

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: Wetmore-Weeks House Historic: Alsop-Weeks House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 200-202 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Student Housing 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: Gothic Revival; remodelling of Georgian house DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1780 remodelling c. 1840
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: <u>block</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<u>north addition</u>	<u>foundation</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(wings)  shed  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: 42'x32'; wings 21'x24'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Remodellings (see #18); large north addition
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: fence  
 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 substantial Gothic Revival structure is sited prominently at the northwest corner of High and Washington Streets, two major Middletown roads. It is at the west of a hill, with views to east and west. The Wesleyan University campus is to the south. 235

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This distinctive house has important historical associations, and is a unique record of changing architectural taste in Middletown over a 200-year period. Originally a Georgian central-hall mansion, the house underwent an extensive Gothic Revival remodelling around 1840. The origins of the house are obscure. Sometime before 1846, Charles Alsop acquired the house and homelot of Chauncey Whittlesey from Whittlesey's descendents. Whittlesey, a prominent merchant active in the American Revolution, had obtained land from his father-in-law, Seth Wetmore, in 1775, and probably constructed his house soon thereafter. In 1812 Alsop also obtained a piece of land, adjoining on the western boundary of Whittlesey's homelot. This 2½ acre plot contained an "old House," and had been inherited in 1792 by Ester Phillips from her brother, George Hamlin. The laying of High Street after 1851 has made it impossible to determine from deed transactions if the house which Charles Alsop converted was the Whittlesey House or the Hamlin House; however, circumstantial documentary evidence suggests that it is the Whittlesey House. A local tradition that the two gambrel-roofed wings were once part of another house may account for the disposition of the Hamlin House.

(see continuation sheet)

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: John E. Reynolds  
date: 1/78 view: south  
negative on file: Roll 9, #35



**COMPILED BY:**

name: Barbara Ann Cleary date: 1/79  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); Albert van Dusry "Middletown and the American Revolution," Connecticut Historical Commission Survey, 1970; 1851 Clark 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 1/79

Alsop-Weeks House

200-202 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

Charles Alsop probably undertook the Gothic Revival remodelling of the house around 1840. (In 1839 he obtained a 3-year lease for a house on Liberty Street). Alsop was a member of one of Middletown's most prominent nineteenth-century families. A graduate of Yale, he began to practice law in Middletown in 1832. He also served two terms as Mayor of Middletown and several terms as State Senator; and was active in "railroad enterprises," being one of the original incorporators of the New York & Boston Railroad Company.

The house remained in the Alsop family until 1887. It was owned from 1889 to 1911 by Professor and Mrs. Atwater, who were responsible for the Federal Revival interior remodelling. From 1911 to 1936 it was owned by Frank B. Weeks, who is best remembered for having served as Governor of the State of Connecticut. Weeks bequeathed the house to Wesleyan University in 1936; it has served various purposes since then and is presently used as student housing.

The Alsop-Weeks house is a significant record of changing architectural tastes. The original structure is a Georgian house with center hallway and a double-hipped roof. Two 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed wings have been added at each rear corner. The Gothic Revival remodelling of c. 1840 added variety to the original forms by the addition of a projecting, gabled, central section, dormers, and a broad-arched veranda. Further picturesque embellishment, including a variety of shingles, decorative bargeboards, pinnacles, and window hoods, effectively disguised the original Georgian character on the exterior. A second major remodelling has in turn almost completely obscured both the Georgian and Gothic Revival design on the interior. The interior is treated throughout in a Colonial Revival manner, primarily Adamesque in feeling. The Colonial Revival interior includes staircase, panelling, and fireplaces throughout (with the possible exception of some interior doors which may date from the original house, and a Gothic-arched window in a first-floor room). In the process of conversion to student housing, a large modern addition has been added to the rear. The interior and the house as seen from the street, however, have suffered few major alterations.

The Alsop-Weeks House, occupying a prominent site at the corner of High and Washington Streets, is a familiar Middletown landmark. Its architectural interest and associations with prominent Middletown citizens give it outstanding significance.