STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ONNCECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: The Cenacle
   Historic: Clarence Wadsworth Estate
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Wadsworth Street; south side, east of Wadsworth Park
4. OWNER(S): The Religions of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Inc. 
   PUBLIC  PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Convent
   Historic: Residence

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

7. STYLE OF BUILDING:  Academic Classicism
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1909-1917
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ clapboard
   _ wood shingle
   _ board & batten
   _ aluminum siding
   _ asbestos siding
   _ asphalt siding
   _ x stucco over stone
   _ concrete: type:
   _ brick
   _ fieldstone
   _ cobblestone
   _ cut stone: type: _ brownstone
   _ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _ wood frame: post and beam
   _ x load bearing masonry
   _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _ gable
    _ gambrel
    _ shed
    _ mansard
    _ monitor
    _ sawtooth
    _ round
    _ other:
    _ x flat
    _ material:
    _ wood shingle
    _ roll asphalt
    _ x tin
    _ slate
    _ asphalt shingle
    _ built up
    _ tile
    _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 150'x50'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
    Exterior: _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site  moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no  x yes, explain: Columns added, north facade; later northeast wing

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn
    _ x shed
    _ garage
    _ carriage house
    _ shop
    _ garden
    _ other landscape features or buildings: tennis court; Grecian tennis house; small old powder; Wadsworth Memorial Park to west
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 monumental structure is situated at the end of a winding, quarter mile long, tree lined entrance road. Its seclusion from its rural, residential neighbors fits its use as a religious retreat and place of meditation.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Columns on north facade are from the Nehemiah Hubbard House (235-45 Main Street)

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 

Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Colonel Clarence Seymour Wadsworth built this luxurious structure during the prosperous years of the early 20th century, between 1909 and 1917. Wadsworth, a New York native and noted scholar and linguist, was the founder of the Rockfall Corporation, a charitable organization, in 1935. He is best remembered for his many civic activities and support of the organization of the Middlesex Memorial Hospital. Wadsworth also owned the DeKoven House (1791-97) at 27 Washington Street, now the home of the Rockfall Corporation. Wadsworth bequeathed the "Long Hill" property to the Rockfall Corporation in 1941, with the stipulation that his family have life use. In 1945 the family quitclaimed all their interests in the property to the corporation. Subsequently it was sold to a Roman Catholic organization and re-named the Cenacle. It is still owned by this group and is used as a retreat.

"Long Hill" is one of the few large estates in Middletown, and a rare area example of Beaux Arts Classicism on a grand scale for a domestic building. The house is large, with a central 2-story block flanked by 2-story wings. The north facade, which is approached by a circular drive, employs the Greek Doric order. Columns from the Nehemiah Hubbard House

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 48, #18A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: The Rockfall Corporation; Middletown Press; J. Russell Ward, local historian

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known ______ highways ______ vandalism ______ developers ______ other:

____ renewal ______ private ______ deterioration ______ zoning ______ explanation:
(235-45 Main Street, 1788, remodelled 1830s), are incorporated into a projecting portico. The south (garden) facade is more reminiscent of the Italian Renaissance and has an open, arched loggia across the first floor of the central block. The house contains 25 rooms in largely original condition, including a central staircase and many marble fireplaces. The Cenacle is an important early 20th century building in Middletown, in good condition, and still largely retaining its original expansive yet secluded setting.