

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 Eagles Hall;
Mather-Douglas-

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Santangelo House Historic: Mather-Douglas Mansion

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 11 South Main Street

4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown PUBLIC PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission of city no

DESCRIPTION Federal; Italianate

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: alterations DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1811-1813

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

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" 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>brownstone</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: pavillion and trim: wood		<u>foundation</u>
		<u>sills and lintels</u>

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

wood frame: post and beam balloon

load bearing masonry structural iron or steel

other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable ^s	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: <u>48'x42' (kitchen ell 23'x23', addition 18'x29')</u>

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: _____

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated

Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____

Alterations: no yes, explain: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: <u>Slate entrance</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<u>walk with large brownstone slab at curb; many</u>
			<u>large trees</u>

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input type="checkbox"/> high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The corner site on which this house sits is the 'V' shaped busy intersection of South Main and Church Streets. It commands a broad lawn which sweeps down towards the horseshoe shaped South Green. The area is characterized by a variety of nineteenth century styles with the exception of a small drive-in bank to the west of the mansion. A four story elderly housing unit is presently being erected to the southwest.

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

- Pavillion with Ionic columns
- Central hall with spiral staircase and curved doors in vestibule
- Marble fireplaces
- Italianate porch, south entrance
- W.&B. Douglas fire hydrant
- Stiles and Parker Press Co. sewer lid in north yard

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Mather-Douglas-Santangelo House has been a local landmark throughout Middletown's history. Its builder, Thomas Mather, Esq., an Old Lyme native and one time merchant in Albany, N.Y. arrived in Middletown in 1809. Mr. Mather's first wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Elijah Hubbard, one of Middletown's wealthiest merchants. Elizabeth died in 1812. Mather then married Sally Williams, the daughter of his business partner, Capt. Benjamin Williams. This wedding took place in 1813 and the couple removed to the grand Federal style mansion (recently erected). Mather resided there until his death in 1849.

Zebulon Baldwin, a local carpenter, was the next owner. Baldwin never occupied the house but leased it to the Middletown Female Seminary. It was at this time that the three story addition at the rear was constructed.

In 1855, Benjamin Douglas, partner in the W.&B. Douglas Pump Works, purchased the mansion. Douglas, a native of Northford, Conn., made a good sized fortune and an international reputation by inventing and manufacturing a succession of highly effective pumps. He was mayor from 1850 to 1856 and lieutenant governor in 1861 and 1862. He was a known abolitionist

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 39, #28



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Steve J. Roper, "Mather-Douglas-Santangelo House," GMPT report (unpublished 1973);
Scenes in Middlesex County (Chicago: 1892)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Proposed State

Department of Transportation plans to reroute traffic around South Green will cut within 20 feet of the house. The house is presently owned by the City of Middletown, who plan (see continuation sheet)

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: 18 Date: 6/78

Mather-Douglas Mansion
11 South Main Street, Middletown, Ct. 06457

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and was active in the Underground Railroad.

Douglas was probably responsible for the elaborate alterations. These include the two-story entranceway pavillion with severe Ionic columns, cupola, modillioned cornice, and balustrade. Douglas may have been the one to paint the brick walls and decorative trim contrasting colors. Heavy Italianate moldings and door frames and marble fireplaces were installed in the interior. This remodeling effectively transformed the building stylistically, giving it a substantial and ornate appearance.

Benjamin Douglas was not the only mayor to reside in the brick mansion. Leo B. Santangelo who owned and occupied the house from 1920-1944, was elected mayor in 1934 and served until 1936.

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles acquired the property in 1947. They used the premises as a social hall until 1974 when the City of Middletown purchased it. In a series of twentieth century remodellings, the balustrade and cupola were removed and the interior was modernized. Paneling and partitions were erected, floors tiled, ceilings lowered, and door hardware replaced.

Nevertheless, the Mather-Douglas House maintains its imposing presence on the South Green, and many of the interior features which made this building one of the most outstanding in the community.

In recent years the Mather-Douglas House, owned by the City of Middletown, has stood vacant and suffered from neglect. Present city plans call for adaptive use and restoration.

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to market it for an adaptive use/restoration project. In the meantime it remains vacant and neglected.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Mather-Douglas Mansion
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