

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Treadway, Townsend G., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 100 Oakland St. not for publication
city, town Bristol vicinity
state CT code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06010

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *[Signature]* Date 11/12/91
State or Federal agency and bureau Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] 12/19/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingDomestic/Single Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival/Georgian Revivalfoundation brickwalls brickroof slate

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Townsend G. Treadway House, designed by Murphy & Dana, and built in 1915 by the Edward F. Miner Company of Worcester, Massachusetts, is a large Colonial Revival-style residence located on a prominent site on Federal Hill, a residential neighborhood of Bristol, around which the present town of Bristol developed from as early as the eighteenth century (Figure 1). The Walnut Street boundary of the Federal Hill National Register Historic District is located one block east of the property under consideration. The Treadway House is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Oakland Street and Grove Street, both quiet, tree-lined side streets. The Grove Street block on which the Treadway House stands was once the site of three major Bristol residences. Only two remain, the Burwell House and the Treadway House, since a vandalized Page Mansion was demolished in the 1970s.

The house lot originally comprised the entire frontage of the east side of the block on Oakland Street, as well as a smaller lot on the west side of Oakland across the street. The property was reduced by a land sale after Treadway's death in which the lot on the west side of Oakland and a lot south of the house were conveyed to other owners, but the remaining lot still preserves the feeling of the original setting. A large Colonial Revival brick carriage house, whose design echoes the main house, is oriented to face Woodland Street. A large formal garden is located south of the house.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

The Colonial-Revival style house has Adamesque features and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with a slate gambrel roof. An addition designed by Dana was made to the rear elevation of the house in 1936 (Torrington Building Company, Torrington, Connecticut), raising the one-story kitchen wing to two full stories topped with a gambrel roof to match the main block (Figure 2). An impressive tetrastyle portico was attached to the Grove Street elevation of the addition at the same time, and a two-story flat-roofed ell was extended from the rear.

The facade is five bays wide and is surmounted by three widely spaced arched dormers clad in copper, and two great end chimneys with corbeled caps. An interior chimney is located toward the center of the house. The dormer windows consist of shaped Gothic tracery placed within a round-headed sash. All dormers have corner pilasters, a treatment echoed in the carriage house. A modillion cornice enriches the upper stories. Six-over-six double-hung windows are used, although the ground floor facade has six-over-nine sash. These have brick lintels and sills. The original paneled shutters with new moon-shaped cutouts are still hung in their original locations. The facade is flanked by two single-story porches, the Grove Street side porch being open, and the west side porch being enclosed (Figure 3). Both porches have flat roofs with balustrades, slate floors, and marble edging. The main entrance is recessed and consists of an arched portal; the curved underside is sheathed with molded panels (Figures 4 and 5). It is surmounted by a pediment and flanked by fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals. A fanlight surmounts the paneled door. Marble demi-lune steps with wrought-iron railings lead to the entrance.

The Grove Street elevation is six bays wide and is dominated by the massive portico supported by Tuscan columns added in 1936. The portico floor is treated like the porches (Figure 2). Two dormers, similar in design to those on the facade, illuminate the third floor. The south elevation is seven bays wide with a secondary entrance opening out into the garden. This entrance is sheltered by a stoop with square brick pillars and balustraded flat roof. A pediment surmounts the door. The rear elevation is three bays wide, and encompasses both one- and two-story sections.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

On the interior the house follows a center-hall plan (Figure 6). A vestibule is located at the main entrance. The wide wainscotted hall gives access to the main rooms: the parlor on the north side and the dining room (Figure 7) and a small front parlor on the south. A door behind the stair gives access to the kitchen wing. The curved stair with its mahogany balustrade leads to a landing framed by a panelled arch (Figure 8) from which one can ascend to the hall of the main block or to the master bedroom suite at the rear. A broad elliptical arch with a keystone separates the hall from the sewing alcove in the front of the house (Figure 9). There are four bedrooms, separated by bathrooms in the main block.

A secondary stair rises from the kitchen wing to the third floor. The third floor was finished at the time of construction to house the servants. A bell system is still in place, and the woodwork, unlike the balance of the house, is varnished chestnut.

The main house has elaborate custom woodwork, paneled doors, carved fireplace surrounds, and boldly molded cornices. Only the fireplace on the south porch is a simple one of brick. The interior plan remains unchanged from the 1936 renovation. The kitchen was remodeled in the 1970s, and new cabinets were installed. The built-in cupboards in the butler's pantry remain. The house is still equipped with the latest advances in turn-of-the-century technology; a central vacuum system, laundry chutes, and a fire hose.

The separate three-bay garage built in 1919 is located southeast of the house (Figure 10), with a drive leading in from Woodland Street. The materials and style are identical to those in the main house. A finished apartment complete with fireplace is located on the second story of the carriage house, which is illuminated by dormer windows. An in-ground swimming pool, built in 1972 by the second owner, is located south of the house. An English garden is located south of the pool area (Figure 11).

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1915 - 1936

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Murphy & Dana, architects, N.Y., NY

Edward F. Miner, builders, Worcester, MA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The significance of the Townsend G. Treadway House relates to its importance as an outstanding example of Colonial Revival residential architecture. Although Bristol boasts a considerable number of large Colonial Revival houses, the Treadway House is distinguished by its size, handsome proportions, elaborate details, and a high degree of craftsmanship. It is a well-preserved example of the kind of large Georgian Revival residence built in the early twentieth century by the leading industrial families of Bristol. The Treadway House is the work of an important architectural firm, Murphy & Dana. Both partners had distinguished careers, and the partnership produced an impressive array of major residential commissions.

Architectural Significance

The Townsend G. Treadway House is one of the largest Colonial Revival-style houses in Bristol, and one of the most handsome. Its beautifully proportioned facade is enhanced by the use of the most costly and elegant materials and by impressive custom-designed details. The marble steps and wrought-iron rails lead to an entrance which combines the boldness of paneled woodwork successfully with the delicacy of leaded glass. The slate roof, copper-clad dormers, copper gutter system, and slate and marble porch floors bespeak an attention to detail, quality, and a sensitivity in combining textures and materials.

See continuation sheet

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

The same attention to creating a beautiful setting is also exercised on the interior. The wide hall with its monumental curved stair recalls on a smaller scale great public and private buildings of an earlier age. The fireplaces of the main rooms of the first floor are well-proportioned and carefully detailed. Moldings and paneling are used throughout the house to give a finished look and an interesting texture while maintaining an austere, formal appearance.

The house's smaller and more intimate spaces are as well detailed and as carefully planned as its large formal rooms. The sewing alcove on the second floor, with its arched entrance, paneling, and window seat is as appealing as the convenient and neat built-in cupboards of the butler's pantry. The house also incorporates the latest technological advances of its time; a built-in vacuum cleaning system, built-in laundry chutes, a firehose, and a bell system for summoning the servants.

The firm of Murphy & Dana of New York was prolific and respected. Henry Killam Murphy (1877-1954) was the son of a New Haven industrialist and a graduate of Yale. Influenced by the Ecole des Beaux Arts ideals, Murphy was associated with the Atelier Masquery, then in the first years of the twentieth century with two New York architectural firms, Tracy & Swartwout, and Delano & Aldrich. He later received his B.F.A. from Yale in 1913. In 1906 he opened his own architectural practice, and in 1908 was joined by Richard Henry Dana (1879-1933). Dana was the grandson of both Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), the poet, and Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882), author of Two Years Before the Mast (1840). Dana's childhood memories may have shaped his taste in architecture since Longfellow lived in one of New England's finest Georgian mansions, the Vassal House in Cambridge. Dana held degrees from both Harvard and Columbia, and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts from 1904 to 1906. Like Murphy, he was employed by Delano & Aldrich, and later worked for William W. Bosworth and Trowbridge & Livingston. He received his B.F.A. from Yale in 1910, and became an instructor in architecture at that university (1908-1916) [1].

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

The two men brought an impressive combination of practical experience in building and scholarly interest in historical styles to their practice. Although their mainstay was residential design, their institutional buildings were also numerous and notable. The firm designed buildings mainly in New York and Connecticut, but both men were responsible for designs for structures in China through their involvement in the Yale-China Association. The partnership was dissolved in 1920 and Murphy's distinguished career continued, founded on his work in the Far East. Dana later designed other large residences in Connecticut, including many in Litchfield County, such as Topsmead for Edith Chase, and the Morton Treadway House in Bristol. The Townsend G. Treadway House and the First Congregational Church (1914) were the partnership's only documented commissions in Bristol [2].

The greatest significance of the property in terms of its importance to the town of Bristol is in the architecture and craftsmanship of the house. Located on a prominent street corner, the house serves as an architectural anchor to a neighborhood that contains nearly a dozen large residences of the period, all of which lie just outside the boundaries of the Federal Hill Historic District. The Treadway House is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style, designed by one of the northeast's leading practitioners, and retains the highest degree of preservation of its original fabric. It is representative of early twentieth-century materials and construction techniques and technology and expresses the social standing and prosperity of the Treadway family, one of the most prominent industrial families of Bristol [3].

Historical Background

Townsend G. Treadway was the son of Charles T. Treadway, a descendant of Eli Terry. Bristol's upper class at the turn of the century consisted of old-line Yankees. Very little happened in Bristol that did not meet the approval of a small group of men who were the owners of the town's major industries: the Ingraham, Barnes, and Dunbar families. The Sessions and Treadway families were more influential than all the others [4].

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

Charles T. Treadway, T.G. Treadway's father, inherited a central position in the town's economy as a son of the banker Charles S. Treadway. When Charles S. died in 1905, Charles T. assumed directorships of the Bristol National Bank, the Bristol Brass Corporation, the Bristol Manufacturing Company, the Bristol Water Company, the Bristol & Plainville Tramway, the Horton Manufacturing Company, and New Departure. He became president of the bank and the water company [5].

Townsend G. Treadway carried on the family's leadership role in a more limited fashion. The Bristol Press described him as an industrialist and civic leader. He served on the board of directors of the Bristol Brass Corporation, the Bristol Bank & Trust Company, and the Bristol Hospital. The sumptuous character of his home at 100 Oakland St. suggests that he enjoyed great prosperity [6].

Treadway remained in the large home until his death in 1972. The estate was sold to Patsy Musumano in 1972, who sold off the lot on the south side of Oakland Street and a lot west of the present property. The Rodgers family purchased the home in 1979 and subsequently sold it in 1989 to the current owners.

Endnotes

- [1] Jeffrey William Cody, Henry K. Murphy, An American Architect in China, 1914-1935, Ph.D. Dissertation, August 1989, Cornell University, pp. 15-24, 360-365. See also Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Richard Henry Dana, (1879-1933) Architect (New York: Connecticut Printers, Inc., 1965). The material found in this tribute was drawn primarily from the Avery Library archives at Columbia University, and is evidently incomplete. Of two known Dana homes in Bristol, only the Morton Treadway home is mentioned. Dana's work is well represented in the contemporary architectural literature (see below).
- [2] Ibid., see also Jeffrey William Cody, "Steady Ships in a Storm: the Architecture of the International Banking Corporation in China," Citicorp in China, Shirley Lin, ed. (Hong Kong: Citibank/Citicorp, 1989), Reuben Holden, Yale in China, New Haven: 1964, "Recent Country Houses from the Designs of Murphy & Dana, Architects," Architectural Forum, 30, 143 (1919); also see Architectural Record, 34, 260 (1913); Architectural Record, 51, 115 (1922); Architectural Forum, 33, 79 (1922); Architectural Record, 52, 403 (1922).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

- [3] The present owner is in possession of the original specifications for the house and an almost complete set of plans for the house and 1936 addition. Other large Colonial Revival houses built in early-twentieth-century Bristol include Copper Ledges (1925, Harold Hayden, Bristol architect), and the Marlboro House (1927) built for S. Ingraham. On Grove Street, there is an excellent example of the Neoclassical style in the Burwell House (1920), and an eclectic Shingle-style home built by Bristol inventor and architect Joel Case. The Page mansion (1917), an example of the Tudor style, has been demolished. Chimney Crest (Earle Bishop, architect) is another Tudor specimen one block southeast of the T.G. Treadway House; it is the largest residence in Bristol still standing. The architectural jewel of Bristol, Beleden (Samuel Brown, architect), is situated a few blocks southwest on Bellevue Avenue. See C. Hourihan, Federal Hill (Bristol: Bristol Development Authority, 1985).
- [4] Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth, Bristol, Connecticut, a Bicentennial History, 1785-1985 (Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing, 1984), pp. 144-150.
- [5] Ibid.
- [6] The Bristol Press, March 9, 1972, p. 1; The Bristol Press, Feb 7, 1963, p. 1; interview with Treadway's daughter, Mary Downs (1990). A photograph of the house T.G. Treadway grew up in appears in Eddy N. Smith, Bristol, Connecticut (City Printing Co., Hartford, 1907), p. 153.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.1

UTM References

A

1	8
6	7
1	7
4	0

4	6	1	6	2	4	5
Zone	Easting	Northing				

C

1	8
6	7
1	8
3	0

4	6	1	6	1	6	0
Zone	Easting	Northing				

B

1	8
6	7
1	8
0	5

4	6	1	6	2	4	5
Zone	Easting	Northing				

D

1	8
6	7
1	7
5	5

4	6	1	6	1	5	0
Zone	Easting	Northing				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Bristol Land Records Vol 965, P. 865

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the lot which has historically been associated with the Townsend G. Treadway House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Kate Ohno and David Reisner

organization _____ date 1991

street & number 100 Oakland St. telephone 203-585-1818

city or town Bristol state CT zip code 06010

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, C

Section number 9 Page 1

Clouette, Bruce, and Roth, Matthew, Bristol, Connecticut, a Bicentennial History, 1785-1985 (Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing, 1984).

Cody, Jeffrey William, Henry K. Murphy, An American Architect in China, 1914-1935 (Cornell: Cornell University Ph.D. Dissertation, August, 1989).

Dana, Richard Henry, Jr., Richard Henry Dana, (1879-1933 Architect (New York: Connecticut Printers, Inc., 1965).

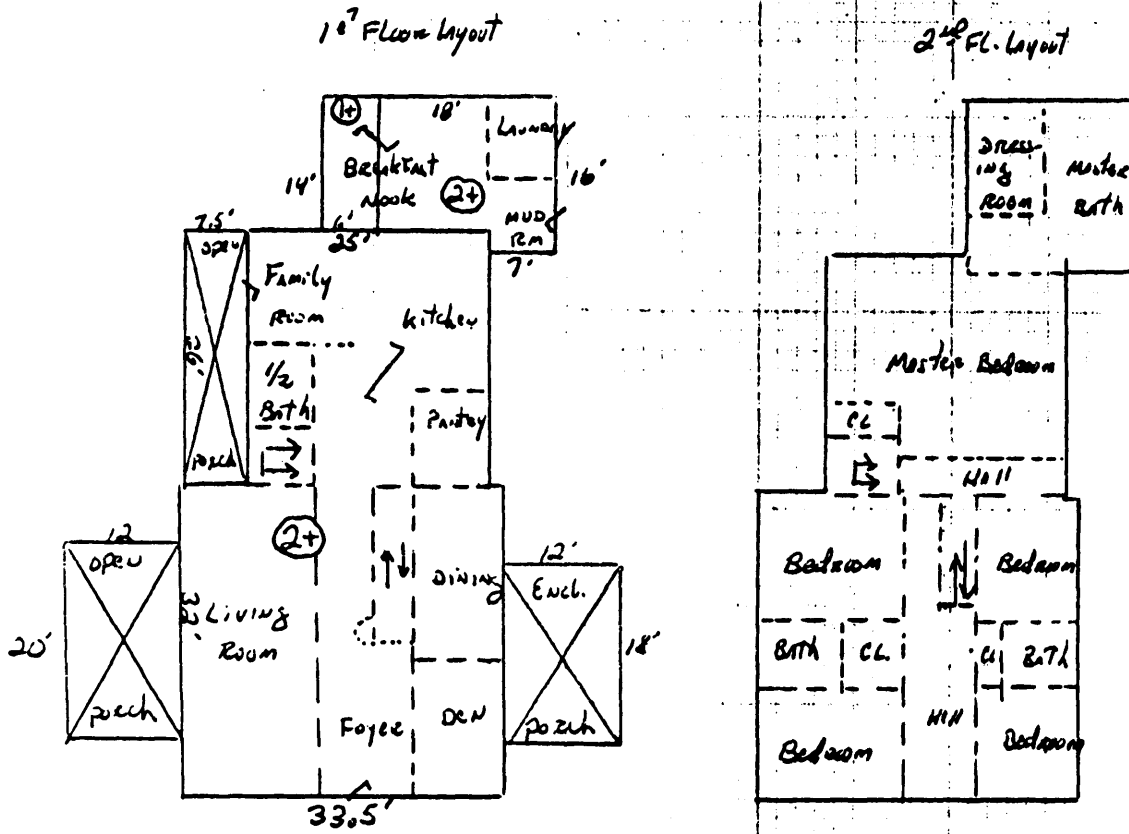
Hourihan, C., Federal Hill (Bristol: Bristol Development Authority, 1985).

"Recent Country Houses From the Designs of Murphy & Dana," Architectural Forum 30, 143 (1919).

Smith, Eddy N., Bristol, Connecticut (Hartford: City Printing Co., 1907).

BUILDING SKETCH

Townsend G. Treadway House, 100 Oakland St., Bristol



NOTE: Interior layout not to scale

Treadway, Townsend G., House, Bristol, CT

LIST OF FIGURES

Townsend G. Treadway House, 100 Oakland St., Bristol, CT
Hartford county

Fig. 1. Grove St. elevation of Townsend G. Treadway House
ca. 1920. Camera facing S. Photo courtesy Mary Downs.

Fig. 2. Grove St. elevation of house as it appears post
1936 with rear addition and portico. Camera facing S.
Photo by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 3. Garden elevation showing enclosed porch. Camera
facing N. Photo by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 4. Front of house at 100 Oakland St. Camera facing E.
Photo by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 5. Detail of front entrance. Camera facing E. Photo
by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 6. Interior central hallway. Camera facing E. Photo
by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 7. Detail of dining room. Camera facing W. Photo by
Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 8. Detail of panelled arch, second floor landing.
Camera facing W. Photo by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 9. View from landing towards main block. Camera
facing W. Photo by Ohno (5/91).

Fig. 10. Carriage house. Camera facing NNE. Photo by Ohno
(5/91).

Fig. 11. View of formal garden area from second floor
balcony. Camera facing S. Photo by Reisner (6/91).