STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Fayerweather Gym
   Historic: same

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 51 Wylys Avenue
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 51 Wylys Avenue

4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
   Historic: same

5. USE: Present: Gymnasium
   Historic: same
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Romanesque Revival

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

   _ clapboard
   _ wood shingle
   _ board & batten
   _ aluminum siding
   _ other:

   _ asbestos siding
   _ stucco
   _ concrete: type:

   _ brick
   _ fieldstone
   _ cobblestone
   _ cut stone: type: brownstone
   trim and foundation; bluestone foundation base

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

   _ wood frame; _ post and beam _ balloon
   _ load bearing masonry _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:

10. ROOF: type:

    _ gable
    _ gambrel
    _ shed
    _ mansard
    _ hip
    _ round
    _ monitor
    _ sawtooth

    _ shed material:

    _ wood shingle
    _ roll asphalt
    _ asphalt shingle
    _ built up
    _ tin
    _ tile
    _ slate
    _ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent

     Exterior: excellent

     X good

     fair

     fair

     deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:

     Alterations: no X yes, explain: East wing added 1913; north one story addition and

     interior remodelled 1934; scoreboard added

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

     X other landscape features or buildings: Andrus Field, Alumni Athletic Building Squash Courts to

     the east

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

     _ open land
     _ woodland
     _ residential
     _ scattered buildings visible from site
     _ commercial
     _ industrial
     _ rural
     _ high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This gymnasium on the Wesleyan University

    campus is one of the distinguished college buildings that border Andrus Field. Unlike

    the other ivy covered structures, Fayerweather faces the athletic grounds. Its sitting

    and distinctive Romanesque appearance make it the focal point of Andrus Field. Wylys Avenue, a

    quiet, partially residential side street, runs behind this large structure.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Ornate wrought iron railings, entrance stairs

SIGNIFICANCE
Cady, Berg, and See (N.Y.)
Architect: Henry Bacon, east addition (1913) Builder: east addition (1913)

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Fayerweather gymnasium was named after
Daniel B. Fayerweather, a New York businessman who bequeathed much of his wealth to uni-
versities. It was one of the first buildings constructed during an era of marked Wesley-
an University expansion. Prior to its erection, Wesleyan's only athletic building was lit-
tle more than an equipment storehouse. Fayerweather, designed by Cady, Berg and See, was
constructed in 1894.

The original gymnasium is the western section of the present building. The entrance bay
with towers was located at the buildings east corner. In 1913 Fayerweather was enlarged.
Campus architect Henry Bacon designed an east wing to accommodate a pool. This stylisti-
cally identical addition transposed the entrance bay to the center of the main facade. The
gymnasium was again expanded in 1934. A similarly styled one story addition was construct-
to the north and the pool enlarged. In the near future, a second story may be built on this
rear addition to provide adequate locker room space.

The Romanesque details of this building emphasize its solid profile. The most obvious
feature is the center of its main facade. A round arched entrance is flanked by two

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 23, #9

COMPiled BY:
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19. SOURCES: Wesleyan University Archives; Wesleyan, The Wesleyan University Alumni, Vol. LXII, No. 1,
Winter/Spring (1978); Ruth Ryley Seldon, "Henry Bacon and His Work at Wesleyan University" (Unpub-
lished Master's Thesis, 1974)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
X none known  ____highways  ____vandalism  ____developers  ____other:
 ____renewal  ____private  ____deterioration  ____zoning  ____explanation:
prominent towers. Conical roofs with long narrow finials cap the round towers. Round buttresses across the front of the facade mimic the towers' shape. Numerous windows resting upon the second story beltcourse are also arched. The second story beltcourse together with a high water table accentuate the structure's long horizontal outline.

Like the exhibition hall that it contains, Fayerweather Gymnasium is a legacy of the college's athletic heritage. It's distinctive appearance on Andrus Field complements Wesleyan's collection of dignified structures.