



## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,  
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

\* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Eckersley-Hall Senior Center

Building Name (Historic) Old Eckersley Hall School and San Sebastian School

Street Address or Location 61 Durrant Terrace

Town/City Middletown Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Middlesex

Owner(s) City of Middletown  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Senior Center and Government Offices

Historic Use: School

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No

Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Style of building Academic Classicism Date of Construction 1930s

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Trim</u> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |                                       |  |

#### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 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 SuperCrete Shingle

Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions 55 feet x 75 feet

Structural Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Exterior Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Location Integrity:  On original site  Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations?  Yes  No If yes, explain: Cupula Sided over

**FOR OFFICE USE:** Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_

District:  S  NR If NR, Specify:  Actual  Potential

**PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)**

**Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

- Barn     Shed     Garage     Carriage House     Shop     Garden  
 Other landscape features or buildings: Modular classrooms, currently used for a Veteran's Museum

**Surrounding Environment:**

- Open land     Woodland     Residential     Commercial     Industrial     Rural  
 High building density     Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This two-story structure sits centrally on the block bound by Durant Street to the south, Durant Terrace to the east, Lake Street to the north, and Birdsey Avenue to the west. The main entrance to the build faces west. The property is surrounded by landscaped lawn to the east and west. The school is surrounded by a residential single-family dwellings.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

See additional information.

Architect \_\_\_\_\_ Builder Linus Baldwin

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See additional information.

• Sources:

Middletown, Connecticut: Historic and Architectural Resources: Volume I, page 14, 2005.  
 Middletown Evening Press Articles- 08/09/1918, 08/10/1918, 07/18/1921, 03/05/1928, 03/26/1928, 06/15/1928, 06/20/1928, 03/29/1929, 03/28/1929  
 Middletown Eye Article: <http://middletowneyenews.blogspot.com/2010/11/mccutcheon-wpa-mural-rediscovered-at-st.html>

Photographer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

View \_\_\_\_\_ Negative on File \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

• Subsequent field evaluations:

**Threats to the building or site:**

- None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private  
 Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

## Interrelationship of building and surroundings

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### Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior)

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Exterior- The building has a cupola with copper roof, which is side over with aluminum siding. Pedimented main entrance on east facade with doorway at mid-level, internal stairs lead to main floor and basement. Pedimented north and south entrances.

Interior- Works Public Administration commissioned mural painted by Albert B. McCutcheon in 1935. McCutcheon studied at Yale School of Fine Arts and in 1923 studied art at the Julien Academy in Paris. McCutcheon also painted another WPA commissioned mural at the Woodrow Wilson High School on Hunting Hill Avenue in Middletown, CT.

A fireplace on the second floor southeast corner of the building has painted tiles depicting Motehr Goose nursery rhymes. The 38, 6"x6", clay tiles, were produced in the 1920s by the American Encaustic Tiling Company, Zanesville, Ohio.

Original dark stained woodwork, chalkboards and built in cupboards/bookcases still exist.

### Historical or Architectural importance

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The site was been in used was used as school from 1873-2010, as part of the Durant School District and then as a parochial school for San Sebastian parish. The current building, constructed in 1929 replaced a previous school building that was partially destroyed by a fire in 1928. The City sold to the Church of San Sebastian, part of the Norwich Diocese, in 1987 and was used as a parochial school for grades Kindergarden to 8th, until 2010. In 2011, the City of Middletown purchased the property for the purpose of a Senior Center and government offices.

The current building was known as Durant School, until the 1930s when it was renamed Eckersley-Hall School in honor of two Middletown soldiers that died in World War I, Private Herbert Eckersley, an orderly for Major George J. Rau and died during the Aisne-Marne Offensive at Chateau Thiery on July 25th 1918, and Private Fred L. Hall, died on April 20, 1918 at Seicheprey France.

The 1929 construction was built by Linus Baldwin for a cost of \$55,000.