1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Public Market
   Historic: Fagan's New Block

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: ____________________________________________
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 476-478 Main Street

4. OWNER(S): Louis Hutensky
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Commercial & Residential
   Historic: Commercial

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early Modern Commercial with Classical Revival details
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1912

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard
   X asbestos siding
   _ wood shingle
   _ asphalt siding
   _ board & batten
   X stucco
   _ concrete: type: ____________________________________________
   _ other: ___________________________________________________

   X brick brown color
   _ fieldstone
   _ cobblestone
   X cut stone: type: limestone sills; granite foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X load bearing masonry
   _ balloon
   _ other: ___________________________________________________

   X structural iron or steel

10. ROOF: type:
    _ gable
    _ gambrel
    X flat
    _ mansard
    _ monitor
    _ sawtooth
    _ other: ___________________________________________________

    _ shed
    _ hip
    _ round
    _ other: ___________________________________________________

    _ roll asphalt
    _ tin
    _ slate
    _ other: ___________________________________________________

    _ built up
    _ tile
    _ other: ___________________________________________________

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40' x 116'

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent
    Exterior: X good

13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site
    moved, when:
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: Storefronts added; name plaque removed; cornice
    balustrade removed

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

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Fagan's New Block is a modest three story commercial building sited in a row of like commercial structures along the east side of Main Street between Washington and Perry Streets. The building is distinguished by its color (brown brick), and by unusual decorative detail on the facade.
OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

- Arched panels with shell motif and limestone keystones
- Molded pressed metal sign panel
- Iron I-beam lintels decorated with rosettes over first floor windows

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: Builder:

9. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was built for William H. Fagan, a realtor, around 1912, replacing an earlier two-story commercial building. The first occupant, Dugan's Liquors, gave way to Kearns's Saloon and Billiards. The upper floors were rental offices at first; after 1940 they became eight apartments, and are still used that way. Currently the Public Market occupies the north store space, and Middletown Press business offices are on the south.

This three story commercial block has particularly interesting decorative detail. A cornice balustrade, now gone, brought the building to equal height with the "Penny Press" building on the south. The balustrade, the existing shell-motif arched panels over the third floor windows, the fanlight over the center door, and the boldly molded sign panel originally gave a classical revival feeling to the stylistic details. Subsequent alterations have strengthened its early modern features. Removal of the balustrade gives a clear line to the cornice; the Middletown Press's office space has been renovated using vertical bronzed aluminum window dividers between tinted glass panels. The seventy-year-old building continues strong in the economic life of Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78
view: west
negative on file: Roll 35, #4

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Middletown National Bank Old Picture Promotion (unpublished Middletown, 1950)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- none known
- highways
- vandalism
- developers
- renewal
- private
- deterioration
- zoning
- other:

explanation: ____________________________
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Fagan's New Block
476-478 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457