

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

99 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: VFW Building Historic: Stueck's Modern Tavern
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 64-70 Washington Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Veterans of Foreign Wars PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: VFW & Stores Historic: Tavern, restaurant & stores
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ shops _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1914
- 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>granite</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> facing, front foundation

- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel (interior framing)
 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: 85'x45'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: signs and store fronts added

- 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: Although different in stylistic detail from commercial buildings to the west on Main Street, the VFW Building, connected by a walkway to Stueck's Block, continues the business function of the Main Street structures around the corner onto Washington Street. A vacant lot just east of the building, and the plain factory-like structures attached to its rear serve, by comparison, to highlight the Renaissance Revival detail on the VFW.

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

Long shingled hood stretching the length of the facade just under the cornice
Wrought iron balconies on each of the nine top floor windows

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Stueck family (who erected the VFW Building) became commercially active at the corner of Washington and Main Streets in 1880 when Jacob Stueck bought out the Hoffort Bakery there. 64-70 Washington Street was put upon the site of the razed Burnham Tavern in 1914. Provision was made to connect the Washington Street structure to Stueck's Block (1893) on Main Street with an upper level bridge over the passway between the buildings. Phillip Stueck, Jacob's son, ran "Stueck's Modern Tavern" on the upper levels, and rented out the first floor stores until 1939. After a time of relative inactivity during the war years, the building was sold to the VFW by a bank in 1946. The veterans have used the structure for meeting rooms and as a commercial block through the present time.

The facade is veneered in a bright red hard-surfaced brick. The nine-bay front features third-floor windows double the height of those below. Bold, notched brick-work against a field of stucco accents the arched heads of these windows, which provide light for a large open hall on the top floor. The over-all effect of the building's design is one of a richness of detail not found on other commercial buildings in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 39, #1-1A

COMPILED BY:

name: R. Sherman date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Bailey Aero-View, 1915



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

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64-70 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

