

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

39 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: Pythian Building Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 360 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Pythian Building Corporation PUBLIC X PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: Hotel and restaurant
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no  
Interior accessible: x yes, explain commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Modern Commercial Renaissance details DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1874; re-modelled 1938

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: marble sheathing facade

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: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50'x55' (rear add. 43'x51')

- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

- 3. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_
- Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Facade altered 1938 (See #18)

4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_
- carriage house  shop  garden \_\_\_\_\_

5. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- open land  woodland  residential  scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial  industrial  rural  high building density

6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This three-story brick structure is located on the east side of Main Street in Middletown's central business district. Affixed to its north wall is a wider, slightly lower, plain commercial structure. To the south a narrow alley separates this building from the small Renaissance Revival Capitol Theatre.

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

Pressed metal ceilings (most covered)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1873 Jonathan Kilbourn sold the popular hotel "Kilbourn House" to Thomas Mitchell. Sometime between 1873 and 1876 the structure burned and the present edifice was erected. Allyn Colegrove acquired the property in 1876. Subsequently the building was used as a hotel, known variously as the Farmer's & Mechanic's Hotel and the Hotel Chaffee.

In 1905 the building was sold to the Pythian Building Corp. Since then the first floor has been occupied by businesses. The second floor was altered for office use, and the third floor was converted to a meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization. F. W. Woolworth Co. occupied the street level store in the 1920's and 30's.

In 1938 the building was renovated. A modern facade applied over the original decorative seven bays gave the building a new look. The first two stories were sheathed with greenish-black marble and new large windows were installed. The third story was stuccoed, accented by a Palladian-type window, and topped by two decorative vases.

The Pythian Building, one of the oldest structures in the central business area, demonstrates the continued adaptation and use of a downtown commercial building for over a century. Its present sophisticated street facade, with its rich materials, makes a significant contribution to Main Street.

PHOTOGRAPH

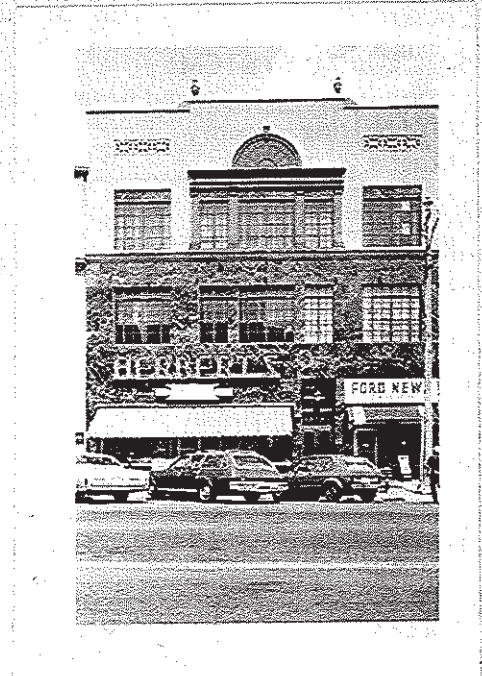
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 7/78 view: west  
negative on file: Roll 29, #5A-6

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884); 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

Pythian Building

360 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

