STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
39 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: St. John's Parochial School Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 5 St. John's Square
4. OWNER(S): Diocese of Norwich PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Educational Historic: same
   Interior accessible: x yes no during school hours no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Institutional DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1887
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: brownstone foundation
   _other:
   _wood frame: _post and beam _balloon
   _load bearing masonry _structural iron or steel interior framing
   _other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _gable _flat _mansard _monitor _sawtooth
   _gambrel _shed _hip _round _other
   _material:
   _wood shingle _roll asphalt _tin _slate _other:
   _asphalt shingle _built up _tile _other:
10. ROOF: type:
   _gabled _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: 3 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 74'x49'
12. CONDITION: Structural: _excellent _x good _fair _deteriorated
   Exterior: _excellent _x good _fair _deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: _on original site _moved, when:
   Alterations: _no _x yes, explain: Small front belfry removed
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
   _barn _x shed converted garage _x other landscape features or buildings: Schoolyard,
   _carriage house _shop outhouses _rear, connected to church by brownstone arch
   _garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
   _open land _woodland _x residential _scattered buildings visible from site
   _x commercial _industrial _rural _x high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: St. John's Parochial School is the
   westernmost of four buildings devoted to ecclesiastical purposes facing St. John's Square.
   The complex forms a capstone for the north end of Main Street that is distinctively separate
   in form and function from nearby commercial and industrial structures.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Round-arched entrance porch
Carved brownstone lintels over all windows
Gable entranceway with round arch leads to cemetery and links church to school building

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: ___________________________ Builder: ___________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Soon after its beginning in 1843 St. John's Church established a parochial school. For some years the school was conducted by lay teachers. From 1866 to 1872 the school was part of the public school system of Middletown. In May of 1872 seven nuns from the Sisters of Mercy order in Ireland arrived to re-establish religious control of the school. By 1896 some 500 pupils were being taught there. St. John's School continues strong in the last quarter of the twentieth century, despite a nation wide decline in parochial education.

The current school building was erected in 1887 and blessed in 1888. It is a sturdy rectangular 3½-story structure built of red brick with a cut brownstone foundation and slate roof. A one-story arched entrance porch dignifies the facade. A small front "schoolhouse" belfry has been replaced by a raised central gable and cross. This change, and the installation of interior wiring and plumbing around 1900, are virtually the only alterations.

This school building completes the basic complex of St. John's Church properties. It constitutes an essential component of the complex, both in siting, since it fills in the block on the west, and in function, serving as the educational wing of St. John's mission to the community.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 10/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 43, #3

COMPiled BY:

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

19. SOURCES: H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1895); History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884); Edward J. McKenna, "Centennial Booklet and Program Exercises" (Middletown: 1943); See also "St. John's Church," GMT Survey Report, 1978

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

X none known ______ highways ______ vandalism ______ developers ______ other:

________ renewal ______ private ______ deterioration ______ zoning ______ explanation: ___________________________