STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: ___________________________

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

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 157, 161, 169, 170 College Street

4. OWNER(S): See next page (below #21) ___________________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residences Historic: same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes _ no Interior accessible: x yes, explain 169, 170 College Street, with _ no permission

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1834-1843

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ clapboard 157, 169, 170: x asbestos siding __ brick
   _ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   _ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   X aluminum siding __ concrete: type: __ cut stone: type: brownstone
   _ other:

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

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

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 25' x 65'

12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent x good __ fair 157 __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent x good __ fair 157 __ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: _ x on original site
    Alterations: _ x on original site _ x yes, explain: _ x All have been added onto at rear: Italianate

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: porches added, 157, 161, 170
    _ barn 157: _ x shed 161, 169 _ x garage 170 _ other landscape features or buildings:
    _ carriage house _ shop _ garden

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: These four buildings, together with the well-preserved residence at 15 Pearl Street, are part of a small group of mid-nineteenth century houses similarly designed and sited. They are a distinctive feature of a large residential district characterized by variously styled nineteenth century buildings. This (see continuation sheet)
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

161 College Street—Ornate fanlight in pediment
157, 161, 170 College Street—Italianate porches with distinctive detail

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect:  
Builder:  

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: These four houses, three on the south side of College Street and one on the north side, are representatives of a building style that flourished during the 1830s and early 1840s in Middletown. During this period, the area between High Street and Main Street experienced marked residential growth. Large tracts of land on William Street, College Street and a section of Pearl Street were developed as housing for the emerging urban middle class (i.e. skilled artisans and owners of small businesses).

Ezra Clark, a coaster captain, participated in the construction of at least five houses during this period. Among them is 161 College Street, constructed between 1834 and 1840. Clark may have occupied this house before building 170 College Street ca. 1843 where he lived for the duration of his life. 157 College Street was built by or for Alfred Southmayd around 1837. Between 1838 and 1839, 169 College Street was built for Davis N. Arnold, a mason who constructed many important city buildings including the South Congregational Church.

The predominant house type of the Greek Revival period in Middletown was a small (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec  
date: 12/78  
view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 55, #10-10A  
(see continuation sheet)

COMPiled BY:

name: Robert Svec  
date: 6/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

157, 161 and 169 College Street

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  __highways  __vandalism  __developers  __other: ________

__renewal  __private  __deterioration  __zoning  __explanation: ________

Owners: 157 College Street, V. Scamperino  
161 College Street, M. Santostefano  
169 College Street, B. O'Rourke  
170 College Street, Wesleyan University
The group is located between the larger scaled houses on College Street to the west and the mixed commercial-residential Broad Street area to the east.

Two story dwelling with a three-bay facade, displaying a pedimented gable to the street. The pedimented gable usually contained a fanlight or rectangular window, and rectangular lights surrounded the main entrance door. Built in large numbers between Court and Church streets, these once plentiful structures were a modest counterpart to the fashionable Greek Revival development on nearby Broad Street.

Despite alterations in siding and Italianate porches (a popular addition in this area), these four buildings exhibit the salient features of this house type. This small interrelated group forms the last distinct remnant of a once extensive mid-nineteenth century residential district.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90 _____

157, 161, 169, 170 College Street, Middletown, CT
06457

157 College Street

161 College Street
169 College Street

170 College Street

157, 161, 169, 170 College Street, Middletown, CT 06457