

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77

061

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

135/21/11/1

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) EAST THOMPSON CHURCH		(Historic) EAST THOMPSON CHURCH	
	2. TOWN CITY 618 EAST THOMPSON ROAD		VILLAGE EAST THOMPSON	COUNTY WINDHAM
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) EAST THOMPSON METHODIST CHURCH		(490 EAST THOMPSON RD.) 135/21-11	
	4. OWNER(S) EAST THOMPSON METHODIST CHURCH, THOMPSON, CT 06277		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) Church		(Historic) Church	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		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
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1843
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone Foundation			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____			
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
10. ROOF (Type)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth				
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
(Material)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street				
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2 1/2		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 35' x 42'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Historic)				
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
IF YES, EXPLAIN New concrete steps, steel doors				
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 checked="" 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				
Several 19th century farmhouses are located nearby.				

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE J12	
COMPILED BY	NAME Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	ORGANIZATION Town of Thompson, Connecticut		
	ADDRESS		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION

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

Three-bay facade with left and right entries, central oversized 12-over-12 windows. Doors and windows have plain sills, paneled surrounds, plain corner blocks. Paneled corner pilasters, molded architrave, plain frieze. Molded cornice shows full return.

Steeple: four sided clapboarded based topped by molded cornice, belfry with rectangular louvers flanked by wide plain pilasters. At top, wide plain frieze and molded cornice.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This church was built about 1843 on land donated by Willard Emerson, a nearby farmer. Methodists gained their first foothold in Thompson in the late 1700s, when a church was organized in West Thompson. During the early 19th century, the Congregationalists held their stronghold on Thompson Hill; Methodists and other dissenting sects made inroads in the industrial settlements of the French River Valley and in outlying rural areas. Poor roads no doubt made travel to West Thompson onerous, and by 1841, East Thompson's Methodists were numerous enough to organize their own congregation.

Original trustees included Asa Sheldon, George, John and Cyrus Tourtellotte, Israel Aldrich, Orin Emerson, and Winsor Bates. The East Thompson congregation remained a small one until the village became a thriving railroad junction in the late 19th century; the building still serves as a place of worship.

Architecturally, the East Thompson Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a good example of the Greek Revival style. The first truly national style in American, the Greek Revival was most popular between about 1835 and 1860. The corner pilasters, trabeated entries, prominent window surrounds, pedimented peak, and gable-end-to-street orientation

SOURCES

Bayles, History of Windham County, p. 680-82

Thompson Land Records 16:486 (1843)

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"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____

061

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 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
 For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET #19 EAST THOMPSON CHURCH ✓
 Item number: _____ Date: _____

are all intended to suggest the massing, columns, and formal entablatures of a classical Greek temple.

Historically, the church is significant as a longtime community institution.