STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
J9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Orange Judd Hall Historic: same
   2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 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: Educational Historic: same
   6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
      Interior accessible: x yes, explain classrooms no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1869-72
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: brownstone
   ___ other:

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 ___ other
        material:
        ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
        ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORY(ES): 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 95'x63'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent ___ x good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
       Exterior: x excellent ___ x good ___ fair ___ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site ___ moved, when:
    Alterations: ___ no x yes, explain: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage ___ other landscape features or buildings: University
    ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: University Campus
    ___ open land ___ woodland ___ residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    ___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This structure is the southernmost in
    a line of five brownstone buildings arranged on the west side of the Wesleyan University cam-
    pus green. This group is known as "College Row" and is the traditional focus of the Univer-
    sity campus. From their lofty site overlooking the Connecticut River to the east this row of
    college buildings presents one of Middletown's best-known sights.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Cast iron balustrade on front entrance stair
Ionic entrance porch (brownstone)

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was dedicated on July 18, 1872. Presented to Wesleyan by Orange Judd, a wealthy publisher in New York, it was the first Wesleyan building funded entirely by an alumnus, and was said to be the first college building in the country devoted completely to sciences. Originally the chemistry department occupied the first floor; the second floor housed the natural history and physics departments; and the third and fourth floors contained a natural history museum. The first United States Agricultural Station was housed in this building in 1875-77.

As originally designed by Bryant and Rogers of New York this building incorporated many fireproof materials on the interior, and utilized thirteen chimneys to provide heat and ventilation. The mansard roof was broken up visually by alternating dormers and chimneys. Intricate iron grillwork surmounted the ridges of the roof. In honor of the building's donors all of the building's doors were painted a bright orange.

In 1957-58 the interior and roof were completely reconstructed. The dormers and chimneys were removed, and the roof altered so that at present only the corners of the roof reveal its mansard configuration.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 7/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 29, 35A-36

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
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19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); "Judd Hall" file, (Wesleyan Archives); 1874 Beers Atlas; 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:
This building was erected contemporaneously with the Gothic Revival Rich Hall and Memorial Chapel to the north. Its Second Empire style is unique to College Row, and thus Judd Hall presents an interesting contrast with its neighbors as it anchors the south end of the row.