

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 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: Bailey-Sibley House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 208 High Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University 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: 19th century gable domestic; Federal Revival remodelling DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1859 & 1870

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard east wing asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: poured cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: _____ foundation east wing foundation

- 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: 24'x37'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Additions; exterior remodeling (see #18)

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Parking lot in rear of yard
 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 faces west to the Wesleyan University campus green from the east side of High Street. It is sited on land sloping down from High Street to a parking lot in the rear of the back yard. Its neighbors are the Neo-Classical Revival Eclectic Society building to the south, and a three-bay Federal style house to the north on the corner of William and High Streets.

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

Elaborate Federal Revival detail (not original)
Marble entrance stoop

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built between 1859 and 1870 on land of Israel Bailey, the primary developer of a tract on William Street between Hamlin and High Streets which he purchased in 1825. The brick construction is atypical of this development; Bailey was a carpenter and probably built the other frame houses himself. This house was used as a rental property until 1892 when Jennie A. (Bailey) Sibley and her husband completed title in the property from other heirs of Israel Bailey. The Sibleys occupied the house until 1920, and in 1921 it was acquired by Wesleyan University for use as campus housing.

The physical history of this house is complex. The approximate original appearance was of an L-shaped, cross-gabled structure with projecting eaves; entrance door with narrow vertical lights; a Victorian entrance porch; and dark painted trim. A lien attached to the property in 1876 mentions alterations and an addition, which appears on an 1877 map as a one story wing at the rear. This brick wing was later raised to two full stories, and another clapboarded wing was added to the rear of the first wing. Due to the slope of the site these wings have full brick basements above ground. In the early 20th century, the
(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 2/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 13, #15A

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Photos, "Eclectic" and Phi Nu Theta" files, Wesleyan Archives



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:			SITE NO.:
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Form number: 18 Date: 5/78

Bailey-Sibley House
208 High Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

house's stylistic appearance was changed by a thorough application of Federal Revival details, possibly by Howard A. Sibley, known to be an architect. The alterations included the substitution of a cove-ceilinged entrance porch for the original; the application of a modillioned cornice to shortened eaves; and the addition of gable pediments carried on an entablature decorated with reeded tryglyphs.

These well executed alterations, together with the original gable-to-street form, coincide to give the impression of a Federal-Greek Revival transitional style. Whether intended or not, this effect demonstrates the evolution of the house through the changing tastes of different periods.