STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CT CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
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HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: South College Historic: Lyceum
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Historic:
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): High St. (College Row, between Church and Washington)
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Administrative Offices Historic: Arsenal, Laboratory, Chapel, Meeting Hall
   x yes, no Interior accessible: x yes, explain offices no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1824-25
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard _asbestos siding _brick
   _wood shingle _asphalt siding _fieldstone
   _board & batten _stucco _cobblesstone
   _aluminum siding concrete: type: X cut stone: type: brownstone
   _other: coursed rubble
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame: _post and beam _balloon
   _load bearing masonry _structural iron or steel
   _other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _gable _flat _mansard _monitor _sawtooth
    _gambrel _shed _hip _round _x other tower east facade
    _material:
    _wood shingle _roll asphalt _tin _x slate
    _asphalt shingle _built up _tile _other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 54'x44'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _excellent _x good _fair _x deteriorated
    Exterior: _excellent _x good _fair _x deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _x on original site _moved, when:
    Alterations: _no _x yes, explain: Cupola added c. 1919; entrance raised
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn _shed _garage _x other landscape features or buildings: University
    _carriage house _shop _garden _campus green to east; Kiosk in front; connected
    _commercial _industrial _rural _to North College by breezeway
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _open land _woodland _x residential _x scattered buildings visible from site
    _commercial _industrial _rural _high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This structure faces east to the Connecticut River. It is a member of a row of older Wesleyan buildings known as "College Row" which are arranged in a line along the west side of the University campus green. As a group these brownstone buildings present one of Middletown's best-known sights, and are the traditional focus of the Wesleyan campus.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Eleven bell chime in belfry
Cupola (1919) designed by Henry Bacon

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The cornerstone for this building was laid on October 20, 1824. Funds for its construction were subscribed by the city of Middletown to induce Captain Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy to locate in Middletown. When the institution removed from Middletown in 1829, this building reverted to the trustees of the Academy, who subsequently deeded it to the founders of Wesleyan University in 1830. It is the oldest building on campus.

This structure has undergone several alterations during its many years of service, yet it retains most of its original character. A four story, gable roofed building, it has a stair tower surmounted by an enclosed belfry at the east end. The original entrance was at the ground level of the tower, and the original rectangular windows contained 12/12 sash on the second and third floors, and 6/6 sash on the first and fourth floors. Federal details include a fanlight over the entrance and modillioned cornices.

The original sash were replaced with tall arched windows, the entrance was raised to the second floor, and the domed cupola designed by Henry Bacon was added to the belfry in 1919. The interior has undergone many remodelings and uses, and presently contains administrative offices.

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop "South College," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA 1935); Connecticut Historical Commission Survey, 1970; Karl Harrington, Background of Wesleyan and Middletown, Connecticut (Middletown 1942); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers
renewal private deterioration zoning

ivy has deteriorated masonry walls.

(see continuation sheet)
This building is a unique survival from the early days of a New England college. As a member of a row of five brownstone college buildings it has an added significance through its contribution both to the traditions of the college and to the beauty of its campus.