

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
200 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 Congregational Church Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 9 Pleasant Street
- 4. OWNER(S): South Congregational Church PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Church Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain house of worship no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1868
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: _____ foundation and trim

- 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: sanctuary 61'x90'

- 1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 & spire APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: annex 33'x123'

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

- 3. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Original entranceway enclosed

- 4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: annex attached to rear of Church
 carriage house shop garden

- 5. 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 structure overlooks the South Green from the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. Across the street to the east is the Georgian Revival YMCA Building and to the west is a large Second Empire residence. This building, with its looming spire, marks the southern terminus of Middletown's most important thoroughfare.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: Caleb Johnson & D.N. Arnold

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1747 a Separatist or Strict Congregationalist Church was organized in Wethersfield by a group of some twenty or thirty worshippers from various towns, one of which was Middletown. They ordained Reverend Ebenezer Frothingham as their minister in October of that year. In 1754, Rev. Frothingham took up residence in Middletown and the young church, now permanently situated, enjoyed a vigorous growth.

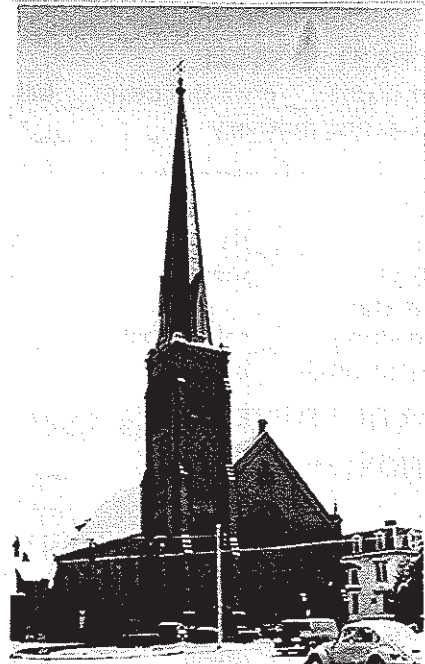
Services were held in Rev. Frothingham's home until 1774 when the first church building was erected on South Main Street. In 1830, a church was constructed on the site where the present edifice stands. It was during the latter part of Rev. John L. Dudley's pastorate that plans were laid and finally carried out successfully to erect the present church. The Rev. John P. Taylor was the first minister to serve the church in the present house of worship. The building, erected for a cost of \$75,000.00, was dedicated on September 24, 1868.

The South Congregational Church is one of a number of Gothic Revival, brick and brownstone churches built in Middletown after the Civil War. Like most of the others, this church displays a steeply pitched slate roof, and a tower with a tall spire. The buttressed walls

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Barbara Ann Cleary
date: 8/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 9, #10A-11



COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 7/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: "A Brief History of the South Congregational Church" (Middletown: 1947)

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: 18 Date: 7/78

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have lancet windows. The facade, with its elaborate circular stained glass windows depicting religious motifs, is visible for almost the length of Main Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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9 Pleasant Street, Middletown, CT 06457

