STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

for Buildings and Structures

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 X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Club Headquarters; retail 1st floor
   Historic: Masonic Headquarters

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: xyes
   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):
   _x_ clapboard
   _x_ wood shingle
   _x_ board & batten
   _x_ aluminum siding
   _x_ asbestos siding
   _x_ asphalt siding
   _x_ stucco
   _x_ concrete: type: brownstone
   _x_ brick
   _x_ fieldstone
   _x_ cobblestone
   _x_ cut stone: type: trim
   _x_ other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _x_ load bearing masonry
   _x_ structural iron or steel
   _x_ wood frame: post and beam
   _x_ balloon
   _x_ other:

10. ROOF: type:
    _x_ gable
    _x_ gambrel
    _x_ shed
    _x_ flat
    _x_ mansard
    _x_ hip
    _x_ monitor
    _x_ round
    _x_ sawtooth
    _x_ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40’x80’ (additions 32’x41’)

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site
    Alterations: no, yes, explain: First floor projecting storefront added; rear wing possibly early addition; third story on rear wing added

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _x_ barn
    _x_ carriage house
    _x_ shed
    _x_ shop
    _x_ garage
    _x_ garden
    _x_ other landscape features or buildings: parking in rear

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _x_ open land
    _x_ woodland
    _x_ residential
    _x_ commercial
    _x_ industrial
    _x_ rural
    scattered buildings visible from site

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This 3½ 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

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
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

date: 4/78
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: