STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: D. Ward Northrop House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 154 Church Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University ___________________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain ___________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Bracketed cottage DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1874
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
  ___ wood frame: post and beam ___ balloon
  x load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
  ___ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
  ___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
  ___ gable roof ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
  ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round-___ other __________
  ___ material: ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
  ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: __________
10. ROOF: type: ___ gable cross ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
    ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round-___ other __________
    ___ material: ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
    ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: __________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 31' x 35'
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
    Exterior: ___ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site ___ moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Small shed in rear
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    ___ barn ___ shed x garage may predate other landscape features or buildings:
    ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ gardenhouse
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    ___ open land ___ woodland x residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    ___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This well kept brick structure is situated on a large lot on a street lined with late nineteenth century homes. The house is distinguished by its slightly larger size and decorative accenting.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECT: ___________  BUILDER: ___________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by the Hon. D. Ward Northrop in 1874. Northrop, a frequent recipient of public honors, was Judge of Probate from 1873 to 1881 and Mayor from 1884 to 1885. He held numerous other offices: Representative to the General Assembly; member of the Common Council; Secretary of the Board of Education; and Postmaster. Frederick Strong, Jr., of C.L. Strong and Sons, dealers in paper goods, owned and occupied the house from 1911 to 1924. This was also the last home of Rev. Azel W. Hazen from 1924 until his death. Hazen, tenth pastor of the First Church of Christ, was one of the leading religious figures of nineteenth century Middletown.

This is a well preserved house in the Victorian Gothic "cottage" style with a steep front gable and a bracketed cornice. Notable features include a two-story bay window on the east side, the use of round-arched windows in the center facade and west side, bracketed lintels, and louvered shutters. This house is virtually identical to the Samuel T. Camp House at 11 Pearl Street and was almost certainly built by the same builder.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78  view: south
negative on file: Roll 22, #26A

COMPiled BY:

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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: _____________________________
renovation  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: ____________________________