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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
 or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: General Mansfield House
   Historic: Mather-Mansfield House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 151 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): The Middlesex County Historical Society
   PUBLIC P PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Historical Society Headquarters
   Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain: by appointment

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1807-1810
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _X_ clapboard
   _X_ asbestos siding
   _X_ brick
   _X_ wood shingle
   _X_ fieldstone
   _X_ board & batten
   _X_ cobblestone
   _X_ aluminum siding
   _X_ cut stone: type: brownstone
   _X_ concrete: type:
   _X_ foundation; window sills and lintels
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _X_ wood frame: post and beam
   _X_ balloon
   _X_ load bearing masonry
   _X_ structural iron or steel
10. ROOF: type:
    _X_ gable
    _X_ gambrel
    _X_ wood shingle
    _42' x 32' (original north-
    _X_ shed
    _X_ roll asphalt
    _X_ built up
    _X_ tin
    _X_ slate
    _X_ other: 10' x 18'
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent
    Exterior: X excellent
    _X_ good
    _X_ good
    fair
    fair
    deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site
    moved, when:
    Alterations: X yes, explain:
    Several rear wings added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _X_ barn
    _X_ shed
    _X_ house
    _X_ shop
    _X_ other landscape features or buildings: formal garden
    _X_ garage
    _X_ in rear; fence on Main Street side
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _X_ open land
    _X_ woodland
    _X_ residential
    _X_ scattered buildings visible from site
    _X_ commercial
    _X_ industrial
    _X_ rural
    _X_ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces east from the west
    side of Main Street between William and College Streets. This area has been designated an
    historic district. To the south is a small park, and the remainder of the block to the north
    awaits redevelopment. Across Main Street the Metro Square development is currently under
    construction.
OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Entrance porch with flushboarded coved ceiling
Modillioned cornice
Mantelpieces, interior cornices, and staircase are elaborately detailed
Historical Society collections; furniture, paintings, displays, etc.
Dressed brownstone retaining wall with picket fence on Main Street side

SIGNIFICANCE

Frederick B. Palmer
Architect: Restoration ca. 1960
Builder: Robert Robinson

8. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Robert Robinson for Samuel Mather in 1810. In 1838 Mather's daughter married Joseph King Fenno Mansfield, who was later killed at Antietam while serving as a General in the Union Army. General Mansfield's body was returned to Middletown, where it was buried with a ceremony befitting a local hero. The heirs of General Mansfield transferred title in the property to the Middlesex County Historical Society in 1959; the house had been in the Mather-Mansfield family for 150 years.

The five-bay, center hall configuration of this house was typical of the prominent Federal-style homes in Middletown. A nearby structure built around 1810 is almost identical to this house (see form for 70 Main Street).

Restoration of the Mansfield house was undertaken in 1960; it now displays the Historical Society's collections in an atmosphere which combines the elegance of the original structure with an appropriate historic feeling.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 25, #23

COMPiled BY:

name: John E. Reynolds
date: 8/78
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19. SOURCES: "The General Mansfield House," The Middlesex County Historical Society (Middletown: 1960); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 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:
Mather-Mansfield House
151 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457