**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**
Edward W. Morley House

**AND/OR COMMON**
26 Westland Avenue

---

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**
26 Westland Avenue

**CITY, TOWN**
West Hartford

**STATE**
Connecticut

---

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>DISTRICT</em></td>
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<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>BUILDING(S)</em></td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td><em>MUSEUM</em></td>
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<td><em>STRUCTURE</em></td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>SITE</em></td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td><em>PARK</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>OBJECT</em></td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIVATE</strong></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td><em>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</em></td>
<td><em>ENTERTAINMENT</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**
Herbert and Karylen Kramer

**STREET & NUMBER**
26 Westland Avenue

**CITY, TOWN**
West Hartford

**STATE**
Connecticut

---

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Registry of Deeds

**STREET & NUMBER**
Hartford County Courthouse

**CITY, TOWN**
Hartford

**STATE**
Connecticut

---

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**DATE**
None

---

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

---

**CITY, TOWN**

---
Twenty-six Westland Avenue in West Hartford, Connecticut, was built by Edward W. Morley in 1906. The detached building is a two-story with attic frame structure. Its style is typical of the period. The house is of no architectural importance.

The integrity of the building is whole. According to the present owner, who has lived in the house for twenty one years, only very minor changes have been made to either the exterior or interior since Morley lived there.
### SIGNIFICANCE

#### PERIOD
- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- X1800-1899
- 1900-

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- __ARCHAEOLOGY - PREHISTORIC__
- __COMMUNITY PLANNING__
- __ARCHAEOLOGY - HISTORIC__
- __CONSERVATION__
- __AGRICULTURE__
- __ECONOMICS__
- __ARCHITECTURE__
- __EDUCATION__
- __ARCHITECTURE__
- __ENGINEERING__
- __ARCHITECTURE__
- __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT__
- __ARCHITECTURE__
- __INDUSTRY__
- _ARCHITECTURE_
- __INVENTION__
- __ARCHITECTURE__
- __LAW__
- __LITERATURE__
- __ART__
- __MILITARY__
- __COMMERCIAL__
- __MUSIC__
- __COMMUNICATIONS__
- __PHILOSOPHY__
- __CONSERVATION__
- __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT__
- __RELIGION__
- __SCIENCE__
- __SCULPTURE__
- __SOCIETY/HUMANITARIAN__
- __THEATER__
- __TRANSPORTATION__
- __OTHER (SPECIFY)__

#### SPECIFIC DATES

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edward Williams Morley was born January 29, 1838, in Newark, New Jersey. His father was a Congregational minister and his mother a school teacher. Morley spent his youth in Hartford, Connecticut, and Attleboro, Massachusetts. Because as a boy he suffered from frail health, his parents did not send him to the local schools. He was educated at home under the supervision of his father. Morley was an excellent student. He read at three and began Latin at six. By the time he had finished his teens, he had read his way through his father's library. Science attracted his interest at an early age. When he entered Williams College as a sophomore in 1857, he selected natural history as his major. Morley graduated from Williams in 1860 and then spent an additional year studying astronomy. Because his father and his grandfather were both ministers, Morley next decided to follow their examples. From 1861 to 1864 he studied for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary. He did not, however, enter the ministry. Upon completing his theological training in 1864, he accepted a teaching position at Marlboro, Massachusetts. He remained in Marlboro until 1868. In 1869 Morley turned down a pastorate at Twinsburg, Ohio, and chose instead to accept the position of professor of chemistry at Western Reserve College in Hudson, Ohio.

Morley moved to Hudson in 1869 and began an association with Western Reserve that lasted throughout his academic career. When the school moved to Cleveland in 1882, Morley helped design the facilities to be used by the science classes. It was at Western Reserve that he conducted the basic research upon which his reputation as a scientist is based. Although Morley's presence contributed to Western Reserve's prestige, his relations with the school were not always amiable. In 1895-96 Morley took a leave of absence to teach in Europe. While he was away the university dismantled the laboratory Morley had spent years assembling. When Morley returned, he found his apparatus, much of which he had designed and built himself, damaged beyond repair. Although he did not retire until 1906, the incident marked the end of Morley's intellectual dedication to the school. With his lab gone Morley ceased to engage in basic research except in collaboration with others.

Upon retiring in 1905 Morley left Cleveland and returned to his native Connecticut. He selected a lot in West Hartford and in 1906 built a house that would be his home until his death in 1923. The funds for the house came from dividends on stock he held in the Dow Chemical Corporation. Morley had done consulting work for the giant corporation at a time when it could only

(continued)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Edgar F. Smith, Chemistry in America (New York, 1914).

Howard R. Williams, Edward Williams Morley (Easton, 1957).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>EASTING</th>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

James Sheire, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Historic Sites Survey

DATE

March 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___  STATE ___  LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
afford to pay him with shares in the company. In retirement Morley continued to attend scientific meetings, but his chief interest centered on working in a combination garage-laboratory he built at the back of his yard. He died in West Hartford on February 24, 1923, and was buried in the family plot in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Morley enjoyed the admiration and esteem of his peers in the scientific community. He was a member of numerous societies and associations in this country and abroad. He served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1895 and as president of the American Chemical Society in 1899. Among his medals and prizes were the Davy Medal of the Royal Society of London (1917) and the Elliott Cresson Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society (1899).

Morley's reputation as a leading American chemist rests on two major achievements. The first was his collaboration with Albert A. Michelson in the famous Michelson-Morley experiment. In this 1887 experiment, for which Morley helped design and build the apparatus (the famous interferometer), Michelson proved that there was no element in the air called ether which acted as a carrier of light. Michelson was awarded the Nobel Prize for this contribution to physics. The great basic science achievement in Morley's career was his determination of the densities of hydrogen and oxygen and the ratios or weights of each when they combine to form water. Morley's 1895 paper, "On the Densities of Oxygen and Hydrogen and the Ratio of the Atomic Weights," published in the Smithsonian's Contributions to Knowledge, was a major contribution to the study of atomic weights and firmly established his reputation in the front ranks of American chemistry.

Edward Williams Morley's significance in the history of science in America is that he was one of the country's leading chemists during the last twenty five years of the 19th century. In his collaboration with Michelson and in his own research on the atomic weights of hydrogen and oxygen he made a significant contributions to physics and chemistry.

Like many of his colleagues whose education began before the Civil War, and who reached scientific maturity during the second half of the 19th century, Morley experienced the transition for the generalizations of natural history
to specialization in the physical and biological sciences. Morley's first published paper was in astronomy. By the time he retired he was an expert in atomic weights. Morley's career illustrates the rapid trend to specialization that characterized science at the close of the 19th century. His contributions were also an indication that by 1900 American scientists were moving to a position of equality with their European counterparts.