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
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 200-202 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Student Housing 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: Gothic Revival; remodelling of Georgian house
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard
   x wood shingle
   x board & batten
   — aluminum siding
   — other:
   x asbestos siding
   — asphalt siding
   — stucco
   x concrete: type: block north addition
   x brick
   x fieldstone
   x cobblestone
   x cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; x post and beam balloon
   — load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   — other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable
    x gambrel(wings) shed
    — material:
    x wood shingle
    — roll asphalt
    x asphalt shingle
    — built up
    — other:
    x mansard
    x hip
    x monitor round
    — sawtooth
    — other
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 42' x 32'; wings 21' x 24'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent Exterior: x excellent
    x good fair
    x good fair
    x deteriorated fair
    x deteriorated other
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
   Alterations: x no x yes, explain: Remodellings (see #18); large north addition
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    — barn
    — shed
    — carriage house
    — shop
    — garage
    x other landscape features or buildings: fence
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    — open land
    — woodland
    x residential
    — commercial
    — industrial
    — rural
    x scattered buildings visible from site
    x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This substantial Gothic Revival structure is sited prominently at the northwest corner of High and Washington Streets, two major Middletown roads. It is at the west of a hill, with views to east and west. The Wesleyan University campus is to the south.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ___________________________ Builder: ___________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This distinctive house has important historical associations, and is a unique record of changing architectural taste in Middletown over a 200-year period. Originally a Georgian central-hall mansion, the house underwent an extensive Gothic Revival remodelling around 1840. The origins of the house are obscure. Sometime before 1846, Charles Alsop acquired the house and homelot of Chauncy Whittlesey from Whittlesey's descendents. Whittlesey, a prominent merchant active in the American Revolution, had obtained land from his father-in-law, Seth Wetmore, in 1775, and probably constructed his house soon thereafter. In 1812 Alsop also obtained a piece of land, adjoining on the western boundary of Whittlesey's homelot. This 2½ acre plot contained an "old House," and had been inherited in 1792 by Ester Phillips from her brother, George Hamlin. The laying of High Street after 1851 has made it impossible to determine from deed transactions if the house which Charles Alsop converted was the Whittlesey House or the Hamlin House; however, circumstantial documentary evidence suggests that it is the Whittlesey House. A local tradition that the two gambrel-roofed wings were once part of another house may account for the disposition of the Hamlin House. (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 1/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 9, #35

COMPILED BY:
name: Barbara Ann Cleary date: 1/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); Albert van Dusky "Middletown and the American Revolution," Connecticut Historical Commission Survey, 1970; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

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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Charles Alsop probably undertook the Gothic Revival remodelling of the house around 1840. (In 1839 he obtained a 3-year lease for a house on Liberty Street). Alsop was a member of one of Middletown's most prominent nineteenth-century families. A graduate of Yale, he began to practice law in Middletown in 1832. He also served two terms as Mayor of Middletown and several terms as State Senator; and was active in "railroad enterprises," being one of the original incorporators of the New York & Boston Railroad Company.

The house remained in the Alsop family until 1887. It was owned from 1889 to 1911 by Professor and Mrs. Atwater, who were responsible for the Federal Revival interior remodelling. From 1911 to 1936 it was owned by Frank B. Weeks, who is best remembered for having served as Governor of the State of Connecticut. Weeks bequeathed the house to Wesleyan University in 1936; it has served various purposes since then and is presently used as student housing.

The Alsop-Weeks house is a significant record of changing architectural tastes. The original structure is a Georgian house with center hallway and a double-hipped roof. Two 1½-story gambrel-roofed wings have been added at each rear corner. The Gothic Revival remodelling of c. 1840 added variety to the original forms by the addition of a projecting, gabled, central section, dormers, and a broad-arched veranda. Further picturesque embellishment, including a variety of shingles, decorative bargeboards, pinnacles, and window hoods, effectively disguised the original Georgian character on the exterior. A second major remodelling has in turn almost completely obscured both the Georgian and Gothic Revival design on the interior. The interior is treated throughout in a Colonial Revival manner, primarily Adamesque in feeling. The Colonial Revival interior includes staircase, panelling, and fireplaces throughout (with the possible exception of some interior doors which may date from the original house, and a Gothic-arched window in a first-floor room). In the process of conversion to student housing, a large modern addition has been added to the rear. The interior and the house as seen from the street, however, have suffered few major alterations.

The Alsop-Weeks House, occupying a prominent site at the corner of High and Washington Streets, is a familiar Middletown landmark. Its architectural interest and associations with prominent Middletown citizens give it outstanding significance.