

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: Middlesex Fruiterery Historic: Police Station
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 191-195 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: Commercial; Police Station
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain publicly owned, commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Plain 19th century commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1835
- 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: _____ sills & lintels
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:
 gable flat in rear 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: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36'x70'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Rear wing, full third story; front facade added ca. 1891
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: passway on
 carriage house shop garden south side and in 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: Building is an integral part of a mid-to-late 19th century commercial block on the west side of Main Street. The Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co. building (1867) is to the south, and the former Universalist Church (1839) is on the north. East side renewal will change the character of Main Street in this area by removal of buildings (Mansion Block) contemporary to this one on opposite side of street.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building is a composite of two buildings. The north section (2½ storys, 3-bays) was probably built ca. 1835 by Joshua Stow and operated as a store by him. Stow was postmaster of Middletown 1815-18, 1821-41. From 1845 to 1889 the building was owned by William Trench and his heirs, and was leased out to several tenants. Among these were George Redfield who operated a saloon/restaurant from 1863 to 1881, and the Middletown Police, who used the premises as the first police station in Middletown from 1882 to 1887. The south section (2½ storys, 3-bays; 22'x50') was owned by Stephen Crittenton and heirs from 1817 to 1876. This section is listed as one of two stores owned by Crittenton in his will. The possibility exists that both sections were erected simultaneously, allowing the respective owners to save costs by sharing a common wall. In 1876-1891 John Bailey owned and operated a store here which sold stoves and sheet metal ware.

Alterations, including the addition of a full third story and a new front facade, were probably made ca. 1891 when the Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co. acquired title to both sections. The building's architectural character dates from these alterations. The building has (as far as can be proven) always been used commercially.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 50, #35



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 1/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (J.H. Beers Co., 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1859 Clark Map; 1859 Walling Map; 1877 Bailey Map; Photo in "Views at Middletown, Connecticut" Mansfield Post 35; two photos in Herman Bielfield's collection, ca. 1880 and 1900

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Building is in a renewal area, and although it is included in a proposed National Register historic district and current plans call for a preservation project, arrangements have yet to be finalized.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Police Station
191-195 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

