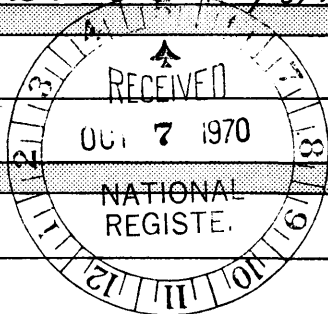


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.34.0008	DATE 12/18/70



70.12.34.0008  
 12/18/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON: THE MERRIAM HOME

AND/OR HISTORIC: *House*  
HENRY W. MERRIAM RESIDENCE

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 131 MAIN STREET

CITY OR TOWN: NEWTON

STATE: NEW JERSEY      CODE: 34      COUNTY: SUSSEX      CODE: 037

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Retirement home</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: BOARD OF PENSIONS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE USA

STREET AND NUMBER: Witherspoon Building, 1321 Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 37

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: SUSSEX COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS

STREET AND NUMBER: Park Place

CITY OR TOWN: Newton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURVEY # 2204.6

DATE OF SURVEY: Dec. 8, 1969       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: HISTORIC SITES OFFICE, DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

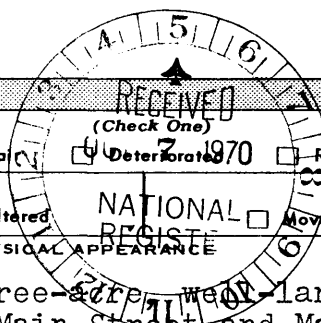
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Sussex  
 ENTRY NUMBER: 70.12.34.0008  
 DATE: 12/18/70  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION



CONDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set upon the crown of a three-acre, well-landscaped grassy knoll at the intersection of Main Street and Maple Avenue, the Merriam Home is the most prominent landmark in a predominately residential section of Newton which consists of numerous Victorian and early twentieth-century houses. It consists of three buildings:

1. The main house (1883), a two-story High Victorian wood frame building, to which is connected at the rear (east) a three-story frame addition (1902).
2. The carriage house (1883), of character similar to and separately located at the north of the main house.
3. A two-story cottage, also wood frame Victorian, located to the northeast, at a lower level along Maple Avenue.

The main house, built as the residence of a wealthy manufacturer, is little altered from its original condition. It is of complex plan and facade, with clapboard siding, steep intricately-patterned hipped slate roofs, numerous gabled dormers, balconies, porches and other protrusions. It is large in scale, with high ceilings. There is much "gingerbread", including panelled designs applied to gables and fascias, eave brackets and cut out scrollwork.

The principal elevation (west) is traversed by a large one-story wood porch, connecting an octagonal tower at the southwest corner with an elaborate carriage entrance at the northwest corner. The tower forms the dominant element, with its porches and balconies and its tall pyramidal spire. The carriage entrance is also roofed by a pyramid, which encloses an unusual room on the second floor.

Windows are generally double hung, of extreme vertical proportions; many are glazed with intricate colored glass.

The exterior has been little altered, with the exception of the rear (east), where a two-story glazed room has been added and a narrow hallway constructed as a connection to the 1902 addition. A large greenhouse at the south no longer exists except for its masonry foundation. A decorative cast iron fence bounds the west side of the property along Main Street.

The interior of the main house is highly decorated in Victorian style, with varnished wood trim, wallpaper, and parquet floors. There are seven major fireplaces, of intricate design and with majolica tile surrounds. The open main stair is monumental and the dominant interior feature. Many items of original furnishing remain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

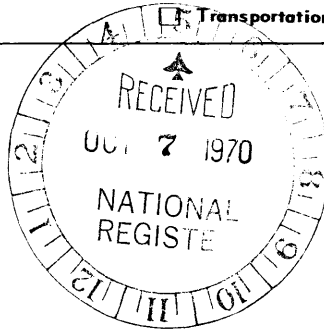
- Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century  
 15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known): **c. 1883**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Local landmark</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



An outstanding example of High Victorian residential building, in excellent condition and situated on a large, well-landscaped site, the Merriam Home is a significant and commanding landmark in Newton, New Jersey, a town which is rapidly losing many of its excellent Victorian buildings.

From 1883 to 1900 it played an important part in the life of the town, as the residence of one of the town's most affluent manufacturers, Henry W. Merriam, whose two large shoe factory buildings still stand in Newton. Upon Mr. Merriam's death in 1900 it became a home for retired Presbyterian ministers and as such has served the community until the present time. It is contemplated by the present ownership that it will be sold at the end of 1970; the Sussex County Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks plans to acquire the property for use as a civic, social and cultural center.

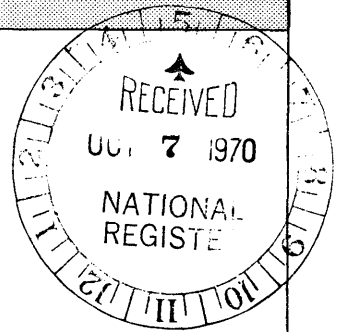
Its significance is local and regional in that it is a well-known and prominent Victorian Mansion and is the dominant building in an area which was developed largely in the Victorian period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

NEW JERSEY SUNDAY HERALD, NEWTON, NEW JERSEY  
 January 31, 1965, p. 8  
 May 17, 1970, p. 17

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY, a Historical Sketch by  
 Judge Henry Huston, published 1897, owned  
 by Mrs. H. M. Coryell, Newton, New Jersey



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		41 03 12	74 45 20	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
NEW JERSEY		SUSSEX	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: JOHN BRUCE DODD, ARCHITECT

ORGANIZATION: SUSSEX COUNTY SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS DATE: July 28, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 43

CITY OR TOWN: Layton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Richard Bullman*

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: September 11, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ann A. Connelly*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 DEC 18 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
*William P. Huntington*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 NOV 27 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

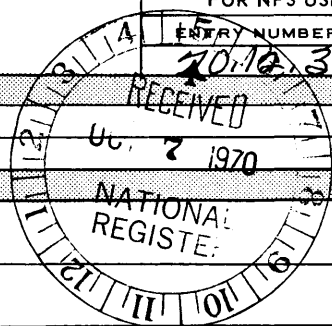
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE
New Jersey
COUNTY
Sussex
FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
--------------	------

70-16-34.0008 12/18/70



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: The Merriam Home  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Henry W. Merriam Residence

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
131 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newton

STATE: <u>New Jersey</u>	CODE <u>34</u>	COUNTY: <u>Sussex</u>	CODE <u>037</u>
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
Tax Map, Town of Newton, New Jersey

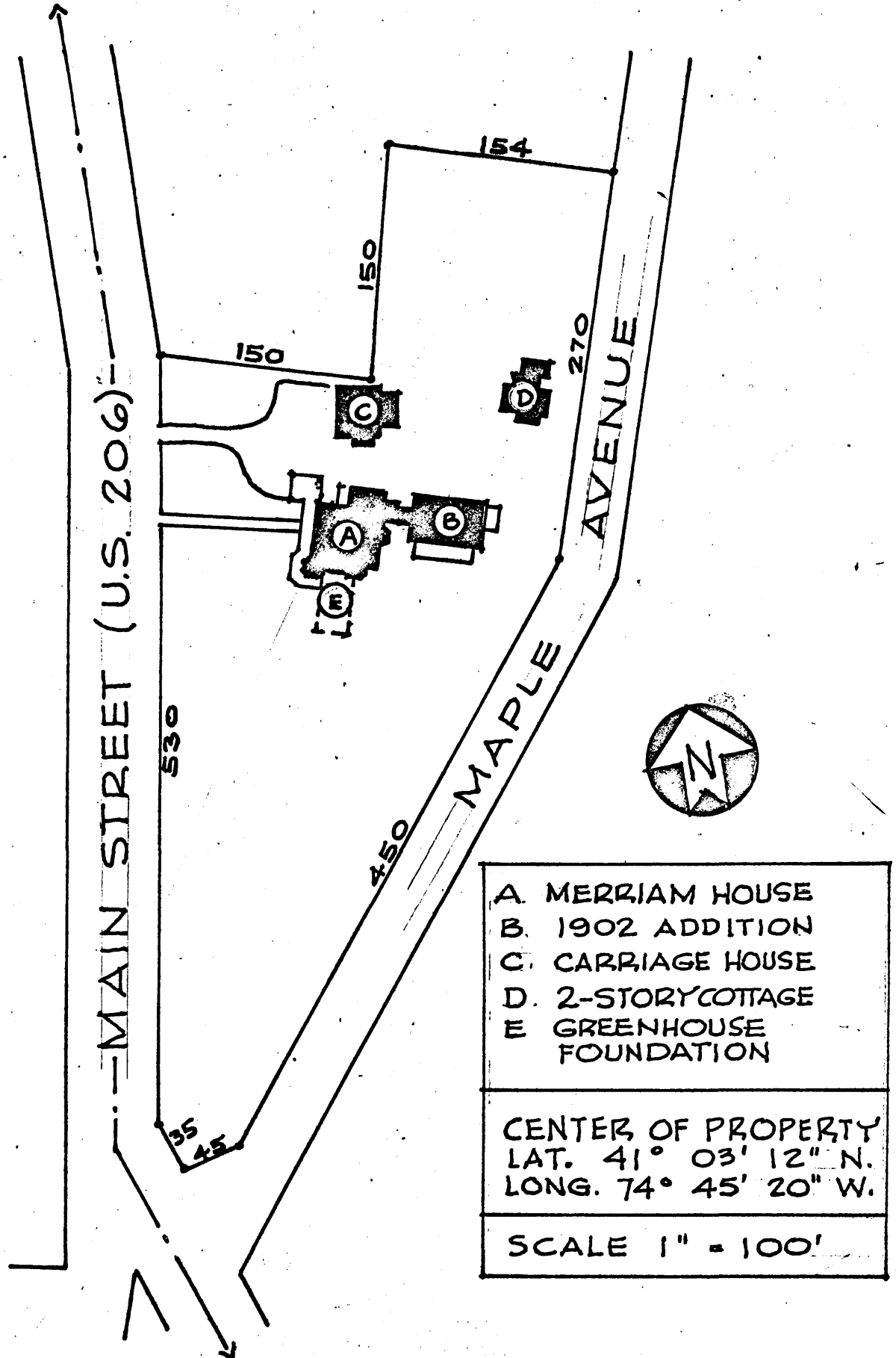
SCALE: 1:100'

DATE: June 28, 1970

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.

The Merriam House, Newton, N.J.  
Code: 29



JUNE 28, 1970