## Historic Resources Inventory

### Building and Structures

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 566-3005

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### Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Merriman, John A., House #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Town City</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Unionville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Street and Number</td>
<td>49 Merriman Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(and or location)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Owner(s)</td>
<td>Gamble, William L. and Jennifer H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Use (Present)</td>
<td>Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Historic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Accessibility</td>
<td>Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior visible from</td>
<td>X Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Road</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior accessible</td>
<td>X Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, explain</td>
<td>X No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

**Style of Building**

Nineteenth-century vernacular

- Wood Shingle
- Asbestos Siding
- Fieldstone
- Board & Batten
- Stucco
- Cobblestone
- Aluminum Siding
- Concrete
- Cut stone
- Brownstone foundation

**Structural System**

- Wood frame
- Post and beam
- Balloon
- Load bearing masonry
- Structural iron or steel

**Roof Type**

- Gable
- Flat
- Mansard
- Monitor
- Shed
- Hip
- Round
- Other
- Roll
- Asphalt
- Tin
- Slate
- Asphalt shingle
- Built up
- Tile
- Other

**Number of Stories**

- 2

**Approximate Dimensions**

- 25 x 30 & rear addition

**Condition**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

**Integrity**

- On original
- Moved
- When
- After

**Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features**

- Barn
- Shed
- Garage
- Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
- Carriage house
- Shop
- Garden

**Surrounding Environment**

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

**Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings**

The John A. Merriman House #2 sits on the north side of Merriman Street. Tall pine trees bound its north, east, and west sides. Other houses, similar in design and age, exist on the street.
This three-bay, gable-to-street, nineteenth-century vernacular house features many additions. They include a two-story ell and a one-story enclosed porch on the east elevation. Half of the original open porch on the west elevation has been enclosed, yet an original post remains. The house displays little detail. Door and window surrounds are plain. The entablature and cornice returns dominate the building's crown. Six-over-six sash exists throughout the house, some of which are flanked by shutters.

In 1874 John A. Merriman (1832-1918), son of John and Esther (Cobb) Merriman, purchased a 25 acre tract of land for $1500 from Eli D. Preston, a clockmaker and owner of the first saw and machine shop on Roaring Brook (FLR 61:667). Merriman's first wife Sarah died in 1868 and he married his second wife Mary (b. 1846) a few years later. Merriman probably built this house between 1874-75 soon after the land purchase. Merriman was a farmer and within a few years built several barns on the land. He also sold off several acres to the south and west of this house. His passway became known as today's Merriman Street. In 1888 Merriman was elected First Selectman. After the deaths of Mary in 1900 and John in 1918, the property passed to John Jeston Merriman, estate administrator and nephew of John A. Merriman. In May of 1918 the property was sold to Edward Kelly, a lawyer from New York City married to Elizabeth (Campion) Kelly of Unionville for $1700 (FLR 74:323). It passed through two generations of the Kelly family until 1950.

As the oldest and first house on Merriman Street, this building has historical associations with one of Unionville's early farmers, John A. Merriman.
