

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: Scott Laboratory Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Church Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant/storage Historic: Physics Building
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1903
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" 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>limestone trim;</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>granite foundation</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel (interior framing)
<input type="checkbox"/> 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:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: <u>main section 102'x51'</u>
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: rear section 50'x30'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Late basement addition, rear
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: College campus
 

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Wesleyan University's Scott Laboratory is one of a group of large early twentieth century brick buildings with light colored stone detail. Located on an incline, this structure borders Church Street. Scott, like the two fraternity houses below it, fronts away from the street towards College Row. Its unusual siting was caused when the extension of Church Street replaced the section of Cross Street that this building faced.

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

Main facade: leaded stained glass window; ornate stone detail  
Interior: large wooden central staircase

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Charles A. Rich, New York City Builder: Mylchreest & Sons, Middletown

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Scott Laboratory originally housed the Wesleyan University Physics Department. The building, gift of Charles Scott and his son Charles Scott (class of '86), was dedicated in 1904 to the memory of Chaplain John Bell Scott.

Like other colleges, Wesleyan experienced marked growth in the first decade of the twentieth century. This building and Fisk Hall were both constructed in 1903. Scott was designed by Charles A. Rich, a notable collegiate architect. The most distinctive feature of this Renaissance Revival structure, presently masked by ivy, is its tall central pavillion. Rusticated stone surrounds the round arched main portal. Above the first story, two engaged columns flank a two story round arched window bay. The upper portion of the bay contains a large leaded stained glass window. A cartouche-like oval window is displayed on the stepped pedimented gable. These elements are ornately decorated by swags and other intricate details. Smooth and sculpted limestone details set against the brick walls produce a variety of form and color.

Scott Laboratory has been used on a temporary basis since 1971 when physics classes were moved to the newly constructed Science Tower. At the present time, the building is unoccupied however, the university may decide to fully utilize Scott's interior space in the future.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman  
date: 6/78 view: north  
negative on file: Roll 21, #30



COMPILED BY:

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19. SOURCES: Wesleyan University Archives; Wesleyan Argus, 26 Feb 1971, 28 Sep 1976, 14 Feb 1978; Henry F. Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Directory of American Architects, Deceased (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: Ivy has overgrown

the surface of the building to such an extent that its distinctive features are hidden and prone to deterioration.