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: Thomas Kelly House
2. TOWN/CITY: __________________ VILLAGE: Middletown COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 436-440 High Street
4. OWNER(S): Antonio and Carmelina Piazzese PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residence (multiple) Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain ____________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Proto-Modern DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1894
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: __cut stone: type: brownstone
   __other: foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   __wood frame __post and beam __balloon
   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 __other:
    __asphalt shingle __built up __tile __other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40' x 40'
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: Second story porch at southeast corner enclosed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __barn __shed __garage __other landscape features or buildings: small front yard; Foundation shrubbery; cedar trees in front yard
    __carriage house __shop __garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    __open land __woodland X residential __scattered buildings visible from site
    __commercial __industrial __rural __high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This double house is set close to the street on the corner of High and Liberty Streets. It is set off from the street by a metal fence surrounding a small yard with cedar trees. It is situated in a residential area of closely-sited late-19th and early-20th century buildings. The house stands apart from its neighbors because of its light-colored brick.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This large building was built in 1894 by Thomas Kelly who lived in the southern half of this double dwelling. Kelly was an Irish immigrant who began a successful lampblack business during the 1870s in Middletown. The house remained in the Kelly family until 1919 with the death of Hannah Kelly, Thomas's wife. The new owner, Sigmund Schlenker, also resided at High Street until 1924, when he sold his interest to Alex and Olga Schmidt. From then on, the building was used primarily for rental purposes. It is now owned by Antonio and Carmelina Pezzesese.

It is a large blocky structure of light-colored brick. Its main decorative feature is the polychromy which accentuates the symmetrically arranged architectural elements. The arched windows, quoins, frieze, and cornice are picked out in darker brick. There are prominent bracketed door hoods over the entranceways and a two-story baywindow on the south side with a Colonial Revival oval porch.

The importance of the building lies in its distinctive polychromy, a decorative feature which complements the imposing solidity of the building. It also plays an important role as a solid anchor for this corner in this dense residential area.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 3/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 16, # 19

COMPILED BY:

name: Roseann Fitzgerald date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known highways vandalism developers other:
renovation private deterioration zoning explanation: ________________________