

From Sarah Brown McCulloch's *Guilford: A Walking Guide* (2012):

**Third Congregational Church, 49 Park Street, Greek Revival, 1844.**

This building has had an eventful life, from church to secular use and back to church. In the process it has lost its steeple and its shutters but it is still an important presence on the street and a characteristic example of the Greek Revival style so popular in its day. The church was founded in controversy when 123 members of the First Congregational Church who were strongly anti-slavery petitioned to start a new Congregational Society which would reflect their views. The new church became an active force in the community, but by 1920 its dwindling congregation rejoined First Church and sold the building to Christ Church for use as a parish house. The main hall was used, briefly, as a movie theater, then a kindergarten, a dancing school, and a meeting place. By 1933 the building had been resold, renamed the Chapel Playhouse, and converted to use for summer stock and little theater productions. The Christian Science Society bought and restored it in 1951. Well maintained, the interior today is extremely handsome.