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DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES

State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY:

Buildings & Structures

SURVEY OF GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 06437

June-December 1981

1. ADDRESS 49 Park Street (map 40, lot 4)

(historic)

Third Congregational Church

NAME (common)

First Church of Christ

Scientist

3. USE
(historic)
USE
(present)

Church

Church

4. IF MOVED, WHEN AND FROM WHERE:



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

IF NR SPECIE

Actual

Site No. 319

Potential

Town No.

DISTRICT

S

QUAD:

5. ARCHITECT

6. DATE

1844

BUILDER

Greek Revival

7. ALTERATIONS

Interior remodeled 1862; chapel at rear added 1879; steeple removed 1920.

8. NOTABLE FEATURES

With Doric pilasters, deep entablature, and flushboarded pediment, this is a popular church model of the Greek Revival period. A handsome tower in three stages originally gave it more presence, and shutters articulated the facade. Well kept and sited on the 9. ARCHITECTURAL-HISTORICAL Green's best preserved historic streetscape,

it plays a major role.

The Third Congregational Church resulted from a split in the First Church in 1843 when 123 outspoken Abolitionists, friends of the Rev. Aaron Dutton, were dismissed. In 1919 the congregation was dissolved and many of its members joined the First Church. The building was bought by Christ Church and the chapel used as a parish house. The steeple was removed and the rest of the building became a community building and a theater for showing films of a more serious variety than was likely to turn up locally; later it was bought and became the Chapel Playhouse for summer stock and other events. It was acquired by the Christian Science Society of Guilford in 1951 and restored.

10. SOURCES

Dorothy Whitfield Society '76; Connecticut Historical Commission; Tercentenary Committee; Steiner p. 340 et al; Steiner Scrapbook Vol. I and II; Griswold Scrapbook Vol. 7. Photograph: Guilford Library file 5; Shore Line Times, Feb. 1962; Shore Line Times, Bicentennial Pages.

If you have not actually made certain of the answer to a given question, either leave it blank or write "inferred" after the

In all categories below, check more than one box if applicable.