

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: Edwin Rockwell Homestead
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 41 Silver Street (corner of Silver Drive)
- 4. OWNER(S): Henry C. Muller and Henry Muller, IV PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1855
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>wooden bargeboards</u>		<u>foundation</u>
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 60'x31'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Extensive additions to rear
- 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: A broad expanse of lawn separates this fine Gothic structure from the north side of Silver Street. Several large trees add to the picturesque qualities of the site which complement the architecture of the house. Silver Street in this area displays several houses from the mid-nineteenth century; however, the early Gothic Revival architecture of this house<sup>4</sup> is unique to the street.

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

Decorative bargeboards in gables  
Color scheme: purple walls with yellow trim  
Balcony canopy with consoles

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_

Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1855 for Edwin Rockwell, who operated a Main Street store dealing in "books, stationery, pianos, organs, and sheet music." Rockwell was also involved in the development of the South Farms area in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. He laid out and sold lots on Silver Avenue and Rockwell Street, now Evergreen Avenue.

The picturesque qualities of this property are derived from a compatible relationship of the architecture to the site. Steeply pitched gables accentuate an asymmetrical arrangement of facades and are framed by nearby shade trees. The trees add texture to the relatively flat surfaces of the walls. A broad lawn leading up to the house from Silver Street establishes a horizontal plane which balances the verticality of the Gothic design.

As an example of early Gothic Revival architecture in Middletown, this house, with its well executed decorative elements, compares favorably with the Duane Barnes House (1848) on High Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman  
date: 6/78 view: south  
negative on file: Roll 27, #30



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 6/78  
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: \_\_\_\_\_