STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: Stephen Miller, Jr. House

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

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 42 Silver Street

4. OWNER(S): Joseph R. & Edith M. DiModica 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 X no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal; Italianate remodelling

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

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam BALLOON
   X load bearing masonry
   X structural iron or steel
   other:

10. ROOF: type:
   Gable
   X shed
   Mansard
   X hip
   X monitor
   X round
   sawtooth
   other
   Material:
   X wood shingle
   X roll asphalt
   X lain
   X slate
   X other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 67' x 36'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site X moved, when:
   Alterations: X yes, explain: Italianate remodelling See #18

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

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house faces north from the southeast corner of Silver Street and Evergreen Avenue. It is set back slightly from Silver Street on an open site devoid of planting. This house predates the large scale development of Silver Street which occurred in the 1850's; however, it conforms stylistically to other houses of that period due to a drastic stylistic transformation from Federal to Italianate.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Leaded fanlight in doorway entablature
Full height (to probable original cornice line) corner pilasters

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Miller family was prominent in the South Farms area of Middletown, their presence there dating from 1654 when Thomas Miller was granted a mill privilege by the town. This house was built around 1825 by Stephen Miller, Jr., great-great grandson of Thomas Miller.

Its probable original form included a ridge-to-street gable roof with cornice carried by the full height corner pilasters. The doorway displays a fanlight inside a high entablature carried by pilasters of the same form as those on the corners. This is a rare combination of decorative elements in Middletown. Around 1855 the present slightly pitched hip roof with projecting eaves was added in an attempt to upgrade the house to a stylistic par with the many Italianate houses then being constructed on Silver Street. A verandah across the front of the house is a more recent addition.

This is one of the oldest houses on Silver Street, yet through its stylistic transformation it also shares in a later phase of the street's development.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 6/78 view: north

negative on file: Roll 26, #13

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 Probate Court Records; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (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 ______ developers ______ other: __________________________

____ renewal ______ private ______ deterioration ______ zoning ______ explanation: __________________________