

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

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Indian Hill Cemetery Chapel Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 383 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Indian Hill Cemetery Association PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Funeral Chapel Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain during services no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1867
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: _____ walls and foundation
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: _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50'x20'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Slate shingles replaced by asphalt
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: surrounded
 carriage house shop garden by paths and cemetery grounds
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural building density medium

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Indian Hill Cemetery Chapel is sited on a hillside in the midst of Indian Hill Cemetery, which occupies high ground west of the Wesleyan University campus. The cemetery is bordered by well-traveled Washington Street (Route 66) to the north. The site offers a splended view of the hills of Meriden to the west.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

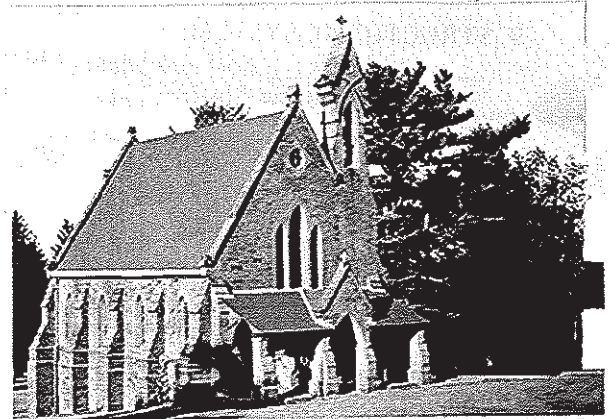
18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Indian Hill Cemetery Association was organized June 11, 1850 under a general act of the Connecticut Legislature passed in 1841. About 40 acres on Wunne Wah Jet, or Indian Hill were purchased by the company. Samuel Russell was the first president of the association. The cornerstone of the cemetery was laid in 1850 by Dr. Horatio Stone, who designed the wandering roads and paths, and gave them local Indian names. The chapel was erected in 1867 by Mrs. Samuel Russell in memory of her deceased husband, and is used for burial services.

The exquisite Gothic Revival chapel has a wealth of styling detail. The bush-hammered brownstone walls and foundations support a steeply-raked roof. Brownstone buttresses with slate shingles on the weatherings reinforce the walls. Each side features sets of triple Gothic windows of stained glass in recessed arches. The facade has an unusual shed roof sheltering the entryway. This roof is set on brownstone posts that match the buttresses. On the basement level the walls are pierced with narrow slits, one of which serves as an inlet for electricity and a fuel line. The east end wall has a massive bronze door at ground level (under the chancel). At the southwest corner rises an open belfry decorated

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 42, #27-27A



COMPILED BY:

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

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; "Indian Hill Cemetery Association Laws and Regulations," Charles M. Pelton, printer, 1873

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

Form number: 18 Date: 9/78

Indian Hill Cemetery Chapel
Vine & Washington Streets, Middletown, Ct. 06457

#18

with carved brownstone crux sticks and a Celtic cross over a Gothic arch. The entire chapel is executed with close attention to design, symmetry, and detail.