

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 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. John's Rectory Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 19 St. John's Square
- 4. OWNER(S): St. John's Church PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Rectory Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ by appointment no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1864
- 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

- 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: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 66'x43'

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

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
 Alterations: no yes, explain: Front porch extended; interior ceilings of pressed metal

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: Magnificent
 carriage house shop garden copper beeches in front

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: St. John's Rectory sits a short distance to the east of the church across St. John's Street. Like the other nearby auxiliary church buildings in the complex, it has a slate roof, brownstone trim, walls of brick, and faces St. John's Square. The structure is somewhat smaller than the others in mass and scale, and is distinguished by its mansard roof?

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

Three huge copper beech trees screen the rectory from the roadway in front

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This impressive clerical residence was built in 1864, the same year that the tower and spire on the main church building went up. Thus it predates the convent and the parochial school, and was part of St. John's rapidly expanding service to the Catholics of the area at that time. The building functions as the home of the resident pastor and his associates, and as an administrative office for the parish. A drawing room in the front of the house, remodeled in "mission oak" style, is used for committee meetings and receptions.

The structure displays many elements of Second Empire style that are echoed in the homes of prominent men of the period. A slated mansard roof with gabled dormer windows surmounts a bold cornice. All windows are topped by carved brownstone lintels. An Italianate-style porch, added later, stretches across the first floor facade.

The rectory is a sturdy building, decorated in an elegant, yet restrained, manner. The structure reflects the strong leadership that St. John's clergy held as many Irish Catholics took up work and residence in this area. Situated at the heart of the religious complex, the home of the leaders of St. John's Parish, it is a key part of the church properties on St. John's Square.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79 view: south
negative on file: Roll 59, #19



COMPILED BY:

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address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Sou-
venir Edition (Middletown: 1896); J.H. Beers, His-
tory of Middlesex County (Chicago: 1884); Edward J.
McKenna, Centennial Booklet (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: _____