

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: Terry's Beauty Salon Historic: Arthur Magill Jr. House; Chase School
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 631 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Vincent and Joyce Conroy PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Apartments & beauty salon Historic: Residence, school, hotel
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1820
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 & watertable; sills and lintels
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: 3½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50'x41'
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent ___good fair ___deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent ___good fair ___deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site West rear wing removed; later front veranda; fire
 Alterations: ___ no ___ yes, explain: staircase added in rear; door and large window
added to first floor facade
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 ___ barn ___shed ___garage other landscape features or buildings: former west wing (remodelled) is presently a separate dwelling in rear
 ___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 ample and eloquent building is situated on the north end of Main Street among a variety of commercial buildings. A larger and later brick commercial building is attached to its north wall and the small quonset hut style J.&J. Diner is affixed to the southeast corner of the building.

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

Brownstone Palladian window
Copper gutters

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Arthur Magill, Jr. who was co-founder, with his father, of the Middletown Manufacturing Company. This company was the first woolen mill to utilize steam power to run its machinery and specialized in fine cloths and "cassimeres." Magill encountered financial difficulties, including the loss of a suit in the Supreme Court, and in 1832 relinquished all interests in the property. Daniel Chase, founder of the Middletown Institute, operated a boys preparatory school here from 1835 to 1870. "Well equipped", the school served about eighty pupils. D. Luther Briggs owned and occupied the house when elected mayor in 1891. After 1870 the building was adapted for commercial use. It continually served as a hotel and/or boarding house with dining facilities until 1943 and has been known as the New York Hotel, Germania House, Hotel Mattabessett, Hotel Herbert and the New Ideal Hotel.

Its large size, brownstone trim, and decorative detail make this building one of the finest mansions built in the late Federal style in Middletown. Federal decorative elements (a Palladian window and a Federal doorway with fanlight and sidelights) are used

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 27, #19A



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "Chase School," Old Houses of Connecticut (FERA 1935); The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin (April, 1972); History of Middlesex County (J.H. Beers, 1884) 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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Arthur Magill Jr. House; Chase School
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with Greek features (pedimented gables and lintels carved with Greek motifs). This building is nearly identical to the two story MacDonough House formerly on Main Street, now destroyed. The Arthur Magill Jr. House is an important survival of early 19th century domestic elegance in Middletown.

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Arthur Magill Jr. House; Chase School
625-631 Main Street (formerly #631)
Middletown, CT 06457

