

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

39 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

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 PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Tavern and Apartments Historic: Undertaker and Apartments
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain public accomodation no

DESCRIPTION

Victorian commercial block

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: with classical details DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1872

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

- clapboard asbestos siding brick walls, foundation
- wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
- board & batten stucco cobblestone
- aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: _____
- other: pressed metal facade

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip round other _____
- 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: excellent good fair deteriorated
- Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
- Alterations: no 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:

- open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: One of a block of ten commercial buildings 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):

Possesses original metal facade

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: _____

Architect: _____
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

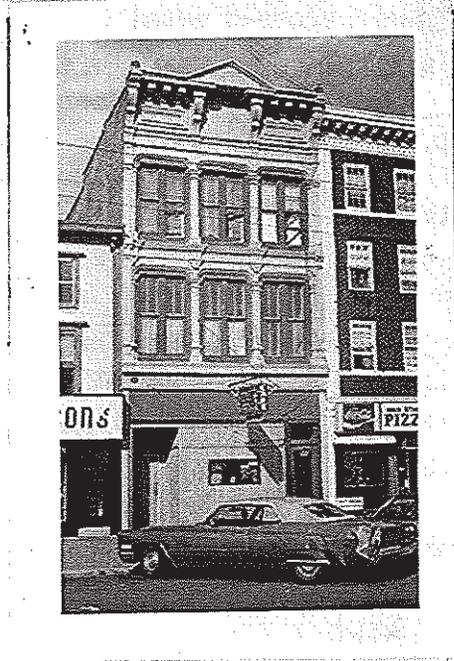
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 6/78 view: west
negative on file: Roll 26, #24-25A

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 deterioration zoning explanation: Deterioration of facade, and decline of area; however city plans for revitalization of area may reverse the process.

