State of Connecticut

Connecticut Historical Commission

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

Historic Resources Inventory
Building and Structures

For Office Use Only

Smith, Rev. James A., Rental House

1. Building Name (Common) (Historic)

2. Town City
Farmington

3. Street and Number (and or location)
82 Bidwell Square

4. Owner(s)
Beattie, Donald J. & Dorothy H.

5. Use (Present)
Residence (Historic)

6. Accessibility
Exterior Visible from Public Road Yes No
Interior Accessible Yes No
If Yes Explain

7. Style of Building
Nineteenth-century vernacular

8. Material(s)
□ Clapboard
□ Asbestos Siding
□ Brick
□ Other (Specify)

t
□ Wood Shingle
□ Asphalt Siding
□ Fieldstone
□ Other (Specify)

9. Structural System
□ Wood frame
□ Post and beam
□ Balloon
□ Other (Specify)

10. Roof Type
□ Gable (saltbox rear)
□ Mandard
□ Monitor
□ Sawtooth
□ Other (Specify)

11. Number of Stories
1½

12. Condition
□ Excellent
□ Good
□ Fair
□ Deteriorated

13. Integrity
□ On original site
□ Moved
□ Yes
□ No

14. Related Outbuildings or Landscape Features
□ Barn
□ Shed
□ Garage
□ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

15. Surrounding Environment
□ Open land
□ Woodland
□ Residential
□ Commercial
□ Industrial
□ Rural
□ High building density

16. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings
The Rev. James A. Smith Rental House faces south onto Bidwell Square. Other modest residences bound the eastern and western sides of the property and a wooded hill lies to the north.

OVER}
The Rev. James A. Smith House is a small modest, shingled dwelling with a saltbox configuration. Three-paneled eyebrow windows highlight its three-bay facade. Six-over-six sash exist on the first floor and four-over-four sash remain on the second floor. A gable-roofed entry porch adorns the front facade.

In 1863 Captain William Griswold (b. 1803), a soldier, a builder, and large landholder, sold Rev. James A. (1806-1882) and Mary M. (1808-1897) Smith seven acres of land for $1300, reserving the right to maintain a waterpipe leading to his house (230 Main Street) (FLR 58:483). Smith, minister of the Congregational Church was the son of Norman and Mary Smith. According to the Baker and Tilden Map, Smith had constructed this rental house by 1869. After his death in 1882, Mary received title of the property (FPR 17:116) which two years later passed to their daughter, Eliza Smith (FLR 66:381). Sometime later it was sold to Sherman Sanford, Unionville's lumber entrepreneur. By 1920 he sold it to Michael and Mary Roman (FLR 80:188). It has passed to several other owners since that time.

This historic rental house derives added significance because it was built by the minister of the Unionville Congregational Church, the Rev. James A. Smith.

Sources:
- Farmington Land Records
- Farmington Probate Records
- Farmington Vital Records
- Farmington Cemetery Inscriptions, W.P.A., 1934
- Avon Cemetery Inscriptions, W.P.A., 1934
- 1853 E.M. Woodford Map
- 1855 E.M. Woodford Map
- 1869 Baker and Tilden Map
- 1878 O.H. Bailey & Co. Map

Photographer: Alex Paredes
Date: 5/85
Photo View: NE
Negative on file: 2:36A

Compiled by: Ruth A. Bedrosian
Date: 8/85
Organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
Address: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Subsequent field evaluations:

Threats to building or site:
- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other

- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation