

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

|                     |                          |           |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY |                          |           |                     |
| TOWN NO.:           | _____                    | SITE NO.: | _____               |
| UTM: 18/            | ____/____/____/____/____ |           |                     |
| QUAD:               | _____                    |           |                     |
| DISTRICT:           | S                        | NR:       | ACTUAL<br>POTENTIAL |

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: Patten-Parmelee House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 62 Silver Street
- 4. OWNER(S): George E. Bitgood, et ux PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence 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 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: probably between 1850-1858
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 clapboard      \_\_\_ asbestos siding      \_\_\_ brick  
\_\_\_ wood shingle      \_\_\_ asphalt siding      \_\_\_ fieldstone  
\_\_\_ board & batten      \_\_\_ stucco      \_\_\_ cobblestone  
\_\_\_ aluminum siding      \_\_\_ concrete: type: \_\_\_\_\_  cut stone: type: brownstone  
\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_ foundation
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 wood frame: \_\_\_ post and beam  balloon  
\_\_\_ load bearing masonry      \_\_\_ structural iron or steel  
\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ROOF: type:  
\_\_\_ gable      \_\_\_ flat      \_\_\_ mansard      \_\_\_ monitor      \_\_\_ sawtooth  
\_\_\_ gambrel      \_\_\_ shed       hip low      \_\_\_ round       other with cupola  
material:  
\_\_\_ wood shingle      \_\_\_ roll asphalt      \_\_\_ tin      \_\_\_ slate  
 asphalt shingle      \_\_\_ built up      \_\_\_ tile      \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 30'x28'; rear section 30'x20'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent       good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent       good      \_\_\_ fair      \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: \_\_\_ on original site  moved, when: ca. 1956  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
\_\_\_ barn      \_\_\_ shed      \_\_\_ garage       other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ carriage house      \_\_\_ shop      \_\_\_ garden      clinic: 86'x19'
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
\_\_\_ open land      \_\_\_ woodland       residential      \_\_\_ scattered buildings visible from site  
 commercial      \_\_\_ industrial      \_\_\_ rural       high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This house is sited at the end of a driveway off the south side of Silver Street. Rt. 9 passes close by to the east and is screened from the house by a thick stand of trees. A large veterinary clinic building, two pools, and a summer house also occupy the premises. Statuary, lawn furniture, and various architectural remnants scattered about the yard create an unusual environment for this Italianate house.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Coupled brackets supporting eaves  
Entrance door with narrow arched lights

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built between 1850 and 1858 by Elizabeth Patten or her son Nathan. From 1875 to 1933 it was occupied by the Parmelee family. Wilbur F. Parmelee and his son-in-law Dwight J. Payne manufactured folding furniture, ironing boards, and hammock frames. George J. Fisher, another son-in-law, was a prominent jeweler in Middletown. After passing through several owners the property was acquired in 1956 by the State of Connecticut for the purpose of relocating Rt. 9. The house was then moved to its present location just west of Rt. 9 by Dr. George Bitgood, a veterinarian.

Silver Street was extensively developed during the mid-nineteenth century. This house is one of several Italianate style homes surviving from that period. As most of its original fabric and extensive decoration are intact, including the porch and cupola, this house is a fine example of the three-bay, asymmetrical plan, vernacular Italianate villa which was a popular form of house construction in the area.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 6/78 view: north  
negative on file: Roll 26, #10



**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; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (E.F. Bigelow 1896); Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (J.H. Beers); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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