ENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: St. John's Rectory
   Historic: same

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown
   VILLAGE: 
   COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 19 St. John's Square

4. OWNER(S): St. John's Church

5. USE: Present: Rectory
   Historic: same
   PUBLIC _ PRIVATE

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain by appointment no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   _clapboard _asbestos siding
   x wood shingle _asphalt siding
   _board & batten _stucco
   _aluminum siding _concrete: type: 
   _other: _brick
   _fieldstone 
   _cobblestone
   _cut stone: type: brownstone
   _foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _wood frame;_ post and beam _balloon
   _load bearing masonry _structural iron or steel
   _other:

10. ROOF: type:
    _gable _flat _x mansard _monitor
    _gambrel _shed _hip _round _sawtooth
    _other:

    material:
    _wood shingle _roll asphalt _tin _slate
    _asphalt shingle _built up _tile _other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent _good _fair _deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent _good _fair _deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: _no x yes, explain: Front porch extended; interior ceilings of pressed metal

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _barn _shed _garage _other landscape features or buildings: Magnificent copper beeches in front
    _carriage house _shop _garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _x open land _woodland _x residential
    _commercial _x industrial _rural _x scattered buildings visible from site

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: St. John's Rectory sits a short distance to the east of the church across St. John's Street. Like the other nearby auxiliary church buildings in the complex, it has a slate roof, brownstone trim, walls of brick, and faces St. John's Square. The structure is somewhat smaller than the others in mass and scale, and is distinguished by its mansard roof.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Three huge copper beech trees screen the rectory from the roadway in front.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This impressive clerical residence was built in 1864, the same year that the tower and spire on the main church building went up. Thus it predates the convent and the parochial school, and was part of St. John's rapidly expanding service to the Catholics of the area at that time. The building functions as the home of the resident pastor and his associates, and as an administrative office for the parish. A drawing room in the front of the house, remodeled in "mission oak" style, is used for committee meetings and receptions.

The structure displays many elements of Second Empire style that are echoed in the homes of prominent men of the period. A slated mansard roof with gabled dormer windows surmounts a bold cornice. All windows are topped by carved brownstone lintels. An Italianate-style porch, added later, stretches across the first floor facade.

The rectory is a sturdily built, decorated in an elegant, yet restrained, manner. The structure reflects the strong leadership that St. John's clergy held as many Irish Catholics took up work and residence in this area. Situated at the heart of the religious complex, the home of the leaders of St. John's Parish, it is a key part of the church properties on St. John's Square.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis
date: 2/79 view: south
negative on file: Roll 59, #19

COMPILED BY:

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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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