

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: G.U.Reed's Historic: Elijah Hubbard Roberts House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 138-140 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Gladwin U. and Dorothea Reed PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial/Apartments Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1838
- 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: flush boarded pediment foundation

- 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 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 43'x39'; rear wing 34'x39'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Fenestration, first floor rear addition

- 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 Greek Revival house faces south from the north side of Washington Street at the head of Broad Street. This conspicuous siting commands the long view south down Broad Street which, at the time this house was built, was one of the city's most fashionable residential streets. Washington Street in this area displays a mixture of residential and commercial buildings.

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

Ionic colonnaded porch
Elaborate scroll design cast iron railing

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1838 for Elijah Hubbard Roberts, a ship chandler and merchant. In 1853 the property was acquired by the Rev. William Jarvis, Rector of Christ Church, then located on Broad Street (see form for 119 Broad Street). On June 6, 1856 the wedding reception of Elizabeth Jarvis and Colonel Samuel Colt, the famous arms manufacturer, took place in this house. For this occasion a red carpet was laid down Broad Street from Christ Church (now Russell Library) to this house. From 1861 to 1900 the property was owned by the Stedman family. George C. Stedman opened the "Washington Avenue Gardens" behind this house before 1874. By 1933 the house had been converted to apartments, and by 1959 it had commercial space on the first floor.

This brick house presents a symmetrical facade distinguished by a fine Ionic colonnaded porch. A delicate iron railing of elaborate scroll design surmounts the portico; it was added by Emily Stedman who acquired the property in 1861. The interior has been greatly altered.

From its conspicuous site at the head of Broad Street, the house exemplifies the former elegance of the Broad Street area as a residential neighborhood.

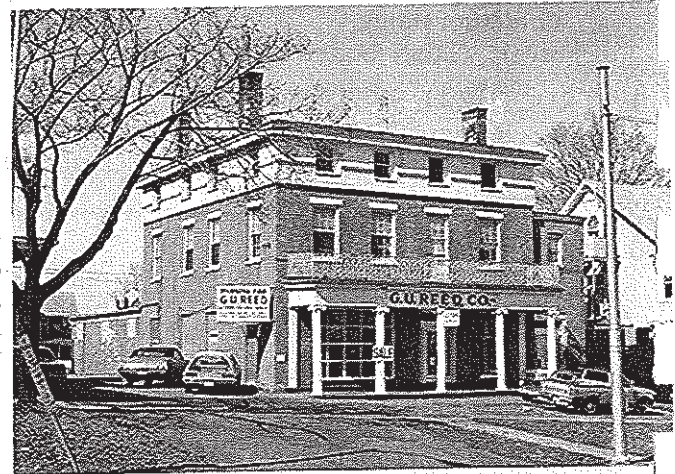
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 5/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 20, #8

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Alain D. Munkittrick, "Elijah Hubbard Roberts House Report," Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, (unpublished, 1973); Connecticut State Historical Commission Survey, 1970



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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