STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Pine Street Gospel Chapel Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 219 Pine Street
4. OWNER(S): Pine Street Gospel Chapel Corporation PUBLIC / PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Chapel Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with trustees' permission no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early 20th C. Vernacular Chapel DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1911 to 1914
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard _asbestos siding _brick
   _wood shingle _asphalt siding _fieldstone
   _board & batten _stucco _cobblestone
   _aluminum siding _concrete: type: rusticated cut stone: type: brownstone
   _other: concrete block foundation window sills
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame: post and beam _balloon
   _load bearing masonry _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
      _asphalt shingle built up _tile _other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 15'x40'
12. CONDITION: Structural:
    _excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
    Exterior:
    _excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: yes, explain:
    _on original site _moved, when:
    Alterations: yes, explain:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn _shed _garage _other landscape features or buildings: small yard
    _carriage house _shop _garden _around building; low yew trees in front
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _open land _woodland _residential _scattered buildings visible from site
    _commercial _industrial _rural _high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This small builder-decorated chapel is placed close to its neighbors, on a small plot facing east on Pine Street, in a residential area west of the Wesleyan University campus. It is set back about fifteen feet from the sidewalk to range with three brick developer houses to the south, which are similar in scale, siting, and in use of modest masonry decoration.
NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
- Recessed, denticulated brick course on facade at top of first story
- Even belt courses indented in brick walls: symmetrically placed
- Low brick on corners simulating quoins
- Low brick in chevron pattern over all windows
- Stained glass triangular transom over all windows

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HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Pine Street Gospel Chapel was founded by Rev. H. Reimers, a former Methodist minister, in 1911. For many years it was an independent, non-denominational church group, evangelical in orientation. In 1977 it became affiliated with the Seventh Day Baptist Church, but is still governed by the local board of trustees. The church was erected over a three-year period by the men of the congregation. Among the builders were Clarence Baldwin and Robert Lyman, whose son Howard worked on the church as a youth, and still serves on the board of trustees.

The building is a compact 1½-story gable-roofed brick structure with a square tower at the east corner. A number of unique styling details combine in eclectic fashion to create a Gothic-Romanesque appearance. On the gable peak of the facade is a 6-pane stained glass window set in diamond position. This window, in combination with triangular stained glass transoms over the other facade windows, gives a Gothic appearance to the fenestration. The tower has twin round-arched belfry louveres, and a Roman-arched front doorway which leads into a recessed vestibule. This modest chapel, with its dualistic embellishment, is a vigorous expression of vernacular church architecture.

GRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
8/78  view: east

LED BY:
Roger Sherman  date: 9/78
Greater Middletown Preservation Trustess: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

RESOURCES:
Middletown Tax Records; Consultation with Howard Lyman, trustee, and one of the original builders, 9/13/78; Middletown Press, 9/9/50

SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Other:

explanation: