

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 POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: George R. Finley House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 49 Crescent Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Middlesex Memorial Hospital PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: _____
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1872-73
- 8. 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 type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>wooden porch</u>		<u>foundation</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon	<u>(scabbled ashlar, finished water-table)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	
- 10. ROOF: type:

<input type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 33'x57'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Two story staircase added, rear
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is on the north side of Crescent Street. On this side of the street are closely sited 19th century houses of similar size. Directly next door to the east is a similar large brick house (Italianate). On the south side of the street is the modern Middlesex Memorial Hospital complex with a seven story brick building and accompanying parking lot.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: George R. Finley (1820-1885), built this substantial residence in the spring of 1873. Finley, a native of Clinton, Ct., began his career as a peddler of "Yankee notions". He prospered after his move to Middletown in 1847, operating a grocery store, a cigar store and "Finley's Restaurant", located in the Middlesex Fruiter Building on Main Street. His wife Rachael, prominent in the Methodist Church, lived in the house after Finley's death in 1885.

The imposing quality of this house is derived from its large size and masonry construction. The exterior features are almost completely original, including the one story veranda, two-story bay window on the west side, and copper gutters and flashing. The house displays decorative features of the Second Empire style such as the scrolled brackets, mansard roof, and elaborately pedimented and bracketed dormer windows.

The George R. Finley house is representative of the high quality of suburban residential building in this area after the Civil War.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: E. Loomis
date: 2/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 15, #6A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map; J.H. Beers & Co., Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago:1903)



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Middlesex Memorial Hospital, owners of the building, have been issued a demolition permit (3/78). They intend to demolish the building to create access to proposed core parking.