

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 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: St. Sebastian's School Historic: Johnson School
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 51 Green Street
- 4. OWNER(S): The Church of St. Sebastian PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Parochial school Historic: Public school
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain during school hours no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late 19th Century (Picturesque details) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1872
(addition: 1931)
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: <u>poured</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>brownstone</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<u>foundation of addition,</u>	<u>foundation</u>
	<u>with granite watertable</u>	

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

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

10. ROOF: type:

- gable flat addition 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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 56'x33' (addition 92'x36')

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Large front addition; windows altered, original section

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: small
- carriage house shop garden schoolyard to west

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Green Street is a high density residential neighborhood characterized by one or two family homes built in the nineteenth century on a steeply sloping street. Although constructed of brick, the key features of the original section of this building echo the rhythm and style of the wooden residences surrounding it.

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

Stylized wooden cross-pieces in the gables of the 1872 section.
Facade of 1931 addition distinguished by two sculptured stone wall-plaques depicting a schoolboy and a schoolgirl over the boys' and girls' entrances.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

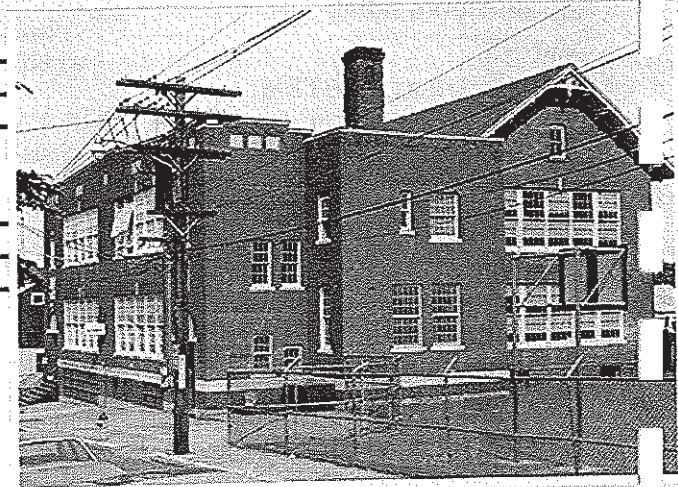
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This site has been used for school purposes since the early 1800's. In 1872 the Middletown City School District erected the present 2½-story brick school house here in a T-shaped plan, (replacing an earlier brick school). This new building displayed elements popular to its era; verticality and picturesque wooden decorative detail in the eaves. Named the Johnson School for Edwin F. Johnson, once mayor and Board of Education president, the structure served the city school system for eighty years. In 1931 need for more classroom space prompted the addition of a two-story modern expansion across the front. This long four-classroom block fills in the area previously occupied by the "leg" of the T-shaped plan, and dominates the view from the street. Since the early 1900's Green Street has been an Italian neighborhood. 1952 saw the sale of the property by the city to the Church of St. Sebastian, which has continued the traditional use of the site and structure. Thus, a congenial adaptation of a public building to neighborhood ethnic and religious interests has been maintained.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 25A, #15

COMPILED BY:

name: R.N. Sherman, date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; 1852 Barnum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; 1877 Bailey Perspective View; Middlesex Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: E.F. Bigelow, 1896); Annual Report, Middletown City School District (1931)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Johnson School
51 Green Street, Middletown, CT 06457

