

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: William Cooley, Jr. House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 139 Broad Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Milford Rhines, Trustee PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain through real estate agency no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1850
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco scored to resemble ashlar cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
 other: _____
- 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 low round other _____
 material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 42'x34' (west wing 28'x18')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Window openings south side second floor of entrance
 Alterations: no yes, explain: porch; second story added to original wing; south-west wing 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 plainly decorated, cubical Italianate house faces east from the west side of Broad Street north of Court Street. This area of Broad Street displays both residential and commercial buildings of a variety of mid-to-late nineteenth century architectural styles. This house and its neighbor to the north represent the Italianate villa style in this area.

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

Entrance porch with chamfered columns

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1849-50 for William Cooley, Jr. An inset illustration on an 1851 Map depicts this house in its original symmetrical cubical form with a narrow one story rear wing; bracketed projecting eaves; square columned entrance porch; and a lattice work balustrade in the place of a cupola. Subsequent changes include an addition to the rear of the main structure; a second story added to the wing; the removal of the balustrade; an enclosed porch added above the entrance porch; and probably a new entrance with half round fanlight and sidelights. Despite these alterations, the house retains the form and character of the symmetrical Italianate villa style which became popular in Middletown.

Little is known about William Cooley, Jr. Obscure references indicate that he may have been involved with the manufacture of guns and later of supportive trusses, and that he encountered financial difficulties which caused him to lose his house.

This house represents a key element in the evolution of the cubical Italianate house in Middletown from the earlier E.W.N. Starr (1842) and Alsop (1838) Houses, which display Tuscan elements adapted to Greek Revival forms, to the later Coite-Hubbard House (1856),

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 4, #36

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1851 Clark Map



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS: September 1978. Structure has been converted to apartments. Window openings have been made smaller as part of this conversion.

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: 18 Date: _____

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which represents the full development of this style in Middletown. As the intervening stage between these high style houses, this house is the first known example which shows all the elements of the cubical Italianate villa style which was the basis for a very popular vernacular interpretation in Middletown.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

William Cooley, Jr. House
139 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457

