

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: Aston House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 324 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Student Housing Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ with permission _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1835
- 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 (transitional)
 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'x25'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Additions to rear
- 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 sited on the crest of a hill facing Washington Park and is surrounded by substantial houses of a variety of periods. It is located at the intersection of Route 72 (the western boundary of the property) and Route 66 (Washington Street), both wide, busy roads.

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

Fanlight
Flushboarding in gable pediment
Window caps

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

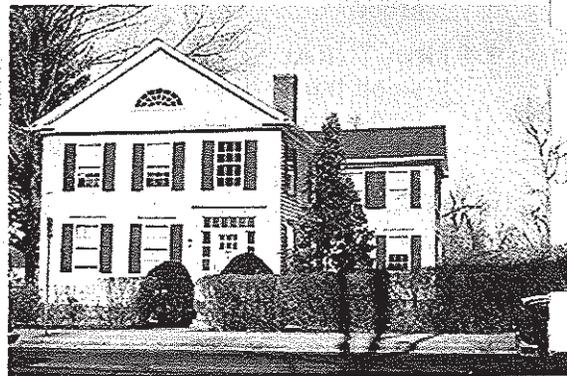
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This three-bay Greek Revival house is typical of middle-class residential construction in Middletown prior to the Civil War. It was owned and probably built by Henry Aston (d. 1864) who engaged in many land transactions in the early 1830s with Charles Alsop, a large landowner in the area. Aston's occupation is uncertain but he could possibly be the "H. Ashton" mentioned in History of Middlesex County (p. 99) as "the owner of the H. Ashton & Company Pistol factory, in the employ of the United States which has fifty hands, and makes six thousand pistols a year, worth \$35,000" (located in Staddle Hill). The house remained in the Aston family until 1942 upon the death of Henry Aston's daughter, Ada. Wesleyan University now uses it for student housing.

The house is of the Greek Revival form, with a pedimented gable on the facade and Federal features. The flushboarded pediment is accentuated by an elliptical fanlight. The doorway is framed by six square lights in the transom and three along each side. The fanlights are enclosed by integral pilasters supporting a plain, projecting cornice. This complements the projection of the pediment; a cornice return emphasizes the pediment's

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 1/79 view: south
negative on file: Roll 58, #20A



COMPILED BY:

name: Roseann Fitzgerald date: 2/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B Beers, 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

sited at busy corner and is subject to development pressures.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 2/79

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Aston House

324 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

triangular form.

The building is notable for its original condition; later additions to the rear have not altered the facade to the south facing Washington Street. It is a good example of the movement toward the purity of form in the Greek Revival.