

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: Orange Judd Hall Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): High St. (College Row, between Church and Washington)
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Educational Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain classrooms  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1869-72
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input 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</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation, ashlar walls</u>
- 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: 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 95'x63'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: See #18
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: University  
 carriage house  shop  garden campus green to east
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: University Campus  
 open land  woodland  residential  scattered buildings visible from site  
 commercial  industrial  rural  high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This structure is the southernmost in a line of five brownstone buildings arranged on the west side of the Wesleyan University campus green. This group is known as "College Row" and is the traditional focus of the University campus. From their lofty site overlooking the Connecticut River to the east this row of college buildings presents one of Middletown's best-known sights.

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

Cast iron balustrade on front entrance stair  
Ionic entrance porch (brownstone)

SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was dedicated on July 18, 1871. Presented to Wesleyan by Orange Judd, a wealthy publisher in New York, it was the first Wesleyan building funded entirely by a alumnus, and was said to be the first college building in the country devoted completely to sciences. Originally the chemistry department occupied the first floor; the second floor housed the natural history and physics departments; and the third and fourth floors contained a natural history museum. The first United States Agricultural Station was housed in this building in 1875-77.

As originally designed by Bryant and Rogers of New York this building incorporated many fireproof materials on the interior, and utilized thirteen chimneys to provide heat and ventilation. The mansard roof was broken up visually by alternating dormers and chimneys. Intricate iron grillework surmounted the ridges of the roof. In honor of the building's donor, all of the building's doors were painted a bright orange.

In 1957-58 the interior and roof were completely reconstructed. The dormers and chimneys were removed, and the roof altered so that at present only the corners of the roof reveal its mansard configuration.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 7/78 view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 29, 35A-36



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 6/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); "Judd Hall" file, (Wesleyan Archives); 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 6/78

Orange Judd Hall  
High Street (College Row), Middletown, Ct 06457

This building was erected contemporaneously with the Gothic Revival Rich Hall and Memorial Chapel to the north. Its Second Empire style is unique to College Row, and thus Judd Hall presents an interesting contrast with its neighbors as it anchors the south end of the row.