

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 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: _____ Historic: Mission Chapel
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 9-11 Liberty Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Sebastian G. Mazzotta PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Double Residence Historic: Methodist Chapel
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1853
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick raised foundation
<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 type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame; post and beam balloon (interior alterations)
 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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 37'x53'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
Exterior: _____ excellent good _____ fair _____ deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Interior now apartments; original pillars on east
Alterations: no yes, explain: end removed, east entrance closed
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 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: This large Greek Revival structure, once the Methodist Mission Chapel, now faces north on Liberty Street just off Main Street in Middletown's mixed-use North End. It opens directly onto the sidewalk. The building sits on a high brick foundation, and is large in scale and mass. It overlooks the entrance to the cocktail lounge of the Arriwani Hotel across Liberty Street.

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

Pedimented, flush-boarded gables
Elegant, high side entrance with side lights and pilasters

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Land at Main and Liberty Streets was bought by Trustees of the Methodist Church from John Bacon in 1853 in order to "erect...a place of worship for members of the Methodist Episcopal Church." Also in 1853, the Rev. E.L. Janes, Methodist minister, started a drive to raise \$5,000, some of which went toward building the "Mission Chapel." The building was sold in 1871 to Mrs. Susan E. Converse, the Trustees approving since "in its present condition, it will soon by need of repairs become a source of great expense." The structure was used as a home by the Converse family until the 1930s when the property was sold to the Sun Oil Company, who erected a Sunoco station in the "front yard" of the former chapel. Sebastian Mazotta, operator of the station, bought the chapel building in 1946, and uses it for rental apartments.

This Greek Revival structure originally had its entrance toward Main Street behind a two-story portico (removed in the 1930s). It echoes the 1839 Universalist Church, and the 1842 Baptist Church, both on the southern part of Main Street. Remaining vestiges of original use are the building's commodious scale, pedimented gables, high foundation walls (parish brick), and the refined side entranceway on Liberty Street. Despite surrounding decline, the Mission Chapel is a strong reminder of 19th century Main Street Church architecture.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 5/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 17, #26A



COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; Middletown Land Records; Jesse Alsop, "Methodist Episcopal Mission Chapel," Old Houses of Connecticut Series (FERA, 1935); History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884)

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

Mission Chapel
9-11 Liberty Street, Middletown, CT 06457

