

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
99 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Robert W. Merriam House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 301 Washington Terrace
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residential Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1909
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard _____ asbestos siding _____ brick
 wood shingle _____ asphalt siding _____ fieldstone
 board & batten _____ stucco _____ cobblestone
 aluminum siding _____ concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: _____ foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry _____ structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. 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: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 38'x38'

12. CONDITION: Structural: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
Exterior: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site _____ moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: _____

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn _____ shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Brick
- carriage house _____ shop _____ garden patio in rear

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- open land _____ woodland residential _____ scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial _____ industrial _____ rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces north to Washington Park from the south side of Washington Terrace. The heavily shaded park effectively screens the residences on Washington Terrace from the traffic on Rte. 66. A variety of residential structures are represented in the area, as well as the Wesleyan Center for the Arts complex, which neighbors this building to the east and south.

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

Carved fan in dormer pediment

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Robert W. Merriam, secretary of the Rockfall Woolen Co., built and occupied this house in 1909. The Merriam family had a long association with the textile industry, and their takeover of the Rockfall Woolen Co. in 1882 was directly responsible for the renewed success of that company. Robert Merriam sold this property to Wesleyan in 1966 for use as a faculty residence.

This house is a good example of Colonial Revival architecture in Middletown. The use of Georgian elements, such as fluted pilasters on the doorframe and Palladian windows in the gable peaks, embellish the tightly symmetrical form. A later screened porch on the east detracts from, but does not disguise, this symmetry. Other decorative details include a fan motif in the north dormer peaks; narrow clapboards (only 1 1/2" to weather); and a pedimented entrance porch. The larger scale of this house as compared to Georgian period houses is another typical feature of the Colonial Revival.

Located near the Colonial Revival T. MacDonough Russell House (1902) and the Timothy Powers House (1783) this house contributes to the Georgian feeling of the street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 14, #16

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 11/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1915 Aeroview Map



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____