

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: George E. Barrows House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 15 Pearl Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Julia Giardina PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residential (apartments) Historic: Residence
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1838-39
- 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: flushboarding on pedimented gable foundation (rubble; squared rubble front)
- 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: 24'x56'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorated  
 Exterior: \_\_\_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site \_\_\_\_\_ moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alterations:  no  yes, explain: West (rear) wing original or very early
- 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: This house is an integral part of a modestly scaled mid-19th century residential district. 2 and 2½ story structures are upon small lots with similar setbacks. Many are simple Greek Revival structures with gable ends to the street. The 1977 demolition of an almost identical house immediately north has created a vacant lot between this house and the large 1895 Middletown High School.

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by George E. Barrows in 1838 or 1839. Barrows kept a joiner's shop on the property and may have participated in the building's construction. The house was occupied by Charles H. Pelton, a printer, from 1851 to 1883; and by members of the Pelton family until 1915. Pelton worked with Horace Greely in New York before establishing his business on Main Street, Middletown.

The area between Main Street and High Street experienced marked residential growth during the 1830's and 40's. This part of Pearl Street, the nearby College Street section, and William Street were developed as housing for the urban middleclass (i.e. skilled artisans and owners of small businesses). It was a modest counterpart to the fashionable Greek Revival development on Broad Street.

This structure at 15 Pearl Street with its three-bay facade, pedimented gable to the street and Greek Revival detail is representative of this period's most popular house type. The building is the best preserved example of its kind in the immediate area. In the context of its original setting, this house is an important survival of mid-nineteenth century urban Middletown.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Robert Svec  
date: 12/77 view: East  
negative on file: Roll 3, #36A

**COMPILED BY:**

name: Robert Svec date: 2/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct.

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; J.M. Pelton, Genealogy of the Pelton Family in America, (J. Mirnesell's Sons, 1892); 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1877 Bailey Map



**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

George E. Barrows House  
15 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457

