

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received MAR 31 1982
date entered APR 29 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Middletown Alms House

and/or common C.B. Stone, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 53 Warwick Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Middletown

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

Second

state Connecticut

code 09

county Middlesex

code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name C.B. Stone, Inc.

street & number 53 Warwick Street

city, town Middletown

N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk, Middletown Municipal Building

street & number DeKoven Drive

city, town Middletown

state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Register of Historic Places (A)
title Middletown, CT--Historical and Architectural Resources (B)

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 (A); 1979 (B) federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford

state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Set back approximately fifty yards from the southeastern side of Warwick Street behind several late nineteenth-century houses, the Middletown Alms House is a Federal style two-and-one half story, seven bay, ridge-to-street gable-roofed brick structure which was constructed between May 1813 and May 1814.

The exterior walls of the sixty by forty foot building are constructed of load bearing brick and brownstone. The facade, which features a slightly projecting (three inches) three bay central pavillion, is laid in Flemish bond with queen closers (see photograph #1); the remaining three elevations are laid in Liverpool bond with queen closers (see photographs #3, 4, 5). These walls rise from a foundation of coursed brownstone rubble topped by three regular courses of brownstone ashlar. The leading edge of the top course of brownstone is slightly bevelled to form a continuous water table (see photograph #8).¹

The building's site, which slopes gently downward from the street to the front elevation, drops off approximately six feet between the front and rear elevations, exposing the full height of the foundation's basement walls on the northeast and southwest sides. The foundation's rear basement wall, exposed originally, is currently masked by a single story, 60 by 23 foot post-and-beam frame shed which was added in 1931 to house the vehicles of the C.B. Stone, Inc. (see photograph #3).

A portion of the site immediately surrounding the Alms House was altered during the mid-twentieth century. Originally bordered on the rear and sides by a maximum of thirty feet of usable land, the area on the building's northeast and southeast sides was extended outward by the addition of sixty feet of landfill. The land on the southwest side was extended by about fifteen feet and is now bordered by a high twelve inch thick concrete retaining wall approximately thirty feet long. As in former years, the site still drops off precipitously about sixty feet to the bed of the Pameacha River located along the rear and sides of the property.

A graphic depiction of the Middletown Alms House on the 1825 Map of Middletown drawn by topographer H.L. Barnum indicates that the roof was originally adorned by a large, classically styled, domed cupola, while the central facade pavillion was topped by a projecting gable roof. The present front entry was flanked by pilasters and embellished by a fanlight transom, and two symmetrically placed chimneys rose from each of the gable end walls.

While the only surviving detail among this group is the single chimney stack rising from the northern side of the southwest end wall, the rest of the structure displays only a few other minor alterations and many original details remain intact. Four evenly spaced pairs of iron tie rod ends still protrude from the face of the exterior walls between the first and second stories of both the front and rear elevations. Elliptical roll mouldings and narrow fascia boards still embellish the projecting front and rear cornices formed by the partially exposed second story plates; the gable rakes display similar detailing. With the exception of the second story doorway and the central first story window in the building's southwest side, which appear to have been installed in the early twentieth and late nineteenth centuries respectively, dressed brownstone sills and gauged brick flat-arches embellish each of the exterior wall openings. The present second story central freight doorway on the rear elevation appears to have been converted from a window when the building received its (see continuation sheet)

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initial modification for factory usage in the early 1860's; the projecting wooden pulley beam above this doorway was probably incorporated at the same time. Although the existing doors, stairways and porches are recent twentieth century fixtures, many of the structures's windows retain their original twelve-over-twelve sash; including the sash for the gable windows, which are presently boarded over, and the windows on the first and second stories which currently contain one-over-one or six-over-six sash are being stored in the building's attic. C.B. Stone, Inc., which had the exterior of the Alms House completely repointed in 1980, plans to reinstall these sash, and is considering replacing the front doorway surround, the central facade pavillion's gable roof, and the central domed cupola as part of its continuing effort to restore the exterior of the building.

As no early drawings or sketches of the original floor plan of the Middletown Alms House are known to exist, and successive alterations for different uses over the past century have effectively masked or eliminated most of the pertinent structural evidence, written documentation must be relied upon as the principal source for determining the building's original layout. The most detailed of these written accounts is provided by the local nineteenth century Middletown historian Henry Whittemore who states:

The first Almshouse in Middletown was completed and occupied in May 1814. It stood near the Pameacha River. It was a substantial brick building 40 by 60 feet in size, two stories high in the front, and three stories in the rear and at the ends. It had in the lower story a workroom, kitchen, cellar, and dungeon; in the second [first], two rooms for the steward, a victauling room, and a spare room for occasional uses; in the third [second], 13 lodging rooms, four of which had fireplaces. It also had an attic of sufficient size for twenty lodging rooms.²

While invariably far less specific, numerous references in both the "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietor's Records" and the "Town (selectmen's) Records" for the period 1813 through 1841 provide strong corroborative evidence for Whittemore's account.³ The only noteworthy exception is that these primary sources clearly show that in 1824 two separate rooms on the second floor, with males being assigned to "the northeast chamber" and females to "the southwest chamber", replaced the single room in the northeast corner of the basement originally set aside "for a work house" in 1815.⁴

Today, the basement is a relatively open space broken into distinct working and storage areas by screen partitions. The original height of this story has been increased by approximately eight inches, as is evidenced by the eight by eight inch band of poured concrete reinforcement running along the base of the northwest, southeast and northeast foundation walls, and the gradual upward slope of the concrete floor to the top of the original undisturbed base of the southwest wall. The principal members of the building's interior framing, all of which are vertically sawn, are still visible throughout this level. Heavy, evenly space posts support three eight by eight inch beams which span the width of the structure. These beams support,

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in turn, four by twelve inch first floor joists regularly spaced on sixteen inch centers. The original random width, tongue-and-groove first floorboards are also visible, and now form the initial layer of the first floor's subflooring. Evidence of the removed chimney stacks is still apparent on the northeast and southwest end walls, and charred, spliced joists and newer floorboards near the center of the southwest end wall indicate that the building was damaged by fire sometime between 1853 and 1930.⁵ The joists of the second story floor above this point are also charred, but the fact that the structural members of the attic floor evidence only smoke damage suggests that this fire was contained and never reached the roof.

The first floor is currently partitioned into a central front office/reception area flanked by three small offices, and a large central rear office flanked by several smaller rooms. The stairway to the second story rises from a small hallway in the southwestern corner of the building; these stairs do not appear to be original, although their placement may be. Access to the second story was also formerly possible through a trap door located slightly northeast of the center of the structure. This trap door was recently covered by modifications to the first floor ceiling.⁶ Many of the posts on this level have been cased and, with the exception of the office in the northwest corner, the structural members of the second floor have been concealed.

The stairway from the first floor opens into a small second story hallway which provides access to a large office in the northwest corner of the building, several smaller offices, two large storerooms occupying the northeastern half of this level's usable floorspace, and an attic stairhall. The office in the northwest corner features walls finished in plaster and one of the building's two accessible fireplaces. This simple fixture, like its mate in the front northeast storeroom, displays a small, two-and-one-half by four foot opening framed by brownstone cheeks, lintel and hearth. The structural members of the attic floor remain visible in both the front and rear northeast storerooms. Attic floor joists similar to those supporting the first and second story floors span the width of the building. Vertical support is provided not by posts but by a massive sixty foot central beam, which spans the length of the building and is tied to the attic framing members by iron rods.

Rising along the interior of the southwest end wall, the original stairway from the second floor provides access to the now open attic space; only a few small sections of tongue-and-groove panelling remain as evidence that the area was at one time finished off as living space. While the attic's end walls still clearly display the flue lines of the removed chimney stacks, there is little remaining structural evidence for either the large central cupola or the central facade pavillion's projecting gable roof, which strongly suggests that the original roof surface, or at least the central portion of it, was replaced when the cupola and projecting gable were removed in the mid-nineteenth century. The removal of these major features may have been prompted by the realization of the structural inadequacies of the building's most unique feature--its attic framing system.

The present attic framing system is original. Although this framing is basically a

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modification of the principal purlin, common rafter system normally used during this period, it does have an inherent structural weakness. While the roof itself seems to be adequately supported, an unusual form of truss is used to hang the attic floor. The structural inadequacy of this truss has caused severe downward deflection of the attic floor joists toward the longitudinal center line of the building, the separation of the principal members of the attic framing, and an outward deflection of the upper half of the building's northwest and southeast exterior walls.

As the following sketch indicates, the roof's vertically sawn random width sheathing rests on regularly spaced four by six inch rafters (A) supported by six by six inch purlins (B) resting on six by six inch posts (C). The two ranges of posts are laterally tied by six by six inch transverse beams (D). At midpoint the posts are braced from the exterior walls by a continuous box frame composed of four by six inch transverse beams and a central six by six inch longitudinal beam (E). The six by six inch diagonal truss members (F) are joined together directly beneath the ridge with tree-nails. Holes have been drilled through these joints and in the transverse beam directly below to allow the one inch diameter iron rods to tie this part of the frame to the large sixteen by sixteen inch central girder (G) which supports the attic floor joists above it (see figure #1).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Unknown **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Middletown Alms House is significant for its associations with the historic pattern of development of the American public social welfare movement (Criteria A). It is the oldest extant structure known to have been erected in Connecticut for the specific purpose of housing the poor, and among the oldest built for that purpose remaining in the country. (Criteria C).⁷

The period 1780 through 1830 was one of transition between "traditional" American society of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and "modern" American society of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. During this era major changes in the social, economic, and religious circumstances of the American condition gradually forced a reassessment of familial and communal relationships and responsibilities. Traditional methods of dealing with social problems were no longer effective and new solutions were needed. The emergence of a public institution, the almshouse, to deal with the growing problem of poverty was a radical solution which marked the beginning of the modern social welfare movement in America.

As little is known or has been published about the institutional system of poor relief, particularly in Connecticut, the remarkably complete town records which deal with the establishment and management of the Middletown Alms House can make a major contribution to our understanding of nineteenth century society.⁸ A product of the same reformist vision that later produced the more specialized state institutions such as insane asylums, penitentiaries, orphanages and reform schools, it was established in the belief that rehabilitation could only take place in an institutional setting.

To understand how revolutionary this concept was in the early nineteenth century we can briefly examine earlier more traditional practices. Typically, the colonial community cared for their dependents with minimum disruption of their lives. Although the state was involved to the extent that it required the towns to maintain their poor, they left to the local communities the methods to be used. In Connecticut, throughout the colonial period, the traditional method of caring for the poor was to board them in established households, usually those of the more affluent and respected citizens, a tradition which extended back to Elizabethan England. This custom was quite acceptable in a society which regulated the social order through the family unit and required its members to live in families. The responsibilities accepted by the heads of these households extended well beyond providing food and shelter. The practice of "boarding out" had strong moral overtones as well. These were rooted in the predominately Puritan strain of Connecticut Congregationalism whereby the eighteenth century prosperity had become synonymous with godliness. Conversely, therefore, poverty was not simply an economic condition but a moral failure. It was expected that in the home of a respected affluent family the poor would learn to become industrious contributing members of society as a result of the good moral example set by their betters. Also, as they were subject to the discipline of the family head, this method was perceived to be a strong deterrent (See continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.33

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	6	9	5	7	9	4	6	0	2	1	5
Zone		Easting				Northing						

B

Zone		Easting				Northing						

C

Zone		Easting				Northing						

D

Zone		Easting				Northing						

E

Zone		Easting				Northing						

F

Zone		Easting				Northing						

G

Zone		Easting				Northing						

H

Zone		Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Paul Loether, Assistant Director and Janice Cunningham, Director

organization The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust date 8/6/81

street & number 27 Washington Street telephone (203) 346-1646

city or town Middletown state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date March 16, 1982

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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to crime as well. As the poor laws remained unchanged and unelaborated for over a century these methods appeared to be effective. As late as 1808, the General Assembly of Connecticut still charged the town to maintain the poor with "what shall by them be judged useful...", a restatement of a 1701 law of the Colony.⁹

By the end of the eighteenth century, traditional solutions to the problem of poverty had become less viable. With the rapid growth of population in the last half of the century Connecticut could no longer provide enough land for all the sons of farmers who came of age in this period. Farming itself was declining with the repeated failure of grain crops due to disease and the depletion of the soil. The resulting migration both to the frontier and to the cities placed further stress on traditional family bonds. Within the next two decades, the influx of men to Middletown from outlying farming areas placed further strain on the failing economy of this riverport city which had been severely affected by the loss of shipping trade during the Great Embargo and the War of 1812 that effectively closed the port to trade and created a local economic depression.

Although the increasing number of poor made the traditional system less practical or economically feasible, other factors made it necessary to seek alternatives to "boarding out". Increasingly liberal settlement laws made it difficult for the town to avoid the burden of the transient poor as they had done earlier in the eighteenth century by "warning out".¹⁰ Families who had readily assumed their communal responsibilities by caring for their poorer neighbors were less willing to do so for strangers. Perhaps more importantly, the evident failure of the families to provide for their members raised grave doubts about the family system. Harkening back nostalgically to the presumed stability and order of the eighteenth century, the increased mobility of the nineteenth century was perceived to be a sign of social disorder. Ultimately the view that the poor needed to be segregated to be protected from the influence of society was widely disseminated and undoubtedly influenced the attitudes of Middletown men.¹¹

Not yet ready to accept the institutional solution, the town fathers' first response to their growing problem was unusual but not unique.¹² It still gave lip service to traditional values and had the added advantage of providing some income to the town. In this method which closely resembled indentured servitude, the able-bodied poor were auctioned off to the highest bidder for their services. Payment would be made to the selectmen by the successful bidders who then acquired custody of the individual(s) for a period of one year.¹³ That this system was perceived to be only partially effective is demonstrated by the fact that several of the prominent men who did "employ" the poor in this manner were in the forefront of a group who promoted the more radical solution of an alms house. Finally, at a special town meeting held on May 1, 1813 the town voted "that a House for the accomodation of the Town Poor and Work House be erected."¹⁴

Selectmen Thomas Mather, William C. Hall and Samuel Wetmore were appointed as the committee to oversee the location and purchase of the new institution's site and supervise its construction. On May 24, 1813 this committee purchased the two acre lot on the northwestern corner of Upper (now High) Street and lower Main (now Warwick) Street and construction was begun immediately.¹⁵ The final cost to the town for the erection and furnishing of the new institution was \$8,755.00, \$3,600.00 of which was borrowed and repaid in four successive yearly installments.¹⁶ The manner in which the selectmen's

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accounts are arranged with regard to the erection and furnishing of the Alms House indicates that they acted as the principal contractors themselves, subcontracting the services of local craftsmen as they were needed to complete different portions of the project. The actual designer of the building remains unknown, since the specific purpose of expenditures is rarely noted, although some of the individuals listed for payment are local men known to have practiced particular trades in the early nineteenth century, such as Joseph Tryon, a blacksmith, and Elizur Roberts, a builder whose name often appears in account books of the Shaler and Hall Quarry of Portland in the early 1840's.¹⁷

Through the establishment of the Alms House, the town was able to maintain the economic benefits which it had derived from the transitional, semi-traditional indentured servitude system which had preceded it. Able-bodied poor assigned to the Alms House were required to participate in some form of productive labor. While some of the poor were assigned to tasks in the Work House contained within the institution itself, many and perhaps most were hired out as laborers for local industrial enterprises, such as oakum production, textile manufacturing, and gunpowder manufacturing or to local farmers.¹⁸ In every case the individual's pay was withheld by the town to cover the costs of the indigent's maintenance. But while the Alms House continued to provide financial relief to the town, it also freed those who accepted the poor into their employment from the social, economic and moral responsibilities inherent in both the traditional system and the semi-traditional indentured servitude system.

Middletown's experience with the "indoor" method of poor relief, as it came to be called in this period, was probably typical. With few precedents for guidance, these early experiments in public social welfare were generally an uneasy alliance of traditional and modern values and beliefs. As the continuing debate about the management of the institution in the next few decades makes quite clear, it was not an unqualified success, raising serious questions about the purpose of the institution and the role of government in social welfare.

Part of the failure can be attributed to the fact that the almshouse was apparently perceived to be simply an extension of the traditional custom of boarding the poor. It was organized to function as a family with the selectmen of the town acting in *loco parentis*, even to the extent of meting out discipline and making work assignments. Discipline was quite harsh by modern standards, containing provisions for confining the more difficult cases to "the dark room for a period not to exceed forty-eight hours," or binding offenders "in shackles and chains" or feeding them "bread and water." Although some of the able-bodied poor may have benefited from such a strict regime, in the antebellum period poor relief was also provided in the almshouse for the disabled, the elderly, children and even the insane. With this diverse group, it was perhaps inevitable that the family system of organization was ineffective and ultimately unworkable.

Although the town meetings in the early years repeatedly called for the formation of committees "to examine and ascertain the costs of expenditures of the institution," the problems that arose were not simply economic in nature.¹⁹ Much of the debate focussed on the problems of maintaining order and discipline and reached its height in the early 1820s when serious consideration was given to closing the institution. A decision was reached in 1824 to continue to maintain the institution but with substantially revised

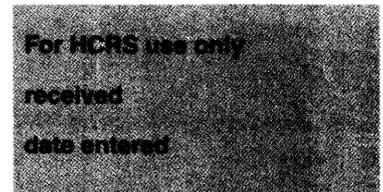
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by-laws. 20

These amended by-laws were apparently a response to internal social problems. For example, they provided for the first time that inmates would be segregated by sex even at work, suggesting that illegitimacy may have been a problem. Also, as space within this building for the workhouse was enlarged fewer inmates were allowed to work outside the institution. In addition, although the selectmen were still responsible for financial management, the direct control of the almshouse and the inmates became the complete responsibility of the overseers, the steward and matron.

Although these new rules indicate that the rehabilitative effect of work and discipline was negligible, far more important than the revision of the by-laws was the vote taken at a special town meeting on February 2, 1824 to enclose the grounds of the almshouse with a fence to prevent "any intercourse between them that belong to that establishment and other persons..."²¹ This drastic step reflected a major change in the town's attitude towards the inmates; the poor themselves were now considered to be a threat to social order. They were no longer segregated for their own benefit and protection but for the protection of the townspeople.

By mid-century the experiment in rehabilitation of the poor had ended and little more than custodial care was provided. It is not surprising that debate over alternative solutions to poor relief or questions about the internal management of the almshouse also ended and the attention of the town was now centered on removing the institution to a more remote location of town. With a growing residential neighborhood beginning to be established in this part of town, undoubtedly the citizens there were pressing for its removal. As subsequent events proved, the fact that the almshouse occupied a prime industrial site with a water privilege was also a factor. When local manufacturer Elisha Hubbard proposed that the town trade him the Alms House property for the Thomas Mather House and sixty acres of its surrounding land in the South Farms District in 1853, the town promptly accepted. The institution moved to its new location that year and was reconstituted as the Middletown Town Farms.²²

Shortly after the town relinquished the original Alms House, it was occupied by the Hubbard and Curtis Hardware Company, manufacturers of tools, hardware, and woodburning stoves. In the early 1900s, Frederick Hodge utilized the structure for the manufacture of wheels. "Later occupants included the Middletown Fire Arms and Specialty Company and the Middletown Rifle Club."²³ The building has been occupied since the early 1930s by C.B. Stone, Inc., dealers in home heating products.

NOTES

1. Descriptive terminology for masonry is derived from Harley J. McKee, F.A.I.A. Introduction to Early American Masonry (National Trust for Historic Preservation and Columbia University, 1973).

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Notes (continued)

2. Henry Whittemore. Article on the history of Middletown, Connecticut in The History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884), p. 75.
3. "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietors' Records." (MTVPR) 1813-1841 passim; Middletown Town Recors 1813-1841 passim.
4. "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietors' Records" (Middletown Town Clerk) vol. III, pp. 229-230.
5. The town records do not evidence any substantial allotment for repairs of the building due to fire damage during the period 1814-1853. Accounts of such a fire are also lacking in the Middlesex Gazette, the local newspaper of the period. Given that no damaging fires are known to have occurred by any of the employees of C.B. Stone, Inc. who have been with the company since it purchased the building in the early 1930's, this damage must have been sustained in the interim period referred to.
6. Charles B. Stone, President, and Cy Conrad, Vice President, C.B. Stone, Inc. Site interview. July 7, 1981.
7. Depositories of architectural and historical information in major cities in Connecticut that were consulted, including New Haven, Hartford, and Norwalk, and outside the state in Springfield, Philadelphia, and New York, failed to turn up any other extant almshouse from with this early date of construction. Confirmation for the fact that prior to 1820 few almshouses were established can be found in David J. Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum (Boston: Little Brown, 1971).
8. For the most recent definitive work which deals with poor relief and used here for information about other states see Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum.
9. Rothman, pp. 26, 27.
10. Rothman, p. 186.
11. Rothman, Chapter 8 passim.
12. According to Rothman, this custom was also practiced in New York.
13. "Town Records 1797-1822," (Middletown Town Clerk) p. 196.
14. "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietors' Records," vol. III, p. 123.
15. "Middletown Land Records," vol. 43, p. 513.
16. "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietors' Records," vol. III, p. 128. See also The History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884).

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17. "Town Records 1797-1822," pp. 213-215.
18. "Middletown Town Votes and Proprietors' Records," vol. III, p. 140.
19. Ibid., vol. III, p. 157. See also vol. III, p. 401.
20. Ibid., vol. III, pp. 138-141, 233.
21. Ibid., vol. III, p. 232.
22. "Middletown Land Records," vol. 83, p. 136.
23. Middletown, Connecticut: Historical and Architectural Resources (Middletown, Connecticut: The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1979) vol. III, p. 276.

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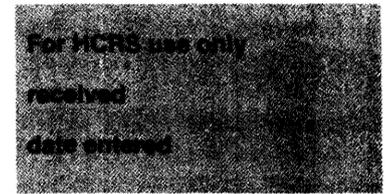
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#9. Major Bibliographical References

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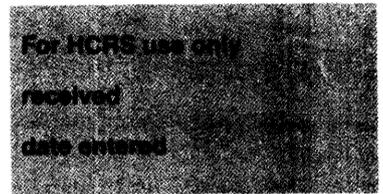
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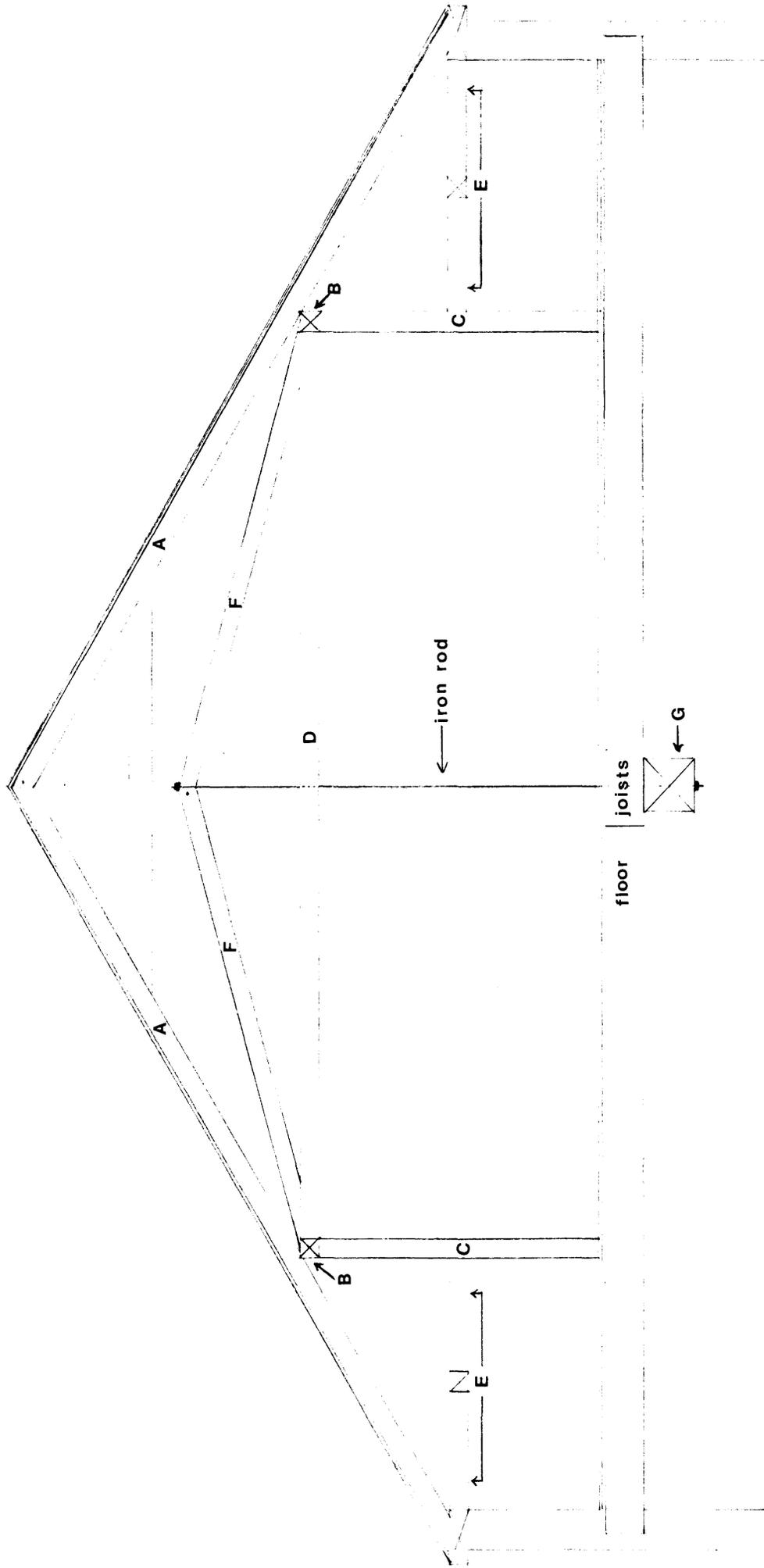
10. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Commencing at the southwesterly corner of the land now or formerly of the County of Middlesex, thence running easterly about 55 ft.; thence southerly about 30 ft.; thence easterly about 29.3 ft.; thence southerly about 89 ft.; thence in a southwesterly direction about 152.5 ft.; thence in a northwesterly direction about 17.5 ft.; thence northerly about 152.5 ft.; thence easterly about 60 ft. to a passageway; bounded North-erly by Gustav A.W. Loewenthal, by a passageway hereinafter described, by land now or formerly of the County of Middlesex, by land now or formerly of the Estate of Jacob Dorflinger, dec'd., and by land now or formerly of Jacob Schweiger; easterly by land now or formerly of Jacob Schweiger and by land now or formerly of the estate of the said Dorflinger; Southerly and Southeasterly by a stream of water and by land now or formerly of Simons and Miller Plate Company; and Westerly by land now or formerly of the said Plate Company and by land of Gustav A.W. Loewenthal; together with all my right, title and interest in a driveway or passageway, ten feet in width, between land now or formerly of the County of Middlesex, and land of Gustav A.W. Loewenthal, extending Southerly from Warwick Street along the west line of the County of Middlesex to the premises above described (Middletown Land Records, Vol. 182, P.666).

The property to be included in the nomination herein described, is basically the same as it was originally and is still bounded by the Pamecha River on the rear and sides. Lots on the original historic frontage to the north, or present day Warwick Street, were sold, leaving a passageway to the site from the street.

The Middletown Alms House - 51-53 Warwick Street, Middletown, Connecticut

Attic Framing System



note: this is not a measured drawing - provided for visual reference only

Fig. 1