STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
3 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Methodist Church
   Historic: The First Methodist Church
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE:                    COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 24 Church Street
4. OWNER(S): First United Methodist Church
   PUBLIC/Private: X yes, no
   Historic: same
5. USE: Present: Church
   Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes, no
   Interior accessible: X yes, no
   House of worship: no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Gothic Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1931
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _X_ clapboard
   _X_ wood shingle
   _X_ board & batten
   _X_ aluminum siding
   _X_ concrete: type: poured
   _X_ brick
   _X_ fieldstone
   _X_ cobblestone
   _X_ cut stone: type: granite
   _X_ structural iron or steel

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _X_ wood frame: _X_ post and beam
   _X_ balloon
   _X_ load bearing masonry
   _X_ structural iron or steel

10. ROOF: type:
    _X_ gable
    _X_ gambrel
    _X_ shed
    _X_ flat
    _X_ mansard
    _X_ hip
    _X_ round
    _X_ sawtooth
    _X_ other
    _X_ material:
    _X_ wood shingle
    _X_ roll asphalt
    _X_ asphalt shingle
    _X_ built up
    _X_ tin
    _X_ tile
    _X_ slate
    _X_ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: _X_ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 45'x90' (wing, 70'x25')
12. CONDITION: Structural: _X_ excellent
    Exterior: _X_ excellent
    _X_ good
    _X_ fair
    _X_ deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: _X_ on original site
    Moved, when:
    Alterations: _X_ yes, explain: Tower removed

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _X_ barn
    _X_ shed
    _X_ carriage house
    _X_ garage
    _X_ garden
    _X_ other landscape features or buildings: Annex and
    _X_ parsonage

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building is one of a number of institutional buildings in the historic South Green district. On the north side of the Green, the church is part of a "U" shaped complex of three structures. Affixed to its east wall is the Tudor-style church annex. Attached to the south wall of the annex is a breezeway connecting to the Second Empire style parsonage. Between the buildings is a small, well-kept, courtyard facing the Green.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: ___________________________ Builder: ___________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Methodist Society was first founded in Middletown in 1791. The first meeting house, erected in 1804 on the present site, was replaced in 1828. This replacement building was destroyed by fire in 1885. In 1930 the third edifice, erected in 1886, was also destroyed by fire. The present church (the fourth to be erected on the same property), was completed in 1931.

Although the granite construction of the Methodist Church is unusual in Middletown, the use of the Gothic style is common. The gabled nave is buttressed and the corners are capped with pinnacles. The chief features of the facade are the compound-arched entranceway with double doors, and the tall pointed arched stained glass window.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 11/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 51, #2-2A

COMPiled BY:
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19. SOURCES: "The First Methodist Church: Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth Church Building" (Middletown, 1951)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   X none known  __-highways  ____vandalism  ____developers  ____other: ___________________________
   ____renewal  ____private  ____deterioration  ____zoning  ____explanation: ___________________________
The First Methodist Church
24 Old Church Street (formerly Church St.)
Middletown, CT 06457