

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
3 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: St. Sebastian Convent Historic: Camp-Stearns-Sheldon House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 163-165 Broad Street
- 4. OWNER(S): St. Sebastian Church Corporation PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Convent Historic: Double Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1835
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>

- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon transitional
 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: 51'x47'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Two story bay and enclosed porch added, south side;

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: aluminum siding; verandah added north side
 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 building is located on the southwest corner of the busy intersection of Washington and Broad Streets. It faces east towards downtown Middletown and the Connecticut River. Across Washington Street to the north is the Greek Revival Elijah Hubbard House and to the rear is the massive Renaissance Revival St. Sebastian Church. Broad Street to the south displays a number of residences of the same style as this house.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The prominent Camp and Stearn families built this double structure in 1835 on a plot of land derived from the Samuel Russell Estate. It was one of a number of Greek Revival residences constructed in the residential development of the Broad Street area during the 1830s and 1840s. Ephraim Sheldon occupied the northern half of this house from 1866 until his death in 1894. Sheldon was active in real estate transactions on Main Street during the mid 1800s. He was also responsible for the construction of the Sheldon-Amato Building (420 Main Street, currently Amato's Hobby Center) in 1869. Subsequently the house was occupied by leading Middletown citizens, and in 1922 was acquired by the St. Sebastian Church Corporation for use as a convent.

This Greek Revival structure's most prominent feature is the heavy columned entrance porch and doors. The building shares characteristics with similar Greek Revival structures on Broad Street: a severe, blocky form, eye brow windows beneath the cornice, corner pilasters, and plain detailing.

Despite the application of aluminum siding, this house makes a major contribution to the collection of Greek Revival residences on Broad Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 5/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 20, #6



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View Map

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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163-165 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457

