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: Russell Carriage House Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 77 Pearl Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Faculty Residence Historic: Garage and Barn
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: Queen Anne with Colonial Revival alterations
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard  asbestos siding  brick
   x wood shingle dormers  asphalt siding  fieldstone
   board & batten  stucco  cobblestone
   aluminum siding  concrete: type:  cut stone: type: granite
   other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: x post and beam  x balloon
   x load bearing masonry first  structural iron or steel
   floor
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable  flat  mansard  monitor  sawtooth
    x gambrel  shed  hip  round  x other  two cupolas
    material:
    x wood shingle  roll asphalt  tin  slate
    asphalt shingle  built up  tile  other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 3/4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26'x49' (west wing approx. 28'x52')
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent  x good  fair  deteriorated
    Exterior:  x excellent  x good  fair  deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site  moved, when:

Alterations: x no  x yes, explain: Interior remodeled; fireplace and chimney added;

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn  shed  garage  window filled in, east side
    carriage house  shop  garden  other landscape features or buildings:
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: This structure is located on the west side of Pearl Street near the intersection of Washington Street. It is linked with the brick Federal house at 73 Pearl Street by a brownstone wall topped with wooden pickets and a gateway on the drive between them. This wall sets these buildings off from the small scale residences typical of the east side of Pearl Street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: ___________ Builder: ___________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure is a part of the former Russell estate and was constructed around the turn of the century for use as a stable. It subsequently was converted into a garage. R. Stubbings, coachman/chauffeur for the Russell family, occupied the Federal style brick house (73 Pearl Street) next to this structure from 1895 to 1944.

In 1930–31 the interior was converted into an apartment. The building's Colonial Revival details, notably a Palladian window in the north gable end and fielded panelling on the interior, probably date from this conversion. The building was acquired by Wesleyan University through the gift of the Russell estate in 1936 by Thomas MacDonough Russell. Since then it has been used as a faculty residence and has been occupied since 1965 by Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Horgan.

This adaptive use residence has a pleasing overall effect due to its small scale and use of materials compatible with 73 Pearl Street.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 11/77 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 27, #24; Roll 2, 9 (rear)

COMPILED BY:
name: John E. Reynolds date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown City Directories; Middletown Land Records; "Wesleyan University Alumnus," 1886, (including map); Interview with Miss M.E. Meader (82 years old), life long resident of Pearl Street

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
  X none known  ________ highways  ________ vandalism  ________ developers
  ________ renewal  ________ private  ________ deterioration  ________ zoning
  ________ other: ________________________________________________
  ________ explanation: _________________________________________
Russell Carriage House
77 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457