IDENTIFICATION
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ______________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 73 Pearl 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: x yes, explain with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _______________________ asbestos siding
   wood shingle _______________________ asphalt siding
   board & batten _______________________ stucco
   aluminum siding _______________________ concrete: type:
   _______________________ other:
   _______________________ x brick
   _______________________ fieldstone
   _______________________ cobblestone
   _______________________ x cut stone: type: brownstone
   _______________________ foundation and entrance porch
   _______________________ load bearing masonry
   _______________________ structural iron or steel
   _______________________ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _______________________ wood frame:__ post and beam balloon
   _______________________ x load bearing masonry
   _______________________ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _______________________ x gable
    _______________________ gambrel
    _______________________ shed
    _______________________ hip
    _______________________ round
    _______________________ monitor
    _______________________ sawtooth
    _______________________ other:
    _______________________ material:
    _______________________ wood shingle
    _______________________ roll asphalt
    _______________________ tin
    _______________________ slate
    _______________________ other:
    _______________________ x asphalt shingle
    _______________________ built up
    _______________________ tile
    _______________________ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27'x32' (northwest ell 18'x20')
12. CONDITION: Structural: _______ excellent x good
    Exterior: _______ excellent x good
    _______ fair _______ deteriorated
    _______ fair _______ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: ______ no ______ x yes, explain: Screened porch (southwest) added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _______________________ barn
    _______________________ shed
    _______________________ garage
    _______________________ x other landscape features or buildings: brownstone
    _______________________ carriage house
    _______________________ shop
    _______________________ garden
    _______________________ wall topped by white picket fence in front
    _______________________ along Pearl Street
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _______________________ open land
    _______________________ woodland
    _______________________ x residential
    _______________________ scattered buildings visible from site
    _______________________ commercial
    _______________________ industrial
    _______________________ rural
    _______________________ x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Pearl Street area between Court and Washington Streets is a high density residential neighborhood. This house faces east and is set close to the street on the west side. Its site is a portion of the former Samuel W. Russell estate which occupied the block bounded by High, Court, Pearl and Washington Streets.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Interior trim largely original: Federal mantels in front and back parlors; baking oven and large cooking fireplace in original kitchen ell at rear.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: As the oldest structure remaining on Pearl Street, this house is unique stylistically and historically to an area whose principal development did not begin until the 1840's. This house was probably built for James F. Starr ca. 1813-1815. It was acquired by Samuel Gaylord in 1826 and sold by him to Samuel Russell in 1835. In 1895 R. Burton Stubbings became the tenant. He remained until 1944 when he died at age 71, having served the Russells as coachman/chauffeur. In 1946 the house was acquired by Wesleyan University for use as a faculty residence. Incorporation into the Russell estate and ownership by Wesleyan has prevented an extensive development of this portion of Pearl Street. As a result, the Gaylord-Russell house enjoys open surroundings not found elsewhere on Pearl Street.

The three-bay sidehall configuration seems to have been a common type of house construction in the Middletown area. In its early application the gables were placed perpendicular to the street. Together with 148 College, 33 Ferry and 36 South Main Street this house is one of the few remaining examples in brick of this early form. This house displays typical Federal details such as a fanlight over the entrance, entrance porch with cove ceiling and slender columns, and a delicate modillioned cornice.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 12, #9

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

   X none known ___highways ___vandalism ___developers ___ other: ___
   ___renewal ___private ___deterioration ___zoning ___

   explanation: ___
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Starr-Gaylord-Russell House
73 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457