STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CT NECTICUT 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: Main Street Fire House Historic: Central Fire Station
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 533 Main Street
4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown Historic: X PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Fire Station Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain with permission of commanding officer

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1899
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   __ clapboard __ asbestos siding X brick
   __ wood shingle __ asphalt siding __ fieldstone
   __ board & batten __ stucco __ cobblestone
   __ aluminum siding __ concrete: type: brownstone
   __ other: __ foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame: post and beam balloon
   X load bearing masonry X structural iron or steel interior framing
   X other: some wood interior framing
10. ROOF: type:
    ___ gable ___ flat X mansard ___ monitor ___ sawtooth
    ___ gambrel ___ shed ___ hip with dormers and domes ___ other:
    material:
    ___ wood shingle ___ roll asphalt ___ tin ___ x slate
    ___ asphalt shingle ___ built up ___ tile ___ other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 40'x85' (west addition 28'x27')
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: belfry, balustrade, finials on domes, flagpole removed; small rear addition
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage X other landscape features or buildings: brick stable
    ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden in rear (probably earlier)
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    ___ open land ___ woodland ___ residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
    X commercial ___ industrial ___ rural ___ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This building is situated in the North End on the west side of Main Street. It is flanked by a brick supermarket to the south and a large professional building to the north. There is a driveway on either side.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Old W.&B. Douglas pump in basement formerly used for testing hose pressure capacity

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: William Mylchreest

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This fire station was built in 1899, the era of horse drawn fire coaches, and has been continuously used as a fire station since then. It was designed in the Renaissance Revival style with a composition of classical elements such as pilasters, arched windows and swaggy. The facade is "Pompeian" brick accented with brownstone belt courses, keystones and window sills. The hipped roof contains four domes, and a hodsdrying tower is incorporated into the northwest corner. This is one of the most distinctive buildings in the north end of town. Despite modern encroachment this building remains a dominant element on the street. The fire department is planning to remodel two of the second floor rooms into a museum to publically display a variety of early fire fighting apparatus, early emblems and other memorabilia.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 8/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 30, #2

COMPILLED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Marino Postal Card Collection, GMFT

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   X: none known  _ : highways  __: vandalism  ____: developers  __: other: __________________________
   _ : renewal    _ : private  ___: deterioration ___: zoning  ___: explanation: __________________________
Central Fire Station
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