

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: _____ SITE NO.: _____

UTM: 18/____/____/____/____/____

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT: _____ S NR: _____ ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

CONNECTICUT
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 State Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

SOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

NAME: Common: Liberty Savings Bank Historic: Old Banking House Block

CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex

NUMBER (and/or location): 319-323 Main Street

USE: The Liberty Bank For Savings PUBLIC PRIVATE

CONTENT: Bank Historic: Bank and Stores

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ bank use _____ no

TYPE OF BUILDING: Commercial Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1796; north section, c. 1815

ROOFING MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> wood cornice	<input type="checkbox"/> lintels & sills; keystone, second floor window arches

FRAMING SYSTEM:

Roof frame: post and beam balloon structural iron or steel

Supporting masonry: _____

ROOF TYPE:

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

Roofing material:

<input type="checkbox"/> single roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>composition</u>

FLOORS: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 44'x43'

CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

LOCATION: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Third story added c. 1890, See #18; major interior renovations

OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
 shop garden

BUILDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density

RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This three-story brick structure faces the west side of Main Street in Middletown's central business district. Attached to the east wall is a five-story Renaissance Revival structure, also housing Liberty Bank of Middletown. A three-story commercial building is attached to the north. Located across the street and (see continuation sheet)

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure was constructed in three different sections over a one hundred year period. The original two-story south section was built by Samuel Watkinson between 1796 and 1809. The second two-story north section was built by Watkinson's son-in-law, Samuel Gill, between 1812 and 1822. Records indicate the third story, extending across the two sections, was added by Oliver Watrous in 1890. The Middletown Savings Bank owned and occupied the building from 1838 to 1870. This was the banks first substantial building. In 1870 the business moved and two years later sold the building to David J. Neale. David J. Neale and his brother Thomas, both "merchant tailors", were probably responsible for the north store front "modernizations." Neale leased the south store to the Beebe brothers, "millinery and fancy good" merchants. The upstairs of the premises was leased by various dentists, one of whom, Oliver Watrous, eventually purchased the building in 1890. Other occupants of the late 19th century included: Blake and Barton, "clothing, hats and gents furnishing"; Alvin P. French, dentist; Bacon and Guy, shoes and insurance agents; and The Middletown Coal Company, coal and wood, flagging and curbing stone. In 1924, Watrous sold the

(see continuation sheet)

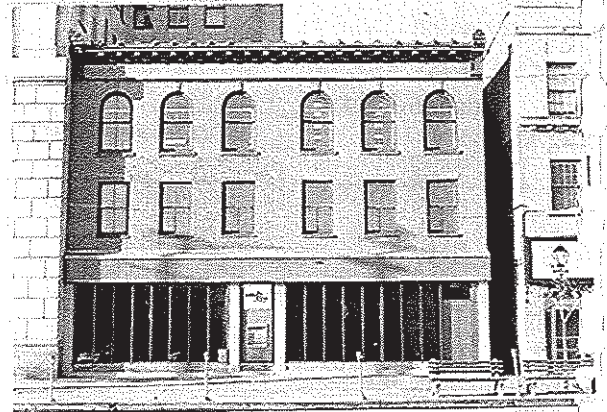
PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 50, #36

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 11/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; "Old Banking House Block," GMPT Report (unpublished, 1973)



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
Buildings and Structures

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TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

INVENTORY SHEET
Number: 16&18 Date: 11/78

Old Banking House Block
319-323 Main St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

Directly south is Riverview Center, a large, modern, two-story, commercial complex. Directly north is the Old Post Office (1916).

According to The Middletown Coal Company who continued to occupy the premises until 1951. At that time it was purchased by the Middletown Savings Bank, which had moved to the adjacent corner site, erecting a five-story Renaissance Revival building in 1928. Thus this building moved back into its first building, which has stood through it all. The facade of this Italianate structure is brick and is accented by brownstone sills and pilasters at the second story, arched windows with keystones at the third story, all of which is surmounted by a decorative wooden cornice. The bank undertook a major restoration/renovation of both buildings in 1975. Although dominated by large structures on either side, this building stands out due to its appearance and crisp lines.

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

Old Banking House Block
319-323 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

