

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

273

18

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
		Long Ridge United Methodist Church	
2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Danbury		Fairfield	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
Long Ridge Road & Passway			
4. OWNER(S)			
Long Ridge United Methodist Church <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Church		Church	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	For services
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Greek Revival			1842

DESCRIPTION

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 type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" 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"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
One + Attic		28 x 56		
12. CONDITION (Structural)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	(Exterior)
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN ?	(Alterations)	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Addition
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				

The building stands on an elevated site overlooking a discontinued stretch of Long Ridge Road.

(OVER)

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

The church is rectangular, with its gable end facing the road. The church is three bays deep, with twelve over twelve over twelve sash, and with a 14 foot addition to the rear which contains a choir recess, inner stairway, and a small kitchen. It rests on a foundation of cut granite blocks, with a fully pedimented facade with wide frieze carried on Doric corner pilasters. A belfry rises above the pediment with cornice and wooden cresting carried on Doric pilasters. The entry, is through a single vestibule, with double-leaf doors, above which is a five-light transom, frieze and cornice carried by simple Doric pilasters. In the rear is a large stained glass window.

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Rory Starr, possibly

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

A Methodist society was organized among Starr's Plain and Long Ridge residents shortly after 1793, when circuit rider James Coleman began to ride the Redding circuit. In 1820, a church was built near the site of this one and in 1842, the present church was erected. In 1897, a 14 foot addition was made to the rear, and a second one in 1955, for a kitchen. The church shared preachers at first with West Redding, which is only about a mile and a half to the south. The proximity to Redding contributed to the success of this society; Aaron Sanford of Redding was the first male convert to Methodism in New England in 1789 and West Redding was the scene of summertime camp meetings during the late nineteenth century. The church is significant not only for its long historical association with the area but as a good example of a small, rural Greek Revival church. Rory Starr, a master builder who died in 1843, was a lay Methodist preacher who serviced this church and may have been its designer. The belfry with its cresting resembles his Frederick S. Wildman House built the same year as the church.

Danbury Tax Assessor's Records (1933 & 1977); The Long Ridge United Methodist Church, 1820-1963; Todd, History of Redding

PHOTOGRAPHER

William E. Devlin

DATE

Jan., 1986

VIEW

north facade & west elevation

NEGATIVE ON FILE

Conn. Historical Commis

NAME

Imogene Heireith

DATE

April,

ORGANIZATION

Danbury Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2201, Danbury, CT 06813

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- ☒ None known ☐ Highways ☐ Vandalism ☐ Developers ☐ Other
☐ Renewal ☐ Private ☐ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☐ Ex



Long Ridge Methodist Ch (Methodist Episcopal Ch)

from Todd, C.B. "History of Redding"
The Methodist Episcopal Church at Long Ridge
narrated by Rev. Paul R. Brown pastor of the ch in
1842

The first ch. built when the society consisted of
11 members - assembled for weekly class-meeting
at a home - Uriah Griffin said if he had
\$100 in hand he would build a ch. David Osborne
youngest member present, agreed to give \$100.
and the ch. was built the same year - in
1820-1 during the pastorate of Rev. Leban Clark
was an aux. of Redding. the preacher in
charge there filling the pulpit once in four
weeks -- interim filled by lay preachers
including Rory Starr of Danbury. The Soc.
Connection ended in 1848 and then tied to
the Church in Bethel 1870's (approx) became
a separate station 1879 membership 60

p. 127

"The present ch. edifice is situated in Danbury
a few yards from the Redding line, but as the
church was so long identified with Redding,
it was thought proper to preserve its history
here"

Bailey in History of Danbury doesn't say
anything about the building.

the first building gave way to a larger one
after a few years. Todd doesn't say when 2nd built.

32/40 Denny Hull of Redding

\$10 to

David Osborne & Nathaniel Selleck of Danbury
George Hull, William Meeker & Joel Griffin of
Redding

trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Society
in Long Ridge

a tract of land Long Ridge. 1 1/2 rods
with the meeting house standing

N highway
E Uriah Griffins land
S & W my other land
all enclosed within the fences now
erected around said meeting house
19 Mar 1842

Denny Hull of Redding was owner of the
property. The following is when he purch.
the land

11/156 Joshua Chapman of Danbury
\$600 to

Denny Hull of Redding

- ① 17A Sawmill ridge
N Daniel Wood Jr & Eliphalet Curtis
E highway & Daniel Wood & brook
S. highway & Isaac Raymond
W Daniel Wood Jr & highway

(Ch prop)
*
Ch. property
on this lot

- ② 4A South end of the ridge
N highway
E Catherine Griffins land and the brook
S line between Danbury & Redding
W. Daniel Olmsteads land
③ 4A E Side Stevens' Hill
N highway & Stephen Curtis
E to a point
S & W Daniel Olmsteads land

23 Feb. 1803