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: Indian Hill Cemetery Chapel
   Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE:  
   COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 383 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Indian Hill Cemetery Association
   PUBLIC x PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Funeral Chapel Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain during services no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Gothic Revival
   DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1867
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard brick
   _ wood shingle fieldstone
   _ board & batten cobblestone
   _ aluminum siding x cut stone type: brownstone walls and foundation
   _ other:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   _ wood frame: post and beam balloon
   x load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   _ other:
10. ROOF: type:
    x gable
    _ gambrel
    _ shed
    _ mansard
    _ hip
    _ monitor
    _ round
    _ sawtooth
    _ other

    material:
    _ wood shingle roll asphalt
    _ asphalt shingle built up tin slate
    _ other:

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1
   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 50'x20'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent
    Exterior: x excellent
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Slate shingles replaced by asphalt
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn
    _ shed
    _ garage
    _ carriage house
    _ shop
    _ garden
    x other landscape features or buildings: surrounded by paths and cemetery grounds
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    _ open land
    _ woodland
    _ residential
    _ commercial
    _ industrial
    _ rural
    _ building density medium
    x scattered buildings visible from site
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Indian Hill Cemetery Chapel is
    sited on a hillside in the midst of Indian Hill Cemetery, which occupies high ground west of
    the Wesleyan University campus. The cemetery is bordered by well-traveled Washington Street
    (Route 66) to the north. The site offers a splendid view of the hills of Meriden to the west.

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17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The Indian Hill Cemetery Association was organized June 11, 1850 under a general act of the Connecticut Legislature passed in 1841. About 40 acres on Wunne Wah Jet, or Indian Hill were purchased by the company. Samuel Russell was the first president of the association. The cornerstone of the cemetery was laid in 1850 by Dr. Horatio Stone, who designed the wandering roads and paths, and gave them local Indian names. The chapel was erected in 1867 by Mrs. Samuel Russell in memory of her deceased husband, and is used for burial services.

The exquisite Gothic Revival chapel has a wealth of styling detail. The bush-hammered brownstone walls and foundations support a steeply-raked roof. Brownstone buttresses with slate shingles on the weatherings reinforce the walls. Each side features sets of triple Gothic windows of stained glass in recessed arches. The facade has an unusual shed roof sheltering the entryway. This roof is set on brownstone posts that match the buttresses. On the basement level the walls are pierced with narrow slits, one of which serves as an inlet for electricity and a fuel line. The east end wall has a massive bronze door at ground level (under the chancel). At the southwest corner rises an open belfry decorated (see continuation sheet)

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 9/78 view: southwest
negative on file: Roll 42, #27-27A

COMPiled BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.B. Beers, 1884); 1851 Clark Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; "Indian Hill Cemetery Association Laws and Regulations," Charles M. Pelton, printer, 1873

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

☒ none known ☒ highways ☒ vandalism ☒ developers ☐ other:
☐ renewal ☒ private ☒ deterioration ☒ zoning ☐ explanation:

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with carved brownstone crux sticks and a Celtic cross over a Gothic arch. The entire chapel is executed with close attention to design, symmetry, and detail.