

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: _____ Historic: John & Susan Smith House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 234 Court Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Simon Edleberg (Estate of) PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residential (Apartments) Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late Federal Colonial Revival remodeling DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1826-1828
- 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 on pedimented gables foundation
(coursed ashlar)
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon (addition)
 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: 35'x76'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Early rear wings; one-bay east addition; Colonial
Alterations: no yes, explain: Revival remodeling (see #18); new foundation
- 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 house is the first in a row of three small-scaled early 19th century houses closely sited on the north side of Court Street. The Gothic Revival Russell Library is directly to the east. The surrounding neighborhood (the area between Broad and High Streets) contains a mixture of architectural styles and the resulting variety of scale, form and detail reflect the 150 year evolution of this residential district.

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

Original ornamented leaded fanlights in doorway and main gable
Similar Colonial Revival fanlight east gable

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house displays a discernible early section and a major Colonial Revival remodeling taking its inspiration from the original features.

The original section was built for John L. Smith probably soon after the property was bought by his wife in 1826. Smith, a prominent city resident born in Scotland, was a well-known Middletown jeweler for sixty years. He was the first Secretary of Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co., first Treasurer of Wesleyan University and a member of the University's first Board of Trustees. He was also one of the incorporators of the Middletown Savings Bank and served as town Treasurer for many years. The house built for Smith was of the three-bay type with pedimented gable to the street and Federal detail. The first rear addition (to the north) was built for Smith before 1851. Seth Hall, a city street commissioner, owned the house from 1868 to 1887. Hall probably added the last two rear (north) additions, thus expanding the house to accomodate numerous family members.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 5, #8A



COMPILED BY:

name: R. Svec date: 2/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 1825 Barnum, 1828 Barnum Copy Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas Map; 1915 Aero-View of Middletown

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: 2/78

John & Susan Smith House
234 Court Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457

The house was owned by the Medlicott family from 1892 to 1936. They were undoubtedly responsible for the well executed and sensitive Colonial Revival remodeling. The exterior renovation consisted of the application of Federal style decoration to the original house and the later small east wing, including full height pilasters and a Federal entrance porch. The east wing has a pedimented gable with fanlight modeled after those on the original house, and a first story Palladian window. The east wing (which added one bay to the original three-bay facade) was probably constructed at the time of the Colonial Revival remodeling, but may have been erected by 1874. The interior of the house was also completely remodeled in a neo-Federal style.

In the Smith House, the features of two related stylistic periods are combined in a sensitive and unified manner. In this sense, the house is also representative of the evolutionary character of the surrounding neighborhood.

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Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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