

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

30 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: _____ SITE NO.: _____
UTM: 18 / - / - / - / - / -
QUAD: _____
DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL
POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Hose Co. #2 Historic: Payne's Music House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 107 College Street
4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Firehouse; Music store
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain permission of Redevelopment Agency no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Institutional DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1853 and 1864
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: _____
 other: brick foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____
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: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 23'x35'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Pressed brass sign panel above added store front
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
 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: The former Payne's Music House is on the south side of College Street between a small Second Empire store building and a 1920's movie theater entrance/marquee. Each of these three brick buildings is distinctive; together they form a set of older business buildings among much larger commercial structures. East is Odd Fellows Hall; south is the old Middlesex Theater; north is Farmers and Mechanics Bank.

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

Shouldered brick window caps on outer windows of second floor facade
Gothic-arched windows, second floor center
Stepped brick work under cornice
Hose-drying tower

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Hose Company No. 2 Firehouse was the home of Middletown's first downtown fire company. Built on land acquired from William S. Camp, prominent banker, in 1853, the building served as a fire house for 73 years. Small in plan (25'x35'), only the engine was housed here. When the alarm sounded, the fire horses were rushed over from Atwell's Livery on Center Street and hitched up. Lyman Payne bought the building in the mid-1920's and opened his music store here in 1929. Payne's Music House, complete with piano elevator to the second floor, was run until 1974. In that year the building was taken by the Redevelopment Agency, and now is included in the West Side Restoration Project.

This compact two story fire house shares styling and decorative details with Hose Company No. 3 at the intersection of Loveland and Hubbard Streets: brick walls, corbeled brick on gable rake, and center Gothic-arched window in gable end. A pressed sign panel over the store front dates from Payne's occupancy. This building is still sturdy. Together with the neighboring buildings, it makes a positive contribution to the lower College Street area of 19th century commercial buildings.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 15, #35

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessor; Middletown Land Records; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884)



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

vacant at present; however, it is slated for inclusion in a proposed restoration/reuse project on the west side of Main Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Hose Co. #2
107 College Street, Middletown, CT 06457

