

# Art as Work | Work as Art



Photo: Ed Marsh, 2014

Sam Goldman



The Goldman House, located in Piscataway New Jersey, is on the National Register of Historic Places (#10000813) and the New Jersey Register (#4967), for both its artistic significance and its historic significance, e.g., here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldman\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldman_House)

[https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/10000813\\_text](https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/10000813_text)

[https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr\\_lists/MIDDLESEX.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr_lists/MIDDLESEX.pdf)

The Goldman House was part of the utopian Ferrer Colony that included the Stelton Modern School of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was built by Sam Goldman from 1915 to 1937 after having fled Russian political persecution, and it had been a residence up until 2024.

According to the National Park Service, Sam's work was informed by "Cubism, Constructivism, Social Realism, American Regionalism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Surrealism, and Minimalism". Its stucco façade includes figurative and decorative bas reliefs.

Rutgers University Special Collections has some print materials and artifacts from the Colony, here:

<http://www2.scc.rutgers.edu/ead/manuscripts/Modernb.html>

As such, this little house is worth preserving for many reasons, and as worthy as any other such structures. In total, the house itself is a work of art. It's the most unique house in New Jersey.

The house has recently been sold, and is expected to be demolished unless it, or sections of it, can be relocated.

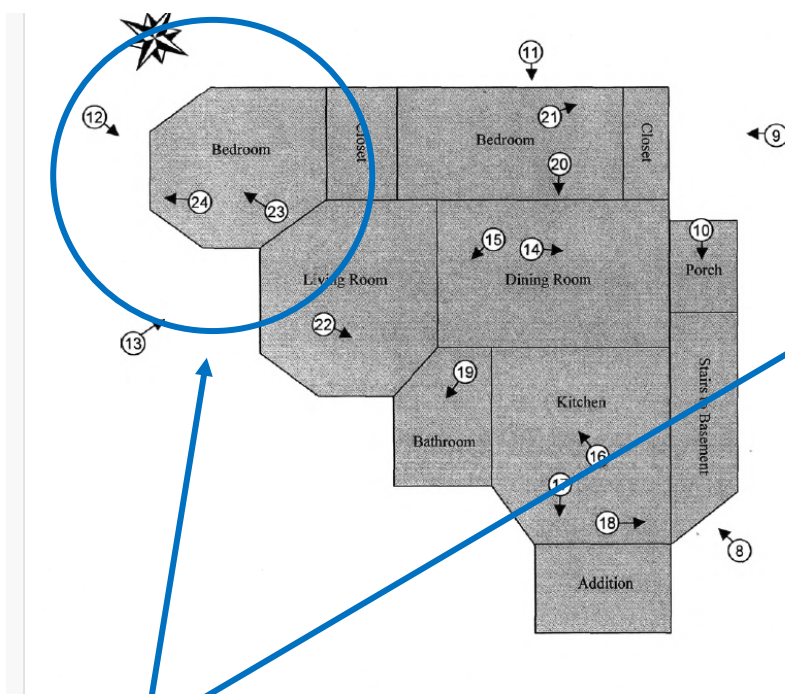
The Goldman House is 900 sq.ft., sited on about a half-acre of land. Excluding a raised basement, it is approximately 8 feet tall. It was built in modular sections. The most artistic section constitutes an irregular heptagon of about 150 sq. ft. with a footprint of approximately 11'6" x 13'2".

That section, or the entire house, can be relocated in order to protect it from demolition.

The irregular heptagon is on a 3 foot high raised basement. In order to maintain the bas reliefs as they are, that heptagon would be transported on a raised cradle, then placed onto a raised slab at its new site. Being heptagonal, it can be essentially self-standing for use as an office, shed, or gazebo.

It has a flat membrane roof that has never leaked as known.

The heptagon includes 2 figurative stucco bas reliefs, some decorative bas reliefs, 3 or 4 cubist window frames, and 3 decorative wall sconces.



Irregular heptagon  
approximately 150 sq.ft.





## Exterior Features

All photos below are from different sources, from different times.

Exterior figurative bas reliefs

stucco



Social Realist

Worker, hammer,  
peasant sickle, and  
liberty cap

stucco





Art Nouveau

“Happy Landing”,  
stork

stucco



Art Nouveau

Swan

stucco



Art Nouveau decorative  
bas reliefs  
stucco



Photo: Ed Marsh





Art Nouveau decorative bas  
reliefs  
stucco



Photo: Ed Marsh, 2014



Art Nouveau decorative bas  
reliefs  
stucco

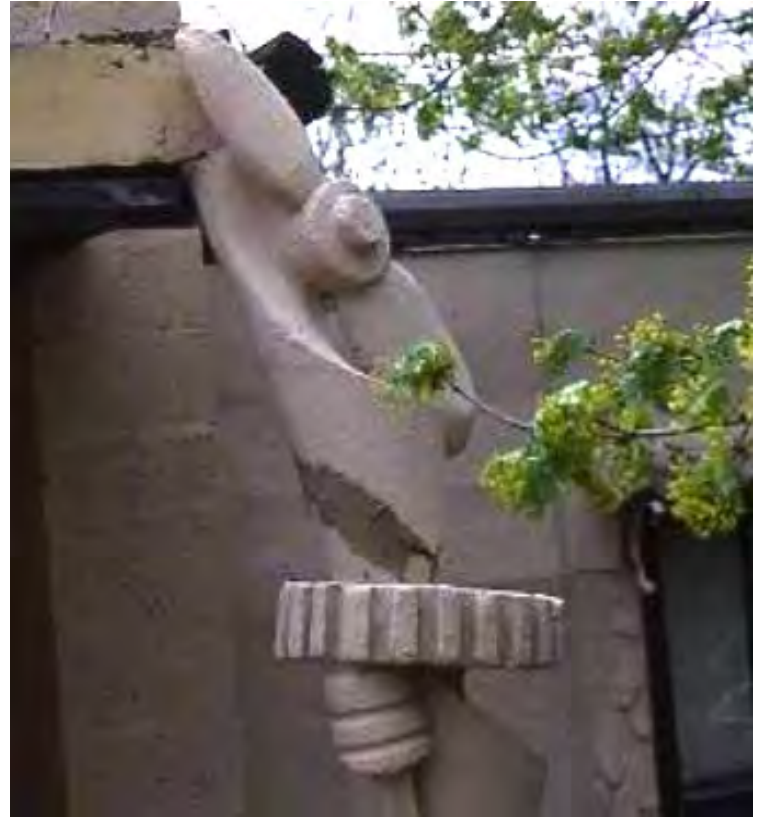


Social Realist figurative bas  
relief,  
“Muscled Man with Mallet”  
stucco





Constructivist sculptural pillar  
concrete



Surrealist fountain  
concrete

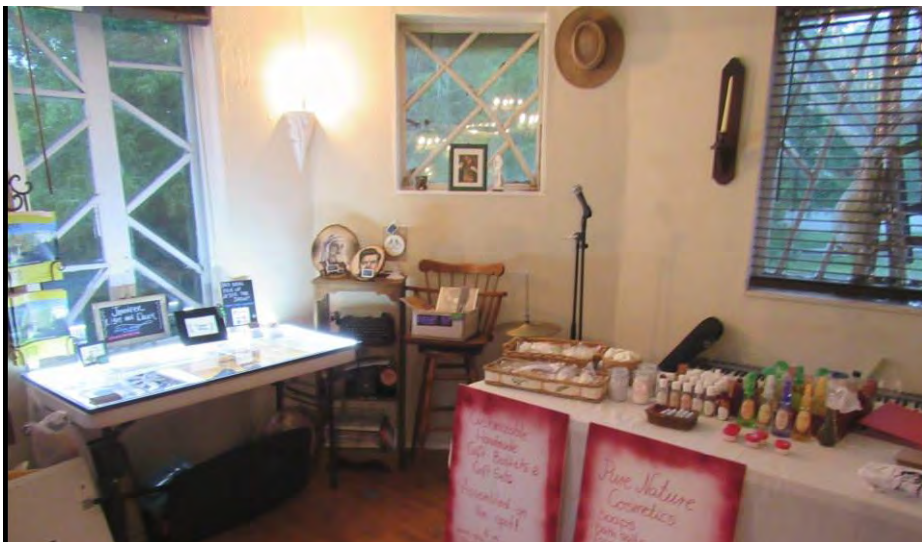




Cubist window frames  
wood



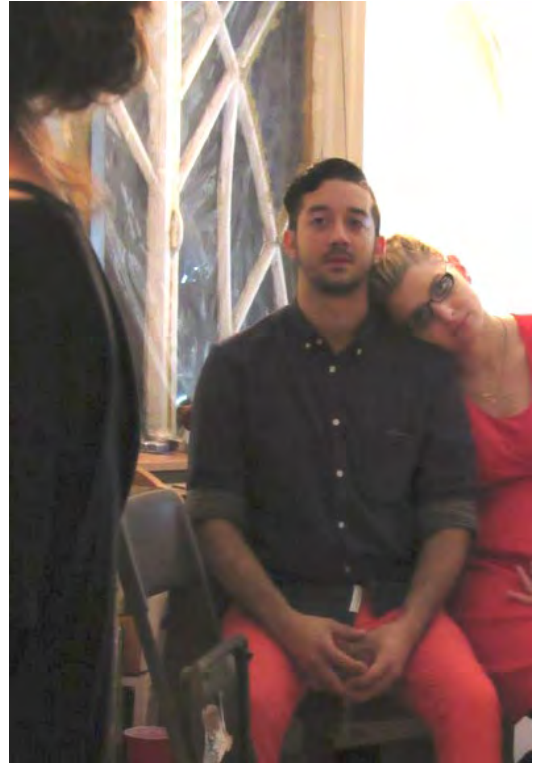
Photo: Ed Marsh, 2014





Cubist window frames

wood



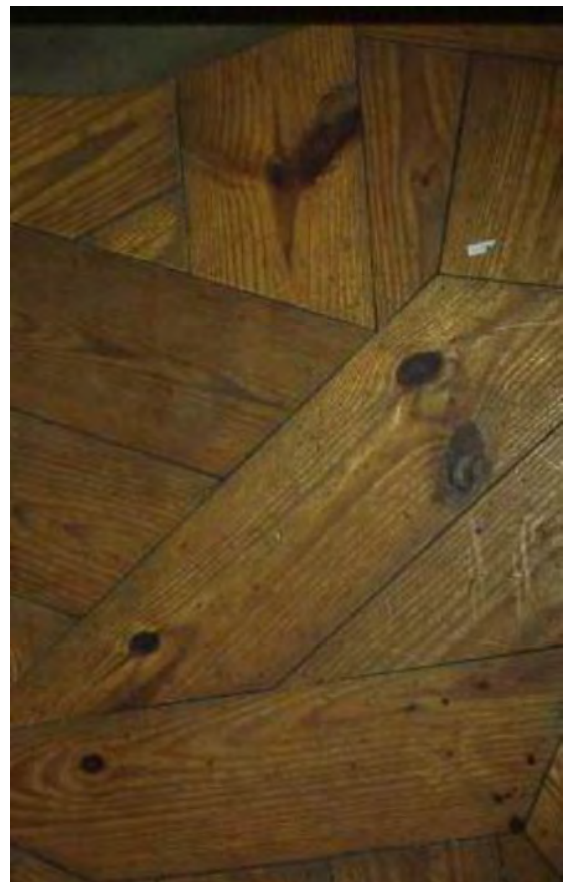


## Interior Features

Cubist ceiling  
material unknown

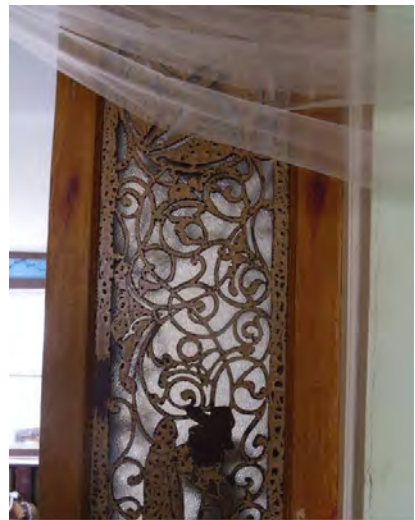


Cubist flooring  
wood





Social Nouveau  
folding doors  
wood and plexiglass



Cubist exterior door  
wood



Cubist interior door  
wood





Cubist cabinet  
wood





Art Nouveau wall sconces  
wood



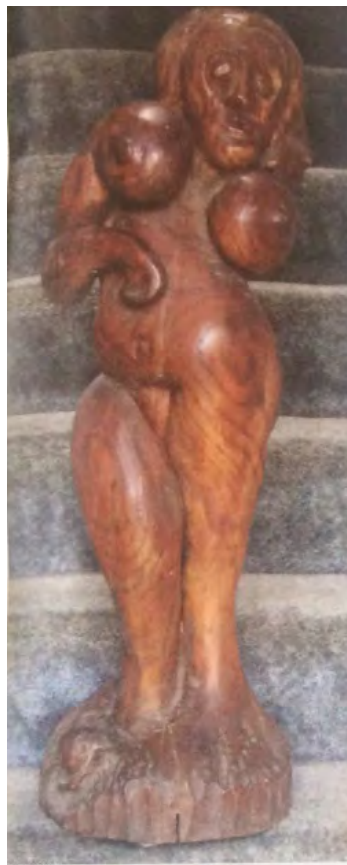


**Ephemera**

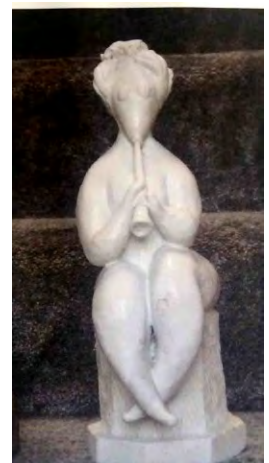
Psychedelic masks  
concrete?



Birth of Venus,  
telephone pole wood,



"Musica"  
porcelain?





Constructivist plaque  
wood



Constructivist radio panel  
wood



Figure 7