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: P & H Bliss Company Historic: Manufacturing Company
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 215 East Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Harry W. Dickerson PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Storage Historic: Factory
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes _ no
   Interior accessible: _yes, explain _ no _ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Mid-19th Century Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1847
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
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; x post and beam _ balloon (interior framing)
   x 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
    x asphalt shingle _ built up _ tile _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 52'x30'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _ excellent _ good _ x fair _ deteriorated
    Exterior: _ excellent _ good _ x fair _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no _ x yes, explain: Windows boarded; small tower removed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn _ shed _ garage _x other landscape features or buildings: adjoining
    _ carriage house _ shop _ garden _ large brick building, north; large wood
    building, east; See Form 95B
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: This three-story structure is one of
three industrial buildings that share a secluded, well-kept site. Separated from Main Street
Extension by trees and undergrowth, these small landscaped grounds are behind a row of East
Main Street buildings. This inconspicuous structure adjoins a large brick building, north;
nearby to the east is a large wooden barn-like structure.
SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This factory building stands on the site first occupied by an early shop of the Sanseer Manufacturing Company. Incorporated in 1823 by Gilbert Brewster, Samuel Gill, Richard Hubbard and Samuel D. Hubbard, the company produced machinery and may have made the first back-gearled lathe. Fire destroyed the shop in 1845. Lewis, Prior & Company then obtained the company and subsequently rebuilt the shop, the present building. During their ownership, the company, employing approximately sixteen workers, also manufactured wooden screws. The Russell Manufacturing Company, whose principal mills were situated further up the Sanseer River, purchased the site in 1884. The company probably built the large mill that adjoins this structure. (See Form #95B). The property in 1937 was obtained by Phillip Bliss, a former owner of the P & H Bliss Company.

This plain brick structure, one of the city's oldest factory buildings, was powered by the Sanseer River that bordered the property. Sanseer Pond, created by a dam that extended from the building's south corner, fed the mill race which ran beneath the shop. Remnants of the arched openings that the water flowed through are evident on the sides of the building. The dam and race have long since disappeared. The Sanseer River (currently called Sumner Brook) was diverted from this spot through the construction of Main Street Extension PHOTOGRAPH in the 1930s.

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 9/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 31, #26

COMPILED BY:

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


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>none known</th>
<th>highways</th>
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<td>private</td>
<td>deterioration</td>
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<td>explanation:</td>
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