1 NAME

HISTORIC District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Boundaries as shown on site plan map

CITY, TOWN

Vicinity Of

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

X DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

X AGRICULTURE

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

X OCCUPIED

X MUSEUM

STRUCTURE

X BOTH

UNOCCUPIED

PRIVATE

WORK IN PROGRESS

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

EDUCATIONAL

OBJECT

X UNRESTRICTED

ENTERTAINMENT

X OCCUPIED

GOVERNMENT

X RESTRIC TED

INDUSTRIAL

X UNOCCUPIED

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

PRIVATE

X WORK IN PROGRESS

MILITARY

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENSINO

LIBRARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple public and private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Vicinity Of

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE

1974, 1975

FEDERAL

STATE

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE
The Liddletown South Green Historic District encompasses approximately three blocks bordering on and near horseshoe-shaped "Union Park". Located immediately Southeast of the central business district, it is aligned on an approximate north-south axis. Thirty-one buildings are included in the boundaries of the district and are primarily residential, although there are two churches, two parish houses, a synagogue, two funeral homes, the lodges of two fraternal orders and several old homes now used for professional offices. With the exception of a few eighteenth and twentieth century structures, the district is representative of 19th century styles typically found in a mid-sized industrial and commercial town.

Union Park, around which the district is located, is a large, grassy open space with sparsely scattered trees. A large part of the district surrounds Union Park on two sides creating two distinctive streetscapes which join at the south end of the Park and continues south along South Main Street. Compatible historical streetscapes are also located on Crescent Street, which parallels Pleasant Street.

The east boundary of the district follows the east side of Crescent Street where the Middlesex Emorial Hospital is located. The hospital complex forms a definite visual barrier to the continuity of the district. An area of fairly modern and much altered older buildings forms the south boundary immediately south of 3/2 Crescent and 3/1 South Main Street. The back lot lines of the houses on South Main Street form part of the western boundary, separating the district from a residential area of recent date. This boundary crosses Church Street to include the buildings to the west. The South Green between road and Main Streets further west are buildings of residential and commercial use which are a part of the central business district and of a very different character. The northern boundary then follows Main Street and Main Street extension, separating the district from a group of structures which are either more modern buildings or much altered old ones, also of a mixed residential and commercial nature.

Throughout the district there are structures of varying visual and architectural quality. In the chart which follows all structures in the district have been categorized as "critical," "contributory," or "not essential," to the maintenance of visual continuity. Those that are "critical" include buildings of exceptional architectural integrity, such as the Joseph Rockwell House, 21 Pleasant St., the Daniel Douglas House, on the corner of South Main and Church and 7/5 Crescent Street. "Contributory" structures are those that have been altered in such a way as to detract from the original design characteristics of the building. "Contributory" buildings provide a cohesiveness to the district, however, by maintaining the general impression of a 19th century neighborhood and by complementing the "critical" highlights of the district. A few examples of these contributory buildings are 3/27 South Main Street, 3/29 and 51 Crescent Street, and 3/27 Pleasant Street. Non-essential buildings are those which do not relate visually or stylistically to the district as a whole.
In summary, this is an urban environment which maintains both a large open space and historical streetscapes. The integrity of its 19th century residential character makes Connecticut a valuable resource to the City of Middletown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Relat. to Dist. Char.</th>
<th>Obvious Incompatible Modifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Church St., Doolittle's Funeral Home</td>
<td>1890's</td>
<td>Queen Anne with hexagonal turret</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Parish House, Church St.</td>
<td>1880's</td>
<td>Second Empire</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathodist Church</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Gothic Revival</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synagogue, Church St.</td>
<td>mid-20th century</td>
<td>Brick, blocklike structure with low dome</td>
<td>non-essential</td>
<td>missing belvedere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Douglas House, 38 South Main St.</td>
<td>1811-13</td>
<td>Federal style with critical</td>
<td>missing belvedere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 South Main</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td>2nd floor modern window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 South Main</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate with belvedere</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td>Asbestos siding and modern window frames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 South Main</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate with critical</td>
<td>asbestos siding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 South Main</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate with wrought iron porch</td>
<td>insignific</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 South Main</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td>asbestos siding and modern window frames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Year Built</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Relat. to Dist. Char.</td>
<td>Obvious Modifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 South Main</td>
<td>1890-1900</td>
<td>Plain, multi-contributory asbestos siding gabled rambling house</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 South Main Michael's Beauty Salon</td>
<td>1790-1800</td>
<td>3 bay, 5 course contributory brick band, box cornice, gable roof</td>
<td>modern awnings and signs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 &amp; 32 South Main</td>
<td>1890-1900</td>
<td>Double bay contributory aluminum siding projections, pediment dormers, large porch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 South Main D'Angelo's Funeral Home</td>
<td>Early 1900's</td>
<td>5 bay, gable contributory roof house with Georgian symmetry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Pleasant St.</td>
<td>1870-80</td>
<td>Second Empire, critical brick</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Pleasant St.</td>
<td>1870-80</td>
<td>Second Empire critical asbestos siding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pleasant St.</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>5 bay, double overhang, Colonial critical Georgian</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 17 Pleasant St.</td>
<td>1870-80</td>
<td>Second Empire critical double house</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Congregational Church, Pleasant St.</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Gothic Revival with spire critical</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-83 Main St. Ext.</td>
<td>1870-80</td>
<td>Second Empire critical apartment house</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate critical modern doors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate critical 3 story brick with belvedere</td>
<td>insignificant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Year Built</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Relat. to</td>
<td>Dist. Char.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-90</td>
<td>Italianate with mansard roof</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1890-1900</td>
<td>2 story, 3 bay with gable front, side bay projection</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-1890</td>
<td>Gingerbread, stick style Victorian</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1890-1900</td>
<td>Very plain Gothic</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 &amp; 29 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1870-1880</td>
<td>Large scale, Second Empire</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1870-1880</td>
<td>Queen Anne, stick style with barge board and turret</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Large rambling</td>
<td>contributory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-1890</td>
<td>Queen Anne</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Crescent St.</td>
<td>1880-1890</td>
<td>Victorian Stick</td>
<td>critical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The statement of significance for the historic district of Middletown South Green and surrounding streetscapes is as follows:

1. The area is a significant visual focal point which clearly defines the south end of Middletown's commercial business district.
2. The area contains a large number of relatively unaltered structures that represent high styles of architecture that were popular at the time Middletown emerged into a regional trade and manufacturing center.
3. Taken together, the buildings, the South Green and their relative setting survive in a state of nearly complete historical integrity that maintains the scale and character that was created as the area was originally developed. The orientation of large scale structures around a definite open space provides a distinctive visual unit that is unique in the City of Middletown.

The buildings surrounding the green serve a wide variety of purposes which attract many townpeople for business or religious purposes, but also many come just to enjoy the square as a lovely open space. Most important, however, are the architectural styles to be found along the green, for they span a period of 250 years, and, so, are of historical significance to Middletown.

Two eighteenth century buildings are among the oldest surviving structures in the town. Compared to the nineteenth century residences, which are much larger and much more ornate, they reflect by contrast an increased affluence and an evolution in architectural taste. The design of the nineteenth century churches portray stylistic preferences, but they also provide insight into the social priorities of the times.

Of particular interest is the Father-Douglas-Cantangelo house which commands the most imposing site along the green. The house was built between 1711 and 1713 by Thomas Father, a wealthy Middletown businessman. In the late 1850's Benjamin Douglas bought the house which was then being leased to the Middletown Female Seminary. Douglas made his fortune by inventing and producing a revolving standing pump. A prominent abolitionist, he was also involved in Connecticut politics, first as mayor of Middletown from 1850 to 1856, then as lieutenant governor of the state in 1861-1862. As a member of the electoral college in 1860, he cast his vote for Lincoln.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Item 7 and site plan map

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine R. Brockmeyer, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE July 1, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE 203-564-3005

CITY OR TOWN STATE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 7/28/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTES: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/13/75

DATE 8/12/75
Leo B. Santanelo, mayor of Middletown, from 1931 to 1935 also lived in this house while in office.

Today the Father-Douglas-Santanelo house serves as the meeting place for the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Other buildings along Union Square are used for a wide variety of purposes, for there are churches, a synagogue, a funeral home, several residences and a YWCA.

However, the South Green is not only of architectural interest for it is a valuable open space in the fabric of the community. In the early nineteenth century, the area was prime residential land, for the slope up which terminates at the Father house afforded each building view of the Connecticut River below. Since it was close to the business section of the town as well, the South Green area became a very prestigious area. Though the view of the river is now obstructed, the open space still gives an expansive residential character to this part of Middletown, which is enjoyed by many residents going to churches, temples, clubs or just walking to the downtown shopping area. Thus, Middletown's South Green not only reflects architectural and town history, but it attracts the townspeople to observe and enjoy their heritage.


Father, John, *Genealogy of the Father Family*, E. Geer, Hartford, Conn., 1848.

Red (heavy) line indicates boundary of national register district.
DEMOLISHED
TO BE MOVED & RESTORED
TO BE RESTORED IN PLACE
LEGEND

1. Middlesex Theater and corresponding buildings
2. Odd Fellows Building
3. Intravia Building (Gutted by fire)
4. Not to be acquired (Smith & Bishel)
5. Not to be acquired (Mansfield House)
6. Not to be acquired (Baptist Church)
7. Two store dwelling (scheduled for demolition)
8. Two family dwelling (to be acquired)
9. Mansion House
10. Warehouse
11. Shapiro Building - Mansion House
12.a Saraceno Building - Mansion House
12.b Saraceno Building - Insignificant
13.a Zibulsky - Federal Style Building
13.b Pelton Building - Insignificant
14. Schmidt Building (scheduled for demolition)
15. Hall's Diner (scheduled for demolition)
16. Milardo Oldsmobile Building (scheduled for demolition)
17. Not to be acquired (State Armory)