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: Pompey's
   Historic: Simonson's Furniture Store
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 50-52 Rapallo Avenue
4. OWNER(S): Vincent & Kathleen Labbadia ______________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE
   Historic: Stores & Apartments
5. USE: Present: Restaurant & Apartments Interior accessible: X yes _ no
   A __________ Historic: __________ no
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes _ no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early modern commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1908
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard __ wood shingle ___ asbestos siding ___ X brick
   ___ fieldstone ___ concrete: type: __________
   ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone ___ cut stone: type: brownstone
   ___ aluminum siding ___ other: __________
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: ___ post and beam ___ balloon ___ X structural iron or steel
   ___ load bearing masonry ___ interior framing ___ other: __________
10. ROOF: type: ___ gable ___ flat ___ mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
    ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip ___ round ___ other: __________
    material: ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ slate ___ other: __________
    ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other: __________
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 ½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 71' x 40'
12. CONDITION: Structural: ___ excellent ___ fair ___ deteriorated
    Exterior: ___ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site _ moved, when:
    Alterations: no X yes, explain: Ground floor opened up into two-room bar and
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn ___ shed ___ garage ___ other landscape features or buildings: ________
    ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden ___
    ___ (18' x 20') ___
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land ___ woodland ___ residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    ___ commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ high building density
    ___
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Rapallo Avenue is a closely-packed
    street of older multi-family dwellings, small retail and wholesale enterprises, and a
    monument works. Building height is consistent at two or three stories with no setback
    for facades and entrances. Materials vary markedly; brick, wood, aluminum and asphalt
    siding, concrete and cinder block, brownstone. This "brick block of stores and ten-
    ments" is sited on the north side at the head of the street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Behind the restaurant, accessible only from Main Street, is a wooden carriage house/barn apparently pre-dating the brick building. In disrepair, it is used for storage.

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building shared in the commercial development in the Rapallo Avenue area at the turn of the twentieth century. Fifty years previously the land was the site of orchards and landscaped grounds surrounding a solitary dwelling, the Hackstaff Mansion.

This brick business block was built between 1906 and 1908. By then the Airline Railroad depot, the electric street railway, a hotel, several apartment houses, and a stoneyard were in operation in the area.

Abraham Simonson used the building for his furniture store for 35 years and partners, Max and Bessie Sukoff, sold the building in 1943 to Pompeo Labbadia. His family has run a restaurant, Pompey's, here (also for 35 years).

The battleship-gray-colored commercial building is typical of many Middletown business buildings. Twice as deep as it is wide, its only ornamentation consists of a stepped gable on the facade. The carriage shed in the rear is an anachronistic remainder of earlier times.

The Pompey's Restaurant building has been part of some striking changes on Rapallo Avenue. The residential structures remain, as do a few businesses, but the street is no longer the vibrant commercial area it once was.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 1/78
view: south
negative on file: Roll 13, #4A

COMPiled BY:
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; 1974 Tax Assessor's Map; Middletown City Directories; Consultation with current owner

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  ___highways  ___vandalism  ___developers  ___other:
___renewal  ___private  ___deterioration  ___zoning  ___explanation:
Simonson's Furniture Store
50-52 Rapallo Avenue, Middletown, CT 06457