The First Church of Christ, Congregational, Unionville lies prominently at the intersection of Main and School streets. It faces east and occupies a triangular plot of land west of the veterans green. A small playground and parking lot exist to the southwest.
17 NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR)

Made of grey granite, this Gothic Revival-style church is large in scale. Its rock-faced surface of light and dark contrasts highlights many of the building's details such as the window and door surrounds and corner quoins. The main hip roof is adjoined by several gable-roofed projections. The original front facade consists of a two-story picture window made up six sections and separated by a cement band of trefoil reliefs. The belfry (once featured a steeple that was dismantled and reused in later addition) towers over the roof. The front entry has been covered with a modern porch. The prominent windows, belfry vents, and entrances are shaped in pointed arches. Contrasting quoins are found on the building's corners and large modillions decorate the cornice. Two chimneys banded with cement are visible. A modern addition lies to the east and has altered the original facade.

18 ARCHITECT

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

In 1840 six men (George Richards, Eber Gibbs, Edward K. Hamilton, Eli D. Preston, William Brady, and Daniel Johnson) and the Reverend John R. Keep formed the Unionville Ecclesiastical Society. The first church was completed in 1841 and sat at Main and Lovely streets just west of the cemetery. Constructed in the Greek Revival style, it was moved in 1851 to the south side of School Street and enlarged in 1852. By 1883 the building proved to be too small, and with a loan of $16,000 the present church was erected in 1885. The old bell from the original church was installed in the new belfry, ringing first on the death of ex-president Ulysses S. Grant. The first church served as the town hall until it burned in 1899. In 1959 several additions were constructed using the Burlington-quarried granite stones from the original belfry.

The First Church of Christ, Congregational is architecturally significant to Unionville due to its good state of preservation and association with the Congregational community in the town.

SOURCES


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DATE

5/85

VIEW

NE

NEGATIVE ON FILE

6:6

NAME

Ruth A. Bedrosian

DATE

8/85

ORGANIZATION

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

□ None known. □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Other

□ Renewal □ Private □ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Explanation