STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

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 x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Student Housing
   Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes _ no
   Interior accessible: x 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):
   _ 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
   X load bearing masonry _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type: _ gambrel _ flat
    _ shed _ mansard _ monitor _ sawtooth
    _ gable _ shed _ hip _ round _ other
    _ material:
    _ wood shingle _ roll asphalt _ tin _ x slate
    _ asphalt shingle _ built up _ tile _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 77'x44'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _ excellent _ x good
    Exterior: _ excellent _ x good _ fair _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site _ moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no x yes, explain: Interior extensively altered for student housing
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn _ shed _ garage _ x other landscape features or buildings: backyard
    _ carriage house _ shop _ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ open land _ woodland _ x residential _ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ commercial _ industrial _ rural _ x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces south from the northwest 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:
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Wesleyan University Archives

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
x none known __ highways ___ vandalism ___ developers ___ other: __________
__ renewal ___ private ___ deterioration ___ zoning ___ explanation: __________
upon a terraced backyard. Also in the rear, on the western boundary, is an outbuilding 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.