

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 : HISTORIC SITE

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Fox-Becker Granite Co. Office and Work Shed Historic: Campbell's Stoneyard
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 10 Rapallo Avenue
- 4. OWNER(S): Franklin Batchelder PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Monument Works Historic: Cut stone yard
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ Business place no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Wooden Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Late 19th Century

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

- office clapboard _____ asbestos siding _____ brick
- office wood shingle _____ asphalt siding _____ fieldstone
- _____ board & batten _____ stucco _____ cobblestone
- _____ aluminum siding concrete: type: poured _____ cut stone: type: _____
- _____ other: _____ foundation (both) _____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: _____ post and beam balloon (both)
- _____ load bearing masonry _____ structural iron or steel
- _____ other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- office gable crossed _____ flat _____ mansard _____ monitor _____ sawtooth
- _____ gambrel shed work shed _____ hip _____ round _____ other: _____
- material: _____
- office wood shingle _____ roll asphalt _____ tin _____ slate
- shed asphalt shingle _____ built up _____ tile _____ other: _____

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: shed:1 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: office, 26'x31'; shed, 13'x85'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ? moved, when: Possibly ca. 1910 from south side of Rapallo Avenue
- Alterations: no yes, explain: Workshed enclosed ca. 1940

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- _____ barn _____ shed _____ garage other landscape features or buildings: Gantry crane; headstones on display in work yard
- _____ 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: Rapallo Avenue is at the edge of a diverse, once-busy area near the intersection of two railroad lines. Its south side has apartments, family dwellings, and a beer distributorship. The north side features five businesses with work yards and parking areas. Fox-Becker Granite Company is flanked westerly by a catering service and an ambulance company whose yards are used for parking.

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

The steel gantry crane in the workyard is used daily. It has a vertical hoist powered by electricity (originally steam-driven), and a hand-cranked cable windlass to move the stone blocks horizontally. It was formerly used to swing out over the adjacent railroad tracks for unloading stone from railroad flatcars.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In the mid-1800's the large block of land between the north end of Main Street and the river was sparsely occupied. With the coming of the two railroad lines and the depot at the northeast corner of this block in the early 1870's, the area boomed. Private and public housing, stores, and small industries located here. Rapallo Avenue was cut through to the depot around 1885. Alexander Campbell established a stoneyard to work brownstone, granite and marble, and a monument works on the site next to the depot in 1870. Fox-Becker was set up on the south side of Rappallo Avenue across from Campbell in 1900 and moved to Campbell's location after 1906. Since then, Fox-Becker has operated a monument works on the site.

Four elements of interest stand out at the site: the gantry crane, constructed of riveted girder steel-spartan but functional; an 85-foot long, one story stonished dating from Campbell's occupancy; the office, displaying reproduction Greek Revival detail around the doorway and a double-gabled roof; and the busy workyard where sample headstones stand on display. In continuous use for more than a century, this industrial site associated with cut stone, one of the region's major products, is a rewarding example for study and preservation.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 3/78 view: east
negative on file: office: Roll 13, S10A crane: Roll 13, S11A

COMPILED BY:

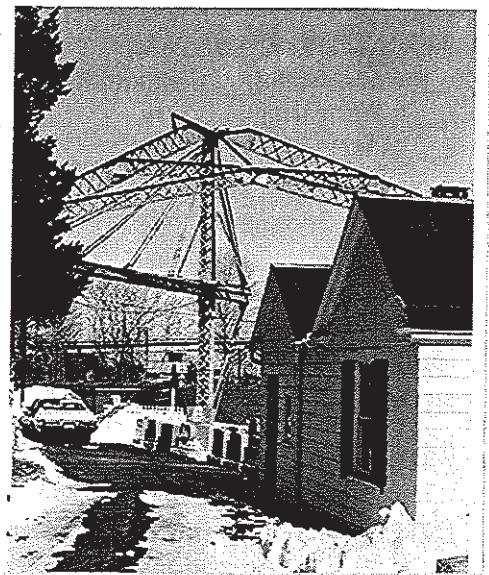
name: R. Sherman date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middlesex Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Photographs owned by Franklin Batchelder, consultation with same, March, 1978; 1915 Aeroview Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism de
 renewal private deterioration zc



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

Campbell's Stoneyard
10 Rapallo Ave., Middletown, CT 06457

