STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Amato's Hobby Center Historic: Sheldon Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 420 Main Street
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Historic: same
4. OWNER(S): Vincent and Phyllis Amato PUBLIC x 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

SCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Mid-19th Century Commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1866-67
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - other: wood frame
   - post and beam
   - balloon
   - load bearing masonry
   - structural iron or steel
   - other: interior wood framing
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: brownstone
   - foundation, sills and lintels
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - gable type: x flat
   - gambrel
   - shed
   - hip
   - round
   - monitor
   - sawtooth
   - other
   - material:
   - wood shingle
   - roll asphalt
   - tin
   - slate
   - other
   - roof material:
   - wood shingle
   - built up
   - other:
10. NUMBER OF STORIES: 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 21'x75' (rear add. 58'x22')
11. CONDITION:
   - Structural:
   - excellent
   - x good
   - fair
   - deteriorated
   - Exterior:
   - excellent
   - x good
   - fair
   - deteriorated
12. INTEGRITY:
   - Location: x on original site
   - moved, when:
   - Alterations: no x yes, explain: Storefront modernized; rear additions: office
13. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   - x barn
   - shed
   - garage
   - carriage house
   - shop
   - garden
   - x other landscape features or buildings: Fagan Avenue, now Columbus Plaza in rear
14. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   - open land
   - woodland
   - residential
   - scattered buildings visible from site
   - x commercial
   - industrial
   - rural
   - x high building density
15. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
    A variety of building types and styles are represented in Middletown's central business district. The Sheldon Building and its attached mate act as a unit on the east side of the street. A heavy bracketed cornice extends across the two. They are taller than their neighbors, a two story Art Deco building to the north and a later two story structure to the south.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ____________________________ Builder: ____________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Ephraim Sheldon constructed a building on this site between 1867 and 1868. Documents suggest, however, that the structure now standing may be a replacement built before 1877. Sheldon operated his business at this location until 1892. The store, with prices "low as the lowest," specialized in furniture and carried a good supply of "childrens carriages, parlor suits, and chamber sets." In 1895 the building became the home of Boston One Price Clothing, Co. (which later moved next door as R.W. Camp, Co.). At this time the store was modernized. Renovations probably included the application of the present Pompeian brick facade displaying brownstone sills and lintels. The street level storefront, fitted for arc electric lighting, was considered at the time to be one of "the finest in the city." The bracketed cornice from the adjacent Fagan Building was probably extended across the Sheldon Building at this time. Since the turn of the century this building has housed a variety of businesses, including an undertaker, a photographer, and a clothing manufacturer. Presently it is occupied by Amato's Hobby Center.

The Sheldon Building and the attached Fagan Building are the only representatives on the block of Main Street of this once common late 19th century commercial building type.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78
view: west
negative on file: Roll 26, #20-20A

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective Map; 1915 Aeroview Map; J. Russell Ward Photograph Collection; 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: ____________________
Sheldon Building
418-420 Main Street (formerly #420)
Middletown, CT 06457