

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: Master Supply Historic: Hotchkiss Block
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middletown
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 598-614 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Jacob Levine PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial & residential Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain store no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1894
- 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: copper sheathing: bay windows; cornice; storefront foundation
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel (interior framing)
 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: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 87'x89'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Store front and signs: applied over first floor
Alterations: no yes, explain: facade; porches, concrete block rear addition
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: asphalt
 carriage house shop garden parking area, rear
- 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 Master Supply Building terminates an almost unbroken row of three and four story late 19th century commercial buildings stretching for two blocks along the east side of Main Street north of Washington Street. Flanked on one side by a modest two story 18th century structure, and on the other by Green Street, the building is large and imposing.

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

Pressed copper sheathing on cornice, bay windows, and sign panel above storefronts.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: Horace Butler

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was first called the Hotchkiss Block - having been erected as a business venture by Frederick Hotchkiss in 1894. Heavily mortgaged from the start, the structure has had only three main groups of owners. Frederick Hotchkiss and others in his family retained control until 1919. In that year Israel Mittelman, a clothier in the ground floor stores since 1910, bought the building. Forty years later Jacob Levine became the owner; the first floor is occupied by his Master Supply hardware store.

This large commercial and residential building, more than eighty feet on a side and four stories high, looms over nearby structures from its corner site and reflects the massive bulk of the Arrawani Hotel across the street. It features a six-bay facade with Renaissance Revival elements. The cornice is supported by paired brackets; raised ornamental brickwork highlights the wall below the cornice; bay windows adorn four of the six bays. The cornice, bay windows, and sign panel are clad in pressed metal. There are still twelve apartments above the stores on the ground level as in 1894. This important commercial building continues its appearance and function largely intact after the better part of a century.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 5/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 25A, #27



COMPILED BY:

name: R. Sherman. date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Consultation with Jacob Levine, proprietor of Master Supply, 12/77; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 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: _____ Date: 1/90

Hotchkiss Block
598-614 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

