

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
50 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: Wetmore House Historic: Judge Seth Wetmore House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Staddle Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Washington Street Extension; corner of Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Professor Samuel Green PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Hall Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1746
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stuccoon chimney cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: rusticated
 other: _____ brownstone foundation

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

- 10. ROOF: type:
 gable w/dormers flat mansard monitor sawtooth
 gambrel shed hip round other: _____
 material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: 33'x45'; southwest wing 41'

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: x26'; northwest wing 23'x23'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Gambrel roof removed; northwest and southwest ells

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: added; southwest chamber partitioned
 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 center-hall Colonial house faces east from the northwest corner of Washington Street Extension (Meriden Road) and Camp Street. From this site on the east slope of a ridge it commands a long view east. Although Washington Street Extension passes close by on the southwest, the house is obscured from view by thickly planted trees.

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

Northeast parlor, especially shell cupboard and overmantel painting
Center stairway with elaborately carved newel post
Rusticated brownstone foundation
Panelling and trim in southeast parlor and chamber, and northeast chamber
Rusticated brownstone fireplace cheeks

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Judge Seth Wetmore (1700-1788) built this house in 1746. Judge Wetmore served as deputy to the General Assembly for forty-eight terms, and was Judge of the County Court at Hartford. No doubt one of the great local mansions of its day, it remains Middletown's best example of high style Georgian architecture. The interior is of exceptional sophistication in its appointments; the northeast parlor alone is justly famous for the high quality of its decoration. It displays in original condition a corner shell cupboard with sun-burst decoration; marbelized fluted pilasters at either side of the fireplace opening, and a fine overmantel painting. The woodwork in this room is in its original condition and excellently preserved.

Although the builder of this house is unknown, it is evident that he was a master joiner. A house recorded in a Colonial Dames monograph (William Cooper House, destroyed 1930s) bears such marked similarities to this house that it is likely they were built by the same man.

This house remained in the Wetmore family for over two hundred years, and there are many traditions concerning the house including visits by Jonathan Edwards, Timothy Dwight, Aaron (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Barbara Ann Cleary
date: 10/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 50, #26



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Philip Wells, "Wetmore House," Colonial Dames Monograph, 1909; "Seth Wetmore House," Old Time New England, December 1914; Conversations with present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Green

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Any widening or relocation of the nearby Rt. 66 (Meriden Road) would threaten this building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 8/78

Judge Seth Wetmore House
Meriden Road, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

Burr and General Lafayette. A large hemlock on the property is said to have been planted by Judge Wetmore's daughter Lucy.

The Judge Seth Wetmore House is significant for its long association with the Wetmore family and as Middletown's finest example of Georgian Colonial architecture.