STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Historical Commission
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

Historic Resources Inventory Form
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ________________________ Historic: Samuel Babcock House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 64 Liberty Street; 5 Frazier Avenue
4. OWNER(S): Carl L. Charton ________________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain with owner’s permission ___ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1851
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard ___ asbestos siding ___ brick
   ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
   ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
   ___ aluminum siding X concrete: type: block ___ cut stone: type: foundation
   ___ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam X balloon (transitional)
   ___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
   ___ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    ___ gable ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth ___ other
        ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ low ___ hip ___ round ___ other

    material:
    ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt X tin ___ slate ___ other:
    ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x36'
12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: ___ on original site X moved, when: c. 1927
    Alterations: ___ no X yes, explain: Two rear porches added after move; base of front porch pillars replaced with brick
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage X other landscape features or buildings: Former wing converted to separate dwelling, 5 Frazier Ave.
    ___ 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: The Samuel Babcock House, on Liberty Street in Middletown's residential North End, is closely placed between a substantial brick apartment house on the west and Frazier Avenue on the east. Immediately behind this bold Italianate style house is the former rear wing, now a separate dwelling, fronting on Frazier Avenue.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

   India porch pillars
   Bold second floor window entablatures supported by scrolled brackets

SIGNIFICANCE

   Architect: ___________________________  Builder: probably Albert Ruff

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This striking Italianate residence was built around 1851 in a prominent location on Main Street in front of Mortimer Cemetery. Samuel Babcock, the owner, was a man of uncommon ability. A manufacturer early in his business life, he later served in a variety of local and state political positions. Further, he became active in banking, railroading, and granite-quarrying interests. The house was moved from Main to Liberty Street in 1927 to make way for commercial development. Salvatore Muscatello, the new owner, converted the second floor into a five-room rental apartment, and made the original rear wing into a detached house.

   The Samuel Babcock House is an early example of the fully developed cubical Italianate form with bracketed cornice and cupola. The India porch pillars are thought to have been inspired by architect Henry Austin, and add an exotic note to the appearance of the house.

   The Samuel Babcock House was home for more than forty years of one of Middletown's most prominent citizens. In addition, the Victorian exuberance of its styling makes an important contribution to Middletown's architectural heritage.

PHOTOGRAPH

   photographer: Roger Sherman  date: 2/78  view: southeast
   negative on file: Roll 16, #30, 30A

COMPiled BY:

   name: Roger Sherman  date: 7/78
   organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
   address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

   X none known  __________ highways  ______ vandalism  ______ developers  ______ other:
   ______ renewal  ______ private  ______ deterioration  ______ zoning  ______ explanation:
Samuel Babcock House
64 Liberty Street; 5 Frazier Avenue
Middletown, CT 06457