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: J. Peters Pelton House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: __________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 250 Court Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University __ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Offices and student housing Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: ___ yes, explain ___________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Queen Anne (Stickstyle influence) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1883/84
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard __ asbestos siding
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding
   __ board & batten __ stucco
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: ____________
   __ other: ____________________________
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame x post and beam x balloon
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other: ____________________________
10. ROOF: type:
   __ gable __ flat __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
   __ gambrel __ shed x hip with: __ round __ other __________________
   material:
   __ wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
   __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other: __________________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x70'
12. CONDITION: Structural: __ x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated __
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site __ moved, when: __________
    Alterations: x no ___ yes, explain: ____________________________
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn __ shed x 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 x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house, facing south on a corner lot, is in a primarily 19th century residential area developed over a 100 year period. The Pelton house and the Douglas house (258 Court Street) to the west are larger and later than their neighbors. Their siting on proportionately larger lots, however, retains the residential scale of the street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built c. 1883/84 by J. Peters Pelton of Pelton and King, "book and job printers and binders", with offices on lower Court Street. Its land came out of the division of the large Russell estate (after 1872) which occupied the block bounded by Court, Pearl, Washington and High Streets. The house remained in the Pelton family until 1930 when it was acquired by Regina Wrubel. In 1958 the Regina Wrubel Foundation sold the property to Wesleyan University for use as offices.

The J. Peters Pelton house is an excellent example in good condition of late Victorian architecture in Middletown. Its irregular plan and variety of gable treatment, together with more attention to detail and ornament than is usual for Middletown, distinguish it as a high style example of the Queen Anne-Stick Style in the city.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 5, #11A

COMPiled By:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; Genealogy of the Pelton Family (John Minsell & Sons, Publishers, 1892); Plan by Wesleyan Planning Department

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known __ highways __ vandalism __ developers
__ renewal __ private __ deterioration __ zoning
__ other: ___ explanation: ___