STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Historical Commission
1 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

Historic Resources Inventory Form
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Mystical Seven
   Historic: same

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

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 30 Wylys Avenue

4. OWNER(S): The Mystical Seven Society
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Secret Society
   Historic: same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes
   Interior accessible: yes, explain 
   no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Unique: Seven-sided structure
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912

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

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

10. ROOF: type:
    x gable
    x gambrel
    x shed
    x hip with seven pitches
    x round
    x monitor
    x sawtooth
    x other
    x cupola

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 112' circumference

12. CONDITION: Structural:
    Excellent: x good
    Fair: x fair
    Deteriorated: 

    Exterior:
    Excellent: x good
    Fair: x fair
    Deteriorated: 

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Extensive repairs and improvements, interior

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    x barn
    x shed
    x garage
    x other landscape features or buildings:
    x carriage house
    x shop
    x garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land
    x woodland
    x residential
    x scattered buildings visible from site
    x commercial
    x industrial
    x rural
    x high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This peculiar seven-sided temple is one of two "secret society" buildings on the Wesleyan University campus. These structures are similarly sited on Wylys Avenue, a quiet side street that joins High Street a short distance away. Both have ivy-covered walls and resemble small monuments. One of the modern Center for the Arts buildings, a larger grey rectangular structure, is situated between these two temples.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Two seven-pointed star-shaped windows on main facade
Door constructed of seven vertical tongue and groove planks
A seven-sided cupola surmounted by a pointed finial

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: 
This small structure, built in 1912, is the headquarters of the Mystical Seven Society. Chartered in 1837, Mystical Seven was the first secret society to appear at Wesleyan. It became a senior organization in 1867, thus compelling the underclass members to establish the Greek letter fraternity of Delta Kappa Epsilon. This building's erection was necessitated by a fire in 1906 that destroyed the "Seven's" original headquarters in the attic of the old North College building.

The Mystical Seven, which came to be recognized as an honor society, pays homage to the seven-ness of the universe. The temple's construction portrays this. It has seven walls, and practically every element of the building is seven sided or displays seven parts. The structure also features an arched entranceway with a prominent keystone. It surrounds a brightly colored door fastened by decorative metal hinges. A finial projecting from the roof of the cupola further accentuates this building's eccentric appearance.

Before the recent construction of the Center for the Arts, this and the meeting house of another secret society, the Skull & Serpent, stood side by side. These organizations in past years exercised much influence in campus affairs. Their temples, resembling small monuments, evoke a significant aspect of Wesleyan's heritage and traditions.

19. SOURCES: Wesleyan Archives

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: __________________________
renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: __________________________