

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 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: South College Historic: Lyceum
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): High St. (College Row, between Church and Washington)
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Administrative Offices Historic: Arsenal, Laboratory, Chapel, Meeting Hall
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain offices no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1824-25

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input 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 | <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 type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | <u>coursed rubble</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 tower east facade
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 54'x44'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Cupola added c. 1919; entrance raised

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: University
 carriage house shop garden campus green to east; Kiosk in front; con-
ected to North College by breezeway

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This structure faces east to the Connecticut River. It is a member of a row of older Wesleyan buildings known as "College Row" which are arranged in a line along the west side of the University campus green. As a group these brownstone buildings present one of Middletown's best-known sights, and are the traditional focus of the Wesleyan campus.

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

Eleven bell chime in belfry
Cupola (1919) designed by Henry Bacon

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Edward Hine, Merrill Ward Builder: John L. Lewis

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The cornerstone for this building was laid October 20, 1824. Funds for its construction were subscribed by the city of Middletown to induce Captain Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy to locate in Middletown. When that institution removed from Middletown in 1829, this building reverted to the trustees of the Academy, who subsequently deeded it to the founders of Wesleyan University in 1830. It is the oldest building on campus.

This structure has undergone several alterations during its many years of service, yet it retains most of its original character. A four story, gable roofed building, it has a stair tower surmounted by an enclosed belfry at the east end. The original entrance was at the ground level of the tower, and the original rectangular windows contained 12/12 sash on the second and third floors, and 6/6 sash on the first and fourth floors. Federal details include a fanlight over the entrance and modillioned cornices.

The original sash were replaced with tall arched windows, the entrance was raised to the second floor, and the domed cupola designed by Henry Bacon was added to the belfry in 1919. The interior has undergone many remodelings and uses, and presently contains administrative offices.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 7/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 29, #22

COMPILED BY:

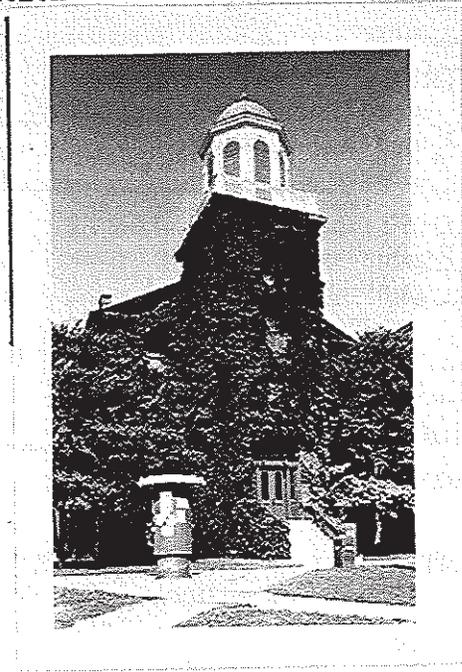
name: John E. Reynolds date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop "South College," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA 1935); Connecticut Historical Commission Survey, 1970; Karl Harrington, Background of Wesleyan and Middletown, Connecticut (Middletown 1942); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: Heavy growth of
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation:
ivy has deteriorated masonry walls.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 6/78

Lyceum
High Street (College Row), Middletown, Ct.06457

This building is a unique survival from the early days of a New England college. As a member of a row of five brownstone college buildings it has an added significance through its contribution both to the traditions of the college and to the beauty of its campus.