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: Scott Laboratory Historic: same
   TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
2. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Church Street
3. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC  PRIVATE
   USE: Present: Vacant/storage Historic: Physics Building
   ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1903
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: limestone trim:
   other: granite foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame: post and beam _balloon
   _load bearing masonry _structural iron or steel (interior framing)
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _gable _flat _mansard _monitor _sawtooth
    _gambrel _shed _hip _round _other
    material:
    _wood shingle _roll asphalt _tin _state
    _asphalt shingle _built up _tile _other: main section 102'x51'
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: rear section 50'x30'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    _excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
    Exterior:
    _excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: Alterations: no yes, explain: Late basement addition, rear
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn _shed _garage _other landscape features or buildings:
    _carriage house _shop _garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: College campus
    _open land _woodland _residential scattered buildings visible from site
    _commercial _industrial _rural _high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Wesleyan University's Scott Laboratory is one of a group of large early twentieth century brick buildings with light colored stone detail. Located on an incline, this structure borders Church Street. Scott, like the two fraternity houses below it, fronts away from the street towards College Row. Its unusual siting was caused when the extension of Church Street replaced the section of Cross Street that this building faced.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Main facade: leaded stained glass window; ornate stone detail
Interior: large wooden central staircase

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Charles A. Rich, New York City  Builder: Mylchreest & Sons, Middletown

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Scott Laboratory originally housed the Wesleyan University Physics Department. The building, gift of Charles Scott and his son Charles Scott (class of '86), was dedicated in 1904 to the memory of Chaplain John Bell Scott.

Like other colleges, Wesleyan experienced marked growth in the first decade of the twentieth century. This building and Fisk Hall were both constructed in 1903. Scott was designed by Charles A. Rich, a notable collegiate architect. The most distinctive feature of this Renaissance Revival structure, presently masked by ivy, is its tall central pavilion. Rusticated stone surrounds the round arched main portal. Above the first story, two engaged columns flank a two story round arched window bay. The upper portion of the bay contains a large leaded stained glass window. A cartouche-like oval window is displayed on the stepped pedimented gable. These elements are ornately decorated by swags and other intricate details. Smooth and sculpted limestone details set against the brick walls produce a variety of form and color.

Scott Laboratory has been used on a temporary basis since 1971 when physics classes were moved to the newly constructed Science Tower. At the present time, the building is unoccupied; however, the university may decide to fully utilize Scott's interior space in the future.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78  view: north
negative on file: Roll 21, #30

COMPILED BY:
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20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- none known  - highways  - vandalism  - developers  - other:
- renewal  - private  - x deterioration  - zoning  - x explanation: Ivy has overgrown

the surface of the building to such an extent that its distinctive features are hidden and prone to deterioration.