STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
.or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____________________________________ Historic: Samuel B. Harris House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 60 Saybrook Road
4. OWNER(S): Agnes & Eva Carlson 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 ____________________________ no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1852
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard asbestos siding
   wood shingle asphalt siding
   board & batten stucco
   aluminum siding concrete: type: ____________________________
   other:
   ________________ brick ________________ fieldstone
   ________________ fieldstone ________________ cobblestone
   ________________ cut stone: type: brownstone
   foundation
   ________________ load frame: X post and beam balloon
   ________________ load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   ________________ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: probably
   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 _________ other
    gambrel shed hip round _________ other
    material:
    ________________ wood shingle _________ roll asphalt _________ tin _________ slate
    X asphalt shingle built up _________ tile _________ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24'x28' (east extension 22'x25')
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 X yes, explain: Possibly early east addition; shutters probably
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: not original
    X barn shed garage _________ other landscape features or buildings: _________
    ____________ carriage house shop _________ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land X woodland X residential _________ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ commercial _ industrial _________ rural X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces Saybrook Road in the South Farms district of Middletown. Its site is bordered by bushes and trees. A vacant lot is to the east and factory buildings are south beyond the houses on the opposite side of the street. Well-traveled Saybrook Road leads to a small commercial area a short distance west. The structure's original condition and early design are apparent in this neighborhood of mixed building styles.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Rectangular window in pediment

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This Greek Revival structure was built for Samuel B. Harris in 1852. It was erected on a one acre lot, part of the Harris family farmland which bordered the Middlesex Turnpike. When Harris died in 1855, the house was divided between his wife, Martena and young son, Olin.

The building has retained its original detail. The three-bay facade, with a pedimented gable to the street, is a later example of a Middletown house type that was extremely popular during the 1830s and early 40s. The pediment is trimmed by a plain frieze and cornice boards. Beneath the gable, a large rectangular window with small, rectangular panes is displayed. The Greek Revival entranceway exhibits a simple entablature supported by pilasters. Rectangular lights frame the door.

This residence survives from an era just before the district, characterized by small farm began to be transformed through the success of the Russell Manufacturing Company nearby. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, residential and commercial development stimulated by marked industrial growth, gradually absorbed the farmland. The house is now part of one of the city's most populated districts.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 26, #5A

COMPiled BY:

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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers
renewal private deterioration zoning
x explanation: Exterior repairs

and maintenance have been neglected.