STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: _______ Historic: Danforth Pewter Shop
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _______ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 120 College Street
4. OWNER(S): Farmer's & Mechanic's Savings Bank PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Pewter Shop; apartments
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no Interior accessible: yes, explain with owner's permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate front applied to Colonial Shop DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1759
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard under siding x asbestos siding __ brick
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: __ brownstone
   __ other: __ cut stone: type: __ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: shop
   x wood frame: x post and beam x balloon front
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gambrel shop x flat front __ mansard __ monitor __ sawtooth
        __ gable shop __ shed __ hip __ round __ other

    x wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
    shop x asphalt shingle x built up front __ tile __ other: Original section 17'x35'
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: Italianate addition 30'x20'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: __
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: See #18
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn __ shed __ garage x other landscape features or buildings: Joseph Danforth
    __ carriage house __ shop __ garden House to west
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land __ woodland x residential __ scattered buildings visible from site
    __ commercial __ industrial __ rural __ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building faces south from the north side of College Street between Main and Broad Streets. To the east is the parking lot of the Farmer's & Mechanic's Bank, and to the west is a colonial house to which this structure was once attached as a dependency. Across College Street is a vacant theater and lot (see continuation sheet)
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Cased beams
Original crown molding at cornice line
Some old sash remain

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect:  
Builder:  

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This structure is the only known eighteenth century artisan's shop in Middletown. It was built around 1759 for Thomas Danforth (1731-1762), a renowned pewterer whose impact on the industry is measured by the artistic quality of his work, his innovative business practices, and the large number of pewterers he trained, including his six sons. Upon his death in 1762 the business was taken over by Thomas's son, Joseph Danforth. Joseph Danforth's house stands just west of this building (see form for 122-124 College Street).

An Italianate front was added to the original structure probably when it passed out of the Danforth family in 1866. More recently the building was divided for use as apartments. A site investigation and an old map view recreate the approximate original appearance of the Danforth Pewter Shop. It displayed a two story, three-bay, gable-to-street facade with entrance in the east bay. The forge chimney stack (now removed) rose from the center of the 17'x35' structure. Danforth family probate records list assortments of pewter in the shop; it apparently was used as both store and shop. The second floor was probably (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec  

date: 9/78  
view: north  
negative on file: Roll 11, #31

COMPILED BY:

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date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

_ X renewal  
_ highway  
_ vandalism  
_ developers

_ other:  
_ private  
_ deterioration  
_ zoning

Mechanic's Savings Bank has purchased property for intended parking expansion; an on site preservation effort is unlikely, however, bank will permit developer to remove structure from site.
awaiting redevelopment. The original portion of this structure was set back from the street; a subsequent addition to the front is in line with the neighboring structures close to the street.

occupied by the many apprentices known to have been trained by the Danforths. This historic structure is significant for its association with the Danforth family whose efforts made Middletown a colonial center of an important industry; and as the only known artisan's shop remaining in Middletown from that early period.

Its Makers and Their Marks (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1940); 1825 Barnum Map; 1874 Beers Atlas
Danforth Pewter Shop
South Main Street (formerly 120 College Street)
Middletown, CT 06457