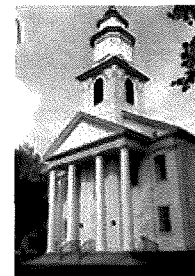


# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

**Inventory No:** SOU.50  
**Historic Name:** Southwick Congregational Church  
**Common Name:**  
**Address:** 488 College Hwy  
**City/Town:** Southwick  
**Village/Neighborhood:** Southwick;  
**Local No:** 57; 68;  
**Year Constructed:** 1824  
**Architectural Style(s):** Federal; Greek Revival;  
**Architect(s):** Damon, Isaac; Harding, Malcolm Bennett; Hinckley, Louis C.;  
**Use(s):** Church; Church Hall; Church Hall;  
**Significance:** Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Politics Government; Religion;  
**Area(s):**  
**Designation(s):**  
**Building Materials:** Roof: Asphalt Shingle;  
Wall: Aluminum Siding; Vinyl Siding; Wood; Wood Flushboard;  
Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut;  
**Demolished** No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

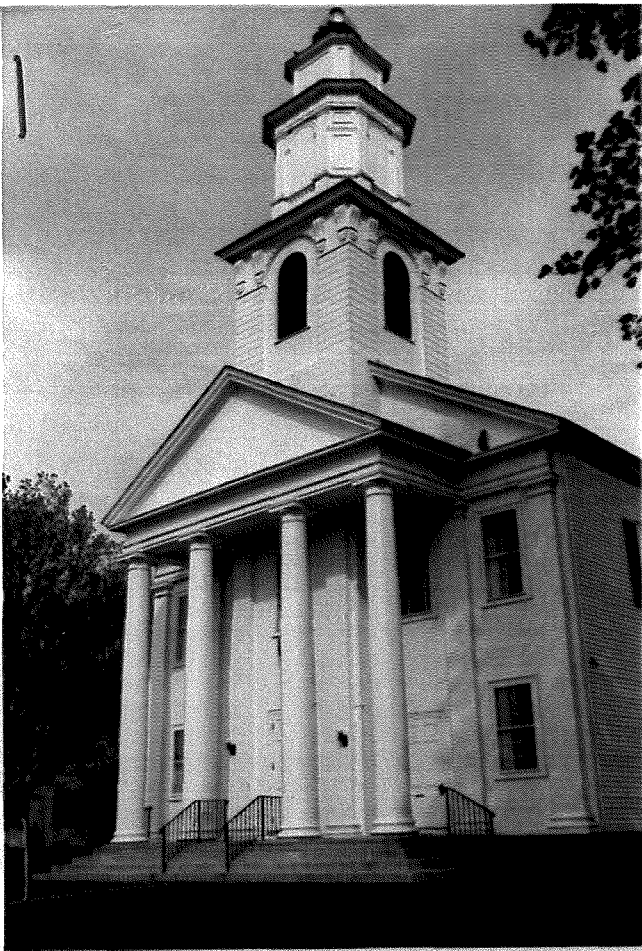
The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Monday, August 29, 2022 at 10:49 AM



PI SOUTH  
USGS SOUTH  
SERVA

AREA	FORM NO.
	57

50

Town Southwick

Address 488 College Highway

Historic Name Southwick Congregational Church

Use: Present Church

Original Same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1824

Source Church History

Style Federal

Architect Isaac Damon

Exterior Wall Fabric Front-flush board  
Side/rear-Aluminum

Outbuildings Attached additions

Major Alterations (with dates) Aluminum

siding to sides & rear, 1980

Condition Very good

Moved No Date ---

Acreage Approx. one

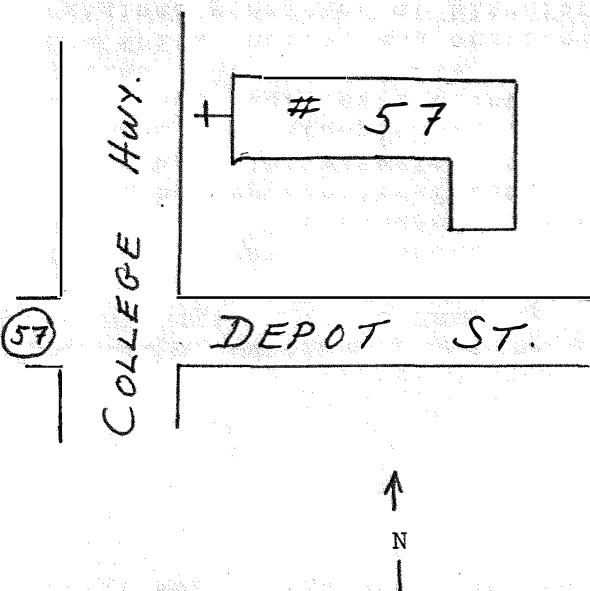
Setting Center of town, intersection  
of rts. 10/202 & 57

Recorded by Lee David Hamberg

Organization southwick Historical Comm.

Date August 27, 1988

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE Southwick, Mass./Conn.

SCALE 1:25:000

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

This building meets National Register criteria because of its architectural merit and design by a renowned federal architect.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.**

The Congregational Church is the single most visually striking edifice in Southwick. Its commanding location in the present town center and architectural beauty are irrefutable. Capt. Isaac Damon of Northampton designed the building. Its exterior is graced with four Roman Doric or Tuscan columns, a three tier steeple of square and octagonal plan, pilasters, modillions, and other features indicative of the transition from federal to Greek Revival design. It is very similar to the Springfield First Church and Blandford Old White Church, and originally had an interior plan similar to that which originally existed at Blandford and is still retained in the Brick Church in Deerfield. The ceiling is domed or "dished" about three feet, as was typical with some of Damon's work. When the original columns were replaced in 1950, papers hid in one of the columns named Damon as the architect and listed all of the workmen.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

The Southwick Congregational Church or "Church of Christ in Southwick" as it was first called was formed in 1773, the same year in which the original meetinghouse was constructed. In 1823 (August) the meetinghouse burned, probably by lightning, and a controversy ensued over the location for the present church. The vote was finally resolved and the new meetinghouse or church was constructed the following year. Church, society, and town meetings were initially held here, until the town had a town hall/academy constructed about 1828. With the exception of two additions for Sunday school rooms, hall, and offices, the building has met the physical needs of the congregation for over 160 years.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Jean Mason et al, "Southwick Congregational Church History," No place (Southwick) no date (1973).



68 50

Southwick  
 Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Congregational Church  
 original & present house of worship \_\_\_\_\_  
 present owner Congregational Church  
 open to public \_\_\_\_\_  
 1824 Style late Federal (David Merrill)  
 source of date documents found in 1950

Development of town/city \_\_\_\_\_ Architect Issac Damon

Architectural reason for inventorying: It is one of Isaac Damon's churches, and he is somewhat important in the development of architecture in the Connecticut River valley. OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material \_\_\_\_\_  
clapboard sides

WALL COVER: Wood boarded facade Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard \_\_\_\_\_  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed four columned

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Doric Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied twelve on twelve

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder Laurie Robin Hammel

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo # 70.338 / Date July 15, 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

- 1. Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal  
 Predominant features \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern  
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Merrill, David. "Isaac Damon and the Southwick Papers". Old-Time New England, vol. 54, no. 2. Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1963.

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SOUTHWICK

488 College Highway

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

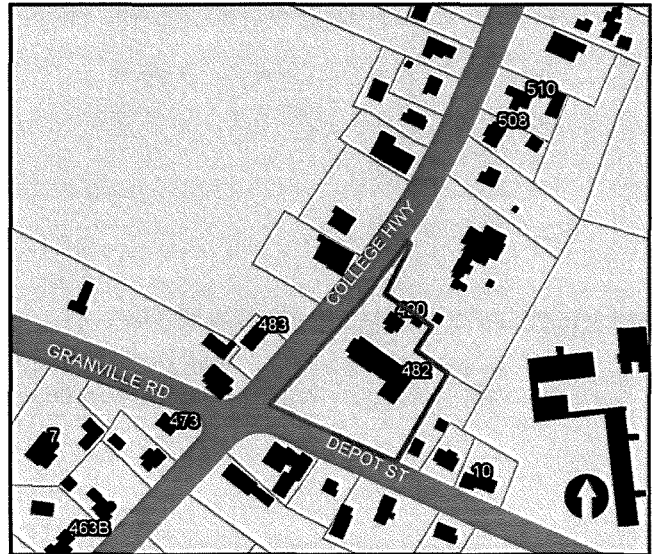
	SOU.50
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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The sympathetic, neo-traditional vinyl sided addition attached to the rear of the church is a two and a half story, L-shaped, gable roofed, asphalt shingled structure that rests on a concrete foundation. A single chimney pierces the roof below the ridgeline near the center of the structure, and a single gabled dormer projects from the attic at the front. Most of the windows are 6/6 double hung sash windows, which have no architrave details and are now flanked by louvered shutters. An 8-light porthole window is located in the attic on the gable end. The main entry into the addition is located on the gable end and consists of a set of modern, 9-light windowed double doors with a single pane transom above. The door is surrounded by a Doric pilastered architrave, topped with a wide, blind frieze and a projecting cornice. Another entryway is located near where the parsonage connects with the main church building and consists of a modern six-panel door topped with a single pane transom.



RECEIVED

NOV 19 2008

MASS. HIST. COMM.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The neo-traditional addition at the rear of the Southwick Congregational Meetinghouse, known as the "new hall" is located on the site of the original Dickinson Academy. The Academy was built in 1828 on land donated by Enos Foote located immediately behind the Church.

From the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century on, there were sporadic calls to build a Church House near the Congregational Meetinghouse, in which events and evening meetings could be held. Efforts to build a space to fill this need never came to fruition until 1924, when the task was finally accomplished by 28th pastor Dr. A.J. William Myers, a professor in the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy, who served the Southwick church from 1923 to 1928.

The original Church House was the church's first major addition to its original building. It contained a kitchen and auditorium with a stage and two dressing rooms on the main floor, and Sunday School rooms on the second floor. Various organizations also used the Church House

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

SOUTHWICK

488 College Highway

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	SOU.50
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as a meeting space, including the Southwick Womens' Club. In 1957, a new hall was built as a response to increased population and programming.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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- Beers, F.W. Atlas of Hampden Co., Massachusetts: From Actual Surveys. New York: Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1870. <http://www.ancestry.com/> (accessed July 1 – August 8, 2008).
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- U.S. Geological Survey Maps, 1895 - 1997: Granville Quadrangle, 1895; Holyoke Quadrangle, 1901; Southwick Quadrangle, 1942; Southwick Quadrangle 1997; Springfield Quadrangle, 1900. Pre-1970 maps accessed via UNH Library Government Information Department, Historic USGS Maps of New England & NY Collection, <http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm> (accessed July 1, 2008). Post-1970 maps downloaded via [usgs.gov](http://usgs.gov) (accessed July 1, 2008).
- Walling, Henry Francis, & H.A. Haley. Map of Hampden County, Massachusetts: Based Upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State. Boston: H.A. Haley, 1857. Harvard Map Collection Digital Maps, <http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/2819834?buttons=y> (accessed July 1 – August, 8 2008).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SOUTHWICK

488 College Highway

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

SOU.50

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
 DIVISION OF INSPECTION  
 PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *9* APART. *37* NO. *22603* ✓  
 BUILDING *Parish House* STORIES *2*  
 CITY OR TOWN *Southwick* STREET *Main & Pleasant*  
 TO BE USED FOR *Misc. Hall* CLASS *Wood and concrete*  
 OWNER *Congregational Church Society* *Misc. Hall*  
 ARCHITECT *Malcolm B. Harding*  
 CERTIFICATE APPROVAL - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
 DATE *April 15, 1924.*  
 INSPECTOR *E.E. Cleveland*  
 FORM 41. 2000. 4-9-'23

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
 DIVISION OF INSPECTION  
 PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *11* APART. *11* NO. *80947*  
 BUILDING *FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH* STORIES  
 CITY OR TOWN *SOUTHWICK* STREET  
 TO BE USED FOR CLASS  
 OWNER  
 ARCHITECT *LOUIS C. HINCKLEY*  
*SPRINGFIELD MASS*  
 CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED  
 DATE *4-3-56*  
 INSPECTOR  
 FORM BU. 1-5M-4-66-942467