STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Masonic Temple Historic: White-Stoddard House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 33 Pleasant Street
4. OWNER(S): Masonic Building Association PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Offices Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no Interior accessible: x yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ clapboard __ asbestos siding  _ brick
   _ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   _ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   _ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: x cut stone: type: brownstone
   _ other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _ wood frame: _ post and beam _ balloon __ structural iron or steel
   __ load bearing masonry _ other:

10. ROOF: type: rear addition
    _ gable __ x flat __ x mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
    _ gambrel __ shed __ hip __ round __ other
    _ material:
    _ wood shingled __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
    __ x asphalt shingle built up __ tile __ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 46’ x 42’; wing 60’ x 90’

12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent _ good
   Exterior: x excellent x good _ fair _ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site _ moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no _ x yes, explain: Large rear dormitory wing; entrance porch and cupola removed

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn _ shed _ garage _ other landscape features or buildings:
    _ carriage house _ shop _ garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ open land _ woodland _ x residential __ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ commercial _ industrial __ rural __ high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This substantial brick structure faces north from the intersection of South Main and Pleasant Streets. To the east is a smaller dwelling, similar in style. Across the wide intersection is the picturesque South Green. Overlooking the Green from an elevated site is the Federal-Italianate Mather-Douglas House across the way.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Large brownstone slab-front landing.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Henry White, the builder of this structure, occupied the house from the time of its erection in 1870 until the late 1880's. White, a versatile man, was one time partner in White and Loveland, a paper box manufactory, partner in White and Deming Coal Co., and one time president of Victor Sewing Machine Co. Orrin Stoddard purchased the property from the heirs of White in 1895. Stoddard was partner of Meech and Stoddard, a local Main Street store. In 1927 the Masonic Building Association purchased the building. The Masons, a fraternal organization, continue to occupy the building and are responsible for the massive brick addition to the rear, the cornerstone which depicts a secretive Masonic code that refers to important dates of events connected with the order, and hardware with Masonic emblems.

This building displays the form of the Second Empire style on a large scale. The ornamentation is similarly large and elaborate. The projecting pavilion is accented by double doors, arched windows on the second story, and a hood supported by elaborate paired brackets. It is capped by the base of a cupola (now removed). The windows have brownstone sills and lintels and are capped with decorative arches. A three-story bay affixed to the south wall (see continuation sheet).

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 21, #14

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View Map

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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White-Stoddard House
33 Pleasant Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

This building, along with its neighbors, is a fine representative of the refined life style of this area in the late nineteenth century.
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: Date: 1/90

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