

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: _____ SITE NO.: _____

UTM: 18 / - / - / - / - / -

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT: 5 NR: ACTUAL POTENTIAL

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

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Amato's Hobby Center Historic: Sheldon Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 420 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Vincent and Phyllis Amato PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: xyes no
 Interior accessible: xyes, explain commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Mid-19th Century Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1866-67
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 ___ clapboard ___ asbestos siding brick
 ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
 ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
 ___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 ___ other: _____ foundation, sills and lintels
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 ___ wood frame: ___ post and beam ___ balloon
 load bearing masonry ___ structural iron or steel
 other: interior wood framing
10. ROOF: type:
 ___ gable flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
 ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other _____
 material:
 ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate
 ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 21'x75' (rear add. 58'x22')
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: ___ excellent good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Storefront modernized; rear additions; office second floor
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: Fagan Avenue, now Columbus Plaza in rear
 ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 ___ open land ___ woodland ___ residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial ___ industrial ___ rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: A variety of building types and styles are represented in Middletown's central business district. The Sheldon Building and its attached mate act as a unit on the east side of the street. A heavy bracketed cornice extends across the two. They are taller than their neighbors, a two story Art Deco building to the north and a later two story structure to the south.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Ephraim Sheldon constructed a building on this site between 1867 and 1868. Documents suggest, however, that the structure now standing may be a replacement built before 1877. Sheldon operated his business at this location until 1892. The store, with prices "low as the lowest," specialized in furniture and carried a good supply of "childrens carriages, parlor suits, and chamber sets." In 1895 the building became the home of Boston One Price Clothing, Co. (which later moved next door as R.W. Camp, Co.). At this time the store was modernized. Renovations probably included the application of the present Pompeian brick facade displaying brownstone sills and lintels. The street level storefront, fitted for arc electric lighting, was considered at the time to be one of "the finest in the city." The bracketed cornice from the adjacent Fagan Building was probably extended across the Sheldon Building at this time. Since the turn of the century this building has housed a variety of businesses, including an undertaker, a photographer, and a clothing manufacturer. Presently it is occupied by Amato's Hobby Center.

The Sheldon Building and the attached Fagan Building are the only representatives on this block of Main Street of this once common late 19th century commercial building type.

PHOTOGRAPH

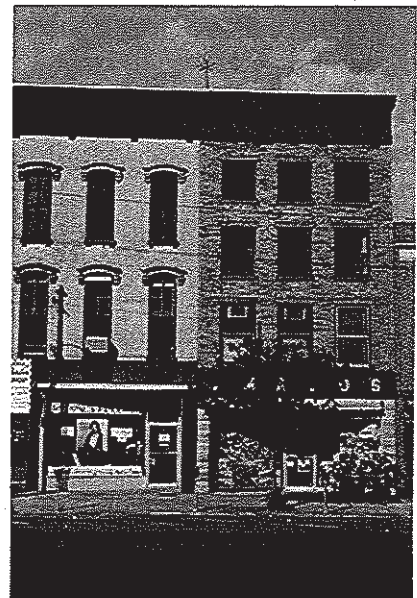
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 26, #20-20A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective Map; 1915 Aeroview Map; J. Russell Ward Photograph Collection; Marino Postal Card Collection, GMPT

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:



21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Sheldon Building
418-420 Main Street (formerly #420)
Middletown, CT 06457

