

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: William Southmayd House Historic: same
 TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 73 Main Street
 OWNER(S): John F. Reynolds III PUBLIC PRIVATE
 5. USE: Present: Professional Offices Historic: Residence
 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
 Interior accessible: yes, explain with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1747

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: poured cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: weatherboards on rear facade foundation upper foundation; fireplace cheeks, lintels and hearths; entrance stoop

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon northwest wing
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____

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: _____

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: _____

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

INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: 1977
 Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18

RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Courtyard in rear; fence with gate on Main Street
 carriage house shop garden

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

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces east on Main Street from the block between Church and William Streets. It is in a row of four structures dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The opposite side of Main Street in this area offers a variety of architectural styles and building uses, and is undergoing changes through continuing redevelopment.

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

Federal entrance porch (added c. 1800)
Panelling in front rooms, especially unusual arrangement of seven panels over fireplace in northeast parlor
Common cornice over northwest window and door

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

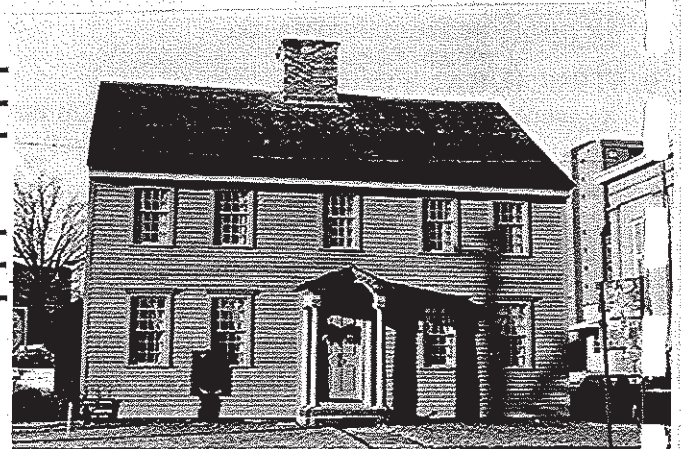
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This Center-Chimney Colonial house was built in 1747 on the south side of lower William Street. The first occupant was Mehitabel Southmayd, widow of William Southmayd who died before the house was completed. The Southmayd family for over two centuries was one of the largest and most prominent in Middletown. This house remained in residential use until 1975, when it was acquired by the Redevelopment Agency and scheduled for demolition. Its subsequent inclusion in a restoration-adaptive use project developed by John F. Reynolds, III saved the structure, and in 1977 it was moved to its present site.

The exterior and the main rooms of the interior have been restored and are protected under an architectural covenant in the deed. The back rooms and rear wings have been renovated to provide additional space for the tenants, a plastic surgeon and a law firm.

This is a mid-eighteenth century house of a type common to the lower Connecticut Valley with its center-chimney, two-room-deep plan, and post and beam construction. In its present restored condition, this house is a unique survival from the colonial period, and is a major contributor to the redevelopment-improvement of the south end of Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 50, #32



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records (Connecticut State Library); History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1884); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

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

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