

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: John M. Douglas House Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 258 Court Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Student housing Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Queen Anne (Stick Style and Eastlake decoration) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1880-81

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: _____ foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- gable (jerkin 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: 31'x71'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Rear wing added; second story porch enclosed; interior divided into four apartments

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 typically sited for the upper Court Street area; back from the street with side yards and a yard in the rear. The John M. Douglas house reflects the closing phase of the gradual development of the area throughout the 19th century.

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

Parquet floor in entrance hallway
Pressed tin wall coverings

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: John Mansfield Douglas was the first to live in this house, occupying it a year after its construction in 1880/81. A prominent man in Middletown, he was President of the W. & B. Douglas Pump Works, one of Middletown's major manufacturing concerns whose reputation for quality and innovative products was known worldwide. He also became President of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank and President of the Middletown Street Railway, and served in the State House and Senate. The house was sold by his widow in 1900, and passed through a series of owners until acquired by Wesleyan in 1959.

The house is of particular significance due to the fine Eastlake details such as the curved roof brackets with pendants and the elaborately turned porch columns. With its neighbor to the east (250 Court Street) it typifies the distinguished character the upper Court Street area had attained as a residential neighborhood by the late nineteenth century.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 12, #5A

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: E.F. Bigelow, 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____