

= Winslow Ames House =

The Winslow Ames House is a prefabricated modular International Style house in New London , Connecticut , United States . It was designed by Robert W. McLaughlin , Jr. and was built in 1933 . 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 . Constructed for \$ 7 @, @ 500 , the prefabricated house is one of two surviving Motohomes produced by McLaughlin 's company American Houses Inc . The modular house , comprising three rectangles and a flat roof , was constructed on a concrete slab with a welded steel framework . It was made with asbestos panels and features a core component that provides the heating and plumbing functions for the house . The other two modules feature two bedrooms and a one @-@ car garage .

Ames and his family resided in the house briefly , the Connecticut College acquired the house in 1949 and used it for faculty housing until 1986 . The house was in a state of disrepair by 1989 and was a hazard due to its construction with asbestos panels . It was slated to be demolished , but Ms. Hendrickson rallied supporter to the save the house after uncovering its history . A restoration and rehabilitation project was completed in 1994 and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 . The other prefabricated house built by Ames , House at 130 Mohegan Avenue , was also added the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 .

= = Construction = =

The Winslow Ames House was unlike other homes of the 1930s , it is a modular home that was constructed on a concrete slab and constructed with a welded steel framework . The designer of the house was John B. McLaughlin Jr . , who co @-@ founded American Houses Inc. in 1932 . McLaughlin 's designs focused on inexpensive housing through mass production and new materials and technology . The International Style house was modular and intended to allow easy enlargement , dismantling and relocation of the structure if needed . The houses , termed " Motohomes " , featured modular " motounits " that contained heating and plumbing equipment . The use of steel in the prefabricated homes would later be limited by World War II , which made steel unavailable for civilian use . After the war , prefabricated homes were typically made of wood and offices were normally constructed of steel and concrete .

The house bears the name of 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 . The Ames house cost \$ 7 @, @ 500 , similar to other McLaughlin houses from 1933 and 1934 , which ranged from \$ 3 @, @ 500 to \$ 7 @, @ 500 each . Later , Ames and his family would briefly take up residence in the house . The other house , known as the " House at 130 Mohegan Avenue " would be added the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 .

The Winslow Ames house rests on a concrete foundation and has a welded steel skeleton . The walls were made of 4 feet ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) white @-@ painted panels that were constructed of asbestos board over an insulating core . The two @-@ story house is composed of three rectangular modules , offset to create an irregular plan , with a flat roof structure . The largest block in the middle contains the service core with the kitchen and bathroom . The left block contains the main entry , stair hall and two bedrooms . The right block consists of the one @-@ car garage and its second story only covers its overlap with the middle block .

= = Use = =

The house was ready for occupancy in 1934 and was used by many tenants , but the Ames sold the house to the Connecticut College in 1949 . Sometime after its completion , Winslow Ames and

his family lived in the house for a brief period . From 1949 to 1987 , the college used it for faculty housing . One of the tenants , Mary Kent , lived in the house with her husband and three children from 1958 through 1961 . Throughout its life the original furnace , kitchen cabinets , plumbing fixtures were replaced , but the core module has retained its purpose . The house fell into a state of disrepair , becoming an " eyesore " . By 1989 , the college was concerned with the asbestos in the building and obtained a permit to demolish the house ; the college intended to use the land for a boathouse . After its restoration was completed , the Connecticut College uses the house as an office and for meeting rooms .

= = Restoration = =

The house was saved through the efforts of Ms. Hendrickson , who uncovered the history surrounding the house and its designer . The house was deemed a " rare survivor " because only one other Mott home remained in White Plains , New York . Hendrickson gathered supporters , including from the students and faculty of the college and New London Landmarks to save the house . The demolition was delayed and in May 1990 , the Connecticut Historical Commission gave the college \$ 24 @, @ 000 . The college matched the funds , which were originally planned for its demolition . During the restoration , the asbestos board panels were covered over non @-@ asbestos panels that mimic the appearance of the original . A new roof was installed and the windows were replaced with vertical casement windows which were originally used . The interior and exterior of the house was coated with white paint , but the restoration did not revert the flooring to the original Masonite rectangles . The restoration project was completed in 1994 and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 .