

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: Graves Homestead Historic: Rev. Joseph Graves House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Miner Street; south side, .2 miles west of East Street
- 4. OWNER(S): First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Meriden PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Possibly vacant Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1775 and 1800
- 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 _____
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x29'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: First story wings
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: fence; large maple trees
 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 small Colonial house with hip-roof faces north from the south side of Miner Street. Across the street is the large Greek Revival Third Congregational Church. Miner Street is the center of the village of Westfield. It displays small residential buildings along both sides and is dominated by the large church edifice.

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

Denticulated cornice
Greek Revival entrance

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house is of uncertain date. It was probably built sometime between 1775 and 1800 by the Reverend Joseph Graves, first pastor of the Westfield Baptist Church. His father Joseph was an early settler in Westfield and lived on Middle Street (see GMPT Survey Report, 612 Middle Street). In 1822 this property passed to the Rev. Josiah Graves who succeeded his father in the pastorate of the Baptists. The house remained in the Graves family until 1834.

This finely scaled center-chimney house features a low hip roof set off by a denticulated cornice. The symmetry of the five-bay facade is preserved through the addition of identical wings at each end. Although presently unoccupied and in deteriorating condition, this house is important to Miner Street due to its unique architecture and long association with the Graves family.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 30A-31



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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