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: Middletown Press Building  Historic: Penny Press Building; Alsop-King Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 472 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): The Middletown Press Publishing Company  PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Offices Historic: Commercial
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no Interior accessible: X yes, explain office use: no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1874-1874
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: brownstone
   _other: foundation (under stucco)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame; _post and beam _balloon
   X load bearing masonry _structural iron or steel
   _other:
10. ROOF: type: X gable _flat _mansard _monitor _sawtooth
    _gambrel _shed _hip _round _other
    _material: _wood shingle _roll asphalt _tin _slate
    _asphalt shingle _built up _tile _other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 128'x22'
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
    Exterior: X excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site _moved, when: 
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: Storefront altered
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn _shed _garage _other landscape features or buildings:
    _carriage house _shop _garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land _woodland _residential _scattered buildings visible from site
    _commercial _industrial _rural _high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Alsop-King Building is located on the north end of Main Street, just north of Washington Street. This area has many three- and four-story commercial structures built in the late 19th century. Directly to the north of the Alsop-King Building is a 3½-story Italianate commercial structure and to the south is a 4½-story Victorian commercial building.
SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Alsop-King Building, 472 Main Street was built around 1874 by Joseph Alsop. During its first thirteen years the building served assorted retail firms. In 1889 the King family purchased the building and used it to house both The Sentinel Witness and The Penny Press newspapers. The Middletown Press Publishing Company bought the Alsop-King Building in 1919 and presently uses the structure for its offices.

The Alsop-King Building is typical of the brick commercial structures built on Main Street after the Civil War. It is 3½-stories in height and three bays wide on the facade. Four pairs of wooden brackets support the cornice with other windows between the brackets. The ground floor has been altered, with a colonial pediment marking the entranceway. The overall architectural scheme of this building is simple.

The Alsop-King Building, together with the similar structures at 560-574 Main Street, is one of the first buildings constructed in the post-Civil War commercial development of the north end. Moreover, its long association with the press in Middletown lends the building additional historical significance.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 12/78

view: west

negative on file: Roll 55, 444-45

Compiled BY:

David Engstrom

name: 

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map.

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known

highways

vandalism

developers

other:

renewal

private

deterioration

zoning

explanation:
Penny Press Building; Alsop-King Building
472 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457