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

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: North End Package; Fireside Cafe
   Historic: Applequest Block
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 698 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): Frank and Ellen G. Cornelio
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
   Historic: same
5. USE: Present: Commercial; Residential Historic: 
   Accessible: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain: commercial use
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late Victorian Commercial
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1898
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard
   X wood shingle
   X board & batten
   X aluminum siding
   _ other:
   X asbestos siding
   X stucco
   _ concrete: type: 
   _ brick
   _ fieldstone
   _ cobblestone
   _ cut stone: type: granite
   sills and piers
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: post and beam
   X load bearing masonry
   X structural iron or steel (interior framing)
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _ gable
    _ gambrel
    _ shed
    _ mansard
    _ hip
    _ monitor
    _ round
    _ sawtooth
    _ other:
    _ material:
    _ wood shingle
    _ roll asphalt
    _ asphalt shingle
    _ built up
    _ tile
    _ slate
    _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 68'x42'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
    Exterior:
    _ excellent
    _ good
    _ fair
    _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _ X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: _ X no _ X yes, explain: Storefronts altered
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn
    _ shed
    _ carriage house
    _ shop
    _ garage
    _ garden
    _ other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ X open land
    _ woodland
    _ residential
    _ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ X commercial
    _ industrial
    _ rural
    _ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Applequest Block is located on the north end of Main Street, in an area dominated by late-19th and early-20th century commercial buildings of two and three stories. It is joined to the Kabatznick building on the south. An alley on the northern side of the Applequest Block separates it from the Old North End Meeting House, a frame building now covered with asphalt siding.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: __________________________ Builder: __________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Gideon H. Appelquest built this commercial structure in 1898. Appelquest immigrated from Sweden in 1876 and subsequently settled in Middletown where he worked as a photographer for most of his life. Although Appelquest conducted his photography business in another Main Street building, he resided at 698 Main Street until his death in 1902.

The Appelquest Block is an architecturally distinctive building on Middletown's Main Street. It is a three-story brick building with a projecting pavillion. The pavillion contains terra cotta decoration, two sets of narrow, arched windows, and a narrow entrance-way. Unusual rusticated piers of brick and granite are used on the first floor; however, the storefronts have been altered. The windows are bordered with white brick arches and white granite sills. Horizontal lines (i.e. cornice and belt courses) and vertical lines (i.e. corner pilasters) define the building's architectural elements. The Appelquest Building, built by a small entrepreneur, is a distinctive, freestanding, commercial building, in near original form, which has seen continued commercial use since its construction.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 10/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 46, #8-8A

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; Biographical Record of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1903)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   ☒ none known ☐ highways ☐ vandalism ☐ developers ☐ other: 
   ☐ renewal ☐ private ☐ deterioration ☐ zoning ☐ explanation: 
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number:  Date:  1/90

Applequest Block
696-700 Main Street (formerly #698)
Middletown, CT 06457