

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

Asylum Hill Historic MRA

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: _____ SITE NO.: _____

UTM: 18/---/---/---/---/---

QUAD:

DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Myers and Gross Building
- ✓ 2. TOWN/CITY: Hartford VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Hartford
- ✓ 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 2 Fraser Pl.
- 4. OWNER(S): Louis Weinstein/ 99 Pratt Street, Hartford CT PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Apartments Historic: Apartments
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Neo-Colonial/Georgian Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1917
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick (yellow)
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: _____

 other: Cast iron- ornament and entrance bays
- 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: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: _____
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: _____
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Lawn and landscaping directly surrounding apt. block.
 carriage house shop garden
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial (office building) industrial rural high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Home office of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company stands opposite to the west; 3-story, brick, Italianate house converted to offices, south; smaller c.1900 three-story apartments, north; Edwards Street runs east of 2 Fraser Place.

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

2 Fraser Place, a utilitarian, 3-story, yellow-brick apartment block built c. 1917, occupies a curved site at the corner of Fraser Place and Myrtle Street. Though its cast-iron classical detailing is a commercial and rather trite response to the early 20th-century consumers' perception of style, the building nevertheless is a well-executed and attractive complement to its site. There are two entrances, one at 2 Fraser Place and the other, on the corner, at 54 Myrtle Street, both of which are clearly identified as such by their decorative treatment: cast-iron bays in arched, keystone surrounds set between brick pilasters with Doric capitals with egg-and-dart moldings run the height of the building and form a major decorative feature. The cornice treatment of the

SIGNIFICANCE

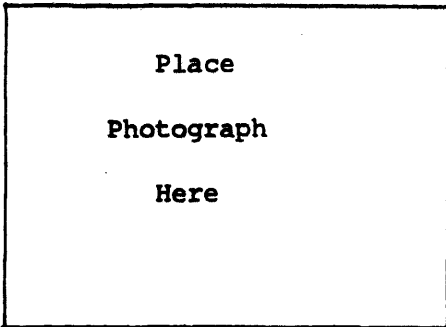
Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Marcus Whiffen, in his American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, admits that it is difficult to muster enthusiasm for the 20th-century Georgian Revival, especially as its prototypes, smaller, domestic buildings, did not readily adapt themselves to larger scale 20th-century structures. This is true of 2 Fraser Place, which follows the "acceptable solution"² for apartment blocks of concentrating detail at the top of the building; the building is neither stylish nor intriguing, but it occupies its site well and is in scale and keeping with the larger houses, apartment and office buildings surrounding it. It is an attractive and exemplary Georgian Revival building. Its classical detailing and varied fenestration enhances the elevation and does not overwhelm the viewer nor is the detailing so unrelated to the structure that it has the careless detail-for-detail's-sake look of some revival structures. 2 Fraser Place is, though, primarily significant as a good example of the Georgian Revival in Hartford and as an illustration of the type of multiple-residential building which began to be seen in Hartford and elsewhere in the first part of the 20th century.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Sarah Zimmerman
date: June 1979 view: _____
negative on file: CT Historical Commission



COMPILED BY:

name: Sarah Zimmerman date: June 1979
organization: Hartford Architecture Conservancy
address: 65 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford CT

19. SOURCES:

1. Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 1969, p. 163. 2. Ibid., p. 163.

Also,
L.J. Richards and Company, Atlas of the City of Hartford and Town of West Hartford, Springfield, 1917.

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

Geographical Data:

Acreage - Less than one acre (0.31 acre prox.).

Verbal boundary description - The nominated property is described in the Hartford Land Records at volume 1800, page 7.

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: _____ Date: _____

17. (con't.)

flat-roofed block is another element of its embellishment. The cast-iron cornice, denticulated and banded with egg-and-dart molding, is set with modillions. Its wide frieze is ornamented, above the pilasters, with fleur-de-lis. (In addition to those flanking the entrances, pilasters mark the corners and center of the block.) The fenestration, a clue to the building's original floor-plan, is another decorative element: the windows are grouped with a Chicago-type window (a fixed central light with opening sash to either side), paired double-hung windows, and a single window to each apartment, indicating a suite with a living room, bedroom, and bath.

The assignment of a specific style to a building as functionally constructed as 2 Fraser Place is difficult as the determination refers almost solely to the type of ornament applied and not to elements of structure or design. But, on the basis of its symmetrical, balanced, and quiet facade, with a minimum of projecting features, and its derivative use of classical elements, such as pilasters, dentils, and egg-and-dart molding, as well as its decorative emphasis of the entrances, this building is described as Neo-Colonial.

18. (con't.)

By the time of World War I, the era of Asylum Hill's long dominance as Hartford's upper-class residential neighborhood was coming to a close. At its eastern edge, near downtown, major insurance companies, including Connecticut Mutual, Hartford Fire and the Aetna, began to establish their headquarters. As a concomitant development, apartment houses began to proliferate in the same section, close to these employers.

2 Fraser Place was a part of this demographic development of the first quarter of the 20th century in Asylum Hill, while simultaneously reflecting the preference for architectural style that was followed further west in Asylum Hill where single-family residences still were being constructed. The Neo-Classical Revival, or Georgian Revival, was the style chosen for houses built in these years along or near Forest and Woodland streets in the western part of Asylum Hill, 54, 60 and 70 Forest Street and 1039 Asylum Avenue (the Spencer House), all built in the same decade as 2 Fraser Place, being cases in point. 2 Fraser Place illustrates the demographic and architectural development of Asylum Hill toward the end of its era.

Acreage - Less than one.

Verbal boundary description - The nominated property is described in the Hartford Land Records at volume 1705, page 64.