STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

II. IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ________________________ Historic: Dr. A. Moore House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown ________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 135 High Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University ________________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence ________________________ Historic: same
   Interior accessible: x yes __ no
   with tenant's permission __ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial ________________________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: After 1746

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard ________________________ asbestos siding
   wood shingle ________________________ asphalt siding
   board & batten ________________________ stucco
   aluminum siding ________________________ concrete: type: ________________________
   other: ________________________

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: x post and beam __ balloon
   load bearing masonry ________________________ structural iron or steel
   other: ________________________

0. ROOF: type:
   x gable ________________________ flat ________________________ mansard ________________________ monitor ________________________ sawtooth
   x gambrel ________________________ shed ________________________ hip ________________________ round ________________________ other ________________________
   x saltbox; rear wings ________________________
   material: ________________________
   wood shingle ________________________ roll asphalt ________________________ tin ________________________ slate ________________________ other: ________________________
   x Main house: 30'x38';

1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 ________________________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: wings: 17'x26', 16'x40'

2. CONDITION: Structural: ________________________ excellent ________________________ fair ________________________ deteriorated
   Exterior: ________________________ excellent ________________________ x good ________________________ fair ________________________ deteriorated ________________________

3. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site __ moved, when:
   Alterations: no x yes, explain: Extensive: front porch; rear wings added; center
   chimney replaced by two chimneys

4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   barn ________________________ shed ________________________ garage ________________________
   carriage house ________________________ shop ________________________ garden ________________________
   x other landscape features or buildings: fenced-in
   x rear yard with apple trees

5. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   open land ________________________ woodland ________________________ x residential ________________________
   x scattered buildings visible from site
   commercial ________________________ industrial ________________________ rural ________________________
   x high building density

6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This Colonial-period house sits up on
   bank on the west side of High Street a block south of the Wesleyan University campus. To
   the north is a parking lot for the Lawn Avenue dormitories, hedged in with evergreens. Across
   the street are a number of closely sited residences of mixed age, material and size.
7. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Added Federal style front entry porch with molding and dentils above a frieze decorated with shallow vertical reeding
Seven finely finished brownstone front steps
Delicate wrought iron boot scraper
Graduated clapboards: narrowed in width from the bottom upward; clapboards secured with wrought iron nails
Two later dormer windows on rear roof
Two rear wings with leanto profile extending the house into a U-plan

GNIFICANCE

Architect:_______ Builder:_______

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Dr. Abijah Moore inherited land on the west side of High Street from the heirs of Daniel Ward in 1746. Earlier research credits him with erecting a center-chimney house here around 1750. An 1826 map shows a five-bay center-chimney house at the location now called 135 High Street. During a succession of owners, mortgages taken out in 1833 and 1850 give a clue to the date of the Federal style entrance porch and two rear wings. This large house is now divided into two apartments, with two staircases leading up from the former entry hall. Each apartment is served by a slim chimney, probably dating from alterations done around 1850; in that year Israel Bailey, an active local builder, gave a mortgage on the property—the owner apparently financing the work with a loan from the builder. An 1851 map shows the house with the north rear addition in place. A family named Moore owned the property from 1866 to 1942. Wesleyan University bought the house in 1974, and maintains it for use as graduate student and faculty housing. This well-kept house remains the last Colonial presence in its immediate area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman

date: 9/78 view: east

negative on file: Roll 38, #20

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Tax Records; 1826 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known ____ highways ____ vandalism ____ developers ____ other:

____ renewal ____ private ____ deterioration ____ zoning ____ explanation: