

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

(Staff Use Only)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT of CULTURE & HISTORY
SCIENCE & CULTURE CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

File No:
Theme(s):
Neg No(s):
USGS Quad: Charleston West, W.Va.
UTM Ref: 17/494490/4243180

DISTRICT, SITE, BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OBJECT

1. NAME(S), historic/common: "Briarwood" (S.H. M.R.H.)
R.H. Merrill House

2. LOCATION, street/road: 1240 Staunton Road

city/town: Charleston
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: residence

original: residence

(public/private, restricted)

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: John B. Merrill
(address above)

original: Rhuell H. Merrill

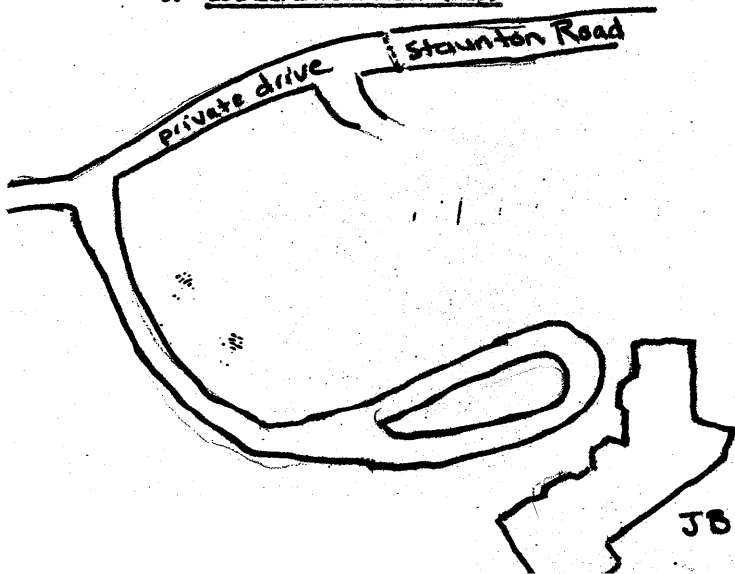
(public/private)

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):



2 1/2 acres

COUNTY: KANAWHA
Survey Region: _____
Planning District: _____

9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

a. Exterior Fabric

stone _____
 brick X _____
 concrete _____
 stucco X _____
 weatherboard _____
 clapboard _____
 board & batten _____
 shingle _____
 other _____

b. Structural System

masonry X _____
 frame _____
 log _____
 metal _____
 other _____
 foundation _____

c. Roofing Material

wood _____
 metal _____
 slate X _____
 tile _____
 asphalt _____
 composition _____
 other _____

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____
 Stable/garage _____
 dependencies _____
 other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
 alterations NONE _____
 additions NONE _____

f. Condition:

excellent X _____
 good _____
 fair _____
 deteriorated _____
 abandoned _____

g. Threats:

NONE EVIDENT

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

Fred Crowthers

b. Style/Period:

English

c. Date(s):

Tudor
1922

"Briarwood" is an outstanding example of the work of well known architect Fred Crowthers. It is also significant as the home of Dr. Rhuell Hampton Merrill, the minister of the Kanawha Presbyterian Church from 1898 to 1907.

Fred Crowthers was an English born architect who worked in Charleston for several years before permanently establishing his business in Detroit, Michigan. He was the architect of the Manor Place Apartments, which are in Charleston's East End Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places. He also designed the Barnes/

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Brown, Jean M. A Brief History of Kanawha Presbyterian Church. 1947.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Merrill. June 29 1983.

12. FORM PREPARED BY

Alice Carter

DATE

Sept. 1983

a. Address

4011 Kanawha Ave., Charleston, WV 25304

b. Organization

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

1. Name(s) Historic/Common: Briarwood (South Hills Multiple Resource Area)
Kanawha County
West Virginia

#8. Significance

The form clearly states that Dr. Rhuell Hampton Merrill was the minister of the Kanawha Presbyterian Church from 1898 to 1907; it does not state that he lived in the house during that time.

#7. Description

The Garage/Dependency of "Briarwood" is a one and a half-story brick structure with brick work, detailing and scale which complements the architectural character of the main house. The Garage/Dependency contributes to the significance of "Briarwood" as part of an early 20th century suburban estate designed for a successful upper-middle class professional. The house and dependency remain among the city's most distinguished examples of the Revival Period house in a Tudor or Elizabethian country setting.

#13. Photographs Attached.

R.H. Merrill House

Wellford House in South Hills.

"Briarwood" is the most creative of Crowthers' buildings in Charleston. It is a romantic English Tudor style house marked by varying roof lines and asymmetrical massing.

13. Verbal Boundary Description.

Beginning at the southern intersection of Staunton Road and a private drive, thence in a line 400 feet northeast; thence 200 feet Southeast; thence 400 feet southwest to where Staunton Road terminates at a private road; thence 200 feet northwest to the point of beginning; encompassing approximately 2½ acres.