STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Pythian Building Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 360 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Pythian Building Corporation PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Commercial Historic: Hotel and restaurant
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain _____________________________
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain _____________________________

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Modern Commercial Renaissance details DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1874; remodelled 1938
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard X asbestos siding
   X wood shingle X asphalt siding
   X board & batten X stucco
   aluminum siding concrete: type: _____________________________
   X other: marble sheathing facade
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam X balloon
   load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   X other: _____________________________
10. ROOF: type: X gable X shed X mansard X monitor X sawtooth
    material: X wood shingle X roll asphalt X tin X slate
    X asphalt shingle X built up X tile X other: _____________________________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50'x55' (rear add. 43'x51')
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent X good X fair X deteriorated
    Exterior: X excellent X good X fair X deteriorated
3. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
   Alterations: no X yes, explain: Facade altered 1938 (See #18)
4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   X barn X shed X garage other landscape features or buildings:
   carriage house shop garden
5. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   X open land X woodland X residential scattered buildings visible from site
   commercial X industrial X rural X high building density
6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This three-story brick structure is
   located on the east side of Main Street in Middletown's central business district. Affixed
   to its north wall is a wider, slightly lower, plain commercial structure. To the south a
   narrow alley separates this building from the small Renaissance Revival Capitol Theatre.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Pressed metal ceilings (most covered)

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1873 Jonathan Kilbourn sold the popular hotel "Kilbourn House" to Thomas Mitchell. Sometime between 1873 and 1876 the structure burned and the present edifice was erected. Allyn Colegrove acquired the property in 1876. Subsequently the building was used as a hotel, known variously as the Farmer's & Mechanic's Hotel and the Hotel Chaffee.

In 1905 the building was sold to the Pythian Building Corp. Since then the first floor has been occupied by businesses. The second floor was altered for office use, and the third floor was converted to a meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization. F. W. Woolworth Co. occupied the street level store in the 1920's and 30's.

In 1938 the building was renovated. A modern facade applied over the original decorative seven bays gave the building a new look. The first two stories were sheathed with greenish-black marble and new large windows were installed. The third story was stuccoed, accented by a Palladian-type window, and topped by two decorative vases.

The Pythian Building, one of the oldest structures in the central business area, demonstrates the continued adaptation and use of a downtown commercial building for over a century. Its present sophisticated street facade, with its rich materials, makes a significant

PHOTOGRAPH contribution to Main Street.

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 7/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 29, #5A-6

COMPiledBy:

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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884); Marino Postal Card Collection, GMPT

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known _highways _vandalism _developers _other:

_renewal _private _deterioration _zoning _explanation:
Pythian Building
360 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457