

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

55 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

Part B. 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: Bywater Farm
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 178-180 Cross Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Dorothy Hill and Margaret Jackson PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Hall Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Late 18th Century
- 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: foundation  
\_\_\_ 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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 37'x41'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent       good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent       good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: \_\_\_ on original site  moved, when: ca. 1831  
Alterations: \_\_\_ no  yes, explain: Front porch and rear leanto added; second floor par-
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: tioned; stairs replaced (1926)  
\_\_\_ barn      \_\_\_ shed      \_\_\_ garage       other landscape features or buildings: brownstone  
\_\_\_ carriage house      \_\_\_ shop      \_\_\_ garden      steps in bank
- 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 center-hall Colonial house is sited on a bank on the north side of Cross Street in a thickly-settled older residential district southwest of Wesleyan University. It is centered on a short block that runs between the entrance road to Indian Hill Cemetery (which is behind the house), and Fairview (see continuation sheet)

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

Many original eight-over-twelve window sashes  
Old millstone used for doorstep at west door  
Interior: Some original wainscoting, paneling, H&L hinges, wrought iron latches

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_

Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This double-chimney, center-hall house sits on a rise of ground overlooking Cross Street. There is a tradition that the house was used originally as an inn, and was later moved to its current site. Stairs eight feet wide filling the center hall, and the large room running across the front of the house, divided only by moveable partitions, would indicate that it had been used for large gatherings. Eighteenth century styling features, chimneys not tied into the framing, and brick used for the chimney base and stack support the idea that the house was built earlier elsewhere, and moved to this site in the nineteenth century.

There has been a house on this site at least since 1831. In that year Matthew Bacon mortgaged the property "with the buildings" in what was then called Baconville (upper Cross Street). The next long-term owners were the Hall family, who held it through the latter half of the nineteenth century. The external integrity of the house is consistent with its probable age. This Colonial house contributes to this section of Cross Street, which also has early-19th century Federal houses to the east.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman  
date: 9/78 view: south  
negative on file: Roll 38, #5



COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 8/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; Jesse Alsop, "Bywater Farm," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935)

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  
Item number: 16 Date: 8/78

Bywater Farm  
178-180 Cross Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#16

avenue. The house, heavily screened by trees and bushes, faces the extensive Long Lane School grounds on the other side of Cross Street.