

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: Wesleyan Argus Building Historic: Commons Club
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 167 High Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University 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: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1880
- 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
___ other: _____ foundation
- 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 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32'x53'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when:
Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Matching two-story rear ell with shallow wing; tower
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: cut off
___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: corner site;
___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden wire fence in back yard
- 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 two-story Italianate house occupies the southeast corner of Church and High Streets adjacent to the Wesleyan University campus. Buildings on all four corners of the intersection are used by Wesleyan for departmental offices or as fraternity housing. Sited on a rising plot of ground, the building overlooks somewhat more substantial buildings toward the east, Main Street and the Connecticut River.

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

Stained glass windows, center front
Paired brackets along whole cornice, including pedimented gables
Matching window caps with paired brackets, second story

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Situated near the southern boundary of the Wesleyan University campus, this house has been associated with the college for most of its life. It was used as a residence at first by the Hart and then the Root families. Next it became a home for faculty members as the college began to extend its influence into adjacent neighborhoods in the late nineteenth century. It has served as a dining club, faculty apartments, and departmental offices ever since. It currently houses a student organization (the Wesleyan Argus), and two departmental offices, the Mathematics Department and the Religion Department Annex.

The building is long and narrow, with an added wing and porches. A nineteenth century photograph shows that the northeast tower once was one story taller. On the east facade, an extension of the first floor front room is carried forward on to the porch, making an alcove office there. One of the chief features of note is the extensive wooden brackets that surround the building supporting the cornice. These detailed brackets are displayed in pairs around the whole building. The wooden bracketed lintels, bay windows, and veranda with projecting pediment also add distinctiveness to this clapboarded building.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 38, #17

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; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1915 Bailey Aero View; 1927 Wesleyan Campus Map; Wesleyan Archives Photo Collection, Alpha Delta Phi File; Consultation with Willard M. Wallace, Professor of History, 9/26/78

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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