

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

- BUILDING NAME: Common: St. John's Parochial School Historic: same
- TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 5 St. John's Square
- OWNER(S): Diocese of Norwich PUBLIC PRIVATE
- USE: Present: Educational Historic: same
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain during school hours no

DESCRIPTION

- STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Institutional DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1887
- 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 foundation</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		
- STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame; post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel interior framing
 other: _____
- 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: _____
- NUMBER OF STORIES: 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 74'x49'
- CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Small front belfry removed
- RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed converted garage other landscape features or buildings: Schoolyard, rear, connected to church by brownstone arch
 carriage house shop outhouses garden
- SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density
- INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: St. John's Parochial School is the westernmost of four buildings devoted to ecclesiastical purposes facing St. John's Square. The complex forms a capstone for the north end of Main Street that is distinctively separate in form and function from nearby commercial and industrial structures.

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

- Round-arched entrance porch
- Carved brownstone lintels over all windows
- Gable entranceway with round arch leads to cemetery and links church to school building

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Soon after its beginning in 1843 St. John's Church established a parochial school. For some years the school was conducted by lay teachers. From 1866 to 1872 the school was part of the public school system of Middletown. In May of 1872 seven nuns from the Sisters of Mercy order in Ireland arrived to re-establish religious control of the school. By 1896 some 500 pupils were being taught there. St. John's School continues strong in the last quarter of the twentieth century, despite a nation wide decline in parochial education.

The current school building was erected in 1887 and blessed in 1888. It is a sturdy rectangular 3½-story structure built of red brick with a cut brownstone foundation and slate roof. A one-story arched entrance porch dignifies the facade. A small front "schoolhouse" belfry has been replaced by a raised central gable and cross. This change, and the installation of interior wiring and plumbing around 1900, are virtually the only alterations.

This school building completes the basic complex of St. John's Church properties. It constitutes an essential component of the complex, both in siting, since it fills in the block on the west, and in function, serving as the educational wing of St. John's mission to the community.

PHOTOGRAPH

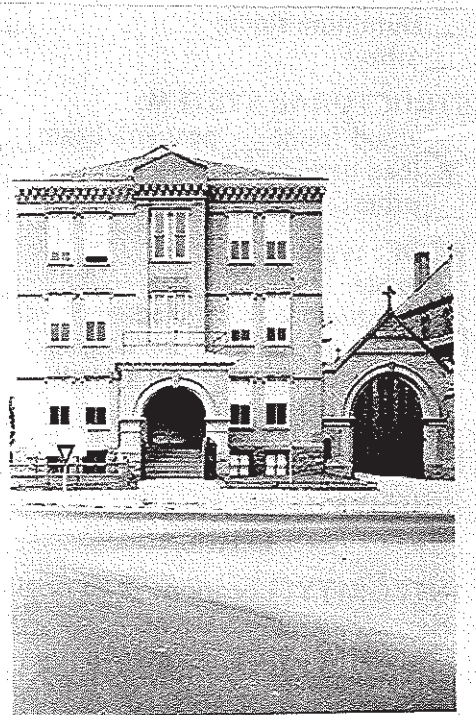
photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 10/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 43, #3

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: _____
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19. SOURCES: H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896); History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884); Edward J. McKenna, "Centennial Booklet and Program Exercises" (Middletown: 1943); See also "St. John's Church," GMPT Survey Report, 1978

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:



21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

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