

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: 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 _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1835 & 1838
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick foundation west wing
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone (under stucco)
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
 other: _____
- 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 round other _____
material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26'x42' (wing 26'x28')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: East porch; early west wing addition; porches added to rear
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
 carriage house shop garden _____
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density

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: _____ Builder: _____

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 entranceway 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.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 48, S #6A-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.F. Beers, 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Perspective Map



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

currently for sale, and subject to commercial development.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
29 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: 18 Date: 11/78

Austin Baldwin House
388 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

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.