

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic: Russell Company Houses
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 Hillside Court
- 4. OWNER(S): See next page (below #21) PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Residences Historic: Company Housing
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th-early 20th C. cottages DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: See #18

- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 7:  clapboard 8,3,2:  asbestos siding 2,4,6,8:  brick foundation  
 4:  wood shingle \_\_\_\_\_ asphalt siding \_\_\_\_\_ fieldstone  
 \_\_\_\_\_ board & batten \_\_\_\_\_ stucco \_\_\_\_\_ cobblestone  
 6,5,1:  aluminum siding 1,3,5,7:  concrete: type: foundation \_\_\_\_\_ 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: 1 1/2 (all) APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24'x24' (all)

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: Probably four were moved (2,4,6,8)  
 Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Side porches enclosed; various wings added

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 barn 2:  shed 1,4:  garage  other landscape features or buildings: all bordered by hedges  
 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: These eight identical cottages face each other on Hillside Court, a short passageway off Hillside Avenue. They comprise a distinct unity within a neighborhood characterized by small, closely-sited houses. A long row of houses, identical to each other, line Hillside Avenue nearby. Small businesses and the  
 (see continuation sheet)

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

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This group of cottages was built by the Russell Manufacturing Company as housing for its workers. In 1927, the company sold these houses to the occupants. They are practically identical in appearance despite minor alterations; each building has the same original L-shaped floor plan. The rectangular main section displays a plain three-bay facade with the doorway set to the side and one second-story window. Each house has an enclosed side porch with a shed roof.

The four cottages with brick foundations on the east side of the street may be older than the others. One resident believes that these were moved here from East Main Street. The 1874 Beers Atlas shows four buildings, identical in shape to these, labeled as "company's houses" bordering Main Street (now East Main Street). A large Russell Company structure, erected in 1913, currently stands on that site. The four cottages on the opposite side of the street are said to have been constructed around World War I, a period when the company experienced considerable growth. Unlike the other four houses, these have small side dormers, different cornice mouldings and concrete foundations.

These well-kept cottages form a distinct neighborhood unit. They illustrate the dominant

(see continuation sheet)

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Robert Svec  
date: 10/78 view: A, east; B, looking south  
negative on file: A, Roll 53, #12A-B; B, Roll 40, #10



**COMPILED BY:**

name: Robert Svec date: 10/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: 1874 Beers Atlas; Middletown Land Records; Interviews with neighborhood residents

A: 1 and 3 Hillside Court

**20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:**

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Owners: 1 Hillside Court, Joseph Mazzotta | 5 Hillside Court, Lucy & Connie Maggiore       |
| 2 Hillside Court, Jennie Cronin           | 6 Hillside Court, Sebastian & Josephine Rubino |
| 3 Hillside Court, Carl O. Hayn            | 7 Hillside Court, James & Anges Choquette      |
| 4 Hillside Court, Edna Evans              | 8 Hillside Court, Patrick & Katherine Hayes    |

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CONTINUATION SHEET  
Item number: 16&18 Date: 10/78

Russell Company Houses  
Hillside Court, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#16

Russell Manufacturing Company, South Farms' most dominant feature, border East Main Street, a short distance away.

#18

role of the Russell Manufacturing Company in the development of the surrounding area, and are a rare known example of company housing in Middletown.

B: Hillside Court