

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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<br>POTENTIAL |

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: Haskell House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 264 Court Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Apartments Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 clapboard  asbestos siding  brick  
 wood shingle  asphalt siding  fieldstone  
 board & batten  stucco  cobblestone  
 aluminum siding  concrete: type: \_\_\_\_\_  cut stone: type: brownstone foundation  
 other: wood trim
- 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: 51'x23'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Rear two story staircase added; siding added
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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: The Haskell House is sited typically for the upper Court Street area; set back from the street with small side yards and a yard to the rear. The only example of the Second Empire style in this area, this house bridges the transition from early mid-19th century Italianate buildings to later Queen Anne architecture, in an area gradually developed since the beginning of the 19th century.

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

Etched glass window in front door  
Ornate window heads with scroll saw decoration  
Second story windows west side rear wing have unusual (full window height) thin protruding brackets

SIGNIFICANCE

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1872 Elihu W.N. Starr and Samuel Babcock purchased and sub-divided a portion of the Russell Estate (bounded by Pearl and High Streets). This structure was built in 1873-74 on a lot division acquired by John and Maria Haskell. Haskell was a partner in the firm of Willard & Haskell, manufacturers of sash, blinds and doors; and dealers of lumber and other construction materials. It is possible that much of the finish detail in this house was supplied by Willard & Haskell. The house remained in the Haskell family until 1921 when Mary T. Vinal acquired it. In 1933 title transferred to Sebastian Pappalardo, and in 1958 the house was acquired by Wesleyan for use as faculty apartments.

This 2½ story side hall structure retains most of its original elaborate ornamentation, both interior and exterior. Although the installation of asbestos siding has altered the exterior texture and appearance, the scale, remaining details, and distinctive Mansard roof identify this structure as one of the important examples of the Second Empire style in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec  
date: 12/77 view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 5, #16A



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 3/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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