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: HISTORIC SITE
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Office and Work Shed Historic: Campbell's Stoneyard
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
            COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 10 Rapallo Avenue
4. OWNER(S): Franklin Batchelder
   Historic: Cut stone yard
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Monument Works Historic: Business place
     Interior accessible: yes, explain: Exterior visible from public road: yes
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century Wooden Industrial
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard
   x wood shingle
   board & batten
   aluminum siding
   other:
   x asbestos siding
   asphalt siding
   x stucco
   x concrete: type: poured
   foundation (both)
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; post and beam
   x balloon (both)
   x load bearing masonry
   structural iron or steel
   other:
10. ROOF: type:
     x gambrel
     x shed
     x gable crossed flat
     x shed work shed
     x gambrel
     x shed
     x roll asphalt
     x asphalt shingle built up
     x other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: office:1
   shed:1
   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: office, 26'x31'; shed, 13'x85'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    x excellent
    x good
    fair
    x deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site? yes
    moved, when: Possibly ca. 1910 from south side of Rapallo Avenue
    Alterations: no
    yes, explain: Workshed enclosed ca. 1940
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    x barn
    shed
    garage
    carriage house
    x shop
    garden
    x other landscape features or buildings: Gantry crane; headstones on display in work yard
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land
    woodland
    residential
    x scattered buildings visible from site
    x commercial
    x industrial
    rural
    high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Rapallo Avenue is at the edge of a diverse, once-busy area near the intersection of two railroad lines. Its south side has apartments, family dwellings, and a beer distributorship. The north side features five businesses with work yards and parking areas. Fox-Becker Granite Company is flanked westerly by a catering service and an ambulance company whose yards are used for parking.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

The steel gantry crane in the workyard is used daily. It has a vertical hoist powered by electricity (originally steam-driven), and a hand-cranked cable windlass to move the stone blocks horizontally. It was formerly used to swing out over the adjacent railroad tracks for unloading stone from railroad flatcars.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ___________ Builder: ___________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In the mid-1800's the large block of land between the north end of Main Street and the river was sparsely occupied. With the coming of the two railroad lines and the depot at the northeast corner of this block in the early 1870's, the area boomed. Private and public housing, stores, and small industries located here. Rapallo Avenue was cut through to the depot around 1885. Alexander Campbell established a stoneyard to work brownstone, granite and marble, and a monument works on the site next to the depot in 1870. Fox-Becker was set up on the south side of Rapallo Avenue across from Campbell in 1900 and moved to Campbell's location after 1906. Since then, Fox-Becker has operated a monument works on the site.

Four elements of interest stand out at the site: the gantry crane, constructed of riveted girder steel-spartan but functional; an 85-foot long, one story stoneshed dating from Campbell's occupancy; the office, displaying reproduction Greek Revival detail around the doorway and a double-gabled roof; and the busy workyard where sample headstones stand on display. In continuous use for more than a century, this industrial site associated with cut stone, one of the region's major products, is a rewarding example for study and preservation.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 3/78 view: east
negative on file: office: Roll 13, S10A crane: Roll 13, S11A

COMPiled BY:

name: R. Sherman date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middlesex Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); Photographs owned by Franklin Batchelder, consultation with same, March, 1978; 1915 Aeroview Map

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  ____highways  ____vandalism  ____destruction
____renewal  ____private  ____deterioration  ____ze
Campbell's Stoneyard
10 Rapallo Ave., Middletown, CT 06457