

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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: E.I.S. Main Street Building Historic: Trolley Barn
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Kings Avenue (west end)
- 4. OWNER(S): Sier Corporation PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Trolley Barn, Electric Street Railway
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 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: poured cut stone: type: _____
- other: _____ Foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel 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: 1 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 103'x344'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
- Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
- Alterations: no yes, explain: 75'x105' later front addition

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: The former Middletown Street Railway Car-Barn sits on a key plot in Middletown's North End between the Airline Railroad tracks and Kings Avenue. It faces the rotary at the northern end of Main Street and overlooks St. John's Square and the church properties to the east. A later addition on the east end of the building by E.I.S. Automotive Products has placed five truck-loading docks toward the busy intersection.

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

Tall narrow window recesses on original part of building

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Middletown Street Railway Company was the successor to the Middletown Horse Railway Company. The electrically-powered trolley cars used the same track lines as the horse cars did. This building was constructed around 1894 for use as the car-barn for the trolleys on the site where the horses from the earlier company had been stabled. Since the Airline Railroad and the Valley Line converged at the Rapallo Avenue station, a block to the east, Middletown's North End became the transportation hub for the area. The electric trolley cars made their first circuits of the town on December 22, 1894. Lines were soon extended to South Farms, to the Insane Asylum, and to the Wesleyan area. By 1903 the line was an interurban line with connections to Middlefield, Meriden, Cromwell, and Portland. The company was not a financial success, however, and was sold in 1904 to Consolidated Railway Company of New Haven. The trolleys continued to run until the Depression of the 1930s, when buses were introduced with their greater operating economy and easier access to the curb.

The trolley barn is a large cavernous structure, built in the style of industrial building of the 1890s. The sturdy brick walls based on a poured concrete foundation have an

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 56, #17-17A

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Tax Records; Middletown Press: Special Tercenary Edition, 9 Sep, 1950; Consultation with J. Russell Ward, local historian, 18 Aug, 1978



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

has been unoccupied and for sale for almost ten years.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Form number: 18 Date: 8/78

Trolley Barn
Kings Avenue, Middletown, Ct. 06457

element of aesthetic interest in the long rows of recessed windows that give illumination to the interior. The building may yet see adaptive use since it is under consideration as a bus terminal for a regional transit system now being planned for the Greater Middletown area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Trolley Barn
Kings Avenue; north side, corner of Main
Middletown, CT 06457

