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: Crescent Street Row Houses Historic: Hotchkiss Block
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 71-83 Crescent Street
4. OWNER(S): Eva Loffredo et al. PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Offices & residential Historic: Residential - Apartments
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain: with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Pictureque Eclecticism DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: #77-81: 1866-7
   #71: c. 1895
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   ___ clapboard ___ asbestos siding X brick
   ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
   ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
   ___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type:
   X other: wooden window caps, dormers, X cut stone: type: brownstone
   entrance porch foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   ___ wood frame: post and beam ___ balloon
   ___ load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
   ___ other: ___
10. ROOF: type:
    ___ gable ___ flat X mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
    ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other ___
    ___ material:
    ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin X slate
    ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: ___
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 90'x40' (#71, 19'x50')
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent X good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
    Exterior: ___ excellent X good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: Interior adapted for office use; 1895 addition to
    south; #73 entrance porch replaced
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    ___ barn ___ shed X garage ___ other landscape features or buildings: ___
    ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden ___
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    ___ open land ___ woodland X residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    ___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: These row houses are on the west side
    of Crescent Street (connecting Main Street and Main Street Extension). Across the street to
    the south is the Middlesex Memorial Hospital parking lot. Close by to the north is the Gothic
    Revival South Congregational Church with its looming spire. The row houses sit high on the cor
    ner which serves as an "entrance" to the nineteenth century homes on the Crescent Street block.
SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1866 Julius Hotchkiss purchased a large tract of land near Main Street. He built these row houses there between March of 1866 and September of 1867. Hotchkiss, a prominent Middletown citizen, was elected representative of the Second Congressional District of Connecticut, and was chosen Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Hotchkiss was responsible for laying out and distributing most of the lots on Crescent Street.

From 1867 to 1942 a number of prominent Middletown citizens owned and occupied the row houses, including Charles Coles, a brilliant mathematician and local businessman; and Charles G.R. Vinal, at various times Judge of Probate, Mayor of Middletown, and Secretary of State. Vinal, husband of Amelia Hotchkiss, Julius Hotchkiss's daughter, was responsible for the building of the Queen Anne style addition attached to the south wall of the original structure.

Additional significance lies in the architectural character of the buildings. They prominently display the decorative elements of the Second Empire style: dormers, decorative lintels, and high style entranceways. These features, recently painted white, accent the scrubbed brick facade. Most of the units have been converted to office use; some still

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 14, #30A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Joelyn Kuhnlein and Elizabeth Reynolds, "Row Houses" GMPT Report (unpublished, 1973); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective Map; 1915 Aeroview Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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explanation: ____________________________
display fine woodwork and marble fireplaces on the interior.

These row houses, an unusual type of building in Middletown, are a reminder of a gracious and urban mid-nineteenth century lifestyle. They are best remembered in Middletown as the site of the Crescent Street Hospital in the twentieth century.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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