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: Southmayd-Douglas House Historic: ________________________________
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ________________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 139 William Street
4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown ________________________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence (multiple) Historic: Residence (multiple)
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no Interior accessible: ____________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1840
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: over brownstone
   other: foundation of s. extension
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   wood frame: x post and beam x balloon south (rear) wing
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
    gambrel shed hip round other
    material:
    wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
    asphalt shingle built up tile other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 23'x26' (wing 13'x31')
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent good fair deterioration
    Exterior: x excellent good deterioration
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no ____________ x yes, explain: south wing added; entrance porch added
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 house is set on a small lot close to the road, with its driveway close to the building. It is the only early domestic building on this block, which is part of a redevelopment area. With the exception of a small brick building to the west, the house is on fairly open land; there is a vacant lot to the east, and Spear Park and a twelve story elderly housing complex across the street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect:  
Builder:  

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Alfred Southmayd between 1839 and 1843. Theron Carey, a carpenter, lived here from 1843 to 1864 and probably added the rear (south) wing. In 1864 the house was bought by William and Benjamin Douglas, owners of the W. & B. Douglas Pump Works. This company (founded in 1832) was a major 19th century Middletown manufactory, recognized worldwide for its quality and innovative products. During the period in which the Douglas brothers owned the house it was occupied by workers probably connected with the Douglas Pump Works. (For example, the City Directories list a machinist, pump maker, moulder and pattern maker). The house is Greek Revival in form with Federal details. There is a simple fanlight in the pedimented gable and brownstone steps. The exterior has been altered by the application of wood shingles and a new Federal style entrance porch which may have replaced an earlier one.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer:  Elizabeth Loomis
date:  1/78
view:  northeast
negative on file:  Roll 7, #14A

COMPILED BY:
name:  E. Loomis
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address:  27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

date:  3/78

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Middlesex Tribune Souvenir Edition (Middletown, Conn: 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   - none known
   - highways
   - vandalism
   - developers
   - other:
   - renewal
   - private
   - deterioration
   - zoning

   explanation: House is presently vacant. Located in a redevelopment area, it is owned by the City of Middletown, whose plans for it are presently unknown.