DATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
50 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(03) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Hartford Club
   Beverage Company
   Historic: Packing House, William
   Wilcox Manufacturing Company
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: VILLAGE:
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 399 Highland Avenue
4. OWNER(S): James Bombaci
   PUBLIC: PUBLIC:
   PRIVATE: PRIVATE:
5. USE: Present: Beverage Retail Outlet
   Historic: Lock Manufactory
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes
   Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: 19th Century Industrial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1850
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ clapboard
   _ wood shingle
   _ board & batten
   _ aluminum siding
   _ other:
   _ brick
   _ asbestos siding
   _ asphalt siding
   _ stucco
   _ concrete: type:
   _ wood frame: _ post and beam
   _ balloon
   _ load bearing masonry
   _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: interior framing
   _ wood frame: _ post and beam
   _ balloon
   _ load bearing masonry
   _ structural iron or steel
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _ gable
    _ gambrel
    _ shed
    _ mansard
    _ hip
    _ monitor
    _ round
    _ sawtooth
    _ other:
    _ material:
    _ wood shingle
    _ roll asphalt
    _ other:
    _ asphalt shingle
    _ built up
    _ tile
    _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 45' x 53'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
    Exterior: _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _ on original site
    moved, when:
    Alterations: _ no
    _ yes, explain: Two wings (early) added to create larger building
(See #18)
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn
    _ shed
    _ carriage house
    _ garage
    _ other landscape features or buildings: _ associated
    _ structure directly across the street to west;
    _ original brownstone dam (used for power) to wes
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ open land
    _ woodland
    _ residential
    _ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ commercial
    _ industrial
    _ rural
    _ building density (medium)
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This area, bustling with small
    businesses in adapted buildings, marks a transition between the residences on Highland
    Avenue to the north and the commercial strip of development on South Main Street to the south.
    This structure, on the east side of Highland Avenue, sits on a pavement plot. Across the
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Early safe in office

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ___________________ Builder: ___________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1837 William Wilcox left his home town of Killingworth, Connecticut, and came to Middletown. He gained employment at the gun manufactory of Smith and Cooley, where he remained for four years. In 1845 he removed to "Zoar" and formed a co-partnership with L.D. Vansands for the manufacture of locks. Zoar is located on the Pameacha Pond on the Pameacha River, widely used in the 18th and 19th centuries for water power. By 1896 this factory complex had greatly expanded, and a number of structures used for offices and storage were erected. William Wilcox, who was a prominent citizen, continued in this place of business until the early twentieth century. Subsequently the building was occupied by various businesses; the most recent being the Ryan Oil Company. It is currently occupied by an outlet of the National Beverage Company.

This square brick structure has undergone various changes according to its occupants' needs. The north section of this building was the manufacturing packing house. It was built of brick with brownstone sills and lintels, in a simple industrial style with gable end toward the street. Two wings were affixed to the south wall giving the structure a

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 8/78 view: A, west; B, east
negative on file: A, Roll 36, #18; B, Roll 36, #16

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 12/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; History of Middlesex County (N.Y.: J.B. Beers, 1884); Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

B: 400 Highland Avenue

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known highways vandalism
renewal private deterioration
street is an abandoned structure, of similar size and construction, once a part of
the manufacturing complex.

"U" shape. The center of the "U" was later filled in, creating the present block form.
All other changes are early, sympathetic, and add to the building's character. The in-
terior displays post and beam construction and later wainscoating.
This building, the abandoned structure across the street (once the main building of the
complex), and the dam to the west are the only remains of the once thriving William Wilcox
Manufacturing Company.