The Roswell Lewis Homestead sits close to the road on the east side of Plainville Avenue. At one time the farm contained many acres of land which today have been sold for other developments. A golf course exists to the southwest. Modern residential neighborhoods are found to the west, but farmland still exists to the east and north.
Erected about 1845, this four-bay Greek Revival-style farmhouse is capped with a ridge-to-street gable roof. The facade entry door features pilasters supporting a modest cornice. Both north and south elevations exhibit fully pedimented gable ends with rectangular, grid-pattern windows set in an ornate surround. Replacement two-over-two sash are found throughout the house. A bay window highlights the south elevation and a ½ story ell extends from the rear. Numberous farm-related outbuildings lie on the property.

Roswell Lewis erected this Greek Revival-style farmhouse about 1845, replacing an earlier structure that his father Mark bought in 1802 (FLR 33:571). In 1841 he purchased his father's homestead in the West School District for $10 (FLR 47:331-333). The deed stipulated that Mark and his wife Mary "reserved life use and improvement of all the buildings and land". Mark died in 1845 and shortly thereafter his widow quit-claimed her right to the homestead to her stepson (FLR 50:33). It appears that at this time, Roswell tore down the old farmhouse and erected the present dwelling. Born in Farmington, Roswell (1806-1863), like his father was a farmer. In 1829 he married Dolly G. Culver (1809-1875) of Bristol. Jared W. Lewis (1830-1900) inherited his father's homestead in 1863 (FPR 12:406) and continued farming the land. Shortly before his marriage to Harriet E. Hyde in 1878, Jared Lewis sold the house to James and Sarah Henry of Burlington (FLR 65:241). James G. Henry (b. 1848), a native of County Antrim, Ireland, continued to operate the farm. In 1883 Daniel and Bridget Darrow of New Britain acquired the house (FLR 68:19). The Darrow's resided here with their son, Daniel C. and his wife, Mary (Crosby) Darrow. The house and surrounding land were sold out of the family in 1897 (FLR 71:305). During the first quarter of the twentieth century the property passed through a number of hands. In 1923 John and Anna Krell purchased the property and their heirs continue to operate an active farm today (FLR 80:467), selling fresh produce and flowers from a roadside stand.

This unique example of a Greek-Revival-style, "three-quarter" farmhouse serves as a historical link to the area's agricultural past and is significant for its association (cont. 19. with the Lewis family.

Sources:

Photographer:
Nathan Ainspan

Date:
4/86

View:
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Negative on file:
19:34A

Compiled by:
Elizabeth R. Hart

Organization:
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

Address:
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

Threats to building or site:

☐ None known.
☐ Highways
☐ Vandalism
☐ Developers
☐ Other

☐ Renewal
☐ Private
☐ Deterioration
☐ Zoning
☐ Explanation