

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: Presidents' House Historic: Coite-Hubbard House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 269 High Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence of University President Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ with permission _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1856
- 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: brownstone
 other: _____ 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 cupola
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 51'x49' (west wing 32'x22')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Addition in rear (1967); minor interior alterations;
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: canopy (south side) removed
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: iron fence
 carriage house shop garden on north, hedge on east (High Street)
- 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 east to the Connecticut River from the southwest corner of High Street and Wyllys Avenue. High Street between Church and Washington Streets was the most prestigious residential area in Middletown during the 19th century, and is now a part of the Wesleyan University campus.

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

Original chandelier and mirror in living room

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: _____

Architect: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built in 1856 by Gabriel Coite. Coite was a partner in his father's business in Brooklyn, New York, until he retired to Middletown in 1853. In 1860 he was elected State Senator; and in 1862 became treasurer of the State and moved to Hartford. In 1863 this house was acquired by Mrs. Jane Miles Hubbard, widow of Samuel D. Hubbard. Hubbard was co-founder of the Russell Manufacturing Company, builder of the Mansion block, and a Postmaster General. Wesleyan University purchased the property from Mrs. Hubbard's heirs in 1904 for use as the President's residence. Since then Presidents Raymond, Shanklin, Olin, McConaughy (later Governor of Connecticut), Butterfield, Etherington, and Campbell have occupied the house.

This Italianate Villa style house is of a symmetrical cube form with a projecting pavillion, prominent porte cochere, and elaborate scrolled brackets beneath the eaves of the roof and cupola. The treatment of the windows is similarly elaborate with heavy flat pediments supported on consoles. There are elaborate crestings in the window pediments

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 5/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 20, #21A



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "The President's Home," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); Photos in 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: 4/78

Coite-Hubbard House

269 High Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

of the front facade. The entrance to the house is distinguished by the porte cochere with paired columns and a balustrade.

The large scale of this house, together with its elaborate decorative treatment, makes it one of the most successful and sophisticated examples of its style in Middletown. Its site is at the highest elevation on High Street, and thereby complements the imposing qualities of the architecture.

This is a house of great distinction on a street where high style in architecture was the already established standard at the time of its construction.