

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: Mitchell-Lawton Building
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 128 Broad Street
- 4. OWNER(S): William V. Bibisi PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Apartments Historic: Residence
- 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: Victorian Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1874
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>iron entrance stair railings; wooden bay window (and decorative features)</u>		<u>foundation, entrance stair, sills and lintels</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 22'x50'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Party wall cut through to 126 Broad Street: interior converted to apartments
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: <u>Tree in front obscures facade</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This structure is attached to 126 Broad Street. These buildings face west from the east side of Broad Street near the north-east corner of Broad and Court Street intersection. Their row configuration is unique to the area which consists primarily of detached residences, with some commercial buildings.

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

Elaborate Italianate bracketed hood over entrance way
Original cast iron stair railings

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: 128 Broad Street was built in 1874 by Thomas F. Mitchell, a local dry goods merchant. It was the initial component of a proposed block of row residences which was never completed. The north facade of this structure was left plain in anticipation of the extension northward of the row. The connected 126 Broad Street was designed to be the south end of this block. 128 Broad Street was rented until 1888 when the property was foreclosed on by the Middletown Savings Bank. A syndicate purchased the property from the bank and sold it to James Lawton of "Lawton & Wall, Dealers in Groceries and Provisions". It remained a residence until 1945 when it was acquired by William V. Bibisi and converted to apartments.

This structure was constructed in a Victorian Italianate style adapted to its row configuration. It is complemented by the Victorian Gothic row style of the connected 126 Broad Street. Despite the use of stylistic elements found on neighboring buildings such as the Italianate 139 Broad Street and the Gothic Revival Russell Library (119 Broad Street), these buildings are distinctive in the area for their row configuration.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 12, #12A

COMPILED BY:

name: J.E. Reynolds, E. Loomis date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Karl P. Harrington, History of the Xi Chapter of Psi Upsilon (Middletown: 1935); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Structure (along with connected 126 Broad Street) is for sale; neighboring Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co. is considering its acquisition and possible demolition.