

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: North College Historic: The Dormitory
- 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: Administrative Offices Historic: Dormitory
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain office use  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Neoclassical Reconstruction DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1907
- 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: _____		
- 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: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 151'x50'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Rebuilt after fire 1906-07
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: University campus green; connected to South College by breezeway  
 carriage house  shop  garden
- 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 large brownstone structure faces east to the Connecticut River. It is the northernmost member of a row of five brownstone buildings known as "College Row" which are arranged in a line along the west side of the campus green. This row is the traditional focus of the campus, and constitutes one of Middletown's best-known sights.

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

Full height brownstone columns in portico  
Pediment fanlight with moveable sash in center of fan

**SIGNIFICANCE** Orig. Edward Hine & Merrill Ward  
Architect: Abro & Linderberg of New York Builder: Mylchreest Brothers of Middletown  
Orig. John L. Lewis

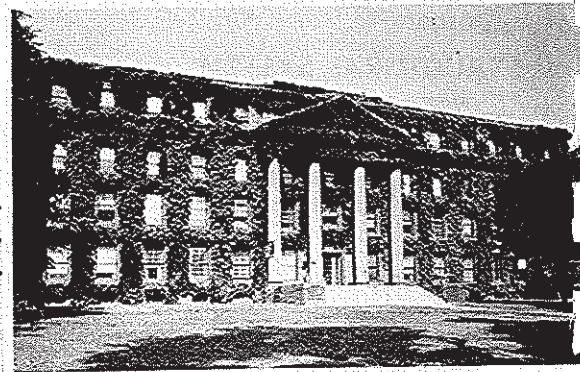
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: On September 8, 1824 a Middletown newspaper reported that "the subscription for the establishment of the school of Capt. Alden Partridge in this city has been completed, and John L. Lewis, Esq. has contracted to have the necessary buildings finished by the first of July next." When first occupied by Capt. Partridge, American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy this building was called simply "The Dormitory," a name it retained until 1871 when it was renamed "North College." The building, together with the neighboring South College, was deeded to the founders of Wesleyan University in 1830, after Capt. Partridge removed his ALS&MA to Norwich, Vermont. The present structure is a reconstructed version of the original North College, built by Lewis in 1824-25, and destroyed by fire March 1, 1906.

The original building had four stories with a hip roof; central projecting pavilion with pediment carried by full height pilasters; and coursed brownstone rubble construction. Federal style details included fanlights in the pediment and over the entrance, and a modillioned cornice. The building contained sixty-four rooms arranged along corridors and served by a central stairwell.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 7/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 29, #25A-26



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop, "North College," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); Karl Harrington, Background of Wesleyan and Middletown, Ct. (Middletown 1942); Various articles and photos in "North College" file, Wesleyan Archives; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET  
Form number: 18 Date: 6/78

The Dormitory  
High St. (College Row), Middletown, Ct. 06457

On March 1, 1906 a fire which started in the attic destroyed the building completely. The cornerstone for a new North College was laid March 25, 1907. This structure, designed by Albro & Linderberg of New York, was built substantially along the lines of the original North College. Differences include the placement of the cornice between the third and fourth floors; a columned entrance portico; and tightly jointed ashlar construction. Despite these deviations, the present structure retains the same harmonious relationship to College Row as its predecessor. One apparent change, however, is the greater emphasis on neo-classical elements. An example of this is the entrance portico which retains a Federal fanlight in the pediment.

The reconstructed North College contained 104 rooms and was used as a dormitory until 1966, when a gradual transformation to an office building was begun. Most of the University's administrative offices are now housed in North College.