

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
57 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: 162: T. Bishop House  
166: W. Knowles House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 162 & 166 Cross Street
- 4. OWNER(S): 162: Wesleyan University, 166: Zajac, Kazmir & Madeline PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with tenant's permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1830-1840
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  

52: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	166: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>

- 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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: both: 18'x38'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
 Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Both: rear wings; 162: added Italianate porch  
166: stuccoed over.

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: 162: huge ash tree southeast corner; 166: great Norway Spruce east side  
 carriage house  shop  garden

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 open land  woodland  residential  scattered buildings visible from site  
 commercial  industrial  rural  high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: These two Federal houses face south from the brow of a low hill overlooking Cross Street. They are located in a residential district southwest of the Wesleyan University campus on good-sized lots, with abundant trees and shrubbery surrounding them.

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

- #162: Three-pane rectangular gable window
- #166: Semi-circular fan-shuttered gable window

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_

Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: 162 and 166 Cross Street are two nearly matching Federal houses that were part of the early nineteenth century development of the upper part of the street. Cross Street was the name of the road, from the first street-naming ordinance, passed by the town council in 1809. For many years 162 Cross Street was owned by William Knowles, a farmer. His name is perpetuated by Knowles Avenue, the lane that passes to the east of the house (formerly called Swamp Street), and which continues on the other side of Cross Street to the Wesleyan Hockey Rink. The two houses have always been used as residences.

These long narrow houses display a three-bay facade, end gable to the street. Their low gable roofs have short cornice returns, but not a pedimented gable. Both houses have added wings at the rear. The structures have one feature of individualization that appears to be original: 162 has a rectangular gable window; 166 has a semi-circular fanlight, now closed by a fan-shaped louvered shutter. Later alterations have distinguished between the two even more: 162 has an Italianate-style porch across the first story facade, while 166 has no porch. The exterior walls of 166 are entirely stuccoed.

(see continuation sheet)

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Roger Sherman  
 date: 9/78 view: south  
 negative on file: Roll 38, #2

**COMPILED BY:**

name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78  
 organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
 address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View Map; Middletown City Directories



**20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:**

**21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:**

- none known     highways     vandalism     developers     other: \_\_\_\_\_
- renewal     private     deterioration     zoning     explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET  
Form number: 18 Date: 9/78

T. Bishop House, W. Knowles House  
162 & 166 Cross Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

These modest Federal houses are reflective of the emerging middle class in early 19th century Middletown. They appear frequently in the 1830-1840 period, homes of mechanics, craftsmen, and farmers. To the west, a small, one and one-half story, Federal style dwelling and an 18th century center-chimney house complete a small coherent area of early residences, on Cross Street.