STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
39 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Southmayd-Krenz Building
   Historic: Southmayd's Building
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 542-544 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Davis H. Lineberry
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Tavern and Apartments Historic: Undertaker and Apartments
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain public accommodation no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian commercial block
   with classical details
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1872
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __ clapboard
   __ wood shingle
   __ board & batten
   __ aluminum siding
   X other: pressed metal facade
   __ asbestos siding
   __ asphalt siding
   __ stucco
   __ concrete: type:
   X brick walls, foundation
   __ fieldstone
   __ cobblestone
   __ cut stone: type:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   __ wood frame: post and beam balloon
   X load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   __ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    __ gable
    __ gambrel
    __ shed
    __ mansard
    __ hip
    __ round
    __ monitor
    __ sawtooth
    __ material:
    __ wood shingle
    __ roll asphalt
    __ tin
    __ slate
    __ asphalt shingle
    __ built up
    __ tile
    __ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 21'x79'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent
    Exterior: x excellent
    __ good
    __ fair x fair
    __ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: First floor facade covered with plasticized ply-
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    wood
    __ barn
    __ shed
    __ garage
    __ other landscape features or buildings:
    __ carriage house
    __ shop
    __ garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land
    __ woodland
    __ residential
    __ scattered buildings visible from site
    __ commercial
    __ industrial
    __ rural
    X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: One of a block of ten commercial build-
    ings on the east side of northern Main Street between Washington and Ferry Streets, most with
    fairly plain fronts and three or four stories. This building is narrower, more detailed and
    elegant than its neighbors.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Posesses original metal facade

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Southmayd family, who built this structure, was associated with the corner of Main and Ferry Street from the early nineteenth century. John B. Southmayd had his home and undertaking business at this site, where he also acted as the city coroner. His son, George M. Southmayd, erected a three story commercial building in 1872, putting the legend "Southmayd's Building, 1872" in a pedimented central portion of the frieze (now stuccoed over). Southmayd and his successors continued the undertaking business until 1911. In that year Ludwig Krenz bought the building for use as a bar and restaurant, which continues to be its function today under different ownership. It is "one of the finest commercial facades remaining from the 19th century on Main Street. Above the store front, the metal facade has suffered little change, and the fenestration remains as it was when built." (S.J. Roper, "Southmayd-Krenz Building," unpublished GMPT Report, 1973).

By 1978 changes have occurred: the storefront is obscured by plywood sheathing; the pressed metal facade has loosened, exposing the substructure to the elements. Still, if current plans by Middletown's Municipal Development office to renovate facades in the area materialize, the building may regain its former appearance.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 26, 924-25A

COMPiled BY:
name: Roger N. Sherman date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896);
See also sources listed in S.T. Roper, "Southmayd-Krenz Building," unpublished GMPT Report, 1973

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
none known __highways ___vandalism ___developers ___ other: ___
__ renewal ___private X deterioration ___zoning ___ explanation: Deterioration of facade, and decline of area; however city plans for revitalization of area may reverse the process.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: Date: 1/90

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