

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5.77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No.: 76
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)	
First Church of Christ North Congregational Church	
2. TOWN CITY	COUNTY
Durham	Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
Main Street	
4. OWNER(S)	
United Churches Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) (Historic)	
Church Church	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
Greek Revival	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel
<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
10. ROOF (Type)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up
<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Round
<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
2 1/2	41' x 58'
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)	WHEN ? (Alterations)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden
<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input 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 church stands on the west side of Main Street, on a wooded lot near the north corner of the junction of Main Street and Wallingford Road.

DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

Antapilasters are at each corner of the facade, behind the colonnade. The double-length central doorway is surmounted by a flat cornice, which in turn is supported by two scrolled consoles. Above and within is a large wooden rosette. The double-leaf doors each have a recessed triple panel within, and a transom above. The full-length steps are wooden. The early Colonial Revival style spire is round with four face clocks. Corinthian columns surround the louvred belfry and rise to a round entablature with a dentil course. The rest of the spire has fish-scale shingling to the top. The north and south sides of the building have three-quarter length 24/24 sash windows. A gable-roofed addition has been made to the southwest corner of the main building. [CONT'D in 19]

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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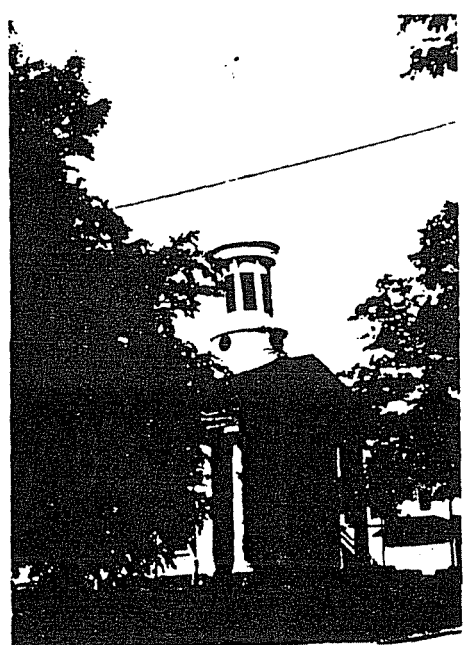
SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE  
 [17, CONT'D] The addition's portico is supported by four square, fluted posts connected by a curved spandrel. A vertical-flushboarded skirt covers its coursed sandstone block foundation.  
 [19] The First Church of Christ in Durham is a 2 1/2 story, gable-to-street Greek Revival style structure built in the mid-nineteenth century. Its wooden, post-and-beam frame has an asphalt-shingled roof, a clapboard exterior, and a coursed sandstone foundation. This building was the fourth meeting house of the Congregational Church to be erected in Durham. The third meeting house, which stood on the site of the present Town Hall, burned in 1844. The schism between the north and south congregations of Durham occurred soon afterwards. The North Congregational Church was dedicated in 1847 and the South Congregational Church (the present Town Hall building) in 1849. Denis Camp granted the lot for the North Church in 1847 to the First Ecclesiastical Society of Durham "...for the purpose of building a Church thereon..." (DLR 19:310). When the United Churches Corporation was formed, the North Church was given its present name, the First Church of Christ. The First Church of Christ is significant as one of Durham's ecclesiastical structures. It owes its origins to a nineteenth century religious schism in the community.

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Federal Census of 1820, 1850, 1880; Beers, J.B. History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884); Durham History Committee Durham, CT, 1866-1980: Century of Change (Durham: 1980); Fowler, William C. History of Durham (Durham: W.C. Fowler, 1866); Whited, Milton Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Hall, Peter	DATE 6/83
	VIEW Southeast	NEGATIVE ON FILE 6:24
COMPILED BY	NAME McCord, J.	DATE 8/83
	ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS 27 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457	
20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS		



21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known.	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning