STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 (203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Adath Israel Synagogue
   Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 48 Church Street
4. OWNER(S): Congregation of Adath Israel
   PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Synagogue
   Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain: house of worship: no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Moorish Temple
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - concrete: type: poured
   - and pebbled foundation
   - and trim
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone: type:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: x post and beam
   - load bearing masonry
   - structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - gambrel
    - mansard
    - flat
    - shed
    - hip
    - round
    - monitor
    - sawtooth
    - x other: flat with dome
    - material:
    - wood shingle
    - roll asphalt
    - tin
    - slate
    - asphalt shingle
    - built up
    - tile
    - other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1½ with dome
    APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 90' x 55'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    - x excellent
    - good
    - fair
    - deteriorated
    Exterior:
    - x excellent
    - good
    - fair
    - deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site: moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Rear Brick additions
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - garage
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    - commercial
    - industrial
    - rural
    - x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Adath Israel Synagogue sits on the northwest corner of Broad and Church Streets, on the South Green. The area has a number of churches and late 19th century high style residences. Across the street to the south is the Federal style Mather Douglas Mansion. The Gothic Revival Methodist Church is across a parking lot to the east.
SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Construction of Middletown's first Synagogue was completed in 1929. Previously, services for the congregation had been held across the river in Portland. Present at the dedication were representatives from other Middletown churches and many of the City's leading officials.

The large cubical mass of the Synagogue is relieved by projecting piers on the facade. Decorative patterns in brick and concrete are primarily "Moorish" in character and are laid in typically Art Deco low relief. The primary decorative element of the facade is the tall triple-arched window with stained glass. The dome, which shows above the roof, creates a domed ceiling in the temple on the second floor. The temple itself is a simple and ample space, with its high, domed ceiling decorated.

The Adath Israel Synagogue is distinctive in Middletown for its unusual decoration and the strong character of its architecture. Moreover, it marks the northwest terminus of the institutional buildings on the South Green.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 21, #13

COMPILED BY:
name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Press, 1929; consultation with Rabbi Nathan Levinson, 8/78

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers x other: Adath Israel
renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Adath Israel

Synagogue's plans for future expansion include a large addition to the facade of the building.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Adath Israel Synagogue
48 Old Church Street (formerly Church St.)
Middletown, CT 06457