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: Robert Hubbard House Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Long Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 1340 Randolph Road
4. OWNER(S): Florence Daniels PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: Fort ca. 1675; Residence after ca. 1719
Interior accessible: x yes, explain with owner's permission no
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: xyes no
DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial; (originally Saltbox) Stone portion possibly 1675;
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: House ca. 1719
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
X clapboard second floor asbestos siding
wood shingle asphalt siding
board & batten stucco
aluminum siding concrete: type: x cut stone: type: brownstone
ox other: rubble foundation and first floor exterior walls
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
wood frame: x post and beam x balloon
x load bearing masonry first floor structural iron or steel
x other:
10. ROOF: type:
x gable flat
x gambrel shed
x material:
wood shingle roll asphalt
asphalt shingle built up tin slate
x other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x29'
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: no xyes, explain: Saltbox leanto removed ca. 1920; Victorian bay window added ca. 1870; center chimney removed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
X barn x shed garage other landscape features or buildings: enclosed pastures
X carriage house shop garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
commercial industrial x rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces south from the crest of a low hill near the intersection of Randolph Road and Rt. 17, a major road between Middletown and New Haven. It is screened from Randolph Road by a row of trees above a retaining wall along the south line of the premises. A large barn and fenced pastures are also on the property, which is located in a traditional farming district.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Brownstone rubble exterior walls, first floor
Center triple-run staircase with turned balusters on box string piece
Vertical wainscot with beaded edges in stairhall and northeast chamber
Double attic roof framing system

SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECT: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: A most unusual feature of this house is its combined masonry and post and beam frame construction. The stone first floor portion of this house was possibly constructed in 1675 during King Philip's War as one of three stone blockhouses which tradition says were erected in the Long Hill area as a defense against hostile Indians. Its brownstone rubble construction is identical to that of a nearby structure (see form for 30 Maple Shade Road) whose origin as one of the above mentioned fortifications is documented.

The upper portion of this house is one of the oldest examples of frame construction in Middletown, and probably dates from ca. 1719 when the Proprietor's Committee granted the property to Robert Hubbard. Additional corroboration of this early date is the triple-run staircase, which displays a vertically wainscotted box string piece with widely spaced turned balusters carrying a plain handrail. Another early and highly unusual feature of this house is its double-attic roof framing system. Pairs of common rafters, mortised and tenoned together with no ridge-pole, are supported by two heavy horizontal beams which rest on posts set into the chimney girts and second floor end girts. Heavy joists span these beams, and (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 56, #10A-11

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x none known ______ highways ______ vandalism ______ developers ______ renewal ______ private ______ deterioration ______ zoning ______ other: __________________________

explanation: __________________________

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originally supported the floor (now removed) to a second attic while acting structurally as collar beams to the common rafters.

In 1868 the property was acquired from the Hubbard family by James Cowan, who subsequently added a two-story Victorian bay window to the west end of the house. According to the present owners the early saltbox leanto on the north side was removed around 1920. The center chimney and fireplaces have also been removed.

The west facade of this house has a distinctly Victorian feeling with its two-story bay window, round-arch attic window, and projecting cornice with returns. The east end, however, preserves a strict Colonial outline with a double overhang and flat cornice with rake molding. Much original or early work remains on the interior, including wide floorboards, staircase, panelled fireplace walls, and vertical wainscoting with beaded edges.

This house has important historical associations; moreover it is of great architectural interest.