STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

ENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: E.I.S. Main Street Building Historic: Trolley Barn
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Kings Avenue (west end)
4. OWNER(S): Sier Corporation 
5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Trolley Barn, Electric Street Railway

DESCRIPTION

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain 

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Industrial

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other:
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - x concrete: type: poured Foundation
   - x brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x load bearing masonry
   x structural iron or steel framing
   x other:

10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - gambrel
    - shed
    - mansard
    - hip
    - monitor
    - round
    - sawtooth

    material:
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - asphalt shingle x built up
    - x flat
    - tin
    - slate
    - other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1

12. CONDITION: Structural:
    - excellent
    - x good
    - fair
    - fair, deteriorated

    Exterior:
    - excellent
    - x good
    - fair
    - fair, deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: yes, explain: 75'x105' later front addition

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garage
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings:

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - commercial
    - x industrial
    - rural
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    - high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The former Middletown Street Railway Car-Barn sits on a key plot in Middletown's North End between the Airline Railroad tracks and Kings Avenue. It faces the rotary at the northern end of Main Street and overlooks St. John's Square and the church properties to the east. A later addition on the east end of the building by E.I.S. Automotive Products has placed five truck-loading docks toward the busy intersection.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Tall narrow window recesses on original part of building

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Middletown Street Railway Company was the successor to the Middletown Horse Railway Company. The electrically-powered trolley cars used the same track lines as the horse cars did. This building was constructed around 1894 for use as the car-barn for the trolleys on the site where the horses from the earlier company had been stabled. Since the Airline Railroad and the Valley Line converged at the Rapallo Avenue station, a block to the east, Middletown's North End became the transportation hub for the area. The electric trolley cars made their first circuits of the town on December 22, 1894. Lines were soon extended to South Farms, to the Insane Asylum, and to the Wesleyan area. By 1903 the line was an interurban line with connections to Middlefield, Meriden, Cromwell, and Portland. The company was not a financial success, however, and was sold in 1904 to Consolidated Railway Company of New Haven. The trolleys continued to run until the Depression of the 1930s, when buses were introduced with their greater operating economy and easier access to the curb. The trolley barn is a large cavernous structure, built in the style of industrial building of the 1890s. The sturdy brick walls based on a poured concrete foundation have an

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 12/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 56, #17-17A

COMPILED BY:

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


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism X developers other:
X renewal private deterioration zoning X explanation: The building has been unoccupied and for sale for almost ten years.
element of aesthetic interest in the long rows of recessed windows that give illumination to the interior. The building may yet see adaptive use since it is under consideration as a bus terminal for a regional transit system now being planned for the Greater Middletown area.
CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: ______ Date: 1/90

Trolley Barn
Kings Avenue; north side, corner of Main
Middletown, CT 06457