

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Hamilton-Vecchitto House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 23-25 Ferry Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Vecchitto family and others PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence (four apartments) Historic: Residence (double house)
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ owner's permission _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873-1876

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding (over clapboard) brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: flush boarding on cornice & frieze foundation (random ashlar)

- 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 _____
 material: (over tin)
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40' x 50'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Stairs (E. side): asbestos shingles over clapboard;

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: interior altered into four apartments
 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 Hamilton-Vecchitto House acts as an anchor to the easternmost end of Ferry Street, and is bordered by successive bands of open space to the east: the railroad tracks; Acheson Drive; and the Connecticut River. Otherwise the house shares in the dense, modestly-scaled residential character of Ferry Street, with details such as an entrance opening close to the sidewalk. The Hamilton-Vecchitto House additionally exhibits a slightly more ornate facade and imposing mass to its street corner set-

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This large Italianate house was built for Charles C. Hamilton between 1874 and 1876. Hamilton, a ferry boat captain, occupied one side of the double house; and his son, Charles A. Hamilton, ferry boat engineer, lived in the other half. In 1904, reflecting the ethnic changes within the neighborhood, the property was bought by Frank G. Santangelo, and has remained with owners of Italian heritage to the present time. The Vecchitto family (1930-present) occupy all four of the current apartments.

The identical halves of this house form a central cubical block flanked by shallow two-story wings. The one-story entrance porch on the west side is original, including its door with paired arched windows. The original configuration has been obscured by an outside staircase to the second floor on the east. Other remaining original features include a wide flushboarded frieze, a bracketed cornice, and a low hipped roof.

The Hamilton-Vecchitto House, represents the last flourish of imposing residential buildings in the neighborhood. Currently it plays a dual role on the street: it reflects the modest, pedestrian-scaled nature of Ferry Street while serving as cornerstone and gateway to the area from the riverside.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 1/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 17, #36

COMPILED BY:

name: R. N. Sherman date: 2/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; 1974 Middletown City Tax Assessor's Map; 1877 Baily Perspective View Map; 1874 Beers' Atlas Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1825 Barnum Map; Middletown City Directories; consultation with owner Joseph W. Vecchitto



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: The extension of DeKoven Drive on the north side of Washington Street to Rapallo Avenue as proposed by the City of Middletown and the State Department of Transportation would relocate the line of Cherry Street and may remove this house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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23-25 Ferry Street, Middletown, CT 06457

