STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: South Congregational Church Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 9 Pleasant Street
4. OWNER(S): South Congregational Church PUBLICPRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Church Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain no house of worship

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Revival
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
clampboard asbestos siding brick
wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
board & batten stucco cobblestone
aluminum siding concrete type: brownstone
other: foundation and trim

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
wood frame: post and beam balloon
load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
other:

0. ROOF: type:
gable flat sawtooth
x gambrel shed
x mansard round
material:
wood shingle roll asphalt x slate
asphalt shingle built up tile other:
sanctuary 61' x 90'

1. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 & spire APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: annex 33' x 123'

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

3. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no x yes, explain: Original entranceway enclosed

4. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
barn shed other landscape features or buildings: annex attached
 carriage house shop to rear of Church
garden

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

6. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large structure overlooks the South Green from the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. Across the street to the east is the Georgian Revival YMCA Building and to the west is a large Second Empire residence. This building, with its looming spire, marks the southern terminus of Middletown's most important thoroughfare.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: 
Builder: Caleb Johnson & D.N. Arnold

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1747 a Separatist or Strict Congregationalist Church was organized in Wethersfield by a group of some twenty or thirty worshippers from various towns, one of which was Middletown. They ordained Reverend Ebenezer Frothingham as their minister in October of that year. In 1754, Rev. Frothingham took up residence in Middletown and the young church, now permanently situated, enjoyed a vigorous growth.

Services were held in Rev. Frothingham's home until 1774 when the first church building was erected on South Main Street. In 1830, a church was constructed on the site where the present edifice stands. It was during the latter part of Rev. John L. Dudley's pastorate that plans were laid and finally carried out successfully to erect the present church. The Rev. John P. Taylor was the first minister to serve the church in the present house of worship. The building, erected for a cost of $75,000.00, was dedicated on September 24, 1868.

The South Congregational Church is one of a number of Gothic Revival, brick and brownstone churches built in Middletown after the Civil War. Like most of the others, this church displays a steeply pitched slate roof, and a tower with a tall spire. The buttressed walls (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Barbara Ann Cleary
date: 8/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 9, #104-11

COMPiled BY:
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19. SOURCES: "A Brief History of the South Congregational Church" (Middletown: 1947)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   _ X none known  _ highways  _ vandalism  _ developers  _ other:
   _ renewal  _ private  _ deterioration  _ zoning  _ explanation:
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have lancet windows. The facade, with its elaborate circular stained glass windows depicting religious motifs, is visible for almost the length of Main Street.
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

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