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: Eagles Hall; Mather-Douglas- Santangelo House
   Historic: Mather-Douglas Mansion
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Village
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 11 South Main Street
4. OWNER(S): City of Middletown
   Historic: Residence
   x PUBLIC _ PRIVATE
   Interior accessible: yes, explain with permission of city
5. USE: Present: Vacant
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
   Foundation
   sills and lintels

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Federal; Italianate alterations
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1811-1813
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard
   _wood shingle
   _board & batten
   _aluminum siding
   _other: pavillion and trim: wood
   _asbestos siding
   _asphalt siding
   _stucco
   _concrete: type:
   x brick
   _fieldstone
   _cobblestone
   _cut stone: type: brownstone
   x load bearing masonry
   _structural iron or steel
   _other:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _x wood frame
   _x post and beam
   _x balloon
   10. ROOF: type:
       _x gable
       _gambrel
       _shed
       _flat
       _mansard
       _monitor
       _sawtooth
       _round
       _other:
       _material:
       _wood shingle
       _roll asphalt
       _asphalt shingle
       _built up
       _tin
       _tile
       _slate
       _other:
   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 48'x42' (kitchen ell 23'x23', 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2
   addition 18'x29')

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

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: 
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: See #18

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _x barn _shed garage
    _carriage house _shop garden
    _x other landscape features or buildings: Slate entrance
    walk with large brownstone slab at curb; many
    large trees

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _open land _woodland _x residential
    _commercial _industrial _x rural
    _x scattered buildings visible from site
    _x high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The corner site on which this house
    sits is the ½ shaped busy intersection of South Main and Church Streets. It commands a
    broad lawn which sweeps down towards the horseshoe shaped South Green. The area is charac-
    terized by a variety of nineteenth century styles with the exception of a small drive-in bank
    to the west of the mansion. A four story eldefully housing unit is presently being erected to
    the southwest.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Pavillion with Ionic columns
Central hall with spiral staircase and curved doors in vestibule
Marble fireplaces
Italianate porch, south entrance
W.&B. Douglas fire hydrant
Stiles and Parker Press Co. sewer lid in north yard

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect:  Builder:

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Mather-Douglas-Santangelo House has been a local landmark throughout Middletown's history. Its builder, Thomas Mather, Esq., an Old Lyme native and one time merchant in Albany, N.Y. arrived in Middletown in 1809. Mr. Mather's first wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Elijah Hubbard, one of Middletown's wealthiest merchants. Elizabeth died in 1812. Mather then married Sally Williams, the daughter of his business partner, Capt. Benjamin Williams. This wedding took place in 1813 and the couple removed to the grand Federal style mansion (recently erected). Mather resided there until his death in 1849.

Zebulon Baldwin, a local carpenter, was the next owner. Baldwin never occupied the house but leased it to the Middletown Female Seminary. It was at this time that the three story addition at the rear was constructed.

In 1855, Benjamin Douglas, partner in the W.&B. Douglas Pump Works, purchased the mansion. Douglas, a native of Northford, Conn., made a good sized fortune and an international reputation by inventing and manufacturing a succession of highly effective pumps. He was mayor from 1850 to 1856 and lieutenant governor in 1861 and 1862. He was a known abolitionist

(see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 9/78  view: east
negative on file: Roll 39, $28

COMPiled BY:
name: Elizabeth Loomis  date: 6/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

Scenes in Middlesex County (Chicago: 1892)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

x  none known  x  highways  x  vandalism  x  developers  other:

x  renewal  x  private  x  deterioration  x  zoning  x  explanation: Proposed State

Department of Transportation plans to reroute traffic around South Green Will cut within 20 feet of the house. The house is presently owned by the City of Middletown, who plan

(see continuation sheet)
and was active in the Underground Railroad. Douglas was probably responsible for the elaborate alterations. These include the two-story entranceway pavilion with severe Ionic columns, cupola, modillioned cornice, and balustrade. Douglas may have been the one to paint the brick walls and decorative trim contrasting colors. Heavy Italianate moldings and door frames and marble fireplaces were installed in the interior. This remodeling effectively transformed the building stylistically, giving it a substantial and ornate appearance.

Benjamin Douglas was not the only mayor to reside in the brick mansion. Leo B. Santangelo who owned and occupied the house from 1920-1944, was elected mayor in 1934 and served until 1936.

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles acquired the property in 1947. They used the premises as a social hall until 1974 when the City of Middletown purchased it. In a series of twentieth century remodelings, the balustrade and cupola were removed and the interior was modernized. Paneling and partitions were erected, floors tiled, ceilings lowered, and door hardware replaced.

Nevertheless, the Mather-Douglas House maintains its imposing presence on the South Green, and many of the interior features which made this building one of the most outstanding in the community.

In recent years the Mather-Douglas House, owned by the City of Middletown, has stood vacant and suffered from neglect. Present city plans call for adaptive use and restoration.

to market it for an adaptive use/restoration project. In the meantime it remains vacant and neglected.
Mather-Douglas Mansion
11 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457