

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 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: South Green Historic: Union Park
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Intersection of Main, Church and Pleasant Streets
- 4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Public Park Historic: Public Common
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain open space no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: _____ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: open space since c. 1700; landscaped c. 1874; monument 1874; Henry Clay Work Monument c. 1874
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>granite</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>statue: bronze</u>		<u>monument base</u>
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: monuments
- 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: _____ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 375'x200'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Enclosed by streets and sidewalks
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: shade trees
 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: The South Green occupies the broad intersection of Main, Church and Pleasant Streets in Middletown's south end. Surrounding it are Second Empire and Italianate style dwellings. The Mather-Douglas Mansion overlooks this picturesque area from a hill to the west of the Green.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The South Green has been an open common space since the early days of Middletown's settlement. Originally, Main Street ran from the North End to this point and then turned southwesterly continuing to "Zoar," following the path of the present Route 17. The broad intersection where the road jugged was a common area. Early Middletown churches were located here and the area was a meeting place for militia.

After the Civil War, the streets bordering the Green were developed into a high-style residential area rivalling nearby High Street. Local merchants, often related by marriage and/or business interests, built imposing houses in the Second Empire and Italianate styles.

By the 1870s, the common area was formally known as Union Park. In 1874 a monument commemorating the soldiers who lost their lives in the wars which Middletown responded to was dedicated. This monument not only observes soldiers who were killed in action but also the ones who died in military camps, of post-war injuries and since "muster out". Brass plaques depict the names of Middletown heroes, the most familiar being General J.K.F. Mansfield, Robert Hubbard, and Curtis Clark. The monument, which sits in the center of the

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79 view: A: to the sw B: west
negative on file: A: Roll 60, #29-29A B: Roll 60, #32-32A



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 2/79
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1825 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map site visit

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

A: Pleasant Street

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: A proposed

Department of Transportation project which will cut through the Green has been modified. The new plans will widen Pleasant Street and Church Street east of Broad Street, creating a cul-de-sac with parking.

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: 18 Date: 2/79

South Green
Middletown, Conn. 06457

#18

Green, is surrounded by four operable cannons of the Civil War. Another monument was placed in memory of the prominent Middletown composer Henry Clay Work. Work is best remembered for "Marching Through Georgia." He was born in Middletown on October 1, 1832.

The South Green has played a prominent role in Middletown since its founding. An early common, later the center of a high-style residential area, it continues to be the home of religious institutions and the site of numerous public events, as well as a pleasing open space for Middletown citizens.



B: Civil War Monument