

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
51 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: Dr. A. Moore House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 135 High Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

Center-Chimney Colonial
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: 19th Century Alterations DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: After 1746

- 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: _____

- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame; post and beam ___ balloon foundation;
___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel entrance porch
___ other: _____ steps

- 10. ROOF: type:
 gable ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round other saltbox; rear wings
material:
___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
 asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: Main house: 30'x38';

1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: wings: 17'x26', 16'x40'

- 2. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated

3. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Extensive: front porch; rear wings added; center chimney replaced by two chimneys

- 4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: fenced-in
___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden rear yard with apple trees

- 5. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
___ open land ___ woodland residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural high building density

6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This Colonial-period house sits up on bank on the west side of High Street a block south of the Wesleyan University campus. To the north is a parking lot for the Lawn Avenue dormitories, hedged in with evergreens. Across the street are a number of closely sited residences of mixed age, material and size.

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

- Added Federal style front entry porch with molding and dentils above a frieze decorated with shallow vertical reeding
- Seven finely finished brownstone front steps
- Delicate wrought iron boot scraper
- Graduated clapboards: narrowed in width from the bottom upward; clapboards secured with wrought iron nails
- Two later dormer windows on rear roof
- Two rear wings with leanto profile extending the house into a U-plan

GNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

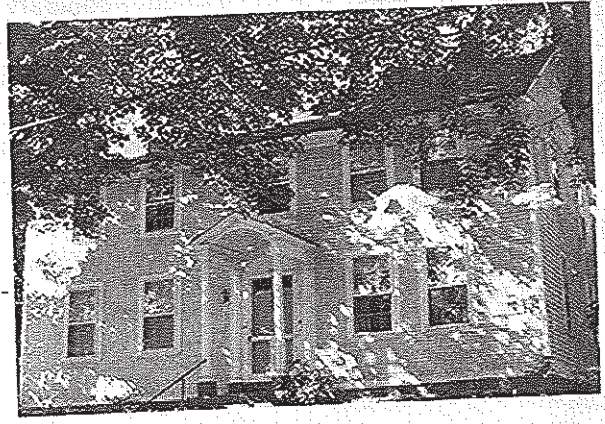
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Dr. Abijah Moore inherited land on the west side of High Street from the heirs of Daniel Ward in 1746. Earlier research credits him with erecting a center-chimney house here around 1750. An 1826 map shows a five-bay center-chimney house at the location now called 135 High Street. During a succession of owners, mortgages taken out in 1838 and 1850 give a clue to the date of the Federal style entrance porch and two rear wings. This large house is now divided into two apartments, with two staircases leading up from the former entry hall. Each apartment is served by a slim chimney, probably dating from alterations done around 1850; in that year Israel Bailey, an active local builder, gave a mortgage on the property--the owner apparently financing the work with a loan from the builder. An 1851 map shows the house with the north rear addition in place. A family named Moore owned the property from 1866 to 1942. Wesleyan University bought the house in 1974, and maintains it for use as graduate student and faculty housing. This well-kept house remains the last Colonial presence in its immediate area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman

date: 9/78 view: east

negative on file: Roll 38, #20



COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Tax Records; 1826 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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