STATE OF CONNECTICUT

C HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Sy South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Formatron Corporation Historic: L.D. Brown & Son
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 128 Main Street Extension
4. OWNER(S): Miller Associates PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Industrial Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th century Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1871-74

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other:
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - concrete: type: brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type: brownstone
   - structural iron or steel interior framing (may be wood also)
   - other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: post and beam
   - load bearing masonry
   - balloon
   - structural iron or steel interior framing (may be wood also)
   - other:

10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - gambrel
    - shed
    - flat
    - hip
    - round
    - other
    - material:
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - asphalt shingle
    - built up
    - tile
    - other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 90'x150' (main section 45'x100')

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garage
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings: one story factory building, west; one story building, north

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large brick structure runs parallel to Cooley Avenue between two heavily travelled roads, East Main Street and Main Street Extension. A low industrial building is west, with the closely sited commercial buildings of Main Street Extension beyond. A service station that borders East Main Street is east. This building is an imposing feature of the area; its broad plain proportions contrast with the neighboring residences and small businesses.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was erected between 1871 and 1874 by L. D. Brown & Son. The business had moved here from Tolland County, Connecticut, where it was established in 1850. The company processed raw silk into various kinds of thread. In 1884 the factory, operated by a fifty horsepower steam engine, employed 150 workers. Over the years, draperies, lace and paper goods also have been manufactured in the building. It is now occupied by the Formatron Corporation, a manufacturer of beauty and barber shop equipment.

The large main factory is 3½ stories in height. Its broad, plain walls are topped by a wide wooden cornice beneath the long gabled roof. This and a rear wing comprised the original building. Between 1877 and 1896, an office and an extension to the wing were erected. These add decorative brick beltcourses. An addition that connects the office to the rear wing, constructed in this century, further enlarged the structure. A tall smoke stack and a distinctive tower that crowned the stairwell were removed sometime after 1896.

This mill reflects the substantial industrial development that occurred in the South Farm area following the Civil War. During the late nineteenth century, the district became one of the city's most thriving sections.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/78
view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 53, #18A

COMPILED BY:
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19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1894); H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
___none known  ___highways  ___vandalism  ___developers  ___other: __________________________
___renewal  ___private  ___x deterioration  ___zoning  ___explanation: __________________________