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: Caleb Fuller House Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 49 Main Street (corner of Church Street)
4. OWNER(S): John F. Reynolds III PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Professional Offices Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain __________ no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1771
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard __ asbestos siding __ brick
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   __ aluminum siding x concrete: type: poured
   __ weatherboarding __ foundation __ cut stone: type: brownstone
   __ other: __ rubble upper foundation; fireplace cheeks, hearths and lintels; front entrance stoop
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: x post and beam x balloon rear wing
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other: 
10. ROOF: type:
    x gambrel __ shed __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
    __ flat __ hip __ round __ other:
    __ material: x wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
    __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39'x29' (rear wing 27'x21')
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: __ on original site x moved, when: 1842; 1977
    Alterations: __ no x yes, explain: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn __ shed __ garage __ other landscape features or buildings: Picket fence
    __ carriage house __ shop __ garden __ along Main and Church Streets; driveway in
    x __ open land __ woodland __ residential __ scattered buildings visible from site
    __ commercial __ industrial __ rural __ high building density

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This gambrel roofed house faces east
    from the Northwest corner of Main and Church Streets, at the edge of the South Green. It is
    the southernmost in a row of four structures dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth
    centuries. The opposite side of Main Street in this area offers a variety of architectural
    styles and building uses, and is undergoing changes through continuing redevelopment.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Entrance porch with panelled ceiling (from Charles Magill House 1788, destroyed by fire 1975)
Center stairway with original color scheme
Panelling in parlors (from Captain Stephen Clay House 1777, demolished 1975)
Brownstone cheeks in keeping room fireplace scribed to resemble ashlar

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built in 1771 for Caleb Fuller, a preacher, constable, schoolmaster, and part-time tavernkeeper, on the present site of the Baptist Meeting House at the corner of Main and William Streets. In 1842 this house was moved west on William Street to make way for the construction of that meeting house. It remained in residential use until its acquisition by the Redevelopment Agency in 1975. Scheduled for demolition, the structure was saved by its inclusion in a restoration-adaptive use project developed by John F. Reynolds, III. A new 1 ½ story gambrel-roofed wing was reconstructed to replace the original kitchen wing. The exterior was restored, and the front rooms were returned to a Revolutionary period appearance through the use of paneling saved from contemporary buildings razed by redevelopment. The exterior and these rooms are protected under an architectural covenant in the deed. The other rooms in the house were renovated to provide additional space for the tenants; a law firm, dentist, orthodontist, and ophthalmologist.

This house is one of only five surviving gambrel-roofed colonial structures in downtown Middletown. In its restored condition and adapted use it makes a significant contribution to the redevelopment/improvement of the south end of Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 50, #28

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Alice B. Richter, "Faithful Remnant," unpublished genealogical work (Middletown, 1967); Dr. Joseph Barratt, 1770-1775 Map (1836); 1825 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:

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