STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown  VILLAGE:  COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 631 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Vincent and Joyce Conroy  PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Apartments & beauty salon  Historic: Residence, school, hotel
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes  no
   Interior accessible: yes, explain

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal-Greek  DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1820
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard  x asbestos siding
   wood shingle  asphalt siding
   board & batten  stucco
   aluminum siding  concrete, type:
   other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame: post and beam  balloon
   load bearing masonry  structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable  flat
     gambrel  shed
     x hip
     monitor  round
     sawtooth  other
    material:
     wood shingle  roll asphalt
     asphalt shingle  built up
     x tin
     slate  tile
     other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½  APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50' x 41'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site
    Alterations: no  yes, explain: West rear wing removed; later front veranda; fire
    staircase added in rear; door and large window added to first floor facade
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    barn  shed  garage
    carriage house  shop  garden
    other landscape features or buildings: former west wing (remodelled) is presently a separate
dwelling in rear
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    open land  woodland
    x residential  scattered buildings visible from site
    commercial  industrial  rural  high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This ample and eloquent building is
    situated on the north end of Main Street among a variety of commercial buildings. A larger
    and later brick commercial building is attached to its north wall and the small quonset
    hut style J.&J. Diner is affixed to the southeast corner of the building.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Brownstone Palladian window
   Copper gutters

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built by Arthur Magill, Jr., who was co-founder, with his father, of the Middletown Manufacturing Company. This company was the first woolen mill to utilize steam power to run its machinery and specialized in fine cloths and "cassimeres." Magill encountered financial difficulties, including the loss of a suit in the Supreme Court, and in 1832 relinquished all interests in the property. Daniel Chase, founder of the Middletown Institute, operated a boys preparatory school here from 1835 to 1870. "Well equipped", the school served about eighty pupils. D. Luther Briggs owned and occupied the house when elected mayor in 1891. After 1870 the building was adapted for commercial use. It continually served as a hotel and/or boarding house with dining facilities until 1943 and has been known as the New York Hotel, Germania House, Hotel Mattabesseck, Hotel Herbert and the New Ideal Hotel. Its large size, brownstone trim, and decorative detail make this building one of the finest mansions built in the late Federal style in Middletown. Federal decorative elements (a Palladian window and a Federal doorway with fanlight and sidelights) are used

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 6/78

view: east

negative on file: Roll 27, #19A

COMPILED BY:

name: R. Svec, E. Loomis
date: 6/78

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Jesse Alsop, "Chase School," Old Houses of Connecticut (FERA 1935); The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin (April, 1972); History of Middlesex County (J.H. Beers, 1884) 1825 Barmum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   - X none known
   - highways
   - renewal
   - private
   - vandalism
   - deterioration
   - zoning
   - developers
   - other: ____________________________
   - explanation: ____________________________
with Greek features (pedimented gables and lintels carved with Greek motifs). This building is nearly identical to the two story MacDonough House formerly on Main Street, now destroyed. The Arthur Magill Jr. House is an important survival of early 19th century domestic elegance in Middletown.
Continuation Sheet
Item number: Date: 1/90

Arthur Magill Jr. House; Chase School
625-631 Main Street (formerly #631)
Middletown, CT 06457