

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: _____ Historic: Herbert E. Smith Homestead
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 190 Smith Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Luigi & Maria LaBella; Salvatore & Josephine Augeri PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Double Residence Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Cottage DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1876

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 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 28'x38'; rear section 21'x26'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Front porch screened in

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
- 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 trim Victorian Cottage is situated on the north side of Smith Street, opposite the Raymond Engineering complex, east of Interstate 91. The picturesque qualities of its design and landscaping are in direct contrast to the functional appearance of the Raymond industrial site across the street. Otherwise this section of Westfield is predominantly rural in character.

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

- Stickwork and scrollwork decoration in gable peaks
- Double window frames have projecting caps carried on brackets
- Bay window east side
- Stickwork arches and balustrade front porch
- Small oculus windows in gable peaks east side

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Herbert E. Smith, Secretary and Treasurer of the J.O. Smith Manufacturing Company, erected this house around 1876. The J.O. Smith Company was located directly across the street on the site of the present Raymond Engineering Company (see GMPT Report, "217 Smith Street"), and was founded by John Smith, grandfather of Herbert, in 1826. The chief product was "Japan" finishes for "Tin, Iron, and Wood Enamellers."

This house displays the asymmetrical plan and extensive use of decoration which are integral features of picturesque architecture. In its present well-preserved condition it is a fine example of a modest residence from the third quarter of the 19th century. Additionally, the proximity of this house to the Raymond industrial site reflects the historical association of its original owner, Herbert E. Smith, with the J.O Smith Manufacturing Company.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
 date: 12/78 view: southeast
 negative on file: Roll 51, #21



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
 organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
 address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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