

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Levaughn-Arnold House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 97 Chestnut Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Walter A. Seagrave PUBLIC X PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
Interior accessible: X yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1870-74
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>
		<u>(scored)</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:
 gable flat slightly mansard monitor sawtooth
 gambrel shed pitched hip round other _____
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24'x51'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: _____
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
 carriage house shop garden _____
- 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 building, unlike the nearby residences, has a full third story. Both this house and the neighboring structures face Chestnut Street from similar sized, gradually sloping sites. This short quiet road, in South Farms, ascends to Walnut Street, not far from the house. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences comprise the surrounding area. This house, as well as a number of neighboring buildings are of the Italianate style.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was constructed by Henry Levaughn between 1870 and 1874. Levaughn, a mason, purchased the site shortly after John Hubbard and George Roberts, South Farms land speculators, opened the street and subdivided the tract into building lots. The neighborhood gradually developed as a fashionable residential district, concurrent with nearby industrial growth. Emma J. Arnold bought the house from Levaughn in 1877. Mrs. Arnold's husband, Daniel B. Arnold, captained the schooner "J.J. Moore" which he partially owned. Walter A. Seagrave, Captain Arnold's grandson and the present occupant of the house, obtained title in 1899.

The most significant aspect of this tall Italianate residence is its unaltered condition and well-preserved appearance. The house has a large original two-story ell at the rear. It displays an entrance porch on the main facade and a bay window on the west side. These two features exhibit brackets, like the cornice that borders the nearly flat roof; and illustrate the decorative characteristics of the Italianate style. This building type was popular in the vicinity during the 1860s and 70s. Other Italianate houses of note in the neighborhood are at 77 Chestnut Street, and 8 and 14 Walnut Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 55, #16-16A



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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