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: North College
   Historic: The Dormitory
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
5. USE: Present: Administrative Offices
   Historic: Dormitory
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes
   Interior accessible: yes, explain office use

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Neoclassical
   Reconstruction
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1907
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
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: post and beam
   - balloon
   - load bearing masonry
   - structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - gambrel
    - shed
    - x hip
    - round
    - other
    - material:
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - tin
    - x slate
    - asphalt shingle
    - built up
    - tile
    - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 151' x 50'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    - excellent
    - x good
    - fair
    - deteriorated
    Exterior:
    - excellent
    - x good
    - fair
    - deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Rebuilt after fire 1906-07
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garage
    - garden
    - x other landscape features or buildings: University campus green; connected to South College by breezeway
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: University campus
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - commercial
    - industrial
    - rural
    - high building density
    - scattered buildings visible from site
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large brownstone structure faces
    east to the Connecticut River. It is the northernmost member of a row of five
    brownstone buildings known as "College Row" which are arranged in a line along the west side of
    the campus green. This row is the traditional focus of the campus, and constitutes one of Middletown's
    best-known sights.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Full height brownstone columns in portico
Pediment fanlight with moveable sash in center of fan

SIGNIFICANCE

Orig. Edward Hine & Merrill Ward
Architect: Abro & Linderberg of New York
Orig. John L. Lewis
Builder: Mylchreest Brothers of Middletown

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: On September 8, 1824 a Middletown newspaper reported that "the subscription for the establishment of the school of Capt. Alden Partridge in this city has been completed, and John L. Lewis, Esq. has contracted to have the necessary buildings finished by the first of July next." When first occupied by Capt. Partridge American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy this building was called simply "The Dormitory," a name it retained until 1871 when it was renamed "North College." The building, together with the neighboring South College, was deeded to the founders of Wesleyan University in 1830, after Capt. Partridge removed his ALS&M to Norwich, Vermont. The present structure is a reconstructed version of the original North College, built by Lewis in 1824-25, and destroyed by fire March 1, 1906.

The original building had four stories with a hip roof; central projecting pavilion with pediment carried by full height pilasters; and coursed brownstone rubble construction. Federal style details included fanlights in the pediment and over the entrance, and an pilioned cornice. The building contained sixty-four rooms arranged along corridors and serviced by a central stairwell.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 7/78
view: east
negative on file: Roll 29, 925A-25

COMPILED BY:
name: John E. Reynolds
date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Jesse Alsop, "North College," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (PERA, 1935); Karl Harrington, Background of Wesleyan and Middletown, Ct. (Middletown 1942); Various articles and photos in "North College" file, Wesleyan Archives; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 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:
The Dormitory
High St. (College Row), Middletown, Ct. 06457

On March 1, 1906 a fire which started in the attic destroyed the building completely. The cornerstone for a new North College was laid March 25, 1907. This structure, designed by Albro & Linderberg of New York, was built substantially along the lines of the original North College. Differences include the placement of the cornice between the third and fourth floors; a columned entrance portico; and tightly jointed ashlar construction. Despite these deviations, the present structure retains the same harmonious relationship to College Row as its predecessor. One apparent change, however, is the greater emphasis on neoclassical elements. An example of this is the entrance portico which retains a Federal fanlight in the pediment.

The reconstructed North College contained 104 rooms and was used as a dormitory until 1966, when a gradual transformation to an office building was begun. Most of the University's administrative offices are now housed in North College.