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: South Green Historic: Union Park
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ____________________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Intersection of Main, Church and Pleasant Streets
4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown Historic: ____________________ x PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Public Park Historic: __________________________Public Common
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
Interior accessible: x yes, explain open space no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: ____________________________
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard __asbestos siding
   _wood shingle __asphalt siding
   _board & batten __stucco
   _aluminum siding __concrete: type:
   x other: statue: bronze
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame: __post and beam __balloon
   x load bearing masonry monuments __structural iron or steel
   __other:
10. ROOF: type:
    _gable __flat __mansard __monitor __sawtooth
    _gambrel __shed __hip __round __other
    __material:
    _wood shingle __roll asphalt __tin __slate __other:
    _asphalt shingle __built up __tile __other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: ____________________________ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 375'x200'
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: Enclosed by streets and sidewalks
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn __shed __garage __x other landscape features or buildings: shade trees
    _carriage house __shop __garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    __open land __woodland __residential __scattered buildings visible from site
    __commercial __industrial __rural __high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The South Green occupies the broad
intersection of Main, Church and Pleasant Streets in Middletown's south end. Surrounding
it are Second Empire and Italianate style dwellings. The Mather-Douglas Mansion over-
looks this picturesque area from a hill to the west of the Green.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ___________________________ Builder: ___________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The South Green has been an open common space since the early days of Middletown's settlement. Originally, Main Street ran from the North End to this point and then turned southwesterly continuing to "Zoar," following the path of the present Route 17. The broad intersection where the road jutted was a common area. Early Middletown churches were located here and the area was a meeting place for militia.

After the Civil War, the streets bordering the Green were developed into a high-style residential area rivalling nearby High Street. Local merchants, often related by marriage and/or business interests, built imposing houses in the Second Empire and Italianate styles.

By the 1870s, the common area was formally known as Union Park. In 1874 a monument commemorating the soldiers who lost their lives in the wars which Middletown responded to was dedicated. This monument not only observes soldiers who were killed in action but also the ones who died in military camps, of post-war injuries and since "muster out". Brass plaques depict the names of Middletown heroes, the most familiar being General J.K.F. Mansfield, Robert Hubbard, and Curtis Clark. The monument, which sits in the center of the (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79  view: A: to the sw  B: west
negative on file: A: Roll 60, #29-29A B: Roll 60, #32-32A

COMPILED BY:
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19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1825 Earmum Map; 1851 Clark Map; 1877 Bailey Map site visit

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

____________________ none known  __________ highways  __________ vandalism  __________ developers  __________ other: ___________________________________________

____________________ renewal  __________ private  __________ deterioration  __________ zoning  __________

X explanation: A proposed

Department of Transportation project which will cut through the Green has been modified. The new plans will widen Pleasant Street and Church Street east of Broad Street, creating a cul-de-sac with parking.
Green is surrounded by four operable cannons of the Civil War. Another monument was placed in memory of the prominent Middletown composer Henry Clay Work. Work is best remembered for "Marching Through Georgia." He was born in Middletown on October 1, 1832.

The South Green has played a prominent role in Middletown since its founding. An early common, later the center of a high-style residential area, it continues to be the home of religious institutions and the site of numerous public events, as well as a pleasing open space for Middletown citizens.