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: Charles Brewer House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 28 Pearl Street
4. OWNER(S): Guilio and Helen Giuffrida ___________________________ PUBLIC: X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residential (apartments) Historic: Apartments
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain: with permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Plain gable-ended mid-19th c. domestic
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1839-51
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ clapboard _ asbestos siding _ brick
   _ wood shingle _ asphalt siding _ fieldstone
   _ board & batten _ stucco _ cobblestone
   X aluminum siding cornice, front porch, _ cut stone: type: brownstone
   _ other: rear wing foundation (squared rubble)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _ wood frame: post and beam _ balloon
   X load bearing masonry _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _ gable _ flat _ mansard _ monitor _ sawtooth
       _ gambrel _ shed _ hip _ round _ other:
       material:
       _ wood shingle _ roll asphalt _ tin _ x slate
       _ asphalt shingle _ built up _ tile _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 25'x25' (addition 14'x16')
12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent X good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: __ excellent X good __ fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site _ moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no X yes, explain: Rear wing (early) and front porch added; new
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn _ shed X 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 brick house is an integral part of a modestly scaled mid-19th century residential district of 2 and 2½ story structures upon medium sized lots with similar setbacks. The neighborhood is a mixture of simple structures of the Greek Revival period with gable ends to the street and later buildings introduced in the 1860's and 1870's. Directly opposite this house is the large masonry Romanesque style Middletown High School (1895).
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Charles Brewer between 1839 and 1851. Brewer, a notable city jeweler, gave the real estate for, and was instrumental in, the building of the Universalist Church erected on Main Street in 1839. This is one of three houses built by Brewer on neighboring properties on Pearl Street during the second quarter of the 19th century. This section of Pearl Street and the bordering section of College Street were developed at the same time as the fashionable Greek Revival development on Broad Street. It was a modest counterpart built for the emerging urban middle class (i.e., skilled artisans and owners of small businesses.) Later nineteenth century owners of the house included Rev. Eleazor Foster, a pastor of the Universalist Church and J. Peters Pelton, a prominent Middletown printer. This very plain brick house with its three-bay facade, slate roof and gable end to the street may originally have been built for the occupancy of tenants. It was used extensively for rental purposes from 1868 to the present day.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 1/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 20, #3

COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas 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: __________________________
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