IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Richard E. Cody Shoes
   Historic: Ward-Cody Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 502-508 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Edward D. and Catherine E. Cody
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Commercial
   Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes  no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain commercial use  no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Commercial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1889-1890
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __ clapboard __ asbestos siding
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding
   __ board & batten __ stucco
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: 
   __ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   __ wood frame: __ post and beam __ balloon
   __ load bearing masonry __ structural iron or steel
   __ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    __ gable __ shed __ mansard __ monitor.
    __ gambrel __ hip __ round __ sawtooth
    __ material: __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
    __ asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 42'x61'
12. CONDITION: Structural: __ excellent __ good
    Exterior: __ excellent __ good
    x fair __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site __ moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: South storefront altered
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    __ barn __ shed __ garage
    __ carriage house __ shop __ garden
    __ other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    __ open land __ woodland __ residential
    __ commercial __ industrial __ rural
    x scattered buildings visible from site
    x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Ward-Cody building is located
toward the north end of Main Street. This area consists primarily of two to three story commercial
structures constructed in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Directly to the north of the Ward-Cody Building is an early-20th century, two-story, Classical Revival commercial structure and to the south is a one-story contemporary retail building.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

North storefront, brackets
Sign "Richard E. Cody Shoes"

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Ward-Cody Building, 502-508 Main Street, was built in 1889 or 1890 by George N. Ward. George N. Ward was a prominent, native businessman who served on various bank boards. He was responsible for much of the commercial development of the north end of Main Street in the late 19th century. The building was purchased in 1919 by Richard E. Cody, who operated "Richard E. Cody Shoes" here. It is still owned by the Cody family. Small retail firms have been located in this building throughout its history.

The Ward-Cody building is a good example of a late-19th century, brick, commercial building. It is three stories in height and contains six windows on each floor. Decorative elements are scarce, with only the cornice and arched windows exhibiting detailing. The early north store front of "Richard E. Cody Shoes," probably dating from the early 20th century, is still intact. Two curved bays rest on bases sheathed with copper. The signboard and cornice of the storefront are also of copper, and display the legend "Richard E. Cody Shoes." That storefront is an important survival of an early 20th century treatment of a commercial facade.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 46, #2-2A

COMPILED BY:

name: David Engstrom date: 1/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

_x_ none known  ___ highways  ___ vandalism  ___ developers  ___ other:
___ renewal  ___ private  ___ deterioration  ___ zoning  ___ 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

Ward-Cody Building
502-508 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457