

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

99 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: "Watch House"; East Long Hill School
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Long Hill COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 30 Maple Shade Road
4. OWNER(S): John and Mary Risley PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: School; watchhouse
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Stone Blockhouse, 20' Square DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1675-1676
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 ___ clapboard ___ asbestos siding ___ brick
 ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
 ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
 ___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 ___ other: _____ rubble, north section
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 ___ wood frame: ___ 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: Originally 20'x20';
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: Presently 20'x40'
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Expanded to accomodate school needs; interior
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: renovated; connected to another structure at south end
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 house is located in the Long Hill district, one of Middletown's traditional farming districts. It is sited on the brow of a hill on the south side of Randolph Road near Maple Shade Road. It is screened from view by a thick row of trees. An enclosed hall at the north end leads from this structure onto the second floor of a modern addition (1963) whose first floor is set into the side of the hill.

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

Plaster barrel vaulted ceiling
Brownstone rubble construction

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This is the oldest known structure in Middletown. It was built in 1675 during King Philip's War pursuant to an order of the General Court for each town "to make such suitable places of defense as they are capable of." A Middletown tradition says that three stone blockhouses were constructed near Long Hill as a defense against hostile Indians, however, this is the only documented example (see form for 1340 Randolph Road). After King Philip's defeat in 1676 the town voted "that the watch hous shall be forth with fitted up for a scollhous." In 1713 the town resigned its rights in the "Old Scool house" to the inhabitants of the Long Hill area, and it continued in use as a district school until 1919. A north section of stone, added ca. 1885, doubled the size of the original structure. In 1963 the present owners built a modern residence and connected it to the brownstone house by an enclosed passway.

A plaster barrel vaulted ceiling is the most distinctive architectural feature of this historic structure. It is of early construction, but its exact age is unknown.

The early date of this building and the causes behind its construction are historical associations of great significance. It is a unique survival from the earliest days of the settlement at Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 7/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 34, #23



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Town Votes; Connecticut Colony Records; Jesse Alsop "East Long Hill Schoolhouse," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); Douglas Leach, Flintlock and Tomahawk (New York, MacMillan Press, 1958)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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