STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
5 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Master Supply Historic: Hotchkiss Block
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middletown
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 598-514 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Jacob Levine PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Commercial & residential Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain: store no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1894
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard  asbestos siding  x brick
   x wood shingle  asphalt siding  fieldstone
   x board & batten  stucco  cobblestone
   x aluminum siding  concrete: type:
   x other: copper sheathing: bay windows; cornice: storefront
   x cut stone: type: brownstone foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: post and beam  x balloon
   x load bearing masonry  x structural iron or steel (interior framing)
   x other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable  x flat  x mansard  x monitor  x sawtooth
    x gambrel  x shed  x hip  x round  x other
    x material:
    x wood shingle  roll asphalt  x tin  x slate
    x asphalt shingle  x built up  x tile  x other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 87' x 89'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent x good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent x good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site
             Alterations: no x yes, explain: Store front and signs: applied over first floor
             Facade: porches, concrete block rear addition
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    x barn  x shed  garage  x other landscape features or buildings: asphalt
    x carriage house  x shop  x garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land  woodl and  x residential
    x commercial  x industrial  rural scattered buildings visible from site
    x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Master Supply Building terminates
    an almost unbroken row of three and four story late 19th century commercial buildings stretch-
    ing for two blocks along the east side of Main Street north of Washington Street. Flanked on
    one side by a modest two story 18th century structure, and on the other by Green Street, the
    building is large and imposing.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Pressed copper sheathing on cornice, bay windows, and sign panel above store fronts.

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: [Architect's name]  Builder: Horace Butler

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
This building was first called the Hotchkiss Block – having been erected as a business venture by Frederick Hotchkiss in 1894. Heavily mortgaged from the start, the structure has had only three main groups of owners. Frederick Hotchkiss and others in his family retained control until 1919. In that year Israel Mittelman, a clothier in the ground floor stores since 1910, bought the building. Forty years later Jacob Levine became the owner; the first floor is occupied by his Master Supply hardware store.

This large commercial and residential building, more than eighty feet on a side and four stories high, looms over nearby structures from its corner site and reflects the massive bulk of the Arrawani Hotel across the street. It features a six-bay facade with Renaissance Revival elements. The cornice is supported by paired brackets; raised ornamental brickwork highlights the wall below the cornice; bay windows adorn four of the six bays. The cornice, bay windows, and sign panel are clad in pressed metal. There are still twelve apartments above the stores on the ground level as in 1894. This important commercial building continues its appearance and function largely intact after the better part of a century.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 5/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 25A, #27

COMPILTED BY:
name: R. Sherman. date: 5/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Consultation with Jacob Levine, proprietor of Master Supply, 12/77; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other:

renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation:
CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number:     Date:  1/90

Hotchkiss Block
598-614 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457