

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: Southmayd Homestead Historic: Partridge Southmayd House; Southmayd Homestead
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Staddle Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 797 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Harriet B. Redford PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain with occupant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial (saltbox) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1739 per date in foundation
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
X clapboard asbestos siding brick
wood shingle asphalt siding X fieldstone foundation
board & batten stucco cobblestone
aluminum siding concrete: type: X cut stone: type: brownstone
other: ashlar (between fieldstone and sill)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
X wood frame: X post and beam balloon
load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
other:

- 10. ROOF: type:
X gable saltbox flat mansard monitor sawtooth
gambrel shed hip round other
material:
wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
X asphalt shingle built up tile other:

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 25'x40'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good X fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent X good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no X yes, explain: Alterations to plan; flooring; doors on interior
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
X barn X shed garage other landscape features or buildings:
carriage house shop garden

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
open land woodland X residential scattered buildings visible from site
X commercial industrial rural X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces north from the south side of Washington Street west of Boston Road. Washington Street in this area displays heavy commercial strip development with some scattered residential structures. This house is set back from the street on a rise and is surrounded by open spaces which set it apart from the crowded street.

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

Triple run staircase  
"RTS 1739" carved into foundation stone (east side, near southeast corner)

SIGNIFICANCE

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The early history of this property remains a mystery. The earliest known occupant was Partridge Southmayd who, in a deed dated January 12, 1790, refers to the property as his "homelot." How and when he came into the property is not recorded. The initials "RTS" and the date "1739" carved into the foundation stone, are the sole indications as to the first owner of this house; however, these clues also have defied documentation. The house remained in the Southmayd family for nearly two centuries, until the 1940s.

This saltbox house with three-bay facade lacks the characteristic overhang of mid-eighteenth-century domestic construction. Although the appearance of the house has been altered through enlargement of the windows and other cosmetic changes, it retains much of its original fabric, including fireplaces and a fine triple-run staircase.

Although the origins of this house can only be surmised, its presence illustrates the early development on the "highway to Meriden" in the Staddle Hill area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 12/78 view: northeast  
negative on file: Roll 56, #28

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Research Paper, "797 Washington Street," 12/78, Tom Fiore (GMPT); 1859 Walling 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: \_\_\_\_\_