

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: C.B. Stone Historic: Alms House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 53 Warwick Street
- 4. OWNER(S): C.B. Stone Company PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Offices Historic: Poorhouse; factory
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1814
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick flemish bond
<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
 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: 40'x60' (wing 23'x60')
- 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 converted to offices; center pavillion removed
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage ⁴ other landscape features or buildings: house to the north; large oak tree to the west
 carriage house shop garden stall
- 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 3½ story brick structure faces north from the south side of residential Warwick Street. It sets back from the road behind two late nineteenth century houses. A large oak tree to the west shades this structure.

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

North of the Alms House is a later dwelling, the southeast wall corner of which displays a brownstone wall once a part of the jail built in 1846.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In the early 1800's the city of Middletown made provisions to provide for its less fortunate citizens. This structure, known as the Alms House, was erected in 1814 as a facility for caring for the indigent of the town. It served its benevolent purpose until 1853, when the Town Farm was built on Silver Street and its operations moved there.

Shortly after, the Hubbard and Curtis Hardware Company occupied the building. This company, which manufactured tools, hardware, and wood burning stoves, had their principal place of commerce on Main Street (currently Bacon Brothers) and manufactured their goods in this building. In the early 1900s Fred Hodge manufactured valve wheels there. Other occupants included the Middletown Fire Arms and Specialty Company, and the Middletown Rifle Club. C.B. Stone Inc., dealers in oil, have occupied the building since the early 1930s.

The Alms House is one of the largest structures of the Federal period in Middletown. Its central, slightly projecting, pavillion is still discernible. A graphic depiction on an 1825 map indicates that the building was embellished by a segmental arch over the entrance door and a classical cupola.

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 7/78 view: north (slightly west)
negative on file: Roll 34, #6



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County: (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View 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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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 18 Date: 9/78

Alms House
53 Warwick Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

Located to the north on the premises, facing Warwick Street, is a brick, late Victorian residence. This substantial structure, once owned by Mayor Leo B. Santangelo, displays intricate stickwork on the veranda, decorative brick work, and is in relatively original condition. The southeast section of this structure is supported by large brownstone blocks. These blocks are the remains of the jail which was built on the Alms House grounds in 1846. It was a small facility, containing only twelve cells, with the principal jail being in Haddam, Connecticut.

This structure and its site are significant, but little-known, remnants of Middletown's history and reflect the tradition of a city that readily and appropriately cared for its less fortunate citizens.