

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Richard E. Cody Shoes Historic: Ward-Cody Building
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 502-508 Main Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Edward D. and Catherine E. Cody PUBLIC  PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_ commercial use \_\_\_\_\_ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1889-1890
- 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>sills and keystones of windows</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 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 42'x61'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alterations:  no  yes, explain: South storefront altered
- 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 Ward-Cody building is located toward the north end of Main Street. This area consists primarily of two to three story commercial structures constructed in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Directly to the north of the Ward-Cody Building is an early-20th century, two-story, Classical Revival commercial structure and to the south is a one-story contemporary retail building.

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

North storefront, brackets  
Sign "Richard E. Cody Shoes"

SIGNIFICANCE

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

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Ward-Cody Building, 502-508 Main Street, was built in 1889 or 1890 by George N. Ward. George N. Ward was a prominent, native businessman who served on various bank boards. He was responsible for much of the commercial development of the north end of Main Street in the late 19th century. The building was purchased in 1919 by Richard E. Cody, who operated "Richard E. Cody Shoes" here. It is still owned by the Cody family. Small retail firms have been located in this building throughout its history.

The Ward-Cody building is a good example of a late-19th century, brick, commercial building. It is three stories in height and contains six windows on each floor. Decorative elements are scarce, with only the cornice and arched windows exhibiting detailing. The early north store front of "Richard E. Cody Shoes," probably dating from the early 20th century, is still intact. Two curved bays rest on bases sheathed with copper. The signboard and cornice of the storefront are also of copper, and display the legend "Richard E. Cody Shoes." That storefront is an important survival of an early 20th century treatment of a commercial facade.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 10/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 46, #2-2A

COMPILED BY:

name: David Engstrom date: 1/79  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903)



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

