

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: Southmayd-Douglas House Historic: _____
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 139 William Street
- 4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence (multiple)
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1840
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<u>over brownstone</u>	<u>random ashlar</u>
	<u>foundation of s. extension</u>	<u>foundation</u>

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon south (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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 23'x26' (wing 13'x31')

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: south wing added; entrance porch added

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 house is set on a small lot close to the road, with its driveway close to the building. It is the only early domestic building on this block, which is part of a redevelopment area. With the exception of a small brick building to the west, the house ~~is~~ on fairly open land; there is a vacant lot to the east, and Spear Park and a twelve story elderly housing complex across the street.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Alfred Southmayd between 1839 and 1843. Theron Carey, a carpenter, lived here from 1843 to 1864 and probably added the rear (south) wing. In 1864 the house was bought by William and Benjamin Douglas, owners of the W. & B. Douglas Pump Works. This company (founded in 1832) was a major 19th century Middletown manufactory, recognized world wide for its quality and innovative products. During the period in which the Douglas brothers owned the house it was occupied by workers probably connected with the Douglas Pump Works. (For example, the City Directories list a machinist, pump maker, moulder and pattern maker). The house is Greek Revival in form with Federal details. There is a simple fanlight in the pedimented gable and brownstone steps. The exterior has been altered by the application of wood shingles and a new Federal style entrance porch which may have replaced an earlier one.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 1/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 7, #14A

COMPILED BY:

name: E. Loomis date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Middlesex Tribune Souvenir Edition (Middletown, Conn. 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: House is present
ly vacant. Located in a redevelopment area, it is owned by the City of Middletown, whose plans for it are presently unknown.