STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________________________ Historic: John & Susan Smith House
   TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ____________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
2. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 234 Court Street
3. OWNER(S): Simon Edleberg (Estate of) PUBLIC [X] PRIVATE
   USE: Present: Residential (Apartments) Historic: Residence
   ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: [X] yes no
   Interior accessible: [X] yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial Revival remodeling DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1826-1828
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   [X] clapboard __ asbestos siding __ brick
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: __ brownstone
   __ other: flushboarding on pedimented gables
   [X] cut stone: type: [ ] brownstone [ ] foundation (coursed ashlar)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   [X] wood frame; [X] post and beam [X] balloon (addition)
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other: ____________________________
10. ROOF: type:
    [X] gable __ 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: 35' x 76'
12. CONDITION: Structural: [X] excellent [X] good __ fair __ deteriorated
   Exterior: [X] excellent __ good __ [X] fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: [X] on original site Early rear wings; one-bay east addition; Colonial
    Alterations: no [X] yes, explain: Revival remodeling (see #18); new foundation
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn __ shed __ garage __ other landscape features or buildings: ____________________________
    __ carriage house __ shop __ garden
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 house is the first in a row of
    three small-scaled early 19th century houses closely sited on the north side of Court Street.
    The Gothic Revival Russell Library is directly to the east. The surrounding neighborhood
    (the area between Broad and High Streets) contains a mixture of architectural styles and the
    resulting variety of scale, form and detail reflect the 150 year evolution of this residential
    district.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Original ornamented leaded fanlights in doorway and main gable
Similar Colonial Revival fanlight east gable

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house displays a discernible early section and a major Colonial Revival remodeling taking its inspiration from the original features.

The original section was built for John L. Smith probably soon after the property was bought by his wife in 1826. Smith, a prominent city resident born in Scotland, was a well-known Middletown jeweler for sixty years. He was the first Secretary of Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co., first Treasurer of Wesleyan University and a member of the University's first Board of Trustees. He was also one of the incorporators of the Middletown Savings Bank and served as town Treasurer for many years. The house built for Smith was of the three-bay type with pedimented gable to the street and Federal detail. The first rear addition (to the north) was built for Smith before 1851. Seth Hall, a city street commissioner, owned the house from 1868 to 1887. Hall probably added the last two rear (north) additions, thus expanding the house to accommodate numerous family members.

(see continuation sheet)

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 1825 Barnum, 1828 Barnum Copy Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas Map; 1915 Aero-View of Middletown

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known
__highways
__vandalism
__developers
__other:
__renewal
__private
__deterioration
__zoning
__explanation:
The house was owned by the Medlicott family from 1892 to 1936. They were undoubtedly responsible for the well executed and sensitive Colonial Revival remodeling. The exterior renovation consisted of the application of Federal style decoration to the original house and the later small east wing, including full height pilasters and a Federal entrance porch. The east wing has a pedimented gable with fanlight modeled after those on the original house, and a first story Palladian window. The east wing (which added one bay to the original three-bay facade) was probably constructed at the time of the Colonial Revival remodeling, but may have been erected by 1874. The interior of the house was also completely remodeled in a neo-Federal style.

In the Smith House, the features of two related stylistic periods are combined in a sensitive and unified manner. In this sense, the house is also representative of the evolutionary character of the surrounding neighborhood.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: ___ Date: 1/90___

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