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: Franklin B. Comstock House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 57 South Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Nathaniel and Tina Gallitto __ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence ___________ Historic: ______________ same

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
Interior accessible: X yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1851-52
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 __ concrete: type: __ cut stone: type: brownstone
   __ other: Foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; __ post and beam X balloon transitional
   __ 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 __ slate
    __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27' x 50'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site __ moved, when:
    Alterations: X no __ yes, explain:

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:
South Main Street has a variety of building uses and styles. This is the middle house in a row of three Italianate villas long the west side of South Main Street at the head of Crescent Street. It is set back from the street atop a steep bank, a siting which affords it a feeling of privacy unusual for its location.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Tuscan verandah with delicate ironwork

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Franklin B. Comstock on a lot subdivided from land of Samuel D. Hubbard, one of Middletown’s leading citizens. Comstock was a patternmaker and later became foreman of the pattern room at the W.&B. Douglas Pump factory. The property remained in the Comstock family until 1923. Since then it has remained in residential use through a succession of owners.

This house displays a symmetrical appearance; a narrow two-bay central section is flanked by shallow wings of the same height. A verandah of delicate ironwork supporting a canopy roof has a distinct Tuscan feeling and resembles verandahs on the slightly earlier Alsop (301 High Street) and E.W.N. Starr (298 High Street) houses. Also similar is the plain treatment of the unbracketed projecting eaves on this house.

The rise of manufacturing in Middletown during the mid-19th century was concentrated in the south end of town. This house, together with its neighbors, reflects the residential development of that area associated with the recently established heavy industries nearby.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 4/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 18, #4A

COMPiled BY:
name: John E. Reynolds date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

| X none known | highways | vandalism | developers | other: |
| renewal | private | deterioration | zoning | explanation: |
CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number:          Date:  1/90

Franklin B. Comstock House
57 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457