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: Burr Homestead Historic: Rev. Stephen Parsons House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 178-180 South Main Street

4. OWNER(S): Nora T. Vaine _ PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residence (double) Historic: Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: _yes _ no Interior accessible: _yes, explain with permission _ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1788

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard _ asbestos siding
   _wood shingle _ asphalt siding
   _board & batten _ stucco
   _aluminum siding _ concrete: type:
   _other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame: _ post and beam _ balloon
   _load bearing masonry _ structural iron or steel
   _other:

10. ROOF: type:
    _gable _ flat _ mansard _ monitor _ sawtooth
    _gambrel _ shed _ hip _ round _ other
    _material:
    _wood shingle _ roll asphalt _ tin _ slate _ other:
    _asphalt shingle _ built up _ tile _ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x27'; wing 25'x14'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: _on original site _ moved, when: _
    Alterations: _no _ X yes, explain: Addition in rear; porch added south side

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

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _open land _ woodland _ residential _ scattered buildings visible from site
    _commercial _ industrial _ rural _ high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces west from the southeast corner of South Main Street and Cottage Street. South Main Street displays a variety of building styles and uses. As one of the oldest structures in the area this house contributes historically to the mixture of buildings on South Main Street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Five lights over doorway
- Six panel front door
- Later use of double overhang

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built for Rev. Stephen Parsons of the Strict or Separate (now South Congregational) Society of Middletown in 1788. The land was deeded to Rev. Parsons by Deacon Ebenezer Bacon on condition that Parsons remain as pastor for at least ten years, after which the property would become his own. In 1796, two years before that term was up, Parsons declared from the pulpit that he had converted to the Baptist faith, and his home reverted to the church for use as a parsonage. The church sold the property to Linus Burr in 1827, and it remained in the Burr family until 1939. The house has always been in residential use.

With its two-room deep, center-chimney plan this house is typical of eighteenth century Connecticut house construction. The original doorway with five overlights is also a typical feature of the period.

This house, with its historical association with the South Congregational Church, is an important survivor from the early development of South Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 4/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 18, #24

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds
date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "Burr Homestead;"
Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935);
"A Brief History of the South Congregational Church 1747-1947" (Middletown: 1947); 1825 Barnum Map;
1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- none known
- highways
- vandalism
- developers
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoning
- other:

explanation: