STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Joseph Hall House
   Historic: same

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: VILLAGE:
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 208 College Street

4. OWNER(S): Baxter S. Patrick
   PUBLIC x PRIVATE
   Historic: same

5. USE: Present: Residence
   Historic: same
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain with permission of tenant
   Exterior visible from public road: X yes

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center Chimney Colonial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1765

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard
   X wood shingle
   X board & batten
   X aluminum siding
   X other: flushboarding east side
   asbestos siding
   asphalt siding
   stucco
   concrete: type:
   brick
   fieldstone
   cobblestone
   X cut stone: type: brownstone
   Foundation & entrance porch base

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: X post and beam balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:

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

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 28' x 39'

12. CONDITION: Structural:
    X excellent
    X good
    fair
    deteriorated
    Exterior:
    X excellent
    X good
    fair
    deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site
    Altered: no X yes, explain: One story additions east and rear: Federal
    Alterations: X no X yes, explain: One story additions east and rear: Federal
    Period entrance porch

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn
    shed
    garage
    carriage house
    shop
    garden
    other landscape features or buildings:

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Hall House is set on a sloping site on College Street near High Street. It is the earliest structure on this section of the street, which has closely sited residences from a variety of periods. Across the street is an early 20th century elementary school.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Double overhang
- Panelled triple-run staircase
- Interior panelling and corner cupboards

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This large central chimney house originally stood on the east side of High Street between the present College and Court Streets. In 1765 Joseph Hall received the southern portion of the homelot of his father, Samuel Hall, on High Street. Joseph probably built this house soon after that date; and certainly by 1790, when it was conveyed to his son, John Hall. John Hall lived in the house until his death (c. 1799), when it passed into the hands of his widow and his brother, Jonathan Alin Hall. Between 1811 and 1830, the house passed through a succession of owners, reflecting the speculation in real estate which accompanied the establishment of High Street as a prime residential district at this time.

In 1830 Nathan Starr purchased the Hall house and land on High Street. He contracted for the erection of a stone mansion on its site (this partially survives as the present D.K.E. fraternity house, 276 High Street). Starr then had the Hall homestead moved to a portion of the land fronting on College Street. In its new location the house remained in the hands of Starr descendants until 1934. It was sold by Starr to his daughter Mary, wife of Dr. Hamilton Brewer, in 1849. Brewer, a native of East Hartford, was a graduate of (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

- photographer: Roger Sherman
- date: 2/78
- view: South
- negative on file: Roll 10, #21A

COMPiled BY:

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- date: 7/78
- organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; E.P. Augur, "Joseph Hall House," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (Colonial Dames, 1924)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- X none known
- highways
- vandalism
- developers
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoning
- other:
- explanation:
Wesleyan and Yale medical school, and became a prominent local physician. The house was conveyed to their daughter, Mary Grace Brewer, in 1875. In 1916 she married Lyman Payne, the proprietor of a well-known musical instrument supply business on College Street.

The Hall House is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of a center chimney Colonial house in Middletown. Its large size is emphasized by its tall gambrel roof with two windows at the gable ends. It retains early features such as a double overhang. A well-executed Federal period porch graces the entrance. The interior is finished with panelled fireplace walls, dado paneling, and two corner cupboards. A panelled triple-run staircase has turned balusters and elaborately carved newel post. Most of the original doors and hardware survive.