

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: _____ Historic: Samuel Stearns House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 109 Broad Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Olga Roccapriore and Elaine R. Tschetter PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Professional Offices Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ office use no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1845
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding | <input type="checkbox"/> brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding | <input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> board & batten | <input type="checkbox"/> stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding | <input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>flushboarding</u> | | <u>foundation</u> |
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon (probably transitional)
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> gable | <input type="checkbox"/> flat | <input type="checkbox"/> mansard | <input type="checkbox"/> monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel | <input type="checkbox"/> shed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hip | <input type="checkbox"/> round | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 34'x43' (wing 20'x28')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Back wing: windows converted to doors, first floor west side and second floor north side
- 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: House occupies key corner site in row of four Greek Revival residences identically sited. The neighboring corner sites are occupied by the Gothic Revival Russell Library (remodeled 1874) and the early twentieth century Classic Revival Middlesex Mutual Assurance Building. The fourth corner is partly used as a parking lot.

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

Dominant two story projecting portico with square columns
Large and boldly modelled entrance doorway
Decorative grills with anthemion motif in attic windows of frieze
Original or very early rear wing with Greek Revival details identical to front portion

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure is the most monumental of the surviving Greek Revival residences on Broad Street. Its imposing presence greatly contributed to the street's character as a fine residential area in the nineteenth century

Consistently owned and occupied by leading citizens of Middletown, the building was adapted for office use in 1960. It was built for Samuel Stearns (owner, c. 1845-1892), a prominent businessman who operated a successful haberdashery in downtown Middletown. Henry Woodward (owner, 1892-1907) founded a wholesale and retail pharmaceutical business which has been a Middletown institution for over a century.

The house is a striking and extreme example of the use of pure geometric forms in the Greek Revival period. The square columns, corner pilasters, deep entablature and flush-boarding accentuate the cubical massing with severe and plain decoration. The exterior details and materials are well preserved.

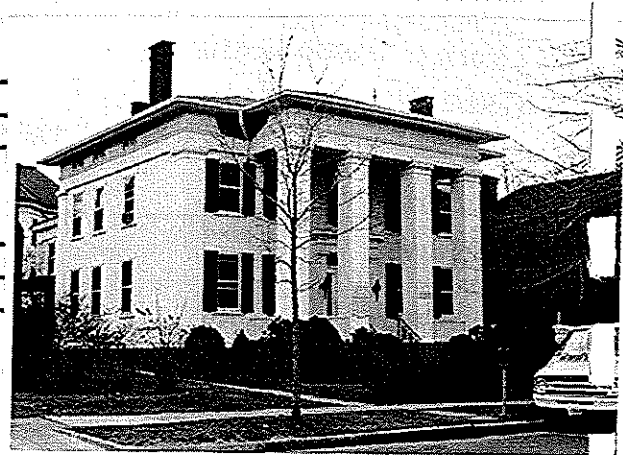
From its corner site the house acts as a visual anchor for the Federal and Greek Revival style houses to the south on Broad Street and to the west on Court Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 4, #29 (Details Roll 4, #27 & 30)

COMPILED BY:

name: Barbara Ann Cleary date: 1/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middlesex Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (J.B. Beers Co., 1884); Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Connecticut 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

Samuel Stearns House
109 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457

