HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Rossi-Loewenthal Lumber
   Historic: Lumber Company
   Gustav Loewenthal
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 82 Berlin Street
4. OWNER(S): Joseph T. Rossi, Jr. PUBLIC X PRIVATE
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
                                Commercial use: no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early 20th century industrial
   and commercial buildings
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate): X brick, main office foundation
   _asbestos siding_ X steel X fire walls
   _asphalt siding_ X concrete: type: block
   _stucco_ office addition
   _other:_ foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: post and beam  X balloon office
   _load bearing masonry_ X structural iron or steel
   _other:_ heavy timber framing, sheds

10. ROOF: type: X gable sheds  flat
       _gambrel_ shed  X hip office
       _mansion_ monitor  _sawtooth
       _material:_ other
       _wood shingle_ _roll asphalt_ tin  _slate
       _asphalt shingle_ _built up_ tile  _other:_

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:  

12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent  X good office  X fair sheds  X deteriorated
       Exterior: X excellent  X good office  X fair sheds  X deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
       Alterations: _no_ X yes, explain: Sheds added as needed

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
       _barn_ 7 X shed 5  _garage_ X other landscape features or buildings: private
       _carriage house_ _shop_  _garden_ railroad siding

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
       _open land_ X woodland  _residential_ X scattered buildings visible from site
       _commercial_ X industrial  _rural_ X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This cluster of commercial buildings faces south on Berlin Street. The complex takes up 3.7 acres of land between the Airline Railroad tracks, Berlin Street, and Liberty Street. It is comprised of a house-like office building, and several lumber storage and cutting sheds. It is set in the midst of a residential area with some commercial use.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Office is a well-kept ca. 1912 building with Colonial Revival detail
Protruding from the roof of the former custom millwork factory build is a "cyclone",
a one-story-high wood-dust collector
Private railroad siding on switch from Airline Railroad tracks; recycled early trolley rail used for spur, still in use

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: _____________________________ Builder: _____________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Gustav Loewenthal came to this country in 1882; he started his contracting and lumber supply business six years later. After a fire in his Fowler Avenue yard, he bought land on Berlin Street in 1911 from E.K. Hubbard for a new site. Here he built a house to serve as office and salesroom, erected storage sheds, made custom millwork, and even stabled the delivery wagon horses. At its peak the company owned four other lumber yards in Central Connecticut, including Strong & Hale in Portland. These yards were gradually sold off, and the parent company itself was sold to Joseph T. Rossi, Jr. in 1977.
The office building is a square, two-story hip-roofed house with three additions. It serves as the salesroom for hardware and builder's supplies. North of the office, on a lower level, the storage sheds are arrayed parallel to the railroad tracks entering from the north. The sheds range from a roof on posts to enclosed buildings housing millwork machinery. This millwork fabrication building contains a 1920s milling machine still in running order. This complex of buildings, which has played a key role in supplying area builders, continues strong and active under new ownership.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 59, #34

COMPILED BY:
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20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   X none known  _highways  _vandalism  _developers  _other: ______________
   __renewal  __private  __deterioration  __zoning  __explanation: ______________