

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: National Register and State Register Coordinator,  
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,  
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Morrill Hall, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)  
 Building Name (Historic) Morrill, Arthur B., Hall, Southern Connecticut State College  
 Street Address or Location 501 Crescent Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village Westville County New Haven  
 Owner(s) State of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: EDUCATION/college: laboratory/classroom  
 Historic Use: EDUCATION/college: aboratory/classroom

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain By appointment  
 Style of building MODERN MOVEMENT Date of Construction 1959

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

- |   |   |   |                                       |  |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Cast in place</u> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |                                       |  |

### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other Reinforced concrete

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions 200' x 210'

Structural Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Exterior Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Location Integrity:  On original site  Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations?  Yes  No If yes, explain: Lecture hall addition 1988, Architect: Tai Soo Kim..

**FOR OFFICE USE:** Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_

District:  S  NR If NR, Specify:  Actual  Potential

**PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)****Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

- Barn     Shed     Garage     Carriage House     Shop     Garden  
 Other landscape features or buildings: Academic buildings, lawns, landscape plantings, paved walks and driveways.

**Surrounding Environment:**

- Open land     Woodland     Residential     Commercial     Industrial     Rural  
 High building density     Scattered buildings visible from site

## • Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Morrill Hall is located near the north edge of the central academic area of the SCSU campus, on the east side of Fitch Street. The building is linked by a passage to Jennings Hall to the north. To the west is a landscaped quad (newly constructed to replace a parking lot) surrounded by science buildings, and to the east the grade slopes down to an artificial pond and further east, the natural Beaver Ponds.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

The building is a two-story rectangular block with an exposed reinforced concrete frame 15 bays long by three bays wide. The slender concrete frame is exposed at the exterior and the bays are infilled with red brick and window assemblies made up of large picture windows flanked by awning sash. The entrance in the south facade occupies the third bay from the west (left) with a panel of glass doors recessed to create a covered porch. An observatory tower (currently not in use) projects from the roof above the entrance bay, and a cylindrical volume of brick with a domed roof, located to the west of the main block, contains a planetarium. A 1988 addition to the northwest houses a lecture hall. The interior has a double-loaded corridor with doors into classrooms and laboratories. A limestone bas relief sculpture by Charles Grabarek was added to the facade in 1989.

Architect Pedersen & Tilney Builder \_\_\_\_\_

## • Historical or Architectural importance:

The campus of New Haven State Teachers College (originally State Normal School) relocated from central New Haven after the 1947 purchase of farmland at Fitch and Crescent Streets. A campus plan was prepared by the office of Architect Douglas Orr, and the first buildings were Pelz Gym and Engleman Hall, built in the early 1950s. Morrill Hall was built in 1959, and the first building campaign concluded by 1969. All campus buildings were Modernist in design though, as public institutional structures, they were economically constructed. The abstract geometrical volume, exposed structural frame with repeated pattern of columns, avoidance of ornamental trim and somewhat industrial appearance, are characteristics that ally this building's style with that of the Bauhaus. The building was named for Arthur B. Morrill (1853-1926), Principal of the New Haven State Normal School for three decades. Its construction took place as part of the second group of buildings in the campus, including Engleman Hall and others in the central academic area. See continuation sheet.

## • Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976.  
 Carley, Rachel D., *Tomorrow is Here: New Haven and the Modern Movement* (Privately printed by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.  
 See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/23/2016

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/27/2016

Organization New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 922 State Street, P.O. Box 8968, New Haven, CT 06532

## • Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.333781,-72.946066

**Threats to the building or site:**

- None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private  
 Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Morrill Hall, SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT

Historical or Architectural importance (*continued*):

Architects:

**William F. Pedersen** (1908-1990) and **Bradford Tilney** (1908-1999) practiced architecture together from 1950 until 1964 (see Inventory forms for 438 East Street, 645 Grand Avenue, 34 Park Street, and 323 Temple Street) before opening separate offices. At SCSU they were the designers of Earl Hall, built in 1959. Other projects by the partnership in New Haven included the Edsan Chemical Company at 438 East Street (1961), B. Rottman & Sons at 645 Grand Avenue (1961), United Church Parish House at 323 Temple Street (1961), A. Lincoln Washburn House at 253 St. Ronan Street (1961) and Connecticut Mental Health Center at 34 Park Street (1966).

Sources (*continued*):

AIA Historical Directory of American Architects,

<http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/What's%20here.aspx>

DeCarlo & Doll, Inc. 1992. Existing Facilities Condition Survey for Southern Connecticut State University. SCSU Facilities Files.

Farnham, Thomas J. 2008. *A History of the Connecticut State University System*. Hartford: Connecticut State University System.

Grabarek, Charles. 1989. *Symbols of Man* Sculpture for Morrill Hall façade. Art Inventories Catalog, Smithsonian American Art Museums accessed 10/26/2016 at:

[http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?q=record\\_ID:siris\\_ari\\_295151](http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?q=record_ID:siris_ari_295151)

Maps and aerial views:

Bing Maps accessed at: <https://www.bing.com/mapspreview>

Google Maps accessed at: <https://www.google.com/maps/>

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Morrill Hall, SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT



Figure 1. Location map of Morrill Hall. Image from Google Maps accessed 10/27/2016.

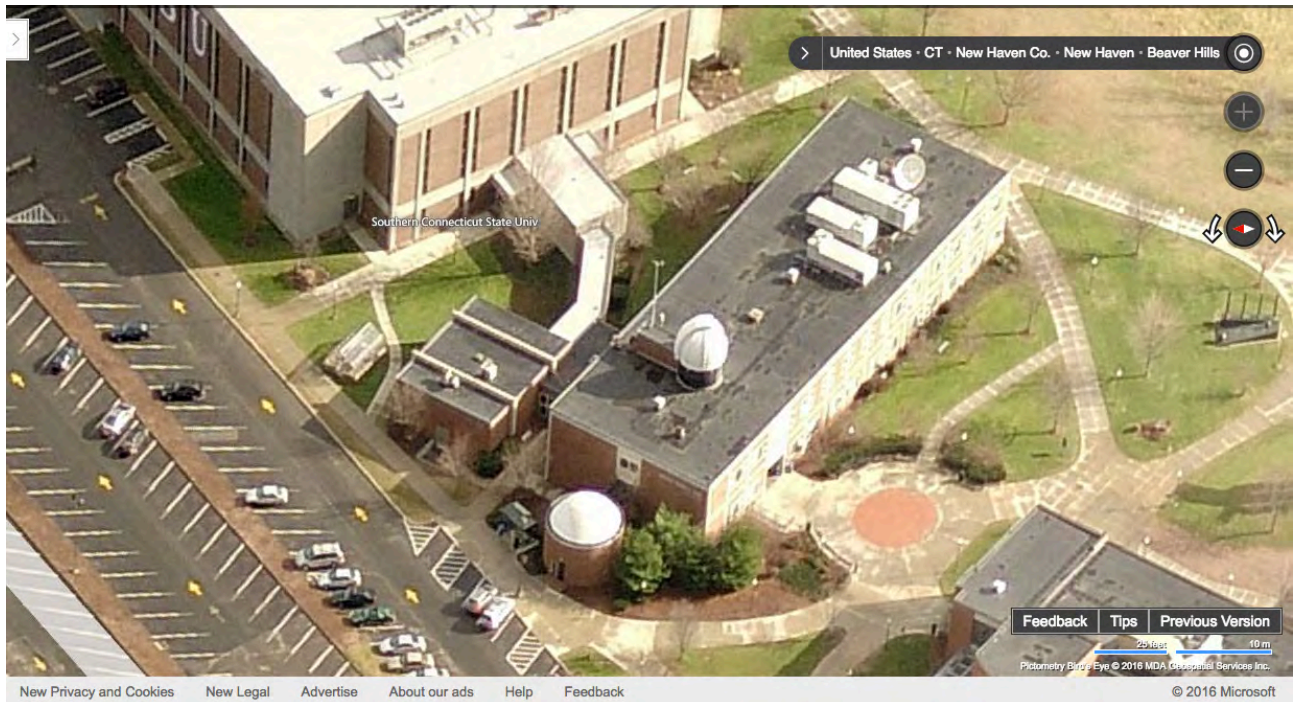


Figure 2. West aerial view of Morrill Hall. Image from Bing Maps accessed 10/27/2016.



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Photo 3. South view of Morrill Hall, camera facing northeast.



Photo 4. Southeast view of Morrill Hall, camera facing northwest.

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Photo 5. Exterior wall detail of the south side showing *Symbols of Man* by Charles Grabarek.



Photo 6. Northwest view of the planetarium wing; camera facing southeast.