

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: Formatron Corporation Historic: L.D. Brown & Son
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 128 Main Street Extension
- 4. OWNER(S): Miller Associates PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Industrial Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th century Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1871-74
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>foundation</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel interior framing (may be wood also)
 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 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 90'x150' (main section 45'x100')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: one story factory building, west; one story building, north
 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 large brick structure runs parallel to Cooley Avenue between two heavily travelled roads, East Main Street and Main Street Extension. A low industrial building is west, with the closely sited commercial buildings of Main Street Extension beyond. A service station that borders East Main Street is east. This building is an imposing feature of the area; its broad plain proportions contrast with the neighboring residences and small businesses.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was erected between 1871 and 1874 by L. D. Brown & Son. The business had moved here from Tolland County, Connecticut, where it was established in 1850. The company processed raw silk into various kinds of thread. In 1884 the factory, operated by a fifty horsepower steam engine, employed 150 workers. Over the years, draperies, lace and paper goods also have been manufactured in the building. It is now occupied by the Formatron Corporation, a manufacturer of beauty and barber shop equipment.

The large main factory is 3½ stories in height. Its broad, plain walls are topped by a wide wooden cornice beneath the long gabled roof. This and a rear wing comprised the original building. Between 1877 and 1896, an office and an extension to the wing were erected. These ell's display decorative brick beltcourses. An addition that connects the office to rear wing, constructed in this century, further enlarged the structure. A tall smoke stack and a distinctive tower that crowned the stairwell were removed sometime after 1896.

This mill reflects the substantial industrial development that occurred in the South Farms area following the Civil War. During the late nineteenth century, the district became one of the city's most thriving sections.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 53, #18A



COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884); H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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