STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
or Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 135 Pearl Street
5. USE: Present: Housing for elderly women Historic: Indigent widow's home
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission of Director no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Institutional; Academic Classicism details DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1892
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - clapboard
   - wood shingle
   - board & batten
   - aluminum siding
   - asbestos siding
   - asphalt siding
   - stucco
   - concrete type:
   - brick
   - fieldstone
   - cobblestone
   - cut stone type: brownstone
   - foundation
   - load bearing masonry
   - structural iron or steel
   - other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - wood frame: post and beam balloon
   - load bearing masonry
   - structural iron or steel
   - other:
10. ROOF: type:
    - gable
    - shed
    - mansard
    - monitor
    - sawtooth
    - gambrel
    - roll asphalt
    - tin
    - slate
    - concrete:
    - brick
    - fieldstone
    - cobblestone
    - cut stone:
    - brownstone
    - foundation
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 3½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 48'x39'; rear wing 30'x25'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: yes, explain:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - barn
    - shed
    - garage
    - carriage house
    - shop
    - garden
    - other landscape features or buildings: Lawn urn, birdbath
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - open land
    - woodland
    - residential
    - commercial
    - industrial
    - rural
    - scattered buildings visible from site
    - high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This large brick institutional building dominates the area by its mass and corner siting at Pearl and Lincoln Streets in Middletown's residential North End. It forms a dividing line between large structures to the south toward Washington Street and more modest late Victorian era worker homes to the north.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Wrought iron fence and front step railing with intricate filagree "newel posts"
Brick decorative features: corbeling, denticulation, and quoining

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: 
Builder: 

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: St. Luke's Home for Destitute and Aged Women was incorporated by an act of the Connecticut State Assembly on June 22, 1865. For twenty-seven years the home was conducted in an old house on the southwest corner of Court and Pearl Streets. In 1892 a large legacy enabled a new home to be erected at the present site at Pearl and Lincoln Streets. Comfortable quarters are provided for fourteen women. Members of the Church of the Holy Trinity played a large part in establishing the endowment; frequently the current rector of that church serves as president of the Board of Trustees. This substantial brick building looks like a carefully-designed apartment house, rather than an institution. 3½ stories tall, the first floor is partly below ground level. A long run of brownstone steps leads to a center entrance door on the second floor level. Two bay window piers flank the front entrance, capped off above the roof line by gable-roofed dormers. Decorative elements such as the wrought iron fence, ivy on the facade, and quoin-like brick projections on all corners add a picturesque quality to the building.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: east
negative on file: Roll 25A, #11

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman
date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers
renewal private deterioration zoning

X other: Financial support

has been a problem for some years.
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CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

St. Luke's Home
136 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06457