TATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

BUILDING NAME: Common: Caulkins Garage Historic: same

TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex

STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 489 Main Street

OWNER(S): P.L. Caulkins Auto Company PUBLIC x PRIVATE

USE: Present: Commercial Historic: same

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

DESCRIPTION

STYLE OF BUILDING: Early 20th century commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1905

MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- clapboard
- wood shingle
- board & batten
- aluminum siding
- other:

- asbestos siding
- asphalt siding
- stucco
- concrete: type: 
- other:

- brick
- fieldstone
- cobblestone
- cut stone: type: 

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
- wood frame: x post and beam
- balloon
- load bearing masonry
- structural iron or steel
- other:

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

material:
- wood shingle
- roll asphalt
- asphalt shingle
- built up
- tin
- slate
- tile
- other:

NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 39' x 77' (wing 41' x 55')

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

Exterior:
- excellent
- x good
- fair
- deteriorated

INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no x yes, explain: Shed addition to connect building with garage in rear

RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
- barn
- shed
- carriage house
- shop
- garage
- garden
- x other landscape features or buildings: old gasoline pump on sidewalk

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
- open land
- woodlot
- residential
- x commercial
- industrial
- rural
- scattered buildings visible from site
- high building density

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This three story brick commercial building is located at the beginning of the north end of Main Street on the west side of the street. Situated between a large vacant corner lot and the more massive St. Aloysius Building, Caulkins Garage, because of its details and color scheme, is a dominant element of this business area.
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building was built in 1905 for the F.L. Caulkins Auto Company. This enterprise in "autos" and automobile supplies, was previously located directly across the street in the Caulkins and Post Building. By 1905 the business was so successful that it built a new building across the street. The F.L. Caulkins Auto Company has continuously occupied this building since its erection.

The glazed red brick facade of this structure contains all of its original crisp details and clear elements. Two green two-story bays on either side of the second and third stories are separated by two pairs of rounded arched windows which are outlined by yellow brick belt courses. The facade is surmounted by a heavy bracketed cornice capped by panels. The original street level store front contains large windows, four plain pilasters, and brownstone thresholds.

This building, designed for use as an automobile showroom in the first level with tenant dwellings in the upper two stories, is still being used for these purposes. Continuing its function and appearance from the early 20th century, Caulkins Garage makes an important contribution to Middletown's Main Street.

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Marino Postal Card Collection (Greater Middletown Preservation Trust)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- [ ] none known
- [X] highways
- [ ] renewal
- [ ] private
- [ ] vandalism
- [ ] deterioration
- [ ] zoning
- [ ] developers
- [X] other: ________________________
- [ ] explanation: ___________________
Caulkins Garage
489-493 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457