

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 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: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Historic: German Evangelical Lutheran Church
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 76 High Street
4. OWNER(S): Lutheran Church in America PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Religious Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain at services no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Late Gothic Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1896
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick rear and side foundation
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: rusticated
 other: _____ brownstone window sills, water-table, and front foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
 wood frame: post and beam balloon
 load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
 other: _____
10. ROOF: type:
 gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
 gambrel shed hip round other _____
 material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: Sanctuary 35'x65'; rear
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: addition 32'x70'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site Interior renovated after 1955 fire; two-story
 Alterations: no yes, explain: parish hall added 1955-opens on Oak Street
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: shrubs, foundation plantings; flagstone in front
 carriage house shop garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: St. Paul's Lutheran Church is sited on the west side of High Street in a residential area two blocks south of the Wesleyan University campus. Closely surrounded by 2 and 3-story residences, the remainder of its narrow sloping lot is used by a 70' long added parish hall that extends all the way to Oak Street in the rear.

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

Brass lantern in recessed center-front archway
Flared eaves on gable roof
Square center-front tower with belfry and slate roof; Celtic cross

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: P.H.J. Krulder

Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: The cornerstone of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church was laid on Sunday, July 12, 1896; the building was put into use later that year. The pastor at that time was the Rev. Carl Blecher. For some years services were conducted in German and English. Gradually the church moved closer to the mainstream of American Lutheranism. Today the church is under the aegis of the Lutheran Church in America. With the exception of a period of time in 1955, when the interior was being renovated after a serious fire, the same building has been in continuous use for more than eighty years.

This well-designed late Gothic Revival church displays a number of individualistic features: simulated quoins at the front corners are set off in brick of a brighter hue; the eaves of the gable roof are gently flared; buttresses in brick support and segment the walls of the sanctuary. To meet the needs of a growing congregation a long, narrow, brick two-story parish hall was added to the rear in 1955.

This masonry building, with its brick and brownstone walls, and its gable and tower roof covered with slate, gives a feeling of both substance and stability.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis

date: 12/78 view: west

negative on file: Roll 56, #22A

COMPILED BY:

name: Roger Sherman date: 9/78

organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Tax Records; Middletown Land Records; The Middletown Tribune, 7/12/1896

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known
 renewal

highways
 private

vandalism
 deterioration

developers
 zoning

other: _____

explanation: _____

