

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: Samuel Babcock House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 64 Liberty Street; 5 Frazier Avenue
- 4. OWNER(S): Carl L. Charton PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain with owner's permission  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1851
- 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: block      \_\_\_ cut stone: type: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_ foundation
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 wood frame:  post and beam  balloon (transitional)  
\_\_\_ load bearing masonry      \_\_\_ structural iron or steel  
\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ROOF: type:  
\_\_\_ gable      \_\_\_ flat      \_\_\_ mansard      \_\_\_ monitor      \_\_\_ sawtooth  
\_\_\_ gambrel      \_\_\_ shed      low  hip      \_\_\_ round      \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_  
material:  
\_\_\_ wood shingle      \_\_\_ roll asphalt       tin      \_\_\_ slate  
\_\_\_ asphalt shingle      \_\_\_ built up      \_\_\_ tile      \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x36'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated  
Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: \_\_\_ on original site  moved, when: c. 1927  
Alterations: \_\_\_ no  yes, explain: Two rear porches added after move; base of front porch pillars replaced with brick
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
\_\_\_ barn      \_\_\_ shed      \_\_\_ garage       other landscape features or buildings: Former wing converted to separate dwelling, 5 Frazier Ave.  
\_\_\_ 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 Samuel Babcock House, on Liberty Street in Middletown's residential North End, is closely placed between a substantial brick apartment house on the west and Frazier Avenue on the east. Immediately behind this bold Italianate style house is the former rear wing, now a separate dwelling, fronting on Frazier Avenue.

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

India porch pillars  
Bold second floor window entablatures supported by scrolled brackets

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: probably Albert Ruff

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This striking Italianate residence was built around 1851 in a prominent location on Main Street in front of Mortimer Cemetary. Samuel Babcock, the owner, was a man of uncommon ability. A manufacturer early in his business life, he later served in a variety of local and state political positions. Further, he became active in banking, railroading, and granite-quarrying interests. The house was moved from Main to Liberty Street in 1927 to make way for commercial development. Salvatore Muscatello, the new owner, converted the second floor into a five-room rental apartment, and made the original rear wing into a detached house.

The Samuel Babcock House is an early example of the fully developed cubical Italianate form with bracketed cornice and cupola. The India porch pillars are thought to have been inspired by architect Henry Austin, and add an exotic note to the appearance of the house.

The Samuel Babcock House was home for more than forty years of one of Middletown's most prominent citizens. In addition, the Victorian exuberance of its styling makes an important contribution to Middletown's architectural heritage.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Roger Sherman  
date: 2/78 view: southeast  
negative on file: Roll 16, #30, 30A

**COMPILED BY:**

name: Roger Sherman date: 7/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Tax Records; The Middletown Press, Spring 1927-Spring 1928; Middletown City Directories; Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: 1903); Middletown Photo Collection, Russell Library; Elizabeth Mills Brown, New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976)

**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

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64 Liberty Street; 5 Frazier Avenue  
Middletown, CT 06457

