STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: 
   Historic: 

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms 
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 29 and 31 Silver Street

4. OWNER(S): #29: Sebastiana Monarca, #31: Sydney Dale
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residences (double). Historic: Residences (single)

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: #29: Italianate #31: Victorian Italianate
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: #29: probably 1864 #31: between 1859-1874

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate): 
   x clapboard x asbestos siding #29
   wood shingle asphalt siding
   board & batten stucco
   aluminum siding concrete type:
   x other: vinyl siding #31

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: 
   x wood frame: x post and beam x balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   other:

10. ROOF: type: 
   x gable flat
   x gambrel shed
   mansard hip both
   monitor round
   sawtooth other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: #31: 51'x25'

12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent other:
    Exterior: x excellent x good fair deteriorated
              x good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: 
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Siding added; interiors remodelled

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: 
    x barn shed garage
    carriage house shop garden
    x other landscape features or buildings: corner sites

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: 
    open land woodland x residential
    woodland commercial x rural
    scattered buildings visible from site x high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: #29 and #31 Silver Street face south from the northwest and northeast corners of Silver and Walnut Streets. Each site is open with little planting, and each house is set back slightly from Silver Street. These houses are two of a number of similar residences dating from the first large-scale development of Silver Street in the mid-nineteenth century.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Cross gabled cupola #31
- Elaborate entrance porch #29

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: #29 Silver Street was probably built in 1864 for Carlos Hale, a tinware and stove dealer, and operator of a plumbing business. Mr. Hale was a prominent resident of South Farms for over fifty years. The Hale House features an elaborate entrance porch consisting of scrollwork brackets and decoration. It is one of the most heavily decorated entrance porches in Middletown.

Across Walnut Street to the east is the George W. Roberts House (31), probably built for Roberts between 1855-1874. As a partner in the firm of Hubbard & Roberts, which was centered in South Farms, George Roberts dealt extensively in real estate and wholesale tobacco. This house displays a fancy cross-gabled cupola with scrollwork designs in each small gable peak. The south cupola gable echoes a peak rising from the projecting eaves of the roof, and a similar gable peak in the verandah roof below. This combination of peaks gives a vertical counterbalance to the dominant horizontal lines of the cubical Italianate villa style.

Both these structures are representative survivals from a mid-nineteenth century building boom associated with the rise of heavy industry in South Farms.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: #29, R. Sherman; #31, J. Reynolds
date: 7/78
view: #29, south; #31, south
negative on file: #29, Roll 27, #27A; #31, Roll 30, #13

COMPiled BY:

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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1905); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- X none known
- highways
- vandalism
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoI