

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: Rockwell House Historic: Rockwell-Summer House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 21 Pleasant Street
- 4. OWNER(S): South Congregational Church PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Parish House & offices Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain open to public  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: center chimney Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1721
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick foundation-rear addition
<input checked="" 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-main section</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 rear  hip  round  other \_\_\_\_\_  
material:  
 wood shingle  roll asphalt  tin  slate  
 asphalt shingle  built up  tile  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Later entranceway; shed to rear;
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 house is located on the south side of Pleasant Street, facing the historic South Green. It sits between two Second Empire dwellings. It is the earliest house in an area primarily of mid-to late-nineteenth century residences.

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

Later Federal entrance porch

SIGNIFICANCE

Historical or Architectural Importance: The Joseph Rockwell house is the sole survivor of the early days of the South Green development. It was built when the "Road to New Haven" swept from Main Street through this broad open space and continued southerly towards the Pamecha district. This road, in later years, was called South Main Street. Between the years of 1867 and 1870 the area experienced marked development: high style residences were erected on the South Green and on Crescent Street. By 1874 the South Green formally became known as Union Park. Throughout all of these changes, the Joseph Rockwell House survived.

The house was constructed by Joseph Rockwell around 1728 and shortly after was transferred to his son Joseph Rockwell, Jr. It remained in the Rockwell family until 1782. It then passed through a succession of owners until 1825 when it was purchased by John Sumner. It stayed in the Sumner family for over one hundred years. Subsequently the Pease family occupied the house, until 1950. It is presently owned by the South Congregational Church and is used for a variety of services. The interior has a typical first period Colonial floor plan; center chimney and triple (see continuation sheet)

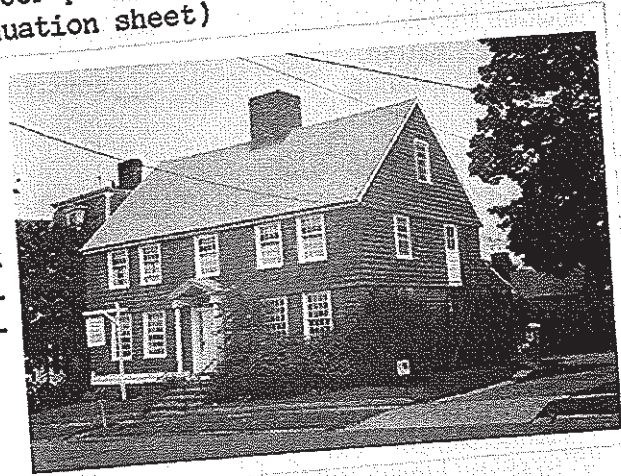
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 7/78 view: northwest  
negative on file: Roll 33, #35

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 8/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM**  
for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 8/78

Rockwell-Summer House  
21 Pleasant Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

run staircase in a shallow entrance hall. The parlor and the dining room flank the chimney and the kitchen runs full width across the rear of the house.

The building has been adapted for new uses; but retains many early elements such as paneling, a bee hive oven, wrought iron hardware and wide floor boards.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Rockwell-Sumner House  
21 Pleasant Street, Middletown, CT 06457

