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: Russell Company Houses
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: South Farms COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 Hillside Court
4. OWNER(S): See next page (below #21) ____________________ PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Residences Historic: Company Housing
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain: _______________________________ x no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th–early 20th C. cottages DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: See #18
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate): 7: x clapboard 8, 3, 2: x asbestos siding 2, 4, 6, 8: x brick foundation
  4: x wood shingle ____________________ asphalt siding ____________________ fieldstone
  _board & batten ____________________ stucco ____________________ cobblestone
  6, 5, 1: x aluminum siding 1, 3, 5, 7: x concrete: type: foundation cut stone: type: ____________________
  _other: ____________________
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
  x wood frame: post and beam x balloon ____________________ structural iron or steel
  _load bearing masonry ____________________ other: ____________________
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable ____________________ flat ____________________ mansard ____________________ monitor ____________________ sawtooth
    _gambrel ____________________ shed ____________________ hip ____________________ round: ____________________ other: ____________________
    material:
    _wood shingle ____________________ roll asphalt ____________________ tin ____________________ slate ____________________ tile: ____________________ other: ____________________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1½ (all) APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 24'x24' (all)
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent ____________________ other: ____________________ deterioration
    exterior: x excellent ____________________ other: ____________________ deterioration
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site x moved, when: Probably four were moved (2, 4, 6, 8)
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Side porches enclosed; various wings added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn 2: x shed 1, 4: x garage x other landscape features or buildings: all bordered by hedges
    carriage house shop garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land ____________________ woodland ____________________ residential scattered buildings visible from site
    x commercial ____________________ industrial ____________________ rural ____________________ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: These eight identical cottages face each other on Hillside Court, a short passageway off Hillside Avenue. They comprise a distinct unity within a neighborhood characterized by small, closely-sited houses. A long row of houses, identical to each other, line Hillside Avenue nearby. Small businesses and the
(see continuation sheet)
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This group of cottages was built by the Russell Manufacturing Company as housing for its workers. In 1927, the company sold these houses to the occupants. They are practically identical in appearance despite minor alterations; each building has the same original L-shaped floor plan. The rectangular main section displays a plain three-bay facade with the doorway set to the side and one second-story window. Each house has an enclosed side porch with a shed roof.

The four cottages with brick foundations on the east side of the street may be older than the others. One resident believes that these were moved here from East Main Street. The 1874 Beers Atlas shows four buildings, identical in shape to these, labeled as "company's houses" bordering Main Street (now East Main Street). A large Russell Company structure, erected in 1913, currently stands on that site. The four cottages on the opposite side of the street are said to have been constructed around World War I, a period when the company experienced considerable growth. Unlike the other four houses, these have small side dormers, different cornice moldings and concrete foundations.

These well-kept cottages form a distinct neighborhood unit. They illustrate the dominant (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Robert Svec
date: 10/78 view: A, east; B, looking south
negative on file: A, Roll 53, #12A-B; B, Roll 40, #10

COMPiled BY:
name: Robert Svec date: 10/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct.06457

19. SOURCES: 1874 Beers Atlas; Middletown Land Records; Interviews with neighborhood residents

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

| A: 1 and 3 Hillside Court |

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>threat</th>
<th>none known</th>
<th>highways</th>
<th>vandalism</th>
<th>developers</th>
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<td>private</td>
<td>deterioration</td>
<td>zoning</td>
<td>explanation:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Owners: 1 Hillside Court, Joseph Mazzotta 5 Hillside Court, Lucy & Connie Maggiore
2 Hillside Court, Jennie Cronin 6 Hillside Court, Sebastian & Josephine Rubino
3 Hillside Court, Carl O. Hayn 7 Hillside Court, James & Anges Choquette
4 Hillside Court, Edna Evans 8 Hillside Court, Patrick & Katherine Hayes
Russell Company Houses
Hillside Court, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#16

Russell Manufacturing Company, South Farms' most dominant feature, border East Main Street, a short distance away.

#18

role of the Russell Manufacturing Company in the development of the surrounding area, and are a rare known example of company housing in Middletown.

B: Hillside Court