STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECUT 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: Russell Frisbie House
   Town/City: Middletown ________ Village: ____________ County: Middlesex

2. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 61 South Main Street

3. OWNER(S): Sebastian E. and Anna G. Coronella
   Public: X Private: __________

4. USE: Present: __________ Residence ________ Historic: same ________
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain: with permission of owner: no ________

5. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes: no
   X interior visible from public road: yes, explain: with permission of owner: no ________

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate ________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1851 ________

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard __________ asbestos siding
   X wood shingle __________ asphalt siding
   __________ board & batten: __________ stucco
   ________ aluminum siding: __________ concrete: type: __________
   __________ brick: __________ fieldstone
   __________ cobblestone: __________ cut stone: type: __________
   __________ brownstone foundation
   __________ other: ________

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: __________ post and beam: __________ balloon
   __________ 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 65'

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: Shingle siding

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __________ 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: South Main Street has a variety of building styles and uses. This is the southernmost in a row of three Italianate houses along the west side of South Main Street near the head of Crescent Street. It is set back slightly from the street and sits on top of a steep bank. South Main Street in this area is undergoing selective redevelopment.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Window caps
Denticulated cornice
Porch columns

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1851 Samuel D. Hubbard leased a lot to Russell Frisbie on condition that Frisbie construct a dwelling house within one year, whereupon Hubbard would then deed him the property. Russell Frisbie occupied the house until 1866 when he moved to Cromwell. A mechanic, he was associated with the W.&B. Douglas Pump works.

This asymmetrical Italianate villa features heavy window heads supported on consoles; a denticulated cornice under the unbracketed eaves; and a verandah across the front and north sides. The porch columns have unusual carved capitals.

Manufacturing had replaced shipping as the basis of Middletown's economy by the mid-nineteenth century. Many factories were concentrated in the south end of town. This house, together with its neighbors to the north, reflects the residential development of that area associated with the newly established industries nearby.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 4/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 18, #5A

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; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1903); 1851 Clark Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x none known __highways ___vandalism ___developers __other: ______________________
__renewal __private ___deterioration ___zoning __explanation: ______________________
Russell Frisbie House
61 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457