

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: Rossi-Loewenthal Lumber Historic: Gustav Loewenthal Lumber Company
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 82 Berlin Street
4. OWNER(S): Joseph T. Rossi, Jr. PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Lumber Yard Historic: Millwork, Construction, & Lumber Co.
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early 20th century industrial and commercial buildings DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brickmain office foundation
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: block cut stone: type: _____
 other: _____ office addition foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon office
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: heavy timber framing, sheds
10. ROOF: type:
 gable sheds flat mansard monitor sawtooth
 gambrel shed hip office round other _____
 material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: _____
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent goodoffice fair sheds deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent goodoffice fair sheds deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Sheds added as needed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn 7 sheds garage other landscape features or buildings: private
 carriage house shop garden railroad siding
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 cluster of commercial buildings faces south on Berlin Street. The complex takes up 3.7 acres of land between the Airline Railroad tracks, Berlin Street, and Liberty Street. It is comprised of a house-like office building, and seven lumber storage and cutting sheds. It is set in the midst of a residential area with some commercial use.

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

Office is a well-kept ca. 1912 building with Colonial Revival detail
Protruding from the roof of the former custom millwork factory build is a "cyclone",
a one-story-high wood-dust collector
Private railroad siding on switch from Airline Railroad tracks; recycled early trol-
ly rail used for spur, still in use

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Gustav Loewenthal came to this country in 1882; he started his contracting and lumber supply business six years later. After a fire in his Fowler Avenue yard, he bought land on Berlin Street in 1911 from E.K. Hubbard for a new site. Here he built a house to serve as office and salesroom, erected storage sheds, made custom millwork, and even stabled the delivery wagon horses. At its peak the company owned four other lumber yards in Central Connecticut, including Strong & Hale in Portland. These yards were gradually sold off, and the parent company itself was sold to Joseph T. Rossi, Jr. in 1977.

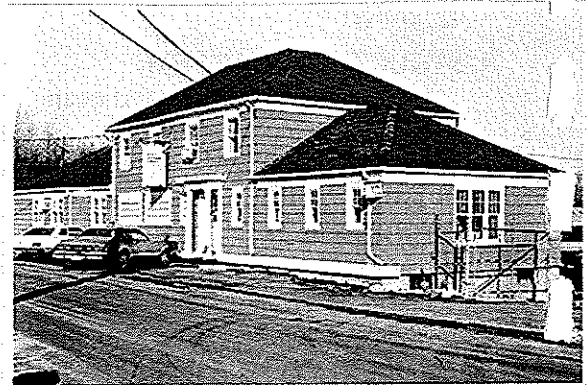
The office building is a square, two-story hip-roofed house with three additions. It serves as the salesroom for hardware and builder's supplies. North of the office, on a lower level, the storage sheds are arrayed parallel to the railroad tracks entering from the north. The sheds range from a roof on posts to enclosed buildings housing millwork machinery. This millwork fabrication building contains a 1920s milling machine still in running order. This complex of buildings, which has played a key role in supplying area builders, continues strong and active under new ownership.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 59, #34

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; Middletown Land Records; Interviews with Olive Loewenthal, former owner, August 17, 1978, and Joseph T. Rossi, Jr., current owner, August 21, 1978

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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