STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
39 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________ Historic: A.M. Colegrove Mansion
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 456 Wadsworth Street
4. OWNER(S): Edmond and Bertha McRae ___________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residential Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain
x no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: before 1874 c. 1868;

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard asbestos siding
   x wood shingle asphalt siding
   x board & batten stucco
   aluminum siding concrete: type: 
   x other: brick
   x fieldstone
   x cobblestone
   x cut stone: type: brownstone
   x walls and foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: post and beam balloon
   x load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   x other: 

10. ROOF: type:
     x gable    flat    x mansard    monitor    sawtooth
     gambrel    shed    hip    round    other
     material:
     x wood shingle    roll asphalt    tin    slate
     x asphalt shingle    built up    tile    other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 49' x 50'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Upper part of tower removed; much decorative trim removed

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: removed
    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 x rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This substantial structure sits on
the brow of a hill on a large plot. Large well-kept boxwood hedges isolate the building
from its neighbors in an area that has undergone some 20th century residential development.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Brownstone construction

SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECT: ___________________________  BUILDER: ___________________________

HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Allyn Colegrove built this substantial
dwelling around 1868. Colegrove, who had extensive land holdings in the area, was di-
rector of the First National Bank in its earliest years. He is also remembered for his
prize-winning cows which used to roam on the front lawn of the estate.

As originally constructed, this house was one of the showpieces of the Second Empire
style in Middletown, and was featured in the pictorial publication, Scenes of Middlesex
County of 1892. It exhibited a wealth of stylistic detailing and an elaborate tower. It
still retains the mansard roof, pedimented dormer windows, and bold, wood accenting typi-
cal of the style. The facade retains the circular porch and second floor bay which sup-
ported the tower with a belfry.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman  
date: 10/78  
view: south  
negative on file: Roll 42, #4

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

SOURCES: Scenes in Middlesex County (W.H. Parish Publishing Co., 1892); 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: