STATE OF CONNECTICUT

INNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
34 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common:

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Historic:

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 159, 165, & 171 Lincoln Street

4. OWNER(S): See next page (below #21)

5. USE: Present: Residences Historic: same

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

ESCRPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Queen Anne DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 171: 1895

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

10. ROOF: type:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 171: 27'x44'

12. CONDITION: Structural:

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no x yes, explain: All have added garages and minor surface additions;

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Lincoln Street, in Middletown's residential North End, was developed in the late nineteenth century on land owned largely by O.V. Coffin. Houses on this short street are of the Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Shingle Styles; set on good-sized plots with neat yards and well-trimmed shrubbery. These particular three typify the upper-middle class residential character of the area.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

#159: Distinguished by sheds and outbuildings
#165: Stick-style gable brackets
#171: Three-story tower and shingle decorative details

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This group of three substantial Queen Anne houses exemplifies residential development by members of the business community at the turn of the 20th century. #159 Lincoln Street was built for Isaac Spear, co-owner of Spear Brothers clothing store on Main Street. #165 Lincoln Street was put up for Burt J. Hale, a bank executive at Middletown Savings Bank. #171 Lincoln Street was the home of John J. Murphy, a druggist on Main Street, whose store sign is still extant at 644 Main Street.

These three houses display many of the architectural features favored around 1900: belt courses and gable-end shingles; crossed sticks in the gables; and asymmetrical plans. These houses are similar in form, plan and detail; yet individuating features such as a bay window, a small wing, or an oriel window make each one distinct from its neighbors. As a whole, this trio of houses is a fine example of residential building by the prosperous mercantile class of late nineteenth century Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 4/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 24, #27, 29

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessor; Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

159 Lincoln Street

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  highways  vandalism  developers
 renewal  private  deterioration  zoning

Owners: 159 Lincoln Street, Giuseppe Musumeci
165 Lincoln Street, Dolly Basile
171 Lincoln Street, John Bondi