

Middletown, Connecticut

A Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources

conducted by

The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

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1979

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 Southmayd Homestead Historic. Partridge Southmayd House; Southmayd Homestead
- 2 TOWN/CITY Middletown VILLAGE Staddle Hill COUNTY Middlesex
- 3 STREET & NUMBER (and/or location) 797 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S) Harriet B. Redford PUBLIC ☐ PRIVATE ☒
- 5 USE Present Residence Historic same
- 6 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC Exterior visible from public road ☒ yes ☐ no
Interior accessible: ☒ yes, explain with occupant's permission ☐ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7 STYLE OF BUILDING Center-Chimney Colonial (saltbox) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1739 per date in foundation
- 8 MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate)
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding | <input type="checkbox"/> brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fieldstone foundation |
| <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>ashlar (between fieldstone and sill)</u> |
- 9 STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
- ☒ wood frame. ☒ post and beam ☐ balloon
- ☐ load bearing masonry ☐ structural iron or steel
- ☐ other
10. ROOF type
- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable saltbox | <input type="checkbox"/> flat | <input type="checkbox"/> mansard | <input type="checkbox"/> monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel | <input type="checkbox"/> shed | <input type="checkbox"/> hip | <input type="checkbox"/> round | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
- material
- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt | <input type="checkbox"/> tin | <input type="checkbox"/> slate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> built up | <input type="checkbox"/> tile | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
- 11 NUMBER OF STORIES 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS. 25'x40'
12. CONDITION Structural ☐ excellent ☐ good ☒ fair ☐ deteriorated
Exterior ☐ excellent ☒ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated
- 13 INTEGRITY Location ☒ on original site ☐ moved, when
Alterations. ☐ no ☒ yes, explain Alterations to plan; flooring, doors on interior
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> barn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> shed | <input type="checkbox"/> garage | <input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carriage house | <input type="checkbox"/> shop | <input type="checkbox"/> garden | |
- 15 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> open land | <input type="checkbox"/> woodland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential | <input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> rural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density |

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS This house faces north from the south side of Washington Street west of Boston Road. Washington Street in this area displays heavy commercial strip development with some scattered residential structures. This house is set back from the street on a rise and is surrounded by open spaces which set it apart from the crowded street.

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

Triple run staircase

"RTS 1739" carved into foundation stone (east side, near southeast corner)

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect _____

Builder _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE The early history of this property remains a mystery. The earliest known occupant was Partridge Southmayd who, in a deed dated January 12, 1790, refers to the property as his "homelot." How and when he came into the property is not recorded. The initials "RTS" and the date "1739" carved into the foundation stone, are the sole indications as to the first owner of this house; however, these clues also have defied documentation. The house remained in the Southmayd family for nearly two centuries, until the 1940s.

This saltbox house with three-bay facade lacks the characteristic overhang of mid-eighteenth-century domestic construction. Although the appearance of the house has been altered through enlargement of the windows and other cosmetic changes, it retains much of its original fabric, including fireplaces and a fine triple-run staircase.

Although the origins of this house can only be surmised, its presence illustrates the early development on the "highway to Meriden" in the Staddle Hill area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer Elizabeth Loomis

date 12/78 view northeast

negative on file Roll 56, #28

COMPILED BY

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19 SOURCES Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records, Research Paper, "797 Washington Street," 12/78, Tom Fiore (GMPT); 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: _____