

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
19 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: _____ Historic: William Trench House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 31 Broad Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Marie Francis Daly PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with occupant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1839
- 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: flushboarding in gable 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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 30'6"x25'6" (wing 20'x18'6")
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent ___ good fair ___ deteriorated
Exterior: ___ excellent ___ good ___ fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when:
Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Minor interior alterations; shed extension of rear wing
- 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 house occupies a corner site at a busy intersection. Other three corners are occupied by a large commercial building, a gas station and a new, twelve story apartment building. Building is connecting link between older houses (south on Broad) and extensive new mixed use redevelopment area.

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

Many original interior features including fireplace and stairway
Brownstone slab entrance steps
Well in basement
Leaded rectangular window in east gable

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by William Trench, probably soon after he bought the property in 1839. Around 1830 Trench was a conductor of the Middletown-Portland ferry. He also operated a printing business on Main Street before 1817, owned various commercial properties in Middletown, and was an early director of the Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company. Elizabeth Wells, daughter of William Trench, continued to occupy the house from his death in 1867 until 1900. Elizabeth Wells was the teacher at the Pearl Street School house in the 1860's (now at 64 Pearl Street rear), and operated a "select school" for "young ladies and children" in this house (1875 to 1896). In the 20th century the house was occupied by Chauncey Brown (carpenter) and his family until purchased by the present owners in 1942.

This is a good example of the popular three-bay Greek Revival house with pedimented gable to the street. It retains many original features—clapboards, decorative details, doorway with transom and sidelights, early shutters, and original kitchen wing. This is the only early nineteenth century domestic building remaining in an area greatly altered by urban renewal.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger N. Sherman
date: 12/77 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 4, 12A



COMPILED BY:

name: E. Loomis date: 12/77
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Corner lot
attractive for commercial use. Plans of present owner and family are undecided.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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