

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: Sebold's Apartments Historic: M.A. Smith Grocery
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 26-28 Saybrook Road
- 4. OWNER(S): James and Rosalie Bennett PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: General store, residential
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890
- 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: cast iron columns, veranda foundation
- 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: 56'x41'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Interior remodeling; north fire exit; entrance
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES: \_\_\_\_\_ altered  
 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: This three story brick building, set on an odd shaped lot, is located on the northeast shoulder of the East Main Street and Saybrook Road intersection. This busy, congested area consists primarily of late 19th and early 20th century domestic buildings altered for commercial use. A gas station is to the north and across the broad street is a small wooden Gothic Revival Chapel.

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

Cupola  
Decorative pressed metal lintels  
"Saw tooth" belt courses  
M.A. Smith Grocery sign, painted on north wall

SIGNIFICANCE

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This substantial structure was erected in 1890 for Mrs. M.A. Smith. Mrs. Smith, together with her son George, successfully continued the grocery business which had been established by her husband in 1868. The business, conducted on a large scale and covering a vast area, had five teams of delivery horses.

Subsequently the building was altered for apartment use. It is now unoccupied. In this utilitarian building nineteenth-century quality of workmanship is reflected in the wooden and brick decorative detail, pressed metal sheathing on the lintels, the cupola and the veranda.

The M.A. Smith Grocery Store, in nearly original condition, is an important survival of the general store era.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 6/78 view: northwest  
negative on file: Roll 26, #2



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 7/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Marino Postal Card Collection, GMPT

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: Sited in com-  
mercial area; house is presently vacant and future plans for its use are uncertain.