STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: __________________________

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

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 18, 19, 44, 46 Silver Street

4. OWNER(S): See next page (below #21) PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residences Historic: same:

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- clapboard 18&19 asbestos siding 44
- wood shingle 46 asphalt siding
- board & batten stucco
- aluminum siding concrete: type: other:

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

10. ROOF: type:
- gable: x flat 18 mansard 18
- gambrel shed hip 44, 46 monitor round
- material: 18
- wood shingle: x roll asphalt tin slate
- asphalt shingle: built up tile other:
- 18: 63'x27' 44: 50'x30'

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

12. CONDITION: Structural: 18, 19: x excellent 44, 46: x good

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: Alterations: no yes, explain:

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- barn shed garage 19 other landscape features or buildings:
- carriage house shop garden

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This group of similar Italianate houses is located on Silver Street in South Farms. 18 and 19 face each other near the west end of the street, and 44 and 46 face north next to each other just below Asylum Hill. Each house is set back slightly from the street on a small lot as is typical of most of the houses on Silver Street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):  
18. Elaborate entrance porch

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect:  
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: During the mid-to-late nineteenth century the economy of Middletown was stimulated by the expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new manufacturing plants. Much of this industrial activity was centered in the South Farms area, and a corresponding boom in local residential construction was the result.

These houses are representative of that development. Slightly smaller in scale than some of the other Italianate houses on Silver Street, each is of the cubical Italianate style popular in Middletown at mid-century. Each house was constructed for a different owner; consequently each differs in specific details (for example 18 has a notable porch). However, they share a common vernacular interpretation of the Italianate villa style.

As a group, these structures demonstrate the pervasive appeal of the Italianate domestic style. Moreover, the late dates and simple forms, as compared to the first high style examples of the type in Middletown, attest to the process by which a style becomes vernacular and popular.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: #18: J.E. Reynolds #46: E. Loomis

   date: 7/78; 10/78 view: north

negative on file: #18: Roll 30, #10 #46: Roll 50, #18

COMPILED BY:

   name: John E. Reynolds  
   organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
   address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

   X none known  __highways  __vandalism  __destruction  __renewal
   __private  __deterioration  __ze