

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 POTENTIAL |

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Franklin B. Comstock House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 57 South Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Nathaniel and Tina Gallitto 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: 1851-52
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding | <input type="checkbox"/> brick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding | <input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> board & batten | <input type="checkbox"/> stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding | <input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | <u>foundation</u> |
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

| | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> balloon transitional | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | |
- 10. ROOF: type:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> gable | <input type="checkbox"/> flat | <input type="checkbox"/> mansard | <input type="checkbox"/> monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel | <input type="checkbox"/> shed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hip | <input type="checkbox"/> round | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

 material:

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt | <input type="checkbox"/> tin | <input type="checkbox"/> slate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> built up | <input type="checkbox"/> tile | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 27'x50'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: _____
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> barn | <input type="checkbox"/> shed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> garage | <input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carriage house | <input type="checkbox"/> shop | <input type="checkbox"/> garden | |
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> open land | <input type="checkbox"/> woodland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential | <input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> rural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density |

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: South Main Street has a variety of building uses and styles. This is the middle house in a row of three Italianate villas long the west side of South Main Street at the head of Crescent Street. It is set back from the street atop a steep bank, a siting which affords it a feeling of privacy unusual for its location.

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

Tuscan verandah with delicate ironwork

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Franklin B. Comstock on a lot subdivided from land of Samuel D. Hubbard, one of Middletown's leading citizens. Comstock was a patternmaker and later became foreman of the pattern room at the W.&B. Douglas Pump factory. The property remained in the Comstock family until 1923. Since then it has remained in residential use through a succession of owners.

This house displays a symmetrical appearance; a narrow two-bay central section is flanked by shallow wings of the same height. A verandah of delicate ironwork supporting a canopy roof has a distinct Tuscan feeling and resembles verandahs on the slightly earlier Alsop (301 High Street) and E.W.N. Starr (298 High Street) houses. Also similar is the plain treatment of the unbracketed projecting eaves on this house.

The rise of manufacturing in Middletown during the mid-19th century was concentrated in the south end of town. This house, together with its neighbors, reflects the residential development of that area associated with the recently established heavy industries nearby.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 4/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 18, #4A



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 City Directories

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Franklin B. Comstock House
57 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

