STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Hose Co. #2
   Historic: Payne's Music House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 107 College Street

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 107 College Street

4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown
   PUBLIC/Private: Historic: Firehouse; Music store

5. USE: Present: Vacant
   Historic: Music store
   permission of Redevelopment Agency

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Institutional
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Between 1853 and 1864

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - brick: type: X
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type:

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

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

11. NUMBER OF Stories: 2 1/2
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 23' x 35'

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: x no x yes, explain: Pressed brass sign panel above added store front

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

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    X commercial
    X industrial
    X rural
    X high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The former Payne's Music House is on the south side of College Street between a small Second Empire store building and a 1920's movie theater entrance marquee. Each of these three brick buildings is distinctive; together they form a set of older business buildings among much larger commercial structures. East is Odd Fellows Hall; south is the old Middlesex Theater; north is Farmers and Mechanica Bank.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Shouldered brick window caps on outer windows of second floor facade
Gothic-arched windows, second floor center
Stepped brick work under cornice
Hose-drying tower

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Hose Company No. 2 Firehouse was the home of Middletown's first downtown fire company. Built on land acquired from William S. Camp, prominent banker, in 1853, the building served as a fire house for 73 years. Small in plan (25'x35'), only the engine was housed here. When the alarm sounded, the fire horses were rushed over from Atwell's Livery on Center Street and hitched up. Lyman Payne bought the building in the mid-1920's and opened his music store here in 1929. Payne's Music House, complete with piano elevator to the second floor, was run until 1974. In that year the building was taken by the Redevelopment Agency, and now is included in the West Side Restoration Project.

This compact two story fire house shares styling and decorative details with Hose Company No. 3 at the intersection of Loveland and Hubbard Streets: brick walls, corbeled brick on gable rake, and center Gothic-arched window in gable end. A pressed sign panel over the store front dates from Payne's occupancy. This building is still sturdy. Together with the neighboring buildings, it makes a positive contribution to the lower College Street area of 19th century commercial buildings.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/78 view: north
negative on file: Roll 15, #35

COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Assessor; Middletown Land Records; History of Middlesex County (New York: J.B. Beers, 1884)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None known</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developers</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deterioration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation</td>
<td>Building is vacant at present; however, it is slated for inclusion in a proposed restoration/reuse project on the west side of Main Street.</td>
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HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: __ Date: ___/90___

Hose Co. #2
107 College Street, Middletown, CT 06457