

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

39 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: Fayerweather Gym Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 51 Wyllys Avenue
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Gymnasium Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Romanesque Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1894
- 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: _____ trim and foundation; bluestone foundation base

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 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 95'x187'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: East wing added 1913; north one story addition and

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: interior remodelled 1934; scoreboard added
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Andrus Field; Alumni Athletic Building Squash Courts to the east
 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 gymnasium on the Wesleyan University campus is one of the distinguished college buildings that border Andrus Field. Unlike the other ivy covered structures, Fayerweather faces the athletic grounds. Its siting and distinctive Romanesque appearance make it the focal point of Andrus Field. Wyllys Avenue, a quiet, partially residential side street, runs behind this large structure.

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

Ornate wrought iron railings, entrance stairs

C.O. Stone, interior
Mylchreest Brothers

SIGNIFICANCE Cady, Berg, and See (N.Y.)

Architect: Henry Bacon, east addition (1913) Builder: east addition (1913)

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Fayerweather gymnasium was named after Daniel B. Fayerweather, a New York businessman who bequeathed much of his wealth to universities. It was one of the first buildings constructed during an era of marked Wesleyan University expansion. Prior to its erection, Wesleyan's only athletic building was little more than an equipment storehouse. Fayerweather, designed by Cady, Berg and See, was constructed in 1894.

The original gymnasium is the western section of the present building. The entrance bay with towers was located at the buildings east corner. In 1913 Fayerweather was enlarged. Campus architect Henry Bacon designed an east wing to accommodate a pool. This stylistically identical addition transposed the entrance bay to the center of the main facade. The gymnasium was again expanded in 1934. A similarly styled one story addition was constructed to the north and the pool enlarged. In the near future, a second story may be built on this rear addition to provide adequate locker room space.

The Romanesque details of this building emphasize its solid profile. The most obvious feature is the center of its main facade. A round arched entrance is flanked by two

(see continuation sheet)

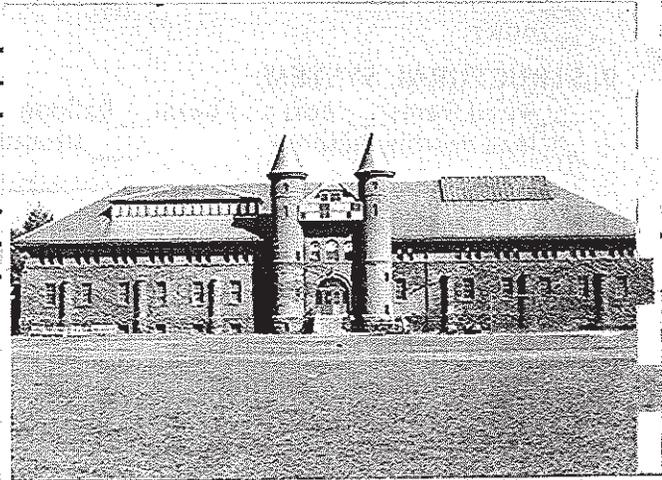
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 23, #9

COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Wesleyan University Archives; Wesleyan, The Wesleyan University Alumnus, Vol. LXII, No. 1, Winter/Spring (1978); Ruth Ryley Seldon, "Henry Bacon and His Work at Wesleyan University" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, 1974)



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: 18 Date: 7/78

Fayerweather Gym
51 Wyllys Avenue, Middletown, Ct. 06457

prominent towers. Conical roofs with long narrow finials cap the round towers. Round buttresses across the front of the facade mimic the towers' shape. Numerous windows resting upon the second story beltcourse are also arched. The second story beltcourse together with a high water table accentuate the structure's long horizontal outline.

Like the exhibition hall that it contains, Fayerweather Gymnasium is a legacy of the college's athletic heritage. It's distinctive appearance on Andrus Field complements Wesleyan's collection of dignified structures.