

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 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: Armstrong House Historic: Rev. E. Campion Acheson House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 356 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Student Housing Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Academic Classicism DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1916
- 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"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>
- 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 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 77'x44'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Interior extensively altered for student housing
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: backyard
 carriage house shop garden landscaped into three levels
- 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 south from the north-west corner of Baldwin Street and Washington Street (Route 66). Washington Street in this area is densely settled with large residences. The house has an impressive site, set off from surrounding structures by a circular drive and a low brownstone wall on its western boundary.

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

Pedimented entranceway

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The house was built by the Reverend E. Campion Acheson in 1916, the year after he was appointed Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut. The site previously contained a house built in 1856 by Arthur H. Jackson. The Achesons lived here until 1951 when they sold the property to Wesleyan University which now uses it for student housing. It was named the Armstrong House after Andrew Campbell Armstrong, a Wesleyan philosophy professor whom a plaque on the interior commemorates as a teacher "whose influence helped to motivate Wesleyan men who became a galaxy of educational psychologists."

The Acheson-Armstrong house is a classical building with a central section and two projecting wings. Various classical features decorate the facade. The two wings have pedimented gables with oculus windows; the cornice is denticulated; prominent quoins accentuate the corners; and an arched window flanked by pilasters is set over the doorway. The most prominent feature is the recessed entranceway framed by columns and capped by an elaborate broken pediment with a cartouche. The house has an imposing site and is set off by a circular drive. In the rear is a raised brownstone terrace which looks out (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 48, #2A-3



COMPILED BY:

name: Roseann Fitzgerald date: 1/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Wesleyan University Archives

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 1/79

Rev. E. Campion Acheson House
356 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

upon a terraced backyard. Also in the rear, on the western boundary, is an out-building in a similar style to the main house.

The Acheson-Armstrong House, for many years the home of one of Middletown's most prominent residents, is an excellent example of early-20th century, classical, domestic architecture in Middletown.