

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
55 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: Public Market Historic: Fagan's New Block
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 476-478 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Louis Hutensky PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial & Residential Historic: Commercial
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ commercial use no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early Modern Commercial with Classical Revival details DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1912
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick brown color
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: limestone sills;
 other: _____ granite 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: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x116'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Storefronts added; name plaque removed; cornice balustrade removed
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Back porches
 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: Fagan's New Block is a modest three story commercial building sited in a row of like commercial structures along the east side of Main Street between Washington and Ferry Streets. The building is distinguished by its color (brown brick), and by unusual decorative detail on the facade.

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

- Arched panels with shell motif and limestone keystones
- Molded pressed metal sign panel
- Iron I-beam lintels decorated with rosettes over first floor windows

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

8. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was built for William H. Fa-
gan, a realtor, around 1912, replacing an earlier two-story commercial building. The first
occupant, Dugan's Liquors, gave way to Kearns's Saloon and Billiards. The upper floors were
rental offices at first; after 1940 they became eight apartments, and are still used that
way. Currently the Public Market occupies the north store space, and Middletown Press bus-
iness offices are on the south.

This three story commercial block has particularly interesting decorative detail. A cor-
nice balustrade, now gone, brought the building to equal height with the "Penny Press" build-
ing on the south. The balustrade, the existing shell-motif arched panels over the third
floor windows, the fanlight over the center door, and the boldly molded sign panel origin-
ally gave a classical revival feeling to the stylistic details. Subsequent alterations have
strengthened its early modern features. Removal of the balustrade gives a clear line to the
cornice; the Middletown Press's office space has been renovated using vertical bronzed alum-
inum window dividers between tinted glass panels. The seventy-year-old building continues
strong in the economic life of Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

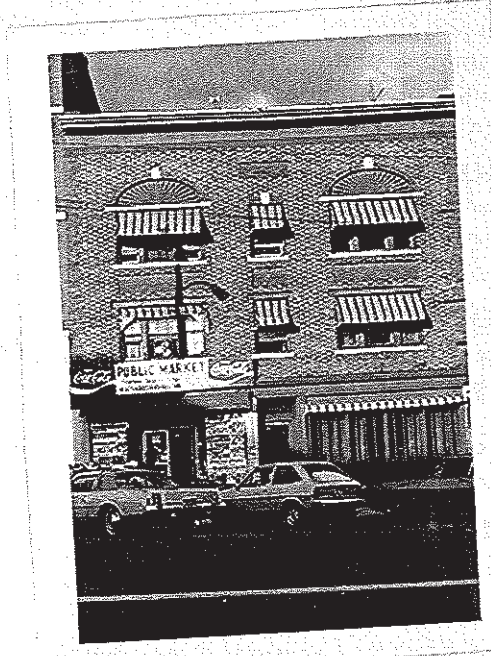
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 35, #4

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown
City Directories; Middletown National Bank Old
Picture Promotion (unpublished Middletown, 1950)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:



21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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