STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
3 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

ISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ___________________________ Historic: Austin Baldwin House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ___________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 388 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Nicholas Saraceno Realty ___________________________ PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no Interior accessible: yes, explain x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard                        x asbestos siding
   __ wood shingle                    __ asphalt siding
   __ board & batten                  __ stucco
   __ aluminum siding                 __ concrete: type:
   __ other:

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

10. ROOF: type:
    x gable                             __ flat
    __ gambrel                           __ mansard
    __ shed                             __ hip
    __ monitor                           __ round
    __ sawtooth                          __ other:
    __ material:
    __ wood shingle                     __ roll asphalt
    __ concrete: type:
    __ tin                              __ slate
    __ built up                          __ tile
    __ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26'x42' (wing 26'x28')

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: 
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: East porch; early west wing addition; porches added to rear
    __ barn                              __ shed
    __ carriage house                    __ shop
    __ garage                            __ garden

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: x other landscape features or buildings:

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The house faces south and is set back
    approximately sixty feet on the corner lot of Washington and Jackson Streets. It stands in
    a transitional area with mixed commercial and residential structures to the west, residences
    to the east, and Indian Hill Cemetery to the south across Washington Street, a wide, well-
    travelled highway.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: [blank]  Builder: [blank]

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building is a distinctive feature of Washington Street. It probably was built between 1835 and 1838, when it was purchased by Austin Baldwin (1807-1886). Baldwin was the owner of a planing factory located north of the property at the junction of Jackson Street and the West River. His factory was noted for the variety and abundance of plane patterns produced. Mrs. Phoebe Thorne bought the property from Baldwin in 1864, and it remained in the Thorne family for thirty years. Her daughter, Mary T. Jackson sold it in 1893 to Edward G. Camp and from then on the house passed through a succession of ownership. Today, the house is vacant and owned by Saraceno Realty Company.

The Baldwin house is a good example of a type popular in the Middletown area in the 1830s and 1840s. Its three-bay facade with gable facing the street displays Federal and Greek Revival period features. The gable contains an elliptical fanlight and the entrance way is framed by rectangular sidelights with thin, delicate pilasters. The interior retains its original floor plan with a side stair hall, and some original moldings. Late 19th century additions include the west wing and the plain east veranda with its large, stocky columns.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  date: 10/78  view: south
negative on file: Roll 48, S 96A-7

COMPILED BY:
name: Roseann Fitzgerald  date: 11/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.P. Beers, 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Perspective Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   __none known  __highways  __vandalism  __developers  X other: __renewal  __private  __deterioration  __zoning  X explanation: Building is currently for sale, and subject to commercial development.
The importance of the building lies in its good, original condition and its pivotal location on Washington Street. Constructed in connection with 19th century industrial activity at the west end of Washington Street, this house demonstrates the versatility and growth of one of Middletown's oldest and most travelled thoroughfares.