

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: Burr Homestead Historic: Rev. Stephen Parsons House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 178-180 South Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Nora T. Vaine PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence (double) Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1788
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input 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 checked="" 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</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 - wood frame; post and beam balloon
 - load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 - other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x27'; wing 25'x14'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Addition in rear; porch added south side
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	_____
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces west from the south-east corner of South Main Street and Cottage Street. South Main Street displays a variety of building styles and uses. As one of the oldest structures in the area this house contributes historically to the mixture of buildings on South Main Street.

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

- Five lights over doorway
- Six panel front door
- Later use of double overhang

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built for Rev. Stephen Parsons of the Strict or Separate (now South Congregational) Society of Middletown in 1788. The land was deeded to Rev. Parsons by Deacon Ebenezer Bacon on condition that Parsons remain as pastor for at least ten years, after which the property would become his own. In 1796, two years before that term was up, Parsons declared from the pulpit that he had converted to the Baptist faith, and his home reverted to the church for use as a parsonage. The church sold the property to Linus Burr in 1827, and it remained in the Burr family until 1939. The house has always been in residential use.

With its two-room deep, center-chimney plan this house is typical of eighteenth century Connecticut house construction. The original doorway with five overlights is also a typical feature of the period.

This house, with its historical association with the South Congregational Church, is an important survivor from the early development of South Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 4/78 view: west

negative on file: Roll 18, #24



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 7/78

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "Burr Homestead," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); "A Brief History of the South Congregational Church 1747-1947" (Middletown: 1947); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map
20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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