

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: Caulkins Garage Historic: same  
 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex  
 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 489 Main Street  
 OWNER(S): F.L. Caulkins Auto Company PUBLIC  PRIVATE   
 5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: same  
 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
 Interior accessible:  yes, explain commercial use  no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early 20th century commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1905

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

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 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39'x77' (wing 41'x55')

12. CONDITION: Structural: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 Exterior: \_\_\_ excellent  good \_\_\_ fair \_\_\_ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site \_\_\_ moved, when:  
 Alterations: \_\_\_ no  yes, explain: Shed addition to connect building with garage in rear

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 \_\_\_ barn \_\_\_ shed \_\_\_ garage  other landscape features or buildings: old gasoline pump on sidewalk  
 \_\_\_ 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: This three story brick commercial building is located at the beginning of the north end of Main Street on the west side of the street. Situated between a large vacant corner lot and the more massive St. Aloysius Building, Caulkins Garage, because of its details and color scheme, is a dominant element of this business area.

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was built in 1905 for the F.L. Caulkins Auto Company. This enterprise in "autos" and automobile supplies, was previously located directly across the street in the Caulkins and Post Building. By 1905 the business was so successful that it built a new building across the street. The F.L. Caulkins Auto Company has continuously occupied this building since its erection.

The glazed red brick facade of this structure contains all of its original crisp details and clear elements. Two green two-story bays on either side of the second and third stories are separated by two pairs of rounded arched windows which are outlined by yellow brick belt courses. The facade is surmounted by a heavy bracketed cornice capped by panels. The original street level store front contains large windows, four plain pilasters, and brown-stone thresholds.

This building, designed for use as an automobile showroom in the first level with tenant dwellings in the upper two stories, is still being used for these purposes. Continuing its function and appearance from the early 20th century, Caulkins Garage makes an important contribution to Middletown's Main Street.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 5/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 25, #33



**COMPILED BY:**

name: E. Loomis date: 5/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Marino Postal Card Collection (Greater Middletown Preservation Trust)

**20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:**

**21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:**

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET  
Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/90

Caulkins Garage  
489-493 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

