

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION59 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
POTENTIALIDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: St. Sebastian Church Historic: same
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 147 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): St. Sebastian Church Corporation PUBLIC PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Church Historic: same
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ open for public use _____ no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1931
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 ___ clapboard ___ asbestos siding ___ brick
 ___ wood shingle ___ asphalt siding ___ fieldstone
 ___ board & batten ___ stucco ___ cobblestone
 ___ aluminum siding ___ concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: Weymouth granite
 ___ other: _____ random ashlar
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: Nave 59'x89'; Transept 65'x30'
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: Sanctuary 11'x44'
12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
 Exterior: excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site ___ moved, when: _____
 Alterations: ___ no yes, explain: Two stained glass windows destroyed in hurricane;
new bells at side of belfry
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 ___ barn ___ shed ___ garage other landscape features or buildings: Rectory
 ___ carriage house ___ shop ___ garden (Queen Anne) to west, 155 Washington Street
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 ___ open land ___ woodland residential ___ scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial ___ industrial ___ rural high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This monumental structure faces north from the south side of Washington Street. Its imposing appearance dominates the block between Broad and Pearl Streets. The east side of Washington Street in this area displays several large scale residences in various 19th century styles and a municipal parking lot.

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

Carrara marble in sanctuary: altars; flooring; pulpit and rail
Marble sculpture of Crucifixion group over altar
Ceiling murals of Apostles and St. Sebastian

SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: Salvatore Mazzotta, contractor

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This church was built by the Italian community of Middletown during the midst of the depression. Italians arrived in Middletown in large numbers in the early 1900's and by the 1930's constituted a significant portion of the city's population. Comprising almost all of Middletown's masons, plasterers, and stonecarvers, many of the parishioners contributed the labor for the erection of the church. During the initial phase of the building many local firms donated material and equipment. The first Mass was celebrated in December 1931.

The Italian Renaissance design of this building is rare in New England architecture. It is a close copy of the Church of St. Sebastian in Melilli, Sicily, from where many of Middletown's Italians emigrated.

St. Sebastian Church is of great architectural and historical significance to the city of Middletown. Its erection through the sacrifices of the parishioners illustrates the determination of the Italian immigrant population to have their own church. The unique character of the architecture is an important contribution to the city. Through its architectural beauty and the drama of its erection Saint Sebastian stands a monument to the substantial position attained by Middletown's largest ethnic community.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: John E. Reynolds
date: 9/78 view: northwest
negative on file: Roll 31, #16



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 4/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; "53rd Anniversary St. Sebastian Feast" (pamphlet, 1974); Report on St. Sebastian Church by Greater Middletown Preservation Trust (unpublished, 1974)

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 1/90

St. Sebastian Church
147 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

