

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 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: Bela Ward House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Newfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 449 Newfield Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Joseph Otfinoski et al. PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Multiple Residence Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1813
- 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: _____ sills & lintels; foundation
- 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: 36'x29'
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: southwest wing 30'x27'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Addition to rear; Victorian porch
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn sheds garage other landscape features or buildings: large
 carriage house shop garden shade trees in front
- 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 finely scaled brick house faces east from the west side of Newfield Street south of Congdon Street. It is set back from the road and is shaded by large trees in the front yard. Large fields spread out to the west. This area of Newfield Street displays residences of various styles and periods.

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

- Denticulated cornices
- Victorian entrance porch
- Arched brick lintels on rear wing

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was probably built around 1813 by Bela Ward on land inherited from his father. In 1830 the property passed to Gilbert Ward, who may have been responsible for the various Victorian elements incorporated into the structure. Despite these alterations, the original Federal-style appearance is easily discerned.

Although similar in its configuration and material to the Watkinson and Mansfield Houses (70 and 151 Main Street) of the same period, this house lacks their sophistication, which may reflect its origin in the farming community of Newfield. As this traditional character is being rapidly displaced, this house remains an important survivor from the rural days of this area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 49, #34A

COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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