's origin , but criticized its gable roof modification . After its re @-@ discovery , Connecticut College began collecting grants to restore the house under the direction of Royalty and Van Slyck . Royalty stated that the House and Winslow Ames House are very rare , with only a few surviving examples in the United States .

In April 2007 , the leaking roof was repaired . In December 2007 , the House received a \$ 28 @, @

500 grant from the Dr. Scholl Foundation . The grant was used to complete lead @-@ paint abatement , which would make conducting other restoration work safer . By 2010 , the Dr. Scholl Foundation granted another \$ 50 @,@ 000 and a family foundation provided another \$ 50 @,@ 000 for the restoration . It was reported that other college grants totaling \$ 15 @,@ 500 were given for preservation planning , in part by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation . It was reported in May 2010 that a matching grant of \$ 101 @,@ 500 was given to Connecticut College from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism , which provided the funding for the next phase of renovations for restoring the House .

The celebration for the House 's completed restoration was held in October 2013 . The cost of restoration totaled around \$ 500 @,@ 000 . The building was dismantled , transported to Philadelphia for restoration and treatment for rust resistance , and then reassembled on the campus . The work was performed by Milner + Carr , a conservation company . The house was added to the Connecticut Historic Register on July 2007 and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 28 , 2009 .