STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Hubbard Estate Historic: Wilcox-Meech House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Public/Private: PUBLIC
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 55 Crescent Street
4. OWNER(S): Middlesex Memorial Hospital
5. USE: Present: Offices Historic: Double Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes/no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain: no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other:
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - concrete: type:
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type: brownstone
   - foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: post and beam balloon
   - load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - gambrel
    - shed
    - mansard
    - monitor
    - sawtooth
    - flat cupola
    - hip
    - round
    - other
    - material:
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - tin
    - slate
    - asphalt shingle built up
    - tile
    - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3
12. APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 45'x30' (wings 25'x14')
13. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. ALTERATIONS: Location: yes, explain: Later but sympathetic veranda
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garage
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings: brick carriage house with steep crossed gables
16. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    - commercial
    - industrial
    - rural
    - high building density
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This substantial brick structure faces south from the northside of Crescent Street. The house directly to its east is smaller but similar in style; to the west is a large brick Second Empire structure. Crescent Street is a residential area composed of mid-to-late nineteenth century dwellings, with the exception of a large modern seven story hospital which occupies the south side of the street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Ornate, bracketed cupola
Pressed tin ceilings in all rooms
Original panelling and elaborate staircase
Early gas fixtures

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Between the years of 1867 and 1872 Crescent Street was extensively developed by Julius Hotchkiss, a prominent local resident. During this period John Wilcox built this double dwelling. Between 1872 and 1881 the house was occupied by John Wilcox, Middletown's Chief of Police, and George Meech. Meech, a local merchant, purchased the property in 1881 and resided there until the early 1930's. The Hubbard family acquired the property in 1937. Mr. Hubbard's employment in the firm of Meech and Stoddard is typical of the pervasive connections among the residents of the South Green area. The house remained in the Hubbard family until 1973 when it was purchased by Middlesex Memorial Hospital. The hospital currently uses the building for offices.

The building displays the rich detail typical of Crescent Street in the 1870's: a later but complementary veranda, original shutters, brownstone sills, lintels and foundation, and paired brackets supporting the eaves. A high style cupola has rounded windows, similar decorative detail and a finial. The fine interior is in virtually original condition.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78
view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 15, #4

COMPiled BY:

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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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