

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 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: Falcons Building Historic: Masonic Hall
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 181-183 Court Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Polish Falcons Inc. PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Club Headquarters; retail 1st floor Historic: Masonic Headquarters
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: xyes no
Interior accessible: xyes, explain with permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1877
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<u>trim</u>
- 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: 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x80' (additions 32'x41')
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site First floor projecting storefront added; rear
Alterations: no yes, explain: wing possibly early addition; third story on rear wing added
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: parking
 carriage house shop garden in rear
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This 3 1/2 story building is located a short distance from Main Street in an area consisting principally of commercial buildings from various periods. It is the center and tallest building in a row of three closely sited late nineteenth century structures on the south side of Court Street. These three buildings are stylistically related but of varying height.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: Horace Butler

Architect: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Masonic Building Association built this structure in 1887. This association was formed by St. John's Lodge, No. 2, and its affiliated Masonic bodies in the Middletown area. St. John's Lodge, established in 1754, was the third Masonic organization in Connecticut to be granted a charter. The building served the Masons until 1925 when it was sold to the Polish Falcons, an ethnic fraternal society. Businesses, clubs, and other fraternal societies have also been housed in this structure.

This building's symmetrical three-bay facade displays elements of the Renaissance Revival style. The second and third story windows are enclosed in an arcade; a large brownstone keystone protrudes from the middle arch. Other notable features include a small elevated pediment with a rising sun design, groups of coursed terra cotta tile and brownstone trim.

The placement of the building in a row of three contemporary structures is significant. The building directly west also was constructed by a fraternal organization (The Middletown Club) in 1888. To the east, the next structure is the Middlesex Banking Company building, built in 1884. As a group, these buildings illustrate the expanding urban development of the streets adjoining Main Street during the late nineteenth century.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 1/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 11, #27

COMPILED BY:

name: Robert Svec date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; St. John's Lodge, No. 2, Commemorative Exercises of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, Middletown, Conn., February 4, 1904

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

