

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

9 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Adath Israel Synagogue Historic: same
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 48 Church Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Congregation of Adath Israel PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Synagogue Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain house of worship no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Moorish Temple DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: <u>poured</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> and pebbled foundation and trim	
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input type="checkbox"/> post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> structural iron or steel
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 10. ROOF: type:

<input type="checkbox"/> gable	<input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other <u>flat with dome</u>

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 1/2 with dome APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 90'x55'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: Rear brick additions
- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

<input type="checkbox"/> barn	<input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> other landscape features or buildings: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Adath Israel Synagogue sits on the northeast corner of Broad and Church Streets, on the South Green. The area has a number of churches and late 19th century high style residences. Across the street to the south is the Federal style Mather Douglas Mansion. The Gothic Revival Methodist Church is across a parking lot to the east.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: Construction of Middletown's first Synagogue was completed in 1929. Previously, services for the congregation had been held across the river in Portland. Present at the dedication were representatives from other Middletown churches and many of the City's leading officials.

The large cubical mass of the Synagogue is relieved by projecting piers on the facade. Decorative patterns in brick and concrete are primarily "Moorish" in character and are laid in typically Art Deco low relief. The primary decorative element of the facade is the tall triple-arched window with stained glass. The dome, which shows above the roof, create a domed ceiling in the temple on the second floor. The temple itself is a simple and ample space, with its high, domed ceiling decorated.

The Adath Israel Synagogue is distinctive in Middletown for its unusual decoration and the strong character of its architecture. Moreover, it marks the northwest terminus of the institutional buildings on the South Green.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 6/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 21, #13

COMPILED BY:

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Middletown Press, 1929; consultation with Rabbi Nathan Levinson, 8/78

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Adath Israel

Synagogue's plans for future expansion include a large addition to the facade of the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

Adath Israel Synagogue
48 Old Church Street (formerly Church St.)
Middletown, CT 06457

