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: Wesleyan Physical Plant
Historic: 

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
VILLAGE: 
COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 58 Hamlin Street

4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University
PUBLIC/Private: PUBLIC

5. USE: Present: Office & Maintenance Quarters
Historic: Industrial

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes/no
Interior accessible: yes, explain permission of security officer

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Brick Industrial
(Federal–Greek period)
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1850

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard
 wood shingle
 board & batten
 aluminum siding
 other: X brick
 X fieldstone foundation–original
 cobblestone
 cut stone: type:
 X concrete: type: poured
 foundation–addition

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: X post and beam
 X balloon
 X load bearing masonry
 X structural iron or steel
 X other: interior timber framing

10. ROOF: type:
 gable
 gambrel
 X flat addition
 X shed attached
 X hip
 X monitor
 X round
 sawtooth
 other

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

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 65' x 27' (addition 70' x 50')

12. CONDITION: Structural:
 X excellent
 X good
 fair
 deteriorated

Exterior:
 X excellent
 X good
 fair
 deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site
 Alterations: no X yes, explain: Interiors converted to offices; removal of chimneys
 and doorway with fanlight (west facade); large

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 X addition to south, c. 1890's
 X barn
 X shed
 X garage
 carriage house
 X shop
 X garden
 other landscape features or buildings:

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building is set on an open corner
It is surrounded by a large parking area to the north and east and cleared land to the south.
It is the only industrial building in an area primarily consisting of mid–nineteenth century
residences (with the exception of a public school across the street to the west).
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Early scales set into first floor (visible from basement)
Early elevator in addition; built by Eastern Machinery Co., New Haven, Conn.
Trap door in attic
Wooden lintel (probably for a loading beam) on second story east side

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This early industrial building was probably constructed by Nathaniel Bacon around (and certainly before) 1851. Bacon was known as a "Maker of superior bank and safe locks," and the building may have been used for that purpose. Daniel Benham, owner from 1862 to 1871, was a prominent merchant and tailor, but his use of the building is unknown. Between 1881 and 1916 the Evans Brothers manufactured and repaired "carriages, wagons and sleighs" here. They are probably responsible for the large late nineteenth century addition to the south. The building changed hands until bought by the Mohawk Manufacturing Company (metal goods) in 1922. Since 1959 it has been the headquarters of the Wesleyan University Maintenance Department.

The main original section displays the typical domestic scale of early nineteenth century industrial buildings. The brick work and fenestration are reminiscent of the Federal-Greek style, but there are few decorative details.

This building was a precursor to the later nineteenth century industrial development concentrated in the Church and William Street area to the south. It is the only early nineteenth century industrial-manufacturing building surviving in the immediate area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 2/78 view: northwest

negative on file: Roll 13, #33A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 2/78
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; D.D. Field, Centennial Address (Middletown, Conn.: Casey, 1853); 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:
Wesleyan Physical Plant
58 Hamlin Street, Middletown, CT 06457