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

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: VFW Building
   Historic: Stueck's Modern Tavern
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 64-70 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Veterans of Foreign Wars
   PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: VFW & Stores
   Historic: Tavern, restaurant & stores
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain ____________ shops no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1914
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _ x clapboard 
   _ wood shingle 
   _ board & batten 
   _ aluminum siding 
   _ other:
   _ asbestos siding 
   _ asphalt siding 
   _ stucco 
   _ concrete: type: 
   _ brick 
   _ fieldstone 
   _ cobblestone 
   _ cut stone: type: granite 
   _ x structural iron or steel (interior framing) 
   _ x post and beam 
   _ balloon 
   _ load bearing masonry 
   _ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _ wood frame: _ x post and beam balloon
   _ load bearing masonry 
   _ x structural iron or steel (interior framing)
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type: _ x flat 
    _ gambrel 
    _ shed 
    _ gable 
    _ mansard 
    _ monitor 
    _ sawtooth
    _ hip 
    _ round 
    _ other:
    _ x roll asphalt 
    _ tin 
    _ slate 
    _ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: _ x 3 
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 85' x 45'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _ x excellent 
    Exterior: _ x excellent 
    _ fair 
    _ other:
    _ x good 
    _ fair 
    _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _ x on original site 
    moved, when:
    Alterations: _ x no 
    _ x yes, explain: signs and store fronts added
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn 
    _ shed 
    _ carriage house 
    _ garage 
    _ other landscape features or buildings:
    _ shop 
    _ garden 
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ open land 
    _ woodland 
    _ residential 
    _ scattered buildings visible from site
    _ x commercial 
    _ industrial 
    _ rural 
    _ x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Although different in stylistic detail from commercial buildings to the west on Main Street, the VFW Building, connected by a walkway to Stueck's Block, continues the business function of the Main Street structures around the corner onto Washington Street. A vacant lot just east of the building, and the plain factory-like structures attached to its rear serve, by comparison, to highlight the Renaissance Revival detail on the VFW.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Long shingled hood stretching the length of the facade just under the cornice.
Wrought iron balconies on each of the nine top floor windows.

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Stueck family (who erected the VFW Building) became commercially active at the corner of Washington and Main Streets in 1880 when Jacob Stueck bought out the Hoffert Bakery there. 64-70 Washington Street was put upon the site of the razed Burnham Tavern in 1914. Provision was made to connect the Washington Street structure to Stueck's Block (1893) on Main Street with an upper level bridge over the passway between the buildings. Phillip Stueck, Jacob's son, ran "Stueck's Modern Tavern" on the upper levels, and rented out the first floor stores until 1939. After a time of relative inactivity during the war years, the building was sold to the VFW by a bank in 1946. The veterans have used the structure for meeting rooms and as a commercial block through the present time.

The facade is veneered in a bright red hard-surfaced brick. The nine-bay front features third-floor windows double the height of those below. Bold, notched brickwork against a field of stucco accents the arched heads of these windows, which provide light for a large open hall on the top floor. The over-all effect of the building's design is one of a richness of detail not found on other commercial buildings in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 39, #1-1A

COMPiled by:
name: R. Sherman date: 3/78
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address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown City Directories; Bailey Aero-View, 1915

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known

_ highways

_ vandalism

_ developers

_ other:

_ renewal

_ private

_ deterioration

_ zoning

_ explanation:
Stueck's Modern Tavern
64-70 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457