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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Graves Homestead

   Historic: Rev. Joseph Graves House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown

   VILLAGE: Westfield

   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Miner Street; south side, .2 miles west of East Street

4. OWNER(S): First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Meriden

   PUBLIC × PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Possibly vacant

   Historic: Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes

   Interior accessible: yes, explain

   X no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial

   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1775 and 1800

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

   X clapboard

   — wood shingle

   — board & batten

   — aluminum siding

   — other:

   — asbestos siding

   — asphalt siding

   — stucco

   — concrete: type:

   — brick

   — fieldstone

   — cobblestone

   X cut stone: type: brownstone

   foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

   X wood frame: X post and beam

   — balloon

   — load bearing masonry

   — structural iron or steel

   — other:

10. ROOF: type:

    — gable

    — shed

    — gambrel

    — shed

    — mansard

    — monitor

    — sawtooth

    — hip

    — round

    — other

    — material:

    — wood shingle

    — roll asphalt

    — other:

    — asphalt shingle

    — built up

    — tile

    — other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x29'

12. CONDITION: Structural:

    — excellent

    — very good

    — fair

    — deteriorated

    Exterior:

    — excellent

    — very good

    — fair

    — deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site

    moved, when:

    Alterations: no X yes, explain: First story wings

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

    — barn

    — shed

    — carriage house

    — shop

    — garage

    X other landscape features or buildings: fence; large maple trees

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

    — open land

    — woodland

    — residential

    — commercial

    — industrial

    — rural

    — scattered buildings visible from site

    — high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This small Colonial house with hip-roof faces north from the south side of Miner Street. Across the street is the large Greek Revival Third Congregational Church. Miner Street is the center of the village of Westfield. It displays small residential buildings along both sides and is dominated by the large church edifice.

   16
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Denticulated cornice
- Greek Revival entrance

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house is of uncertain date. It was probably built sometime between 1775 and 1800 by the Reverend Joseph Graves, first pastor of the Westfield Baptist Church. His father Joseph was an early settler in Westfield and lived on Middle Street (see GMPT Survey Report, 612 Middle Street). In 1822 this property passed to the Rev. Josiah Graves who succeeded his father in the pastorate of the Baptists. The house remained in the Graves family until 1884.

This finely scaled center-chimney house features a low hip roof set off by a denticulated cornice. The symmetry of the five-bay facade is preserved through the addition of identical wings at each end. Although presently unoccupied and in deteriorating condition, this house is important to Miner Street due to its unique architecture and long association with the Graves family.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 30A-31

COMPiled BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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