

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

Institutional Site and Connecticut Industrial

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Buildings; Long Lane School Historic: School for Girls

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Long Lane; between Cross and Wadsworth Streets

4. OWNER(S): State of Connecticut PUBLIC PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Correctional Training Center Historic: Shelter for young girls

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

Victorian Eclectic and

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Georgian Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: See #18

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

- clapboard 19th C. build- asbestos siding brick Georgian Revival Buildings
- wood shingle ings asphalt siding fieldstone
- board & batten stucco cobblestone
- aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
- other: _____ foundation; 20th C. buildings; 19th C. buildings

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon farmhouse, gatehouse, outbuildings
- load bearing masonry 20th C. structural iron or steel buildings
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- gable mostly flat mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip Fairbank Hall round other _____
- material:
- wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
- asphalt shingle built up tile other: Variety: slate and asphalt shingled

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 (most) APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: about 30 structures, varying size,

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated on 90 acres
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Minor

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barns shed s garage other landscape features or buildings: brownstone
- carriage house shop garden gate posts; others listed in #18

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Long Lane School occupies a large area of land southwest of Middletown's downtown. This well-kept complex is on the east side of Long Lane. Set back from the road, it is surrounded by fences and walls.

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

Sunken garden inside brownstone foundation of early structure

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Connecticut Industrial School for Girls was incorporated in 1868 and formally opened on June 30, 1870. This institution, funded by local charitable citizens, was among the first of its kind in this country. It was designed as a shelter for troubled girls between the ages of eight and sixteen. Its main objective was to guide its charges towards a successful and productive life. The school's early programs centered around academic education and offered cooking and domestic skills. Like similar self-sufficient institutions of that period, it also operated a farm.

One of the institution's early and prominent superintendents was W.G. Fairbank. Fairbank, a native of Sterling, Mass., was instrumental in initiating a sewing program in lieu of the manual labor, paper box assembly duties. Fairbank was also responsible for the installation of electricity and a central heating system.

The facility's programs have changed since its founding but its purpose has not. It is currently a co-educational shelter for children between the ages of eleven and sixteen. Education is the prime program and vocational skills are offered.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: A: 12/78 B: 7/78 view: A: west, B: northeast
negative on file: A: Roll 54, #29A; B: Roll 34, #33



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884); Middlesex Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: E.F. Bigelow, 1896); 1874 Beers Atlas

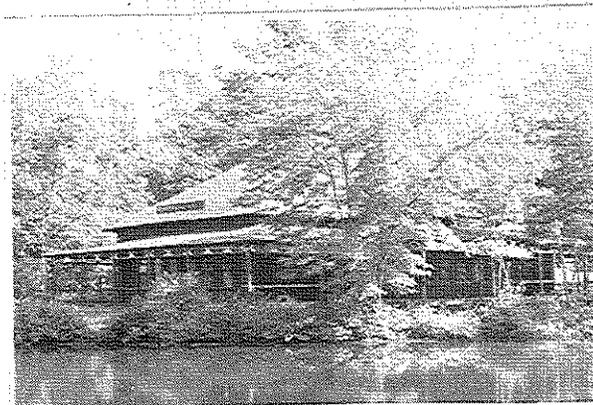
20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

A: Long Lane School, view looking west

B: Fairbank Hall, northeast view

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism
 renewal private deterioration



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CONTINUATION SHEET

Form number: 18 Date: 8/78

Long Lane School
Long Lane, Middletown, Ct. 06457

Architecturally, the Industrial School for Girls has changed considerably since its founding. Most of the original buildings, which were Victorian in style, were replaced around 1930. The current structures, which have an institutional appearance, are of the Georgian-Colonial Revival style. Each one is individualized by a different entranceway, window detail or roof treatment.

Of the early structures remaining, the most notable is Fairbank Hall, which is located at the southeast portion of the grounds, near the lake and the dam. This unusual building, named after Superintendent Fairbank, was constructed around 1900 for recreational purposes. It is a large airy wooden pavillion. A large hipped roof sweeps down to encompass a picturesque verandah on three sides. The interior is an open space with windows on three sides and a fireplace on the fourth. There are remnants of a dam at the foot of the lake on which the building is sited. It was constructed under the administration of Fairbank to generate electricity.

A "farmhouse" and gate house also date from the early days of the school. They are located north of the main campus. Both are constructed of wood with slate, docked gable roofs, and brownstone foundations are in original condition. Other early structures include a large horse barn, a root cellar, and an ice barn near the dammed lake.

Located south of the complex on the east side of Pine Street is a cemetery which is still owned and cared for by the school. It contains twenty-seven graves, each marked by a plain granite headstone. The headstones depict the names and dates of young women between the ages of eleven and twenty.

Long Lane School, continuing the purposes of the Industrial School for Girls for over 100 years, is an important survivor of Middletown's social history.