STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
J South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________________________ Historic: Mission Chapel

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ____________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 9-11 Liberty Street

4. OWNER(S): Sebastian G. Mazzotta ____________________________ PUBLIC X PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Double Residence ____________________________ Historic: Methodist Chapel

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain with tenant's permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival ____________________________ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1853

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- clapboard
- wood shingle
- board & batten
- aluminum siding
- other:
- asbestos siding
- asphalt siding
- stucco
- concrete: type:
- brick raised foundation
- fieldstone
- cobblestone
- cut stone: type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
- x wood frame: x post and beam x balloon (interior alterations)
- load bearing masonry
- structural iron or steel
- other:

10. ROOF: type:
- x gable
- hipped
- shed
- hip
- round
- other
- material:
- wood shingle
- roll asphalt
- x asphalt shingle
- built up
- tin
- slate
- tile
- other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 37' x 53'

12. CONDITION: Structural: ____________________________ excellent x good fair deteriorated
Exterior: ____________________________ excellent x good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site
Alterations: no x yes, explain: Interior now apartments; original pillars on east end removed; east entrance closed

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

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

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large Greek Revival structure, once the Methodist Mission Chapel, now faces north on Liberty Street just off Main Street in Middletown's mixed-use North End. It opens directly onto the sidewalk. The building sits on a high brick foundation, and is large in scale and mass. It overlooks the entrance to the cocktail lounge of the Arriwani Hotel across Liberty Street.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Pedimented, flush-boarded gables
Elegant, high side entrance with side lights and pilasters

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Land at Main and Liberty Streets was bought by Trustees of the Methodist Church from John Bacon in 1853 in order to "erect...a place of worship for members of the Methodist Episcopal Church." Also in 1853, the Rev. E.L. Jansen, Methodist minister, started a drive to raise $5,000, some of which went toward building the "Mission Chapel." The building was sold in 1871 to Mrs. Susan E. Converse, the Trustees approving since "in its present condition, it will soon by need of repairs become a source of great expense." The structure was used as a home by the Converse family until the 1930s when the property was sold to the Sun Oil Company, who erected a Sunoco station in the "front yard" of the former chapel. Sebastian Mazotta, operator of the station, bought the chapel building in 1946, and uses it for rental apartments.

This Greek Revival structure originally had its entrance toward Main Street behind a two-story portico (removed in the 1930s). It echoes the 1839 Universalist Church, and the 1842 Baptist Church, both on the southern part of Main Street. Remaining vestiges of original use are the building's commodious scale, pedimented gables, high foundation walls (parish brick), and the refined side entrance way on Liberty Street. Despite surrounding decline, the Mission Chapel is a strong reminder of 19th century Main Street Church architecture.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 5/78  view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 17, #26A

COMPILED BY:

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


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known  highways  ___ vandalism  ___ developers  __ other: 
renewal  private  ___ deterioration  ___ zoning  __ explanation: ____________
Mission Chapel
9-11 Liberty Street, Middletown, CT 06457