

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: Gaylord-Russell House Historic: Starr-Gaylord-Russell House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 73 Pearl Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with tenant's permission  no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1813-1815

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 and entrance porch

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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27'x32' (northwest ell 18'x20')

12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Screened porch (southwest) added

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: brownstone
- carriage house  shop  garden wall topped by white picket fence in front  
along Pearl 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: The Pearl Street area between Court and Washington Streets is a high density residential neighborhood. This house faces east and is set close to the street on the west side. Its site is a portion of the former Samuel W. Russell estate which occupied the block bounded by High, Court, Pearl and Washington Streets.

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

Interior trim largely original: Federal mantels in front and back parlors; baking oven and large cooking fireplace in original kitchen ell at rear

SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: As the oldest structure remaining on Pearl Street, this house is unique stylistically and historically to an area whose principal development did not begin until the 1840's. This house was probably built for James F. Starr ca. 1813-1815. It was acquired by Samuel Gaylord in 1826 and sold by him to Samuel Russell in 1835. In 1895 R. Burton Stubbings became the tenant. He remained until 1944 when he died at age 71, having served the Russells as coachman/chauffeur. In 1946 the house was acquired by Wesleyan University for use as a faculty residence. Incorporation into the Russell estate and ownership by Wesleyan has prevented an extensive development of this portion of Pearl Street. As a result, the Gaylord-Russell house enjoys open surroundings not found elsewhere on Pearl Street.

The three-bay sidehall configuration seems to have been a common type of house construction in the Middletown area. In its early application the gables were placed perpendicular to the street. Together with 148 College, 33 Ferry and 36 South Main Street this house is one of the few remaining examples in brick of this early form. This house displays typical Federal details such as a fanlight over the entrance, entrance porch with cove ceiling and slender columns, and a delicate modillioned cornice.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 2/78 view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 12, #9



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 3/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/90

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73 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457

