

**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. 174
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> South Congregational Church
	2. TOWN CITY <span style="float: right;">VILLAGE</span> <span style="float: right;">COUNTY</span> Durham <span style="float: right;">Middlesex</span>
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Town House Road, west side, .025 m south of Maple Avenue
	4. OWNER(S) Town of Durham <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private</span>
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Town Offices <span style="float: right;">Church</span>

DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING <span style="float: right;">DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</span> Greek Revival church <span style="float: right;">1849</span>

DESCRIPTION	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
	10. ROOF (Type)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
2 1/2	Main block: 37 x 57; rear addition: 22 x 33

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? IF YES EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Remodelled as Town Hall in 20th century

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 (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden
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"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
 Durham's Town Hall stands on the west side of the Green, surrounded on three sides by Durham's major nineteenth-century cemetery.

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

DESCRIPTI (Continued)

The Town Hall is a 57 x 37 temple-form Greek-Revival-style public building. As built, the structure's facade was dominated by a fully pedimented portico supported by four Doric columns with flat-moulded antae pilasters. This portico was removed in the late 1920s. The north and south elevations contained four full-length windows, but these were truncated and separated by spandrels when the church was converted to secular uses early in this century. The structure was once surmounted by a square colonaded bell tower which was removed at the turn of the century. A concrete single-story addition was added to the rear of the structure during the 1970s.

18 ARCHITECT BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

When Durham's second meeting house burned in 1836, at a time when the congregation was fraught with dissention, while one faction favored rebuilding the church on the green near where it had always stood, another faction favored a location to the north of Allyn's Brook. Unable to agree, the congregation broke apart. Two churches were erected: one, the building which is now the Town Hall, the other, the present United Church. The controversy nearly split the town in two--and for many years one party collected its mail and worshipped to the north of Allyn's Brook, while the other worshipped and collected its mail to the south. (The connection of two controversies is attested to by the fact that the postmaster of the Durham Center post office in the south end was the former minister, David Smith--who was succeeded by his daughter Catherine C. Smith.) The two ecclesiastical factions reunited early in the twentieth century when the South Congregational Church was purchased by the town to house its offices.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHER DATE

Alex Parades 5/84

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COMPILED BY NAME DATE

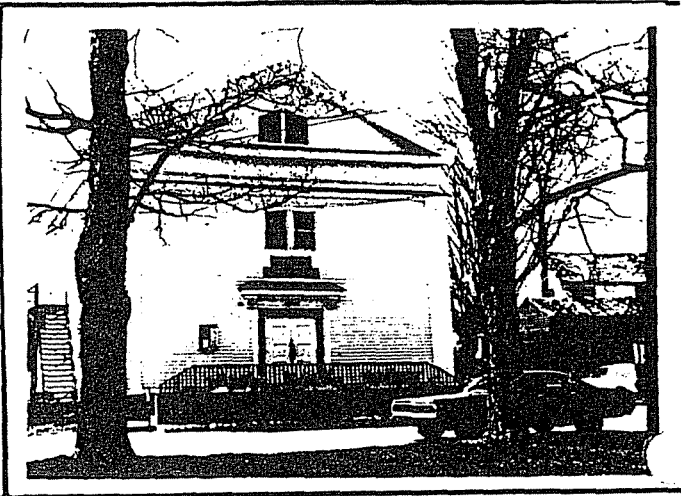
P. D. Hall 5/15/84

ORGANIZATION

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known.  Highways  Vandalism  Developers  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  Private  Deterioration  Zoning  Explanation \_\_\_\_\_