

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

100 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: Joseph Hall House Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 208 College Street
4. OWNER(S): Baxter S. Patrick PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission of tenant no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1765
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 east side foundation & entrance porch base
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: 28'x39'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
 Exterior: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: 1830
 Alterations: no yes, explain: One story additions east side and rear; Federal period entrance porch
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: The Hall House is set on a sloping site on College Street near High Street. It is the earliest structure on this section of the street, which has closely sited residences from a variety of periods. Across the street is an early 20th century elementary school.

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

- Double overhang
- Panelled triple-run staircase
- Interior panelling and corner cupboards

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This large central chimney house originally stood on the east side of High Street between the present College and Court Streets. In 1765 Joseph Hall received the southern portion of the homelot of his father, Samuel Hall, on High Street. Joseph probably built this house soon after that date; and certainly by 1790, when it was conveyed to his son, John Hall. John Hall lived in the house until his death (c. 1799), when it passed into the hands of his widow and his brother, Jonathan Alin Hall. Between 1811 and 1830, the house passed through a succession of owners, reflecting the speculation in real estate which accompanied the establishment of High Street as a prime residential district at this time.

In 1830 Nathan Starr purchased the Hall house and land on High Street. He contracted for the erection of a stone mansion on its site (this partially survives as the present D.K.E. fraternity house, 276 High Street). Starr then had the Hall homestead moved to a portion of the land fronting on College Street. In its new location the house remained in the hands of Starr descendants until 1934. It was sold by Starr to his daughter Mary, wife of Dr. Hamilton Brewer, in 1849. Brewer, a native of East Hartford, was a graduate of

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 2/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 10, #21A



COMPILED BY:

name: Barbara Ann Cleary date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; E.P. Augur, "Joseph Hall House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (Colonial Dames, 1924)

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

Form number: 18 Date: 7/78

Joseph Hall House
208 College Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

Wesleyan and Yale medical school, and became a prominent local physician. The house was conveyed to their daughter, Mary Grace Brewer, in 1875. In 1916 she married Lyman Payne, the proprietor of a well-known musical instrument supply business on College Street.

The Hall House is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of a center chimney Colonial house in Middletown. Its large size is emphasized by its tall gambrel roof with two windows at the gable ends. It retains early features such as a double overhang. A well-executed Federal period porch graces the entrance. The interior is finished with panelled fireplace walls, dado paneling, and two corner cupboards. A panelled triple-run staircase has turned balusters and elaborately carved newel post. Most of the original doors and hardware survive.