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: ________ Historic: ________
   Aston House
2. TOWN/CITY: ________ VILLAGE: ________ COUNTY: ________
   Middletown
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): ________
   324 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): ________
   Wesleyan University
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: ________ Historic: ________
   Student Housing
   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: Federal-Greek Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1835
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard __ asbestos siding __ brick
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: ____________
   X cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
   __ other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: x post and beam x balloon (transitional)
   __ 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
    X asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: ________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: ________
    2½ 28'x25'

12. CONDITION: Structural:
    x excellent __ good
    Exterior: ________ ________
    X good __ fair __ deteriorated
    __ other:

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Additions to rear

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
    __ commercial __ industrial __ rural
    scattered buildings visible from site
    X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is sited on the crest of a
    hill facing Washington Park and is surrounded by substantial houses of a variety of periods.
    It is located at the intersection of Route 72 (the western boundary of the property) and Route
    66 (Washington Street), both wide, busy roads.

239
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Fanlight
Flushboarding in gable pediment
Window caps

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This three-bay Greek Revival house is typical of middle-class residential construction in Middletown prior to the Civil War. It was owned and probably built by Henry Aston (d. 1864) who engaged in many land transactions in the early 1830s with Charles Alsop, a large landowner in the area. Aston's occupation is uncertain but he could possibly be the "H. Ashton" mentioned in History of Middlesex County (p. 99) as "the owner of the H. Ashton & Company Pistol factory, in the employ of the United States which has fifty hands, and makes six thousand pistols a year, worth $35,000" (located in Staddle Hill). The house remained in the Aston family until 1942 upon the death of Henry Aston's daughter, Ada. Wesleyan University now uses it for student housing.

The house is of the Greek Revival form, with a pedimented gable on the facade and Federal features. The flushboarded pediment is accentuated by an elliptical fanlight. The doorway is framed by six square lights in the transom and three along each side. The fanlights are enclosed by integral pilasters supporting a plain, projecting cornice. This complements the projection of the pediment; a cornice return emphasizes the pediment's

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 1/79 view: south
negative on file: Roll 58, #20A

COMPiled BY:

name: Roseann Fitzgerald date: 2/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers x other: ____________________________________________
renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Building is______________________________
sited at busy corner and is subject to development pressures.
#18

triangular form.

The building is notable for its original condition; later additions to the rear have not altered the facade to the south facing Washington Street. It is a good example of the movement toward the purity of form in the Greek Revival.