

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

100 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: General Mansfield House Historic: Mather-Mansfield House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 151 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): The Middlesex County Historical Society PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Historical Society Headquarters Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_ by appointment \_\_\_\_\_ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1807-1810
- 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 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; window sills and lintels</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: 42'x32' (original north-
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: west wing 10'x18'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Several rear wings added
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed two  garage  other landscape features or buildings: formal garden  
 carriage house  shop  garden west in rear; fence on Main Street side  
2nd north
- 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 from the west side of Main Street between William and College Streets. This area has been designated an historic district. To the south is a small park, and the remainder of the block to the north awaits redevelopment. Across Main Street the Metro Square development is currently under construction.

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

- Entrance porch with flushboarded coved ceiling
- Modillioned cornice
- Mantelpieces, interior cornices, and staircase are elaborately detailed
- Historical Society collections; furniture, paintings, displays, etc.
- Dressed brownstone retaining wall with picket fence on Main Street side

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: Frederick B. Palmer  
 Restoration ca. 1960

Builder: Robert Robinson

**8. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:**

This house was built by Robert Robinson or Samuel Mather in 1810. In 1838 Mather's daughter married Joseph King Fenno Mansfield, who was later killed at Antietam while serving as a General in the Union Army. General Mansfield's body was returned to Middletown, where it was buried with the ceremony befitting a local hero. The heirs of General Mansfield transferred title in the property to the Middlesex County Historical Society in 1959; the house had been in the Mather-Mansfield family for 150 years.

The five-bay, center hall configuration of this house was typical of the prominent Federal-style homes in Middletown. A nearby structure built around 1810 is almost identical to this house (see form for 70 Main Street).

Restoration of the Mansfield house was undertaken in 1960; it now displays the Historical Society's collections in an atmosphere which combines the elegance of the original structure with an appropriate historic feeling.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
 date: 6/78 view: east  
 negative on file: Roll 25, #23

**COMPILED BY:**

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78  
 organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
 address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: "The General Mansfield House," The Middlesex County Historical Society (Middletown: 1960); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map



**20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:**

**21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:**

- none known
- renewal
- highways
- private
- vandalism
- deterioration
- developers
- zoning
- other: \_\_\_\_\_
- explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/90

Mather-Mansfield House  
151 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

