

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:	8	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _____ Historic: Thomas Kelly House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 436-440 High Street
4. OWNER(S): Antonio and Carmelina Piazzese PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence (multiple) Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Proto-Modern DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1894
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
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: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x40'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Second story porch at southeast corner enclosed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: small front yard; foundation shrubbery; cedar trees in front 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: This double house is set close to the street on the corner of High and Liberty Streets. It is set off from the street by a metal fence surrounding a small yard with cedar trees. It is situated in a residential area of closely-sited late-19th and early-20th century buildings. The house stands apart from its neighbors because of its light-colored brick.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This large building was built in 1894 by Thomas Kelly who lived in the southern half of this double dwelling. Kelly was an Irish immigrant who began a successful lampblack business during the 1870s in Middletown. The house remained in the Kelly family until 1919 with the death of Hannah Kelly, Thomas's wife. The new owner, Sigmund Schlenger, also resided at High Street until 1924, when he sold his interest to Alex and Olga Schmidt. From then on, the building was used primarily for rental purposes. It is now owned by Antonio and Carmelina Peazzese.

It is a large blocky structure of light-colored brick. Its main decorative feature is the polychromy which accentuates the symmetrically arranged architectural elements. The arched windows, quoins, frieze, and cornice are picked out in darker brick. There are prominent bracketed door hoods over the entranceways and a two-story baywindow on the south side with a Colonial Revival oval porch.

The importance of the building lies in its distinctive polychromy, a decorative feature which complements the imposing solidity of the building. It also plays an important role as a solid anchor for this corner in this dense residential area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 3/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 16, # 19



COMPILED BY:

name: Roseann Fitzgerald date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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