STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ________________________ Historic: Bailey-Sibley House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown ________ VILLAGE: ________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 208 High Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University ________________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence ________________________ Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes ___ no
   Interior accessible: ___ yes, explain ________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: 19th century gable domestic; Federal Revival remodelling
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1859 & 1870
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard east wing
   wood shingle
   board & batten
   aluminum siding
   other:
   X asbestos siding
   asphalt siding
   stucco
   X poured concrete: type: foundation east wing
   brick
   fieldstone
   cobblestone
   X cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
   other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; post and beam balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    X gambrel shed hip round other
    material:
    X wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate other:
    X asphalt shingle built up tile other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24'x37'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: ___ no ___ yes, explain: Additions; exterior remodeling (see #18)
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Parking
    carriage house shop garden lot in rear of yard
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    ___ open land woodland residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial industrial rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces west to the Wesleyan University campus green from the east side of High Street. It is sited on land sloping down from High Street to a parking lot in the rear of the back yard. Its neighbors are the Neo-Classical Revival Eclectic Society building to the south, and a three-bay Federal style house to the north on the corner of William and High Streets.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Elaborate Federal Revival detail (not original)
- Marble entrance stoop

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: [insert name]
Builder: [insert name]

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built between 1859 and 1870 on land of Israel Bailey, the primary developer of a tract on William Street between Hamlin and High Streets which he purchased in 1825. The brick construction is atypical of this development; Bailey was a carpenter and probably built the other frame houses himself. This house was used as a rental property until 1892 when Jennie A. (Bailey) Sibley and her husband completed title in the property from other heirs of Israel Bailey. The Sibleys occupied the house until 1920, and in 1921 it was acquired by Wesleyan University for use as campus housing.

The physical history of this house is complex. The approximate original appearance was of an L-shaped, cross-gabled structure with projecting eaves; entrance door with narrow vertical lights; a Victorian entrance porch; and dark painted trim. A lien attached to the property in 1876 mentions alterations and an addition, which appears on an 1877 map as a one story wing at the rear. This brick wing was later raised to two full stories, and another clapboarded wing was added to the rear of the first wing. Due to the slope of the site these wings have full brick basements above ground. In the early 20th century, the

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 2/78
view: west
negative on file: Roll 13, #15A

COMPILED BY:
name: John E. Reynolds
date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Photos, "Eclectic" and Phi Nu Theta files, Wesleyan Archives

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- none known
- highways
- vandalism
- developers
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoning
- other:
- explanation:

(see continuation sheet)
house's stylistic appearance was changed by a thorough application of Federal Revival details, possibly by Howard A. Sibley, known to be an architect. The alterations included the substitution of a cove-ceilinged entrance porch for the original; the application of a modillioned cornice to shortened eaves; and the addition of gable pediments carried on an entablature decorated with reeded triglyphs.

These well executed alterations, together with the original gable-to-street form, coincide to give the impression of a Federal-Greek Revival transitional style. Whether intended or not, this effect demonstrates the evolution of the house through the changing tastes of different periods.