FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
TOWN NO.: SITE NO.: UTM: 18/
QUAD: DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL POTENTIAL

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: George E. Barrows House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 15 Pearl Street

4. OWNER(S): Julia Giardina ___________________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residential (apartments) Historic: Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes    no Interior accessible: yes, explain ___________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1838-39

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard  asbestos siding
   wood shingle  asphalt siding
   board & batten  stucco
   aluminum siding  concrete: type:
   X other: flushboarding on pedimented gable

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam balloon
   load bearing masonry  structural iron or steel
   other:

10. ROOF: type:
    X gable  flat  mansard  monitor  sawtooth
    gambrel  shed  hip  round  other
    material:
    wood shingle  roll asphalt  tin  slate
    X asphalt shingle  built up  tile  other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24' x 56'

12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
    Exterior: X excellent  good  fair.  deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site    moved, when: 
    Alterations: X no   x yes, explain: West (rear) wing original or very early

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings:
    carriage house  shop  garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    open land  woodland  X residential  scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial  industrial  rural  X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is an integral part of a modestly scaled mid-19th century residential district. 2 and 2 1/2 story structures are upon small lots with similar setbacks. Many are simple Greek Revival structures with gable ends to the street. The 1977 demolition of an almost identical house immediately north has created a vacant lot between this house and the large 1895 Middletown High School.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by George E. Barrows in 1838 or 1839. Barrows kept a joiner's shop on the property and may have participated in the building's construction. The house was occupied by Charles H. Pelton, a printer, from 1851 to 1883; and by members of the Pelton family until 1915. Pelton worked with Horace Greeley in New York before establishing his business on Main Street, Middletown.

The area between Main Street and High Street experienced marked residential growth during the 1830's and 40's. This part of Pearl Street, the nearby College Street section, and William Street were developed as housing for the urban middleclass (i.e. skilled artisans and owners of small businesses). It was a modest counterpart to the fashionable Greek Revival development on Broad Street.

This structure at 15 Pearl Street with its three-bay facade, pedimented gable to the street and Greek Revival detail is representative of this period's most popular house type. The building is the best preserved example of its kind in the immediate area. In the context of its original setting, this house is an important survival of mid-nineteenth century urban Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: East
negative on file: Roll 3, #36A

COMPiled BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 2/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct.

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; J.M. Pelton, Genealogy of the Pelton Family in America, (J. Mirnesell's Sons, 1892); 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known ___ highways ___ vandalism ___ developers ___ other: ________________________
___ renewal ___ private ___ deterioration ___ zoning ___ explanation: ________________________
George E. Barrows House

15 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457