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: Patten-Parmelee House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 62 Silver Street
4. OWNER(S): George E. Bitgood, et ux 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 with permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1850-1858
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:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; post and beam x balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    gable flat
    gambrel shed
    x hip low round
    material:
    wood shingle roll asphalt
    asphalt shingle built up
    tin slate
    other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 30'x28'; rear section 30'x20'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    excellent x good fair deteriorated
    Exterior:
    excellent x good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site x moved, when: ca. 1956
    Alterations: x no x yes, explain:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn shed garage x other landscape features or buildings:
    carriage house shop garden clinic: 86'x19'
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land woodland x residential scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial industrial rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is sited at the end of a
driveaway off the south side of Silver Street. Rt. 9 passes close by to the east and is
screened from the house by a thick stand of trees. A large veterinary clinic building, two
pools, and a summer house also occupy the premises. Statuary, lawn furniture, and various
architectural remnants scattered about the yard create an unusual environment for this
Italianate house.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Coupled brackets supporting eaves
Entrance door with narrow arched lights

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built between 1850 and 1858 by Elizabeth Patten or her son Nathan. From 1875 to 1933 it was occupied by the Parmelee family. Wilbur F. Parmelee and his son-in-law Dwight J. Payne manufactured folding furniture, ironing boards, and hammock frames. George J. Fisher, another son-in-law, was a prominent jeweler in Middletown. After passing through several owners the property was acquired in 1956 by the State of Connecticut for the purpose of relocating Rt. 9. The house was then moved to its present location just west of Rt. 9 by Dr. George Bitgood, a veterinarian.

Silver Street was extensively developed during the mid-nineteenth century. This house is one of several Italianate style homes surviving from that period. As most of its original fabric and extensive decoration are intact, including the porch and cupola, this house is a fine example of the three-bay, asymmetrical plan, vernacular Italianate villa which was a popular form of house construction in the area.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 5/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 26, #10

COMPiled by:
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (E.F. Bigelow 1896); Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (J.H. Beers); 1874 Beers Atlas; 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: __________________