

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: Young House Historic: Smith-Stiles House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 15 Pleasant Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Henry Muller and Henry Muller IV PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Apartment Historic: Double Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1870-71
- 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: Wings 47'x22', connected by

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 18'x14' central section

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site _____ moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Interior divided into rental units; front porch

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: glassed in; minor Queen Anne period alterations
 barn shed _____ garage other landscape features or buildings *board and batten carriage house with cupola
 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 large "H" shaped building sits on the south side of Pleasant Street facing the South Green. Directly to the east is the Gothic Revival South Congregational Church and to the west is an early eighteenth century Colonial house. With the exception of these two structures, this picturesque area consists of high style Second Empire and Queen Anne style dwellings.

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

Built as large double dwelling
Elaborate wooden ornamentation

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This substantial two-family residence was constructed in 1870 for the families of Henry Smith and Norman Stiles. For many years Mr. Smith was secretary and treasurer of I.O. Smith Manufacturing Company, the family-founded cider distillery. He later became Middletown's street commissioner. Mr. Stiles, Smith's son-in-law, was an innovative individual. He invented and patented a successful toe and instep stretcher and controlled the Stiles and Parker Press Company, a local manufactory of hardware, locks, brass goods and sewer lids.

In 1902 Dr. Charles Young acquired the property. Dr. Young resided in the eastern section of the house and rented the other half to the Gardner family. Since 1927 the house has had a succession of owners and has been primarily used for rental purposes.

This extremely large house is embellished by bay windows, decorative cut-outs in the frieze and arched windows in the dormers. The interior has been partitioned for small apartments but still retains its original plan with two stair halls and large parlors in the wings. Many of the original details survive: marble fireplaces; parquet floors; moldings; early lighting fixtures; and an embossed canvas ceiling. Some particularly fine later

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 7/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 33, #36



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective 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: 7/78

Smith-Stiles House

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features are a glass-enclosed porch with balustrade across the front of the central section, and a Queen Anne style stained glass fixture in the interior of the central section.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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