

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: Caleb Fuller House Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 49 Main Street (corner of Church Street)
- 4. OWNER(S): John F. Reynolds III PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Professional Offices Historic: Residence
- 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: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1771
- 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: poured       cut stone: type: brownstone  
 other: weatherboarding on rear foundation      rubble upper foundation; fire-place cheeks, hearths and lintels; front entrance stoop
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 wood frame:  post and beam  balloon rear wing  
\_\_\_ 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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39'x29' (rear wing 27'x21')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent      \_\_\_ good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent      \_\_\_ good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site  moved, when: 1842; 1977  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: See #18
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
\_\_\_ barn      \_\_\_ shed      \_\_\_ garage       other landscape features or buildings: Picket fence along Main and Church Streets; driveway in rear  
\_\_\_ 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: This gambrel roofed house faces east from the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets, at the edge of the South Green. It is the southernmost in a row of four structures dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The opposite side of Main Street in this area offers a variety of architectural styles and building uses, and is undergoing changes through continuing redevelopment.

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

Entrance porch with panelled ceiling (from Charles Magill House 1788, destroyed by fire 1975)

Center stairway with original color scheme

Panelling in parlors (from Captain Stephen Clay House 1777, demolished 1975)

Brownstone cheeks in keeping room fireplace scribed to resemble ashlar

SIGNIFICANCE

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

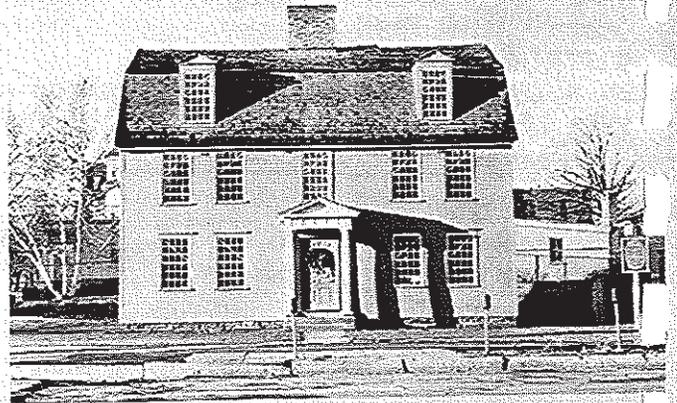
Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built in 1771 for Caleb Fuller, a preacher, constable, schoolmaster, and part-time tavernkeeper, on the present site of the Baptist Meeting House at the corner of Main and William Streets. In 1842 this house was moved west on William Street to make way for the construction of that meeting house. It remained in residential use until its acquisition by the Redevelopment Agency in 1975. Scheduled for demolition, the structure was saved by its inclusion in a restoration-adaptive use project developed by John F. Reynolds, III. A new 1 1/2 story gambrel-roofed wing was reconstructed to replace the original kitchen wing. The exterior was restored, and the front rooms were returned to a Revolutionary period appearance through the use of panelling saved from contemporary buildings razed by redevelopment. The exterior and these rooms are protected under an architectural covenant in the deed. The other rooms in the house were renovated to provide additional space for the tenants; a law firm, dentist, orthodontist, and ophthalmologist.

This house is one of only five surviving gambrel-roofed colonial structures in downtown Middletown. In its restored condition and adapted use it makes a significant contribution to the redevelopment/improvement of the south end of Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 10/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 50, #28



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Alice B. Richter, "Faithful Remnant," unpublished geneological work (Middletown, 1967); Dr. Joseph Barratt, 1770-1775 Map (1836); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/90

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