STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________________________
   Historic: 162: T. Bishop House 166: W. Knowles House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ________________
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 162 & 166 Cross Street
4. OWNER(S): 162: Wesleyan University, 166: Zajac, Kazmir & Madeline
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
   Interior accessible: yes, explain with tenant’s permission
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain with tenant’s permission

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   162: X clapboard 166: X stucco
   X wood shingle 166: X stucco
   X board & batten 166: X stucco
   X aluminum siding 166: X stucco
   other:
   X brick X fieldstone
   X cut stone: X brownstone
   concrete: type: foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: X post and beam balloon
   X load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   X other:
10. ROOF: type:
    X gable X flat
    X gambrel X shed
    X hip X round
    X monitor X sawtooth
    X other
    material:
    X wood shingle roll asphalt
    X asphalt shingle built up
    X other:
    X tin X slate
    X tile X other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: both: 18’ x 38’
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent X good
    Exterior: excellent X good
    X fair X deteriorated
    X good X fair
    X deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no yes, explain: Both: rear wings; 162: added Italianate porch
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    166: stuccoed over
    X barn shed garage
    X carriage house shop
    X garden
    X other landscape features or buildings: 162: huge ash
    tree southeast corner; 166: great Norway Spruce
    east side
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land X woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
    X commercial X industrial rural
    X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: These two Federal houses face south
    from the brow of a low hill overlooking Cross Street. They are located in a residential dis-
    trict southwest of the Wesleyan University campus on good-sized lots, with abundant trees
    and shrubbery surrounding them.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

#162: Three-pane rectangular gable window
#166: Semi-circular fan-shuttered gable window

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: 162 and 166 Cross Street are two nearly matching Federal houses that were part of the early nineteenth century development of the upper part of the street. Cross Street was the name of the road, from the first street-naming ordinance, passed by the town council in 1809. For many years 162 Cross Street was owned by William Knowles, a farmer. His name is perpetuated by Knowles Avenue, the lane that passes to the east of the house (formerly called Swamp Street), and which continues on the other side of Cross Street to the Wesleyan Hockey Rink. The two houses have always been used as residences.

These long narrow houses display a three-bay facade, end gable to the street. Their low gable roofs have short cornice returns, but not a pedimented gable. Both houses have added wings at the rear. The structures have one feature of individualization that appears to be original: 162 has a rectangular gable window; 166 has a semi-circular fanlight, now closed by a fan-shaped louvered shutter. Later alterations have distinguished between the two even more: 162 has an Italianate-style porch across the first story facade, while 166 has no porch. The exterior walls of 166 are entirely stuccoed.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 38, #2

COMPILED BY:
name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1834); 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View Map; Middletown City Directories

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x none known ___highways ___vandalism ___developers ___other: ____________________________
___renewal ___private ___deterioration ___zoning ___explanation: __________________________
T. Bishop House, W. Knowles House
162 & 166 Cross Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

These modest Federal houses are reflective of the emerging middle class in early 19th century Middletown. They appear frequently in the 1830-1840 period, homes of mechanics, craftsmen, and farmers. To the west, a small, one and one-half story, Federal style dwelling and an 18th century center-chimney house complete a small coherent area of early residences, on Cross Street.