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: D. Luther Briggs Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: County: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 190 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Helen Stueck PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes (x) no
Interior accessible: yes, explain

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Queen Anne DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1891/92
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _X_ clapboard _X_ asbestos siding
   _X_ wood shingle _X_ asphalt siding
   _X_ board & batten _X_ stucco
   _X_ aluminum siding _X_ concrete: type: 
   _X_ brick _X_ fieldstone
   _X_ cobblestone _X_ cut stone: type: brownstone
   _X_ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _X_ wood frame: post and beam _X_ balloon
   _X_ load bearing masonry _X_ structural iron or steel
   _X_ other:
10. ROOF: type:
     _X_ gable _X_ flat _X_ mansard _X_ monitor _X_ sawtooth
     _X_ gambrel _X_ shed _X_ hip _X_ round _X_ other
        _X_ material:
        _X_ wood shingle _X_ roll asphalt _X_ tin _X_ slate
        _X_ asphalt shingle _X_ built up _X_ tile _X_ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32'x52'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    _X_ excellent _X_ good _X_ fair _X_ deteriorated
    Exterior: _X_ excellent _X_ good _X_ fair _X_ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _X_ on original site _X_ moved, when:
    Alterations: _X_ no _X_ yes, explain: Shed to north; porch (southeast) removed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _X_ barn _X_ shed _X_ garage _X_ other landscape features or buildings:
    _X_ carriage house _X_ shop _X_ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _X_ open land _X_ woodland _X_ residential _X_ scattered buildings visible from site
    _X_ commercial _X_ industrial _X_ rural _X_ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Briggs house is set at the crest of Washington Street's rise from the river, in an area with other large and generously sited houses. The residential character of this area has been somewhat obscured by the widening of Washington Street (Route 66) and the use of this corner as a major traffic intersection.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

   Extensive terra cotta ornamentation

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Daniel Luther Briggs was responsible for the construction of this picturesque house in 1891 or 1892. Briggs, a successful meat wholesaler, was active in community affairs and was Mayor of Middletown from 1890 to 1894. In 1919 the house was purchased by Philip Stueck, of J.W. Stueck Co., a catering firm established in 1880. The house still remains in the hands of the Stueck family, builders of two important commercial downtown buildings, Stueck's Block (460 Main Street) and the VFW Building (64-70 Washington Street).

The Briggs-Stueck house is an excellent example of the domestic Queen Anne style in brick. Its irregular plan is expressed by a variety of bays, projections, and gables. The surfaces of the exterior are ornamented with rows of plain and molded terra cotta tiles. Wooden stickwork is used in the gables and a floral pattern both in wood and terra cotta is repeated in the eaves, spandrels and entrance porch. Corbeled chimneys are topped by ornamental pots. Originally the site was enhanced by naturalistic landscaping and a picturesqueness. Nevertheless, this house remains one of the best examples of its style and the mason's art of the late 19th century in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 6/78

view: Southwest

negative on file: Roll 25, #18

COMPiled BY:

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date: 3/78

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20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

   X none known       highways       vandalism       developers       other:
   renewal           private           deterioration    zoning    explanation: