

CT Trust Resource ID: 2491

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

State Historic Preservation Office, DECD, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

Inventory form modified for the Creative Places - Arts & Letters Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common): Richmond, John; Hoppin, Augustus; Wiggins, John Gregory, House

Other Name(s) (Historic): Richmond, John; Hoppin, Augustus; Wiggins, John Gregory, House

Street Address or Location: 589 Pomfret Street (Route 169-44), Pomfret

Town/City: Pomfret

Village:

County: Windham

Designation(s): NRHD, SRHD

Owner(s): K & L Family Ventures LLC

Public/Private: Private

Latitude: 41.8226 Longitude: -71.9296

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: single dwelling; Commerce: specialty store

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: During open hours

Style of building: Colonial, Georgian Date of Construction: c.1800, c.1820

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Wood Shingle

Structural Systems(s): Post & Beam, Wood Frame

Roof(Type): Hip, Gable (Material): Asphalt Shingle

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 26'x 50', additions

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: Yes If yes, explain: Additions at rear

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Herb gardens, Shop

Surrounding Environment: Scattered buildings visible from site

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This property is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Putnam Road (US Route 44) and Pomfret Street (CT Route 169/US Route 44). It is a contributing resource in the Pomfret Street Historic District and is at the north end of the district. The house is sited very close to the roads on both the west and south. The 1.6-acre lot extends north and east, with a garden to the east and a parking lot to the north. An outbuilding north of the house is used as part of a retail business.

Other notable features of building or site:

The house is a hip-roofed 2 ½-story Georgian-style building. The roof is capped by a wide low hip-roofed cupola. Two chimneys flank the cupola, indicating a center-hall plan. The façade is a five-bay arrangement with six-over-six double-hung sash on the first and second floors. A central entryway on the first floor consists of a door with a multi-paned light in the upper half, multi-paned sidelights, and a flat-arched fanlight extending over the sidelights. Above the second floor level is a projecting angle bay window. A porch with paired classical columns covers the entry. The building is clad in wood shingle siding, stained dark, with white-painted trim, and has wide corner pilasters and a frieze with dentils under deep overhanging eaves. Roofing is asphalt shingles. A two-story gable-roofed ell extends north at the rear of the building and a one-story addition extends east, possibly an enclosed porch.

Architect: Unknown Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

The house was the home of author and artist Augustus Hoppin (1828–1896), and was known as 'the Homestead.' During the resort era of the late nineteenth century in Pomfret, this was a popular place. The Colonial Revival porch and shingle siding are likely additions from that time. Before Hoppin's ownership, the house belonged to John Richmond, a shoemaker (Woodford map 1856). Town Assessor's Records show a date of 1780; the house appears to have been altered to the Georgian style, and again in the Colonial Revival period of the early 1900s.

John Gregory Wiggins (1893-1956) began life in a small town in Kentucky. His physician father died when Wiggins was a child, resulting in his mother moving with her three children to Pomfret, Connecticut where she ran a school. Wiggins attended the private college-preparatory Pomfret School, and then Harvard College. After college, Wiggins joined the faculty at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. For four years from 1912-1916, he taught Latin, Greek, and German, and coached crew. During World War I, Wiggins joined the American Field Service, a volunteer corps of men who served as ambulance drivers for the French Army, before the United States joined the war. He also served in the U.S. Army. In the 1930s he was living with his mother and sister Elizabeth in this house. After 1920, under the name J. Gregory Wiggins, he began a full-time career as a wood carver and lived in Pomfret throughout his life. Wiggins carved ornamental and functional wood pieces for churches, private schools, and colleges – including St. Paul's School, Pomfret School, and Trinity College – and for museums such as the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, as well as for private homes.

Sources:

Interview and tour of Pomfret by C. Hitchcock with Caroline Sloat. 8/22/2014.

Town of Pomfret Assessors Records. Parcel I.D. 09/ B/ 007.00 .

Historic maps: Woodford 1856, Gray 1869.

Cunningham, Jan. 1998. Pomfret Street National Register Historic District Nomination No. 98000372. National Park Service.

Faude, Wilson H. 2010. 'Take a Pew.' Hidden History of Connecticut. Charleston: History Press.

Find A Grave Memorial. John Gregory Wiggins. Accessed at: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=59722579> . Note: no source given for biographical notes.

New York Times. Gift of Harvard Men Aids Trinity Chapel. 5/26/1935. Stations Show Ends: Carved Religious Objects were on Display in Pomfret, Conn. 4/06/1952.

'The Form Plaques of John Gregory Wiggins.' Ohrstrom Library Digital Archives. St. Paul's School, Concord NH. Accessed at: <http://www.ohrstromblog.com/> .

The Work of J. Gregory Wiggins, Woodcarver. 1970. Pomfret: Trustees of Pomfret School.

U.S. Federal Census, accessed at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic> .

Wagner, Gay. 1995. Historic Resource Inventory Form. Pomfret Historical Society.

Wiggins, John Gregory. UConn Libraries Connecticut Artists Project. Accessed at: http://lib.uconn.edu/find/collections/connecticut-artists-project/?item=3708&Last_Name=Wiggins .

Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock **Date:** 8/22/2014

View: South view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 24, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



589 Pomfret Street, Pomfret - south view

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ Site# _____ UTM _____

District ☐ S ☐ NR If NR, specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential