STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Historic: Mary & Luther Eldridge House
   Residence
   County: Middlesex
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Historic: same
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 99 East Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Elizabeth and Wanda M. Winner PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
   Interior accessible: _yes_ no
   no
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: _yes_ no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Queen Anne DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1888-1890
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _X_ clapboard (1st story)
   _X_ wood shingle (above 1st
   _X_ board & batten (story)
   _X_ aluminum siding
   _X_ concrete: type:
   _X_ brick foundation
   _X_ fieldstone
   _X_ cobblestone
   _X_ cut stone: type:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _X_ wood frame: post and beam _X_ balloon
   _X_ load bearing masonry
   _X_ structural iron or steel
   _X_ gable crossed _X_ flat
   _X_ gambrel
   _X_ shed
   _X_ mansard
   _X_ monitor
   _X_ sawtooth
   _X_ hip
   _X_ round
   _X_ other
   _X_ wood shingle
   _X_ roll asphalt
   _X_ tin
   _X_ slate
   _X_ asphalt shingle _X_ built up
   _X_ tile
   _X_ other
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 28'x50'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _X_ excellent _X_ good _X_ fair _X_ deteriorated
    Exterior: _X_ excellent _X_ good _X_ fair _X_ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _X_ on original site _X_ moved, when:
    Alterations: _X_ no _X_ yes, explain:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _X_ barn _X_ shed _X_ garage
    _X_ carriage house _X_ shop _X_ garden
    _X_ other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _X_ open land _X_ woodland _X_ residential
    _X_ commercial _X_ industrial _X_ rural
    _X_ scattered buildings visible from site
    _X_ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This residence is the southernmost member of a row of six houses that overlook East Main Street. These buildings, of similar size, are more closely sited than the other residences on this end of the street. South, the street is primarily commercial. Two early factory buildings are nearby. Unlike the neighboring houses, this building has retained its original appearance.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Leaded stained glass windows on south side
Chimney pots on north side

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house, built for Luther Eldridge, a superintendent of the Russell Manufacturing Company, was constructed after his wife Mary purchased the property in 1887. It displays many features characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The large porch is decorated by posts with knobs and brackets. Porch balusters connected by horizontal cross-members create a recurring rectangular design below the railing. Projecting attic gables beneath the steeply pitched roof are covered by fish scale shingles. Similar shingling occurs on the second story and is contrasted by the clapboarded first story. The north side of the house exhibits a diagonal row of three leaded stained glass windows. A thin detailed chimney, topped by two chimney pots, is on the south side of the structure. The building's varied surfaces are highlighted by the use of dark and light palettes.

This residence is a notable feature of the street. Retaining its original appearance, it represents an era when East Main Street was a part of the Middlesex Turnpike, the major highway leading south from the city. During the late nineteenth century, the area experienced marked residential development. This was influenced by the growth of the industries, principally the Russell Manufacturing Company, that bordered the highway.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 6/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 27, #11

COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (New York, J.B. Beers & Co., 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  _highways  _vandalism  _developers  _other: __________
_renewal  _private  _deterioration  _zoning  _explanation: __________