

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: Middletown Press Building Historic: Penny Press Building; Alsop-King Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 472 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): The Middletown Press Publishing Company PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Offices Historic: Commercial
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain office use no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873-1874
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: _____ foundation (under stucco)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 ___ wood frame: ___ post and beam ___ balloon
 load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
 ___ 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: 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 128'x22'
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Storefront altered
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 Alsop-King Building is located on the north end of Main Street, just north of Washington Street. This area has many three- and four- story commercial structures built in the late 19th century. Directly to the north of the Alsop-King Building is a 3 1/2-story Italianate commercial structure and to the south is a 4 1/2-story Victorian commercial building.

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

Third-story brackets

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Alsop-King Building, 472 Main Street was built around 1874 by Joseph Alsop. During its first thirteen years the building served assorted retail firms. In 1889 the King family purchased the building and used it to house both The Sentinel Witness and The Penny Press newspapers. The Middletown Press Publishing Company bought the Alsop-King Building in 1919 and presently uses the structure for its offices.

The Alsop-King Building is typical of the brick commercial structures built on Main Street after the Civil War. It is 3½-stories in height and three bays wide on the facade. Four pairs of wooden brackets support the cornice with other windows between the brackets. The ground floor has been altered, with a colonial pediment marking the entranceway. The overall architectural scheme of this building is simple.

The Alsop-King Building, together with the similar structures at 560-574 Main Street, is one of the first buildings constructed in the post-Civil War commercial development of the north end. Moreover, its long association with the press in Middletown lends the building additional historical significance.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 12/78 view: west

negative on file: Roll 56, #44-45

COMPILED BY:

name: David Engstrom date: 2/79

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 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: _____

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

Penny Press Building; Alsop-King Building
472 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

