

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: Benjamin Butler House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 160 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Kalman Palmer PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1867-1870
- 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 foundation
 ___ other: _____
- 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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 43'x43' (wing 25'x25')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Full length veranda added to front entrance porch;
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: some interior alteration; slight fire damage 4/78
- 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 situated on a large corner lot, well set back from a wide and busy street. Its immediate neighbors are late 19th century houses of similar size, with the exception of the 1931 Renaissance Revival Church of St. Sebastian across the street to the southeast.

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 William D. Willard between 1867 and 1870. Willard was a well known dealer in building supplies and apparently built the house for immediate resale. Benjamin Butler was the first occupant. Butler, who began his career making canvas boat sails on Cherry Street, developed a thriving ship's chandlery business. This enterprising man occupied the house until his death in the 1800s. It remained in the Butler family until 1899.

The house retains most of its original exterior detail (with the exception of storm windows and a later but sympathetic veranda), and is a good example of a relatively modest and unfauciful version of the Second Empire style. It displays typical Second Empire features such as cubicle form, slate mansard roof, and pedimented dormer windows, but not the often seen boldly modeled decorative forms.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 3/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 20, #10

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; J.H. Beers Atlas 1874; Bailey Perspective View Map 1877

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

Benjamin Butler House

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