

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
39 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: Wesleyan Physical Plant Historic: _____
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 58 Hamlin Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Office & Maintenance Quarters Historic: Industrial
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain permission of security officer no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Brick Industrial (Federal-Greek period) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1850
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fieldstone foundation—original section
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: <u>poured</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<u>foundation—addition</u>	

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

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

10. ROOF: type:

- gable flat addition mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed attached hip round other _____
- material: garage
- wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
- asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 65'x27' (addition 70'x50')

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Interior converted to offices; removal of chimneys
Alterations: no yes, explain: and doorway with fanlight (west facade); large

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: addition to south, c. 1890's
 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 building is set on an open corner It is surrounded by a large parking area to the north and east and cleared land to the south. It is the only industrial building in an area primarily consisting of mid-nineteenth century residences (with the exception of a public school across the street to the west).

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

Early scales set into first floor (visible from basement)
Early elevator in addition; built by Eastern Machinery Co., New Haven, Conn.
Trap door in attic
Wooden lintel (probably for a loading beam) on second story east side

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This early industrial building was probably constructed by Nathaniel Bacon around (and certainly before) 1851. Bacon was known as a "Maker of superior bank and safe locks," and the building may have been used for that purpose. Daniel Benham, owner from 1862 to 1871, was a prominent merchant and tailor, but his use of the building is unknown. Between 1881 and 1916 the Evans Brothers manufactured and repaired "carriages, wagons and sleighs" here. They are probably responsible for the large late nineteenth century addition to the south. The building changed hands until bought by the Mohawk Manufacturing Company (metal goods) in 1922. Since 1959 it has been the headquarters of the Wesleyan University Maintenance Department.

The main original section displays the typical domestic scale of early nineteenth century industrial buildings. The brick work and fenestration are reminiscent of the Federal-Greek style, but there are few decorative details.

This building was a precursor to the later nineteenth century industrial development concentrated in the Church and William Street area to the south. It is the only early nineteenth century industrial-manufacturing building surviving in the immediate area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 13, #33A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 2/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; D.D. Field, Centennial Address (Middletown, Conn.: Casey, 1853); 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map



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: _____ Date: 1/90

Wesleyan Physical Plant
58 Hamlin Street, Middletown, CT 06457

