

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: Oliver D. Beebe House Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 279 Court Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Department of English offices 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: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1814
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick foundation-rear
<input checked="" 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>brownstone foundation</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		
- 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: 23'x32' (wing 29'x19')
- 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; shingle siding
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: parking lot in rear
 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 structure is sited typically for the upper Court Street area; set back from the street with small side yards and a yard in the rear. The gradual development of this area since the early 19th century is reflected in the variety of architectural styles represented on the street. This small three-bay Federal house is the earliest structure and the only one of its type remaining on upper Court Street.

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

Federal entrance porch with cove ceiling

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1814 for Oliver D. Beebe. Beebe was foreclosed on by Arthur W. Magill in 1827. Magill was an officer of the Middletown Manufacturing Co., an innovative woolen manufactory which was the first in the country to utilize steam power. He also became a bonded cashier in the Middletown branch of the United States Bank. The U.S. Bank won a verdict against Magill in a Supreme Court case and confiscated 279 Court Street as part of the judgement. Barzallai D. Sage, Middletown master builder, acquired the property from the Bank in 1830 and divided the lot selling this house to Lucretia Southmayd. The property transferred through various owners until Wesleyan acquired it for use as offices in 1958.

This house displays Federal details such as a fanlight over the entrance and delicate window cornices. It is an example of the three-bay side hall configuration which was a popular type of house construction in the Middletown area. In its early application the gables were placed perpendicular to the street. The Oliver Beebe house is an important surviving example in wood of this early form.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 1/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll II, #36A

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 Court Records; Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin, vol. 37, #2 (April 1972); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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