

563117

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name First Reformed Church of College Point

other names/site number _____

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 118-07, 118-09, 118-19 14th Avenue

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town Queens

state New York code NY county Queens code 081 zip code 11356

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title Rep. Daniel Marcus Date 1/21/18

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government DSHP

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 11/16/18

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RELIGION / Religious Facility
- RELIGION / Church School
- RELIGION / Church-related Residence
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RELIGION / Religious Facility
- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate, Gothic Revival,
- Eastlake
-
-
-

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: Stone, Brick
- walls: Weatherboard, Stucco
-
- roof: Slate, Asphalt
- other:
-

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Reformed Church of College Point is a complex of three religious buildings located at 118-07, 118-09, and 118-19 14th Avenue in a residential area of the College Point neighborhood in the borough of Queens in New York City. College Point Boulevard, the neighborhood's central commercial spine, is three blocks to the east. The neighborhood is primarily residential and urban in character. The streets are lined with sidewalks and street trees with small grass lawns and parking spaces in front of most houses. The majority of the nearby buildings are detached and semi-detached single-family homes dating from the late-nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Across 14th Avenue to the south and along 119th street to the north and east are detached and semi-detached houses. Both 14th Avenue and 119th Street are lined with large deciduous street trees, none of which is located on church property. Nearby historic resources include the Poppenhusen Institute (National Register of Historic Places, 1976) at 14th Road and 114th Street and the Poppenhusen Branch of the Queens Library (New York City Landmark, 2000) at 14th Avenue and College Point Boulevard.

The complex includes three buildings, all of which face 14th Street. The Sunday school is on the northwest corner lot at the intersection of 14th Avenue and 119th Street. The church is located directly to the west on 14th Avenue, mid-block. Immediately west of the church is a single-family house built in 1914 as a residence; the church purchased the house in 1928 to serve as a parsonage.¹ The three buildings are all enclosed by a three-foot-high black steel fence along 14th Avenue extending from the parsonage to the side entrance of the Sunday School building on 119th street. The buildings are set back from the street's sidewalk, separated by a small grass yard and walkway. The lots are mostly covered with grass lawn with short plantings and shrubs. There are some large trees on the Sunday school building lot, including a large coniferous tree at the building's southwest corner and several large deciduous trees in the lawn to the north. The lawn to the north of the Sunday school is enclosed with a galvanized-steel chain-link fence. The nominated parcels are the lots historically associated with the First Reformed Church of College Point's church, Sunday school, and parsonage.

Narrative Description

The nominated property includes three wood-frame buildings: the church building (1872), the Sunday school building (1881), and the parsonage (1914). All are designed in variations of eclectic Victorian styles and retain a high degree of integrity. The Church and Sunday School were constructed as separate buildings, and were connected by a rear brick hyphen in 1951, within the period of significance. As they were internally connected during the period of significance, they have been counted as one building. For ease of description, this narrative describes them each in separate sections.

¹ New York City Department of Buildings, "New Building Number NB 3160-14," Building Information System. <http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>

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First Reformed Church, 1872 (1 contributing building)

The church is a one-story, three-bay by five-bay front-gabled frame building on a stone and brick foundation. A square, engaged bell tower with steeple projects from its central bay. The building is clad with clapboard, decorative panels, trim and ornamental details, all executed in wood. The exterior design and ornamentation include elements of Italianate and Gothic Revival architectural styles. Upper portions of the tower's exterior are clad in slate shingles, along with the main roof and the steeple.

The main entrance, located on the first floor of the tower, is approached by a modern brick-and-stone stoop of six steps flanked with steel railings. A one-story projecting entry porch, which is topped by a small pediment roof outlining a triangular clapboard tympanum, surrounds the primary entrance. The porch is ornamented with classical molding stringcourses at the arch spring point, the pilaster tops, and the eaves of the porch roof. The main entrance features a pair of wooden doors within a round-arched opening. The doors are constructed of wooden panels and molded stiles that form pointed arches, resembling Gothic lancet windows. The corners of the entrance porch, tower and main façade are embellished with round arched, paneled wooden pilasters. Steep gables top these pilasters at the tower above lancet-shaped paneling. The bays to either side of the tower each contain two lancet windows paired within round-arched window openings. The windows are framed with a continuous arched wooden molding. The sills are supported by small wooden corbels. The windows centered on the east and west sides of the tower match the size, shape and height positioning of the two arched windows in the outer bays; however, they contain a single stained-glass window rather than paired lancet windows. The tower is decorated with a keyhole-motif paneled frieze framed by the gablets below the cornice line. On the east and west elevations of the tower, a small round-headed window is located at the balcony level. A projecting cornice adorns the building at the transition of the tower from square to octagonal, at the eaves of the main roof, and at the tops of the façade's corner pilasters. The cornice is decorated with closely spaced arched brackets integrated into the moldings above. Above the church roofline, the square tower ends in a flat bracketed cornice, which is capped by an octagonal continuation of the tower. At this level, the tower wall is covered in slate shingles and has single or double round-arched wooden louvers on each side. A modern electrified illuminated Latin cross hangs over the front louvers of the tower. The tower is crowned with a dual-pitched octagonal steeple capped with a spherical weathervane. Undated historic photographs indicate that the steeple and octagonal, upper-wall surface has been reconfigured, likely due to one of the several fires the church has experienced. The internal framing of the tower was reinforced with steel after the most recent fire in 2008.

The central three bays of the eastern and western elevations have arched stained-glass windows of the same size and shape as the windows at the first floor of the tower. The bay toward the rear of the building contains a slightly smaller arched stained-glass window aligned with the tops of the other windows. The bay closest to the street contains no windows or decorative features beyond the clapboard siding.

The rear elevation of the building has been concealed by the ca. 1951 two-story brick addition which connects the church and Sunday school buildings.² It is a rectangular, two-story, brick section with a slate roof. The

² New York City Department of Buildings, Building Information System. An Alteration Permit was submitted in 1950 and a New Building Permit in 1955. It is unclear which permit applies to the construction of the addition although it was likely built in 1951 on the earlier permit. A cornerstone on the southwest corner of the church foundation is inscribed with two dates, 1872 and 1951.

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cross-gabled addition continues the roof line of the main church building with one ridge and gable. The other ridge and gables run perpendicular. The addition allowed for an extension of the sanctuary behind the altar as well as administrative offices for the church and pastor. An additional ca. 1951 one-story brick-enclosed hyphen connects the east end of the brick extension to the Sunday school building.

The church interior is divided into three sections: an entry hall, vestibule, and main sanctuary. The entry hall is immediately inside the front entrance. A pair of paneled wooden doors separates the entry hall from the other interior spaces. On either side of the entry hall are two stained-glass windows depicting religious scenes; these were added ca. 1951. The vestibule is separated from the sanctuary by another pair of varnished paneled doors. There is a coat closet area at the east side of the vestibule and a wooden turned-baluster staircase at the west leading to the balcony level. The vestibule has two pairs of stained-glass lancet windows at each side of the entrance. The double-hung wooden windows are decorated with colored geometric lights consisting of squares, rectangles, diamond shapes with leaded tracery at the pointed-arch section of the upper sash.

The main sanctuary is rectangular with a single aisle separating two groups of wooden pews, which appear to be original to the church. The sanctuary is richly ornamented with wooden moldings, trim and paneling. The sanctuary walls are clad with varnished wooden paneled wainscoting and plaster walls. The stained glass windows on each side of the sanctuary are framed with round arched wooden moldings; they feature a border, a central religious scene, and have memorial inscriptions at the base. The exposed wooden rafters, purlins and sheathing boards are painted white. The main decorative element of the interior is a set of four wooden roof trusses supported by carved wooden Corinthian pilasters at the exterior walls between the window bays. The trusses are richly decorated with delicate machine-sawn scrollwork incorporating numerous sizes and shapes of s-curves. Additionally, the wooden trusses contain a collar tie beam midway up the roof pitch, and a king post from which hangs a central triangular pendant. At the front of the sanctuary is the apse containing the altar. The apse, which is framed by a large round arched opening supported on square wooden columns, is separated from the seating area below by two steps. This area is an extension of the sanctuary contained and is contained within the brick extension addition. Historic photographs show that the arched opening framed a solid wall and the church's organ pipes. An additional stained-glass window is at the rear of the apse. A panel door within a round arched opening is located in the wall to the east of the apse. These windows depict religious scenes and were likely installed ca. 1951.³ Many of the original windows, which match the geometric-patterned lancet windows in the vestibule, remain on site in storage.

The balcony level contains three rows of stepped wooden pews overlooking the main seating area and altar. At the rear of the balcony is an off-center, paneled wooden door within a round-arched opening leading into the unfinished interior of the bell tower. The balcony balustrade is constructed of solid wooden paneling; four Corinthian pilasters run up the rear wall underneath the balcony.

³ While the church representatives were not able to confirm when the windows were replaced, the chancel window is similar in design and style of the replacement stained-glass windows of the nave. This suggests that the original windows in these areas were replaced at the time of renovation in 1951. Photographs in the church's archives show the newer windows in place by 1972.

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Sunday School Building, 1881 (attached to Church)

The Sunday school building is a roughly six-bay by two-bay L-shaped frame building on a brick foundation with wooden clapboard siding, slate roofing, and a variety of sawn wooden ornament. The façade is ornamented in an eclectic style that incorporates details from several nineteenth-century traditions, including Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Stick style and the Eastlake style. The main mass is side-gabled and runs parallel to 14th Avenue. An ell extends to the north from the west end of the north side of the main hall. The main entrance is within a small projecting pavilion and is covered by a small, off-centered porch surmounted by a small square tower with a pyramidal roof. A second entrance on 14th Avenue was added during a 1929 alteration.⁴ The basement was excavated and an interior partition was added during the alteration. Historic photographs show that a steep spire rose from the center of the pyramidal roof, once creating a double-pitched steeple.

On the south elevation (façade), the first bay from the west contains a pointed arch double-hung window. The upper sash features a diamond-shaped pane between the peaks of two triangle topped lights in the upper sash. A flat wooden molding surrounds the window, which is topped with a projecting triangular window hood molding and supported by a sill with small geometric corbels. The second, third and fourth bays project from the wall façade to form the entrance pavilion, and the fifth and sixth bays contain windows identical to the first bay. Two subtle stringcourses of flush clapboards accent the wall surface at the level of the window sills and just below the window heads. The entrance pavilion features a red painted wooden door with a triangular transom window above centered under the entry porch. The porch has a pyramidal roof and is heavily ornamented with brackets decorated with incised ornament and scroll brackets typical of the Eastlake style. The entrance door is flanked by two small rectangular double-hung windows with molding profiles and corbels that match the larger windows. A decorative frieze band of vertical boards with scroll-sawn gingerbread ornament arranged in a picket-fence-like manner and brackets is located under the roofline. Directly behind the porch, a tower extends from the entrance pavilion. At its base, the tower has spandrel panels decorated with wooden panels of repeating quatrefoils. Above the panels, it features two lancet louvers with deep pointed arch head moldings on each of the four faces. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof. The eaves of the primary mass of the Sunday school building project beyond the wall plane to create a deep overhang. The deep eaves of the roof are embellished with exposed rafter tails. A vertical picket-fence-like frieze band runs under the roofline, matching the entrance pavilion. Three small triangular dormers project midway between the ridge and eaves on the steep slate-clad roof; they contain louvers and are decorated with scroll-sawn gingerbread ornamentation.

The east elevation and gable end of the roof faces 119th street. The first floor has two windows at either side of the façade that are identical to those of the south elevation; two smaller but identically styled windows are located on the balcony level above. An off-center entrance door sheltered by a one-story, slate shed-roof supported by sawn brackets is directly to the north of the southern ground-floor window; this door was added during the 1929 alteration. The vertical picket-fence frieze runs under the roofline and is oriented perpendicular to the ground as it follows the eaves of the gable. The deep overhang of the eaves is richly ornamented with a decorated bargeboard. The bargeboard includes a king post truss and pendant with two circular panels on either side of the center post. The framing members and panels are decorated with incised ornament incorporating geometric forms, quatrefoils and acanthus leaves.

⁴ New York City Department of Buildings, "Alteration number ALT 1480-2908-8180-38," Building Information System. Signed and undated plans depicting work are stored on site with church records. <http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>

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The north (rear) elevation is four bays wide. The three easternmost bays contain three windows of the same style and configuration as those found on other elevations. A two-bay by two-bay ell with two sides exposed to the exterior projects from the western bay. The vertical frieze runs under the roofline of the building and the ell. The east side of the ell connects to the brick addition joining the Sunday school with the church. The roof of the ell projects from the main roof and ends in a north-facing gable. A pair of double-hung windows with triangular top sash are centered in the north elevation of the ell; these windows are united under a single larger triangular hood molding with a diamond-shaped panel between the triangular tops of the two windows. The gable is decorated with an ornamental king post truss with additional framing timbers curving from the king post outward to the roof eaves. The east elevation of the ell contains a single triangular-headed window and a small shed-roofed vestibule and door where the ell meets the main building. One triangular louver dormer is on each side of the ell roof in addition to three louver dormers on the north roof of the building.

The west elevation and gable end of the roof faces the east elevation of the church. The ground floor has two triangular headed windows at either side of the façade. One stained-glass rose window is centered in the upper portion of the gable and has a pointed-arch hood molding. The deep overhang of the eaves is richly ornamented with a decorated bargeboard. The bargeboard includes a king post truss and pendant with two circular panels on either side of the center post. The framing members and panels are decorated with incised ornament incorporating geometric forms, quatrefoils and acanthus leaves.

On the interior, the Sunday school building is divided into a vestibule and main hall. The entrance pavilion of the Sunday school building contains the vestibule space. On either side of the main entrance are two coat rooms accessible through doors from the main hall. Within the main hall there is a stage at the west side and a balcony level on the east side. A doorway near the stage to the north leads to a small meeting room within the ell. There are four doors in the ell; the door at the west leads to the brick extension, two doors at the south lead to the stage and hall, and the east door leads outside.

The wall in both the main hall and the ell is surfaced in white plaster with varnished wood wainscoting. The interior woodwork is highly ornamental. Generally, the varnished woodwork is a rich brown with ornament accented in red. The doors are triangular-headed mimicking the exterior windows. The door panels are constructed of tongue-and-groove boards that match the angular orientation of the triangular heads. The balcony balustrade consists of board paneling set in an x-shaped motif with tongue-and-groove infill. The upper portions of the walls are painted with excerpts from scripture in hybrid Gothic calligraphy stylized with vermilion majuscules. The hall's volume is dominated by the exposed rafters and roof trusses. The underside of the roof sheathing and rafters are finished with a dark stain and clear varnish showcasing the wooden construction. The four trusses are constructed of two timbers crossed in a shallow x-shape of approximately 120 degrees. The brackets and additional framing timbers are decorated with incised ornament similar to the exterior elements. The incised ornament and the chamfers of the timbers are accentuated with high-gloss red paint. The bolts of the truss system are visible and accentuated by decorative metallic fittings that add to its richness of ornament.

Parsonage, 1914 (1 contributing building)

The parsonage building is a two-story, two-bay by four-bay, wood-framed building on a concrete foundation. The building is clad in stucco and has asphalt shingle roof covering. The building is generally rectangular in

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plan with a projecting, two-story rear ell and two-story, three-side projecting window bays at each of the south and east elevations. The building has contemporary replacement windows but retains its historic fenestration. This arrangement of hipped roof massing with cross gables is typical of the Queen Anne style. The house has a hipped roof and gables projecting over the rear ell and two projecting bays.

The façade (south elevation) features a one-story, full-width hipped roof porch resting on concrete piers. A brick stoop of five steps approaches the porch in front of the entrance bay. The roof of the porch is supported by simple round colonettes with wooden railings and balusters between. The west-bay consists of a two-story, three-sided bay window and the east bay contains the entrance. The entrance contains two aluminum replacement doors; original drawings indicate that the house was constructed as a duplex and that the double-front door arrangement is the historic configuration.⁵ A small square window is located between the entrance and bay. The bay window continues into the second story and is flanked to the east by a single double-hung window. The roofline has deep projecting, slightly flared eaves supported by a plain, flat frieze and long, shallow brackets. A small pent roof closes the front gable and creates a continuous cornice line along the façade. The wall surface of the gable is clad with cedar shingles. A small replacement window is centered in the gable.

On the west elevation, the basement level has three two-light rectangular windows in the first, third and fourth bays starting from the north. The first and third bays of the first story each contain a full-sized one-over-one double-hung window. The second bay has a small one-over-one double-hung window. The fourth bay of the first story has a single-sash window placed at approximately eye-level above the interior floor surface. The first and third bays of the second story also each contain a full-sized window. The second bay has a small one-over-one double-hung window.

The north (rear-facing) elevation is two bays wide; the east bay consists of a rectangular projecting ell with cross gable above. A one story, flat-roofed wooden porch with a round column and wooden balustrade is located in the western bay. The first and second floor of the western bay contain a vertically divided casement window. The ell has a door on the first floor, a window on the second, and is capped by a front-gable roof, closed at the bottom with a pent roof; the gable is covered in cedar siding and has a central small window.

The east elevation is four bays wide with a projecting bay in the second bay from the south. The basement level has three two-light basement windows in the first, second and third bays. The first floor has a projecting bay window, a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows, and a small window. On the second story, there is a single window placed low to the floor, a projecting bay window, a pair of double-hung windows and a single, smaller one-over-one, double-hung window. The projecting bay is capped by a cross gable, closed at the bottom with a pent roof; the gable is covered in cedar siding and has a central small window. A stucco-coated chimney penetrates the roof surface to the north of the cross-gable.

⁵ New York City Department of Buildings, "New Building Number NB 3160-14," Building Information System. <http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1872-1951

Significant Dates

1872-1873, 1881, 1928, 1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ernest W. Karker, Builder (Church)

Unknown (Sunday School)

Harry T. Morris Jr. (Parsonage)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the construction of the church in 1872-3 and continues to the latest expansion project of the church in 1951.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

While these three buildings are owned by a religious congregation, they are primarily significant as excellent examples of Victorian Gothic architecture. They are also significant for their association with the history of the development of College Point and the history of the First Reformed Church congregation.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The First Reformed Church of College Point is significant under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture for its representative, intact and rare examples of nineteenth-century rural, wooden, religious architecture in Queens. The complex's Sunday school building, in particular, displays a wealth of wooden Eastlake style ornamentation unusual in urban Queens County. The church was built in 1872-1873 for the community by local builder E.W. Karker as a gift from local industrialist Conrad Poppenhusen.⁶ The church's eclectic, but traditional design features a Wren-Gibbs plan, round-arched windows, paneled piers and a bracketed cornice reflecting both the vernacular Gothic Revival (sometimes known as "carpenter gothic") and Italianate styles. The wood-framed church is typical of rural vernacular church construction generally found outside of major urban areas where masonry construction dominates. Because the church was constructed in what was then a Long Island village, it is a rare surviving example of this type within the metropolis. The Sunday school was built in 1881 as a gift from church member and prominent College Point citizen Charles De Neufville.⁷ The Sunday school building features elaborate cut and carved Eastlake style wooden decoration. The builder of the Sunday school is unknown but was highly skilled and fluent in the popular architectural styles of the time. Both buildings have been praised for their beauty. In 1896, the Sunday school was called "one of the most beautiful chapels on Long Island" by the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.⁸ These buildings are both excellent examples of vernacular church architecture constructed by local builders influenced by architectural pattern books. The church and Sunday school buildings are architecturally significant both due to the rarity of their type within New York City and their high degree of architectural integrity.

The church complex is additionally significant under National Register Criterion A at the local level in the area of Social History for its association with the development of College Point, a community initiated and supported by German industrialist Conrad Poppenhusen, and the growth of the predominantly German congregation. Established relatively early in the community's history, as it began to transition from a rural to an industrial community, the church was a key building in the physical and social development of College Point and embodies this transformational period. Established in 1871, the congregation met at the home of Adolph Poppenhusen until the church was completed in 1873. The First Reformed Church is also a lasting and integral symbol of Conrad Poppenhusen's paternal transformation of the neighborhood through the establishment of industry, housing construction, and civic philanthropy. Interested in the success of his business and in College Point generally, Conrad Poppenhusen constructed paved roads and utilities and established institutions for the community. In addition to providing the funds to build the First Reformed Church, he established the Poppenhusen Institute, an organization that provided vocational training, language instruction, and social services to the community, in 1868. The promise of good employment, good benefits, and a thriving community drew German-speaking immigrant workers to College Point. As a result, the congregation grew, expanding its campus to include a Sunday school building to house additional programming and social events in 1881; this building was also funded by prominent resident of College Point with connections to Poppenhusen's company. The church continued to offer German language services through at least the end of the nineteenth century. Paralleling the growth of the larger community, the

⁶ "A Quarter of a Century Old," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 8, 1896.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

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congregation thrived, expanding into the mid-twentieth century. This period of transition in College Point mirrors the industrialization of the borough and marks the shift toward unification with the City of New York. The Church and Sunday School, along with the Poppenhusen Institute, are civic icons of College Point during its early, rapid, and dramatic stage of development.

Development of College Point

At the time of first European settlement, College Point was part of a land patent for the Dutch colonial settlement of Vlissingen; this was later anglicized to Flushing. The patent from New Netherland's director-general, Willem Kieft, in 1645, granted the area of present-day Flushing, Queens to eighteen New England migrants. The peninsula was known as Tew's Neck and was likely named for two brothers in Flushing who were granted land at College Point but never settled there. One of the eighteen patent grantees was William Lawrence, who received 900 acres of land at present-day College Point. William Lawrence and his descendants were then the only white occupants of College Point until after the American Revolution. During this period, the area was called Lawrence Neck.⁹

The Lawrence family was sympathetic to the American cause during the Revolution and was treated harshly during the British occupation of Long Island and New York. To recover from the destruction of its property, the family sold some of its land to repay the debts. Eliphalet Stratton purchased 320 acres from the Lawrence family in 1789. Stratton built a large home east of the present-day College Point Boulevard; shortly after, Lawrence Neck became known as Strattonport. For the first half of the nineteenth century, Strattonport remained a largely undeveloped rural area of Long Island.¹⁰

In 1835, the Reverend William Muhlenberg purchased 175 acres of land at the northern part of the peninsula to establish a seminary to educate Episcopal ministers. Muhlenberg hoped his seminary would one day rival Yale and Harvard and selected Strattonport because the undeveloped area left room for expansion. The seminary opened in 1839 as St. Paul's College with approximately 100 students. Muhlenberg named the land occupied by St. Paul's as College Point. The seminary was short-lived, closing in 1848, but the name of College Point endured.¹¹

In 1851, John A. Flammer and Peter Longley purchased 141 acres from the Stratton estate as part of a real estate development scheme. Flammer was known as a zealous real estate promoter and divided the purchase into 800 building lots measuring 50 by 100 feet. The development was bounded approximately by today's 15th and 23rd Avenues and 119th and 130th Streets. The *Flushing Journal* reported monthly on the development which Flammer named "Flammersburg." By the close of 1851, the area, which had been largely undeveloped during two hundred years of European settlement, was beginning to develop into a village.¹² In 1867, the three areas on the peninsula, Strattonport, College Point, and Flammersburg, merged into a single entity. After some debate, the community chose to name the new village College Point.¹³

⁹ Robert A. Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY* (New York: Poppenhusen Institute, 1987), 10-11.

¹⁰ Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY*, 12-13.

¹¹ Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY*, 27-29.

¹² Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY*, 13-14.

¹³ Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY*, 29.

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When the residents of College Point made this decision, Queens County (which included present-day Nassau County) was on the cusp of change. Once a rural area, College Point had begun developing into one of the few industrial centers of Queens, along with Long Island City and Maspeth, during the mid-nineteenth century. Manufacturers sought rural locations for factories that were close to New York City and major transportation routes.¹⁴ As industry developed and workers moved in, new communities were formed. For example, in Long Island City, the Steinway Piano Company established a factory and factory-village in 1870-1872.¹⁵ These urbanizing forces changed the character of western Queens, eventually leading to a need for municipal re-organization. In 1872, the New York State Legislature authorized construction of a new Queens County Courthouse in Long Island City, thus moving the county seat from Mineola, in present-day Nassau County.¹⁶ As a result of its dramatic industrialization, urbanization, and population growth, Queens was incorporated as one of five boroughs of Greater New York City on January 1, 1898. The remaining areas of old Queens County became Nassau County.¹⁷

Conrad Poppenhusen & College Point

The village of College Point and the First Reformed Church of College Point both are indebted to the support and influence of Conrad Poppenhusen. Poppenhusen was born in 1818 in Hamburg, Germany, where he apprenticed at a dyeing company and began a promising career in business working for his late father's friend, H.C. Meyer. He married Bertha Maria Karker in 1841 and lost all of his savings and furnishings in a great fire in Hamburg in the same year. Starting over, Poppenhusen was offered an opportunity to manage one of Meyer's businesses in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. He took it, moving to the United States in 1843. The business, named Meyer and Poppenhusen, manufactured whalebone products, including brushes, combs, buttons, and corset and dress stays. By the 1850s, whalebone became increasingly scarce due to overhunting. Poppenhusen turned to vulcanized or "hard" rubber as a replacement for whalebone. In 1854, he entered into an agreement with Charles Goodyear, who had invented the vulcanization process in 1839, for exclusive use of his patent for several years. However, his Brooklyn factory was too small for the new process. Poppenhusen looked further east to the relatively inexpensive, unbuilt land in Queens. He decided to build his new factory in College Point. While the area lacked any previous industrial development, its proximity to Manhattan by water and room for expansion drew Poppenhusen to the area.¹⁸

Built and opened in 1854 as Enterprise Rubber Works, the factory became a major employer and required an influx of workers. Poppenhusen actively recruited immigrants at the piers as ships arrived from Europe. The population of College Point grew rapidly from only a few hundred in 1853, to over 1,000 in 1855 and 2,000 in 1860. Many of the immigrants to College Point were German, like Poppenhusen himself, but there were also many Irish. German culture dominated College Point until the twentieth century, and many of the Irish residents of College Point learned German.¹⁹

¹⁴ John A. Peterson, ed, and Vincent F. Seyfried, *A Research Guide to the History of the Borough of Queens and its Neighborhoods* (New York: Department of History, Queens College, The City University of New York; 1983), 14.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 5, 14.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁸ Robert A. Hecht, *A History of College Point, NY.*, 35-37.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 38-39.

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College Point effectively became a company town around the Enterprise Rubber Works. Poppenhusen implemented improvements throughout the community to improve the quality of life, both for his workers and the public. He built homes for his workers; first for the employees to rent but eventually to buy. He also built a road paved with cobblestones to connect College Point to Flushing. He drained the marshes around College Point and installed utilities, including running water, gas lines, and many paved streets. During the Civil War, the rubber works thrived from the demand for rubber items. At this time, Poppenhusen started a health care plan for his workers. He encouraged his employees to enlist in the military and paid death benefits to the surviving families of fallen employees. When College Point later became part of New York City in 1898, it was the only Queens village with paved streets and a budget surplus.²⁰

In 1868, Poppenhusen provided \$250,000 for the founding of "The Conrad Poppenhusen Association for the Advancement of Knowledge and the Improvement of the Moral and Social Condition of the Working Classes." The resulting home of the association, The Poppenhusen Institute (National Register, 1976; New York City Landmark, 1970) became the center of the community. The institute provided vocational training, language instruction, a public gathering space, and social services, including the first free kindergarten in the nation.²¹ In 1868, Poppenhusen signed the articles of association to purchase and construct a railroad from College Point to Whitestone. In 1870 Poppenhusen and a handful of wealthy friends purchased the Flushing Railroad line and extended a rail connection to the new College Point line. The introduction of the railroad increased local property values, adding to Poppenhusen's fortune, although he would eventually lose much of his fortune due to speculation in the railroad business.²² Poppenhusen died in 1883. The following year, College Point erected a monument in his memory at 12th Avenue and College Point Boulevard that reads: "To the memory of the benefactor of College Point." The members of the First Reformed Church brought news of his death to the annual meeting of the Particular Synod of New York, stating for the official record: "Mention is also made of the loss which the church has sustained in the death of the late Conrad Poppenhusen, who, though not a communicant member of the church, was a devoted friend and a liberal benefactor, the church edifice being one of his gifts."²³ Poppenhusen not only stimulated the growth of College Point with his factory but also greatly contributed to the physical and social wellbeing of the community. His factory, which changed names several times, would remain in College Point until the 1930s, when the company relocated to Butler, New Jersey.

Construction & Design of the First Reformed Church of College Point

The First Reformed Church of College Point was constructed in 1872-1873 to serve the developing College Point neighborhood. The congregation began with an informal meeting on October 29, 1871 at the home of Adolph Poppenhusen, Conrad Poppenhusen's son. The Reverend Elijah S. Fairchild, the fourth pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of the Town of Flushing, and five community members attended. Fairchild began holding public religious services at the Poppenhusen Institute on November 12, 1871 and regularly thereafter. The service was attended by forty people who continued to meet throughout the winter. By spring, the group

²⁰ Ibid., 39.

²¹ Daniel P. Brunetto, "National Register Nomination for Poppenhusen Institute, 114-04 14th Road, College Point, NY," 1977.

²² "Conrad Poppenhusen Obituary," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 22, 1883.

²³ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1884), 20.

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was granted permission to form a church by the North Long Island Classis of the Reformed Church of America. The church was officially organized on March 24, 1872.²⁴

In May of 1872, Conrad Poppenhusen donated \$30,000 for the construction of the church in memory of his two recently deceased daughters. The building was dedicated September 28, 1873.²⁵ The original parsonage (no longer extant) was also a gift of Adolph Poppenhusen and was opened on October 27, 1873.²⁶ The parsonage was located on land owned by Adolph Poppenhusen, who likely provided the adjacent land for the construction of the church as well.²⁷ The steel bell was purchased and imported from Germany by College Point silk industrialist Hugo Funke and the floor of the church was covered with Brussels carpet. The organ was also donated by Adolf Poppenhusen.²⁸

The First Reformed Church building and the now-lost parsonage were constructed and likely designed by local builder Ernest W. Karker.²⁹ Karker came to the United States from Hamburg on the steamship *Borussia* on July 30, 1861 and settled in College Point. Poppenhusen's biographer, James E. Haas, noted that Conrad's first wife's maiden name is written as either Käeker or Karker, but it is unknown whether he was a relative of the family.³⁰ Poppenhusen's decision to hire Karker may have been based on this familial connection, but Karker was also a respected builder in College Point in his own right. Long Island business directory in 1873 lists him as a mason and builder as well as the operator of a saw mill at College Point.³¹ A map of College Point from 1873 shows the mill as "E.W. Karker Planing Mill & Lumber & Stone Yard," located on the western waterfront at 1st Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. In addition to the church and parsonage, Karker performed work on the mansion of Poppenhusen's longtime aide, August D. Schlesinger.³² While the church and parsonage were in the final stages of construction *the Brooklyn Daily Eagle* described Karker's other in-progress projects:

He has just completed a two-story house for Capt. Mankin, on Seventeenth street, costing about \$2,000 and he has in hand a two-story house, 22x30 feet, for Mrs. Wiegold, which will cost about \$3,000. The same builder has also completed the upper floor of the new school building—work which was laid over from the last year. He has also six buildings in course of construction—six houses in Astoria. Mr. Karker has finished twelve of the twenty houses being built, along the tracks of the Long Island Central and the Flushing and North Side Railroads, for the track walkers and other employees of the company... Numerous additions and enlargements are being made to houses and stored throughout the village, which gives constant signs of vitality and progress.³³

²⁴ Henry J. Herge, *The Golden Jubilee Directory of the First Reformed Church, College Point, N.Y.* (New York: First Reformed Church of College Point, 1922), 10-11.

²⁵ "A Quarter of a Century Old," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 8, 1896; James Haas, Frank Priore and Karen Trager, "First Reformed Church of College Point 145th Anniversary," (College Point, NY: First Reformed Church, 2017).

²⁶ Herge, *The Golden Jubilee Directory of the First Reformed Church, College Point, N.Y.*, 11.

²⁷ Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library, "Part of College Point, Town of Flushing, Queens Co." The New York Public Library Digital Collections, 1873.

²⁸ James E. Haas, *Conrad Poppenhusen: The Life of a German-American Industrial Pioneer* (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2004): 99.

²⁹ "College Point Real Estate," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 14, 1873.

³⁰ James E. Haas, *Conrad Poppenhusen*, 100.

³¹ Long Island Business Directory, 1873. <http://bklyn-genealogy-info.stevemorse.org/Directory/1873.L.I.Business.html>

³² James E. Haas, *Conrad Poppenhusen*, 100.

³³ "College Point Real Estate," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 14, 1873.

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Mr. Karker must have been a successful builder at the time because the 1873 map of College Point also shows three buildings throughout the village owned by him. One of these buildings is shown as a residence directly across from his mill and was likely a house he built for himself. This building is a large two-and-a-half-story house with a mansard roof and bracketed cornice and appears to still stand today. Other buildings by Karker could either not be located or have been since been demolished. Karker also invented an improved embroidery frame which was described an 1876 issue of *Scientific American*.³⁴ Karker's success was apparently short-lived. *The Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* document at least three legal judgements against Mr. Karker totaling over \$2,000 in 1874 and 1875, and in 1877 he declared bankruptcy.³⁵ By 1891, the mill site had been taken over by the Chilton Paint Company.³⁶

The First Reformed Church building has a simple tower-front rectangular Wren-Gibbs plan executed in wood, typical of rural and village church buildings of the period. Its eclectic design combines elements of both the Gothic, Romanesque and Italianate revivals. The lancet divisions of the original stained-glass windows on the front façade evoke the Gothic tradition as do the pointed gablets and steep spire. The design also incorporates many round-arched decorative elements, classical pediment and moldings, and a deep, bracketed cornice typical of the Italianate style. These competing styles form an eclectic hybrid style, common for vernacular buildings of this period. This church contrasts with the majority of churches found within the city which are typically of masonry construction and were designed by known and established architects. While the building is not a wholly unique composition, it is an excellent example of village church design of its period as constructed by a prominent local builder.

The Reverend Fairchild organized the congregation's Sunday school program on March 13, 1873 while the church was still housed at the Poppenhusen Institute; forty-seven children were enrolled. Most contemporary reformed churches in the North Long Island classis also operated Sunday schools by that time, following larger trends in the establishment of Sunday schools in Protestant churches.³⁷ After the congregation moved into its new church, it grew, and so did its Sunday school. To accommodate the need for space dedicated to Sunday school services, First Reformed Church Deacon Charles De Neufville spent \$15,000 of his own money to construct the Sunday school building, which was dedicated December 6, 1881.³⁸ Charles De Neufville had recently married into one of College Point's leading families. De Neufville and Mary Schlesinger married on January 20, 1880 at College Point. Her father, August Schlesinger, was Conrad Poppenhusen's key aide at the rubber works and had a prominent estate in College Point.³⁹ De Neufville continued to play an important role in the community; in 1884, he became a founding trustee of the Flushing Hospital, along with

³⁴ "New Chemical and Miscellaneous Inventions," *Scientific American*, Volume 34, no. 18 (1876): 280.

³⁵ *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, Volume 15, no. 357 (1875): 42; *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, Volume 15, no. 368 (1875): 231; *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, Volume 14, no. 352 (1874): 405; *Brooklyn Union-Argus*, August 8, 1877, 3.

³⁶ New York Public Library Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, "Plate 22: [Bounded by Tenth Street, Seventh Avenue, Tenth Street, Third Avenue, First Street, First Avenue, Sixth Street, West Boulevard, Avenue G, North Boulevard, North Twentieth Street, Avenue C, Boulevard, Lawrence Avenue, Twenty Third Street, Seventh Avenue, Twenty First Street, Tenth Avenue, Seventeenth Street, Causeway and Twelfth Avenue.]," New York Public Library Digital Collections. <http://qa.digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e2-4a16-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

³⁷ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1884).

³⁸ "About Brooklyn People," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 11, 1881.

³⁹ Ancestry.com, U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930 [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014; Hecht, *A History of College Point, N.Y.*, 39.

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another of Conrad's sons, Alfred L. Poppenhusen.⁴⁰ While Conrad Poppenhusen was only the church's benefactor and never a member, De Neufville was an active leader of the church. In addition to donating the Sunday school chapel, he led the church's German-language services for at least the year 1884.⁴¹

The Sunday school building shows a more picturesque use of eclectic wooden ornament than the church building of the previous decade. Its asymmetrical plan creates a more sophisticated and picturesque composition, while the building uses the same materials as the church, including wood clapboard and slate shingles. The ornament itself moves beyond the Gothic and Italianate to the full-blown eclecticism of the Eastlake style. The building is adorned with a variety of wooden ornament in the form of scroll brackets, timber joinery, incised carved ornament, and fretwork. This exuberant decoration all but obscures the references to the Gothic present in the lancet louver openings of the tower. The exquisite woodwork continues on the interior which is rich with paneling and scissor-beams with chamfers and fine incised ornament.

The two buildings are coherent in material and character yet display a progression of popular design in late-nineteenth century vernacular architecture. However, since E.W. Karker declared bankruptcy in 1877 and there is no apparent mention of his business after that date, it is unlikely that he was also the builder of the Sunday school. It was likely built by a local builder who was very knowledgeable of the latest architectural trends. While De Neufville's intent for the design of the new buildings was not documented, he was a young man in a prominent position at the church and had recently married the daughter of the wealthy and prominent College Point resident August Schlesinger. His intent was likely to impress his peers and elders and boost his reputation with the completion of the stylish new Sunday school building. Despite only eight years between the dedication of the two buildings, the church building is conservative in comparison to the Sunday school. The Eastlake style used to decorate the Sunday school had only recently been published and popularized at the time of construction.

The development of machine cutting for wood and widespread publishing of pattern books and builder's guides allowed homeowners, builders, and developers to create elaborate and stylish designs for affordable buildings. In fact, design elements similar to those found on the two buildings can be found in pattern books such as A.J. Bicknell's *Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details* series first published in 1875.⁴² These particular pattern books drew inspiration from English designer Charles Locke Eastlake and the resulting form of decoration came to be called the Eastlake style. Typical characteristics of the Eastlake style are scroll-sawn decorative woodwork and delicately incised linear ornament.⁴³ Eastlake ornamental features found both within the Bicknell pattern books and on the exterior and interior of the Sunday school building include incised ornament, scroll-sawn wooden elements, triangular-headed windows, diagonal tongue-and-groove paneling, the distinct picket-fence-like frieze band, and other elements borrowed from the Gothic, Italianate and Queen Anne styles. The design for the church building is also part of this vernacular building tradition. Designs for church buildings similar to the First Reformed Church building can be found in a collection of rural church

⁴⁰ "Hospital Marks 50th Anniversary This Year," *North Shore Daily Journal*, March 23, 1934.

⁴¹ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1884), 20.

⁴² A.J. Bicknell, *Bicknell's Cottage & Villa Architecture* (New York: A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1878); A.J. Bicknell, *Bicknell's School House and Church Architecture* (New York: A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1878); A.J. Bicknell, *Bicknell's Stables, Outbuildings, Fences and Miscellaneous Details* (New York: A.J. Bicknell & Co., 1878).

⁴³ Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 2001): 238-239.

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designs published by Geo. E. Woodward. This book includes designs from influential church architects Richard Upjohn and James Renwick among others.⁴⁴

The Sunday school building specifically has been noted for its beauty since its construction. A small note in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* from De Neufville's dedication calls the structure, a "beautiful Gothic chapel" that "has a beautifully decorated interior."⁴⁵ In celebration of the church's twenty-fifth anniversary, the same paper describes it as "one of the most beautiful chapels on Long Island."⁴⁶ Press coverage of the fifty-year celebration specifically highlights the original painted scripture texts that still adorn the interior plaster walls.⁴⁷ The scripture passages appear to relate to the use of the building as a Sunday school. One excerpt directly extols the benefits of child bible education in quoting Isaiah 54:13: "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

While no record of coverage by the architectural press from the time of construction is known or likely, the church and Sunday school building have since been noticed and celebrated for their significance by architecture and preservation professionals in later years. In the *AIA Guide to New York City*, Smith and Willensky describe the church as follows: "Queen Anne meets Eastlake and their style blooms. An exquisite and perfectly maintained excerpt from the most eclectic period of American Architecture. Gothic and Renaissance, Colonial and Romanesque—all had a share in this adventure."⁴⁸ This evaluation celebrates the eccentric and unique combinations of style that were often the result of pattern-book-based design.

Growth of College Point and the Congregation

In 1876, the population of College Point had grown to approximately 6,000 people, most of them German. Poppenhusen was the first to locate a factory at College Point, but by this time other industries had sprung up including, Hirsch and Company Brewery, H. Weber's Brewery, Enterprise Pottery, Jacob Seis Pottery, Ilch's Kindling Wood Company, and E.W. Karker's Planing Mill.⁴⁹ While workers moved into the area for the rubber works and other factories, College Point was also a major leisure destination. Thousands of New Yorkers came to College Point for its pristine waterfront, picnic groves and its weekend resorts like Witzel's and Donnelly's. From the 1870s to the start of Prohibition in 1919, College Point's tourism industry thrived.

By 1900, the population was 9,000, and while the rubber works was still the area's largest employer, other factories continued to open in College Point. There were several silk mills, dying establishments and the Chilton Paint Co., which had located from Maine in 1876. By 1920, College Point was home to 13,000 residents and began to take on its current character. Major employers at this time included the I.B. Kleinert Rubber Company, Central Metal Products, Beacon Falls Rubber Shoe Company, Manhattan Silk Co., and L.W.F. Engineering Company. Kleinert Rubber was now the largest employer in College Point employing 1,500 workers while Poppenhusen's American Hard Rubber was the second-largest with 1,000 employees. In 1925, aviation enthusiast Earl Dodge Osborn gave his name to the fledgling EDO Aircraft Corporation, which

⁴⁴ George E. Woodward, *Rural Architecture* (New York: G. E. Woodward & Co., 1876).

⁴⁵ "About Brooklyn People," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, December 11, 1881.

⁴⁶ "A Quarter of a Century Old," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 8, 1896.

⁴⁷ "College Point Church Plans Celebration," *Flushing, L.I. North Shore Daily Journal*, November 28, 1931.

⁴⁸ Norval White, Elliot Willensky, and Fran Leadon, *AIA Guide to New York City*, Fifth ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 784.

⁴⁹ Hecht, *A History of College Point, N.Y.* (New York: Poppenhusen Institute, 1987), 56.

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built and tested seaplanes and floats in Flushing Bay. The company continued to expand and innovate, constructing almost all the floats used on American airplanes in World War II, manufacturing sensors used on the lunar landing craft, and serving as a large employer for College Point residents through the 1970s. The demographics shifted after World War II as the German-Irish ancestry of the area gave way to Polish, Italian, Slavic, Greek, Spanish and other backgrounds.⁵⁰

Even after consolidation with New York City in 1898, College Point was a close and self-sufficient community. College Point's geographic isolation and steady employment through industry allowed the community to develop independently, rather than as a commuter suburb of New York City. Community members, including College Point historian Robert A. Hecht, are quick to note the small-town feel of the community to the present day.

From its beginning as a small gathering at a private residence, the First Reformed Church of College Point prospered and grew into the twentieth century. Church statistics were tallied at the annual meeting of the regional council of Reformed Church of America, the Particular Synod of New York. Minutes for assorted years from 1881 through 1940 show a general increase in church membership through the period.⁵¹ In 1882, the year that De Neufville donated the Sunday school chapel, the church had 124 communicants and 200 Sunday school scholars, up from 164 in the previous year.⁵² Membership remained relatively stable until the congregation grew again in the 1910s and 1920s. In 1914, membership reached 200 communicants and by the 1920s the church was again looking for more space. In 1928, the church raised funds for a new parsonage. The minutes of the New York Synod state, "funds for a new parsonage over-subscribed. Gallery filled with young people; 23 percent of total raised for others; old parsonage to be used for Parish House." In this year, the congregation was large and enthusiastic with 450 communicants and 503 Sunday School scholars.⁵³ This fundraiser was perhaps to support renovation and upkeep of the new parsonage as deed records show that on January 25, 1928 the church purchased the neighboring house at 118-07 14th Avenue from Corina Rapp for ten dollars.⁵⁴

The neighboring house was originally built in 1914 as a residence by local architect Harry T. Morris Jr. for owner Othelia H. Smith for an estimated cost of \$4,200.⁵⁵ The house's design was modest and vernacular, drawing on the Queen Anne in its overall massing and cedar-shingle gable-ends and incorporating elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival style with its deep eaves, shallow brackets, and stucco wall-cladding. The First Reformed Church of College point took out a mortgage of \$4,000 for acquisition of the building and paid the mortgage in full by the very next year.⁵⁶

⁵⁰ Hecht, *A History of College Point, N. Y.*, 119.

⁵¹ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1881-1940). Years available for reference were: 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1937, and 1940.

⁵² *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1881, 1882).

⁵³ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1928).

⁵⁴ Queens County Registry, Department of Finance, Deed Records. Liber: 2397 Page: 7048.

⁵⁵ New York City Department of Buildings, "New Building Number NB 3160-14," Building Information System. <http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>

⁵⁶ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1929).

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Church membership remained above 400 through the latest available statistics from the minutes of the New York Synod in 1940. The highest number of membership in these records was 504 in 1937 with the figure at 428 in 1940. Even as the neighborhood's demographics began to change by the mid-twentieth century, the congregation remained predominantly German.⁵⁷ Exact figures were not available for reference, but the congregation was robust in the prosperous boom years after World War II. In 1951, the church completed a brick addition at the rear of the church, expanding the chancel, providing a vestry for the pastor, adding office space for the church, and connecting the church to the Sunday school building. At an unknown point in time, the original parsonage donated by A.C. Poppenhusen (later parish house) was either demolished or destroyed. The congregation continues to worship and provide community services to College Point with active youth groups, a food pantry, and regular events. The church celebrated its 145th anniversary in 2017.

Together, these buildings are significant for their central role in the development of College Point, their rarity of type, and elegance of style. Their high degree of integrity and good state of repair add to their significance as emblems of early-industrial Queens and Poppenhusen's College Point.

⁵⁷ *Minutes of the Particular Synod of New York* (New York: Reformed Church in America, 1937, 1940).

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"New Chemical and Miscellaneous Inventions." *Scientific American*. Volume 34, no. 18 (1876): 280.

New York Public Library Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division. "Part of College Point, Town of Flushing, Queens Co." The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1873.

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State

New York Public Library Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, "Plate 22, College Point: [Bounded by Tenth Street, Seventh Avenue, Tenth Street, Third Avenue, First Street, First Avenue, Sixth Street, West Boulevard, Avenue G, North Boulevard, North Twentieth Street, Avenue C, Boulevard, Lawrence Avenue, Twenty Third Street, Seventh Avenue, Twenty First Street, Tenth Avenue, Seventeenth Street, Causeway and Twelfth Avenue.]," New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1891.

Peterson, John A. ed. and Vincent F. Seyfried. *A Research Guide to the History of the Borough of Queens and its Neighborhoods*. New York: Department of History, Queens College, The City University of New York; 1983.

New York City Department of Buildings, Building Information System. <http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Designation Report. Poppenhusen Institute. August 18, 1970.

Queens County Registry, Department of Finance, Deed Records. Liber: 2397 Page: 7048.

Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide. Volume 14, no. 352 (1874): 405

Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide. Volume 15, no. 357 (1875): 42

Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide. Volume 15, no. 368 (1875): 231

Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 2001.

White, Norval, Elliot Willensky and Fran Leadon. *AIA Guide to New York City*, Fifth ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Woodward, George E. *Rural Architecture*. New York: G. E. Woodward & Co., 1876.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .61 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>597112</u> Easting	<u>4515666</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the First Reformed Church of College Point.

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Morache
organization New York Landmarks Conservancy date June 2018
street & number 552 Riverside Drive telephone 603-489-8552
city or town New York state NY zip code 10027
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: First Reformed Church of College Point

City or Vicinity: Queens

County: Queens State: NY

Photographer: William Morache

Date Photographed: January 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0001
First Reformed Church and Sunday School Buildings, south elevations, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0002
First Reformed Church Building, south façade, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0003
Sunday School Building, south façade and east elevation, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0004
First Reformed Church Building, bell tower east elevation, camera facing west.

First Reformed Church of College Point

Name of Property

Queens County, NY

County and State

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0005
First Reformed Church Building, east elevation, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0006
First Reformed Church Building, west elevation, camera facing northeast.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0007
Sunday School Building, south façade, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0008
Sunday School Building, east elevation, camera facing west.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0009
Sunday School Building, north elevation, camera facing southwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0010
First Reformed Church and Sunday School and brick rear extension, north elevations, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0011
Sunday School Building, main entrance, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0012
Sunday School Building, east gable detail, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0013
Sunday School Building, rafter tail and bracket detail, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0014
Sunday School Building, ell north gable elevation, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0015
First Reformed Church and Sunday School buildings and neighboring residence, south elevations, camera facing northeast.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0016
First Reformed Church and Sunday School, brick extension connecting the two buildings, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0017
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, sanctuary, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0018
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, sanctuary, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0019
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, sanctuary, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0020
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, sanctuary truss detail, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0021
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, interior entrance doors, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0022
First Reformed Church Building, Interior, historic stained-glass lancet windows, camera facing south.

First Reformed Church of College Point

Queens County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0023
Sunday School Building, Interior, main hall and balcony, camera facing east.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0024
Sunday School Building, Interior, main hall from balcony, camera facing west.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0025
Sunday School Building, Interior, interior entrance doors, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0026
Sunday School Building, Interior, scripture calligraphy and interior woodwork detail above entrance, camera facing south.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0027
Sunday School Building, Interior, interior door detail, camera facing east.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0028
Sunday School Building, Interior, upper wall and roof framing detail, camera facing southwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0029
Sunday School Building, Interior, roof truss bracket detail, camera facing west.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0030
Sunday School Building, Interior, roof truss detail, camera facing west.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0031
First Reformed Church and Sunday School, undated historic photograph from the church archives, camera facing northeast.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0032
First Reformed Church and Sunday School, undated historic photograph from the church archives, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0033
First Reformed Church, south façade and entrance, undated historic photograph from the church archives, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0034
First Reformed Church and Sunday School, various interior and exterior views, undated historic photographs from the church archives, camera direction varies.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0035
First Reformed Church Parsonage, south (front) elevation, camera facing north.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0036
First Reformed Church Parsonage, south (front) elevation, camera facing northwest.

NY_Queens County_First Reformed Church of College Point_0037
First Reformed Church Parsonage, south (front) elevation, camera facing northeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First Reformed Church of College Point

Queens County, NY

Name of Property

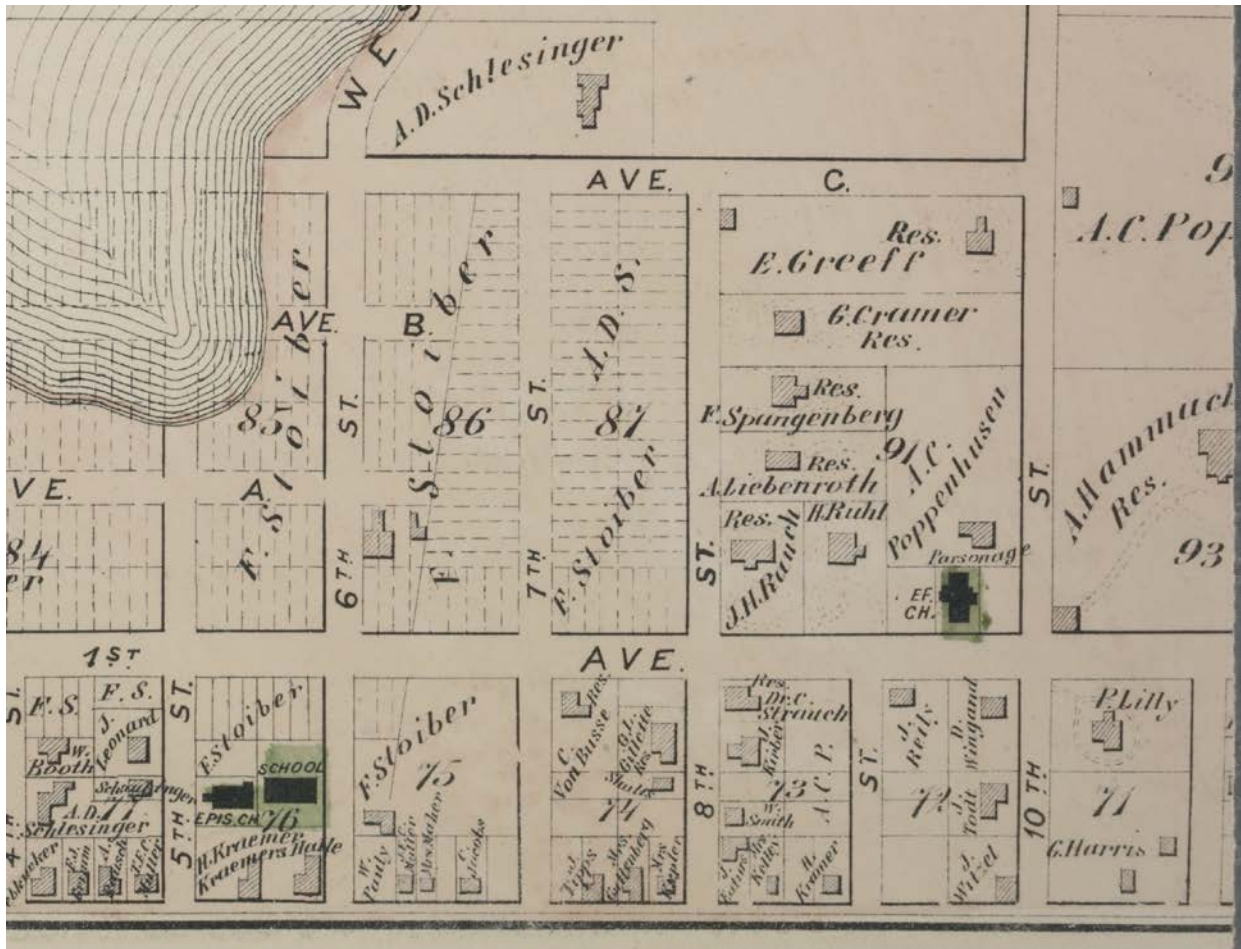
County and State



Plot Sketch: Image from Google Maps 2018. Building Lots 65, 69, & 71 Outlined. Buildings are labeled: 1. First Reformed Church, 2. Sunday School, 3. Brick Rear Extension, 4. Parsonage

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State



Historic Map, 1873: Excerpt from "Part of College Point, Town of Flushing, Queens Co." The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1873. First Reformed Church highlighted in green in right side of image.

First Reformed Church of College Point

Name of Property

Queens County, NY

County and State



First Reformed Church and Sunday School, undated historic photograph from church archives.

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State



First Reformed Church and Sunday School, undated historic photograph from the church archives.

First Reformed Church of College Point
Name of Property

Queens County, NY
County and State



First Reformed Church, south façade and entrance, undated historic photograph







FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

SUNDAYS
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
WORSHIP 10:30 A
FELLOWSHIP 11:30 AM

ALL WELCOME





CHURCH
OFFICE
RIDGE





NO
STANDING
→
Q65
Q65Ltd



NO PARKING
Anytime
← →

















FIRST REPT

ADVEN
A T
HOPE,
AND P
FOR JE

10:30
REV. LIND



HYMN
723 770
20 72
537
63

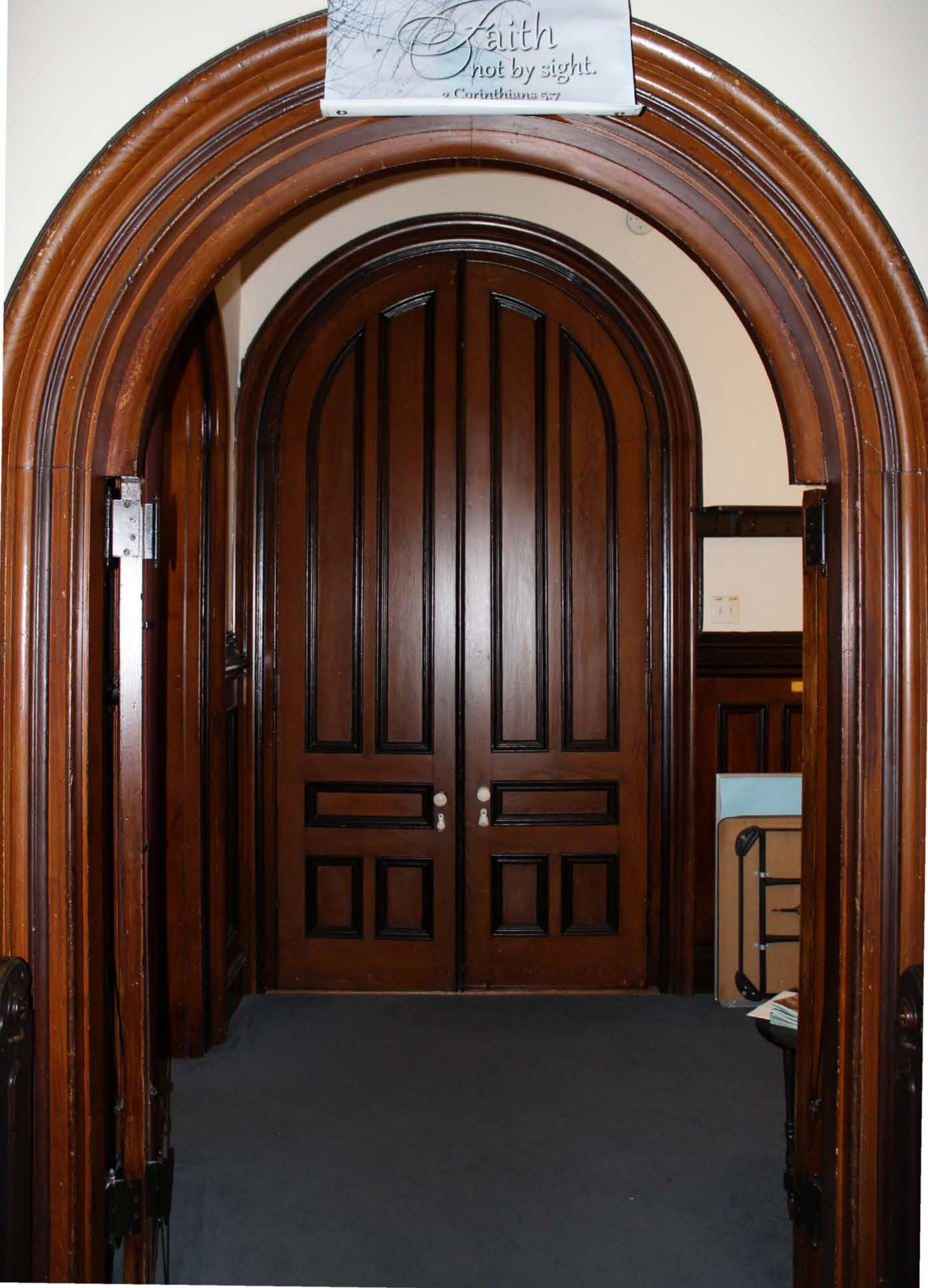


723 770
20 72
537
63





FOR WE WALK BY
Faith
not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7







NO SMOKING

EXIT



Watch Therefore; for
know not what hour
our Lord doth come.
Mat. 24:42

For unto you is Born
This Day in the City
of David, a Saviour
which is Christ the Lord.
Luke. 2:11

AND ON EARTH



PEACE, GOOD WILL

HOWARD MEN
Luke. 2:14

Thou Shalt Call
His Name Jesus, for
He shall Save His
People from their Sins.
Mat. 1:21

Suffer Little Children

For I say unto
in Heaven their
always behold
my Father which

l God is thy
underneath
asting Arms,
Deut. 33. 27.

Watch There
ye know not w
your Lord

EXIT



The Eternal God is thy
Refuge. and underneath
are the Everlasting Arms,
Deut. 33. 27.

Watch Therefore; for
ye know not what Hour
your Lord doth come.
Matt. 24. 42.

EXIT



The Eternal God is thy
Refuge. and underneath
are the Everlasting Arms. Deut. 33.27

Watch Therefore: for
ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come. Mat. 24.42

For unto you is born
this Day in the City
of David, a Saviour
which is Christ the Lord. Luke. 2.11

AND ON EARTH

GLORY to G







118 07





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/2/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/25/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/9/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/16/2018 Date of Weekly List: 11/16/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/16/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Sarah Carroll
Executive Director
SCarroll@lpc.nyc.gov

August 23, 2018

1 Centre Street
9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

212 669 7902 tel
212 669 7797 fax

R. Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Pebbles Island Resource Center
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: First Reformed Church of College Point, located at 118-07, 118-09, and 118-19
14th Avenue, Queens [Block 4039; Lots 65, 69, and 71]

Dear Deputy Commissioner Mackay:

I am writing on behalf of Vice Chair Frederick Bland in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the First Reformed Church of College Point, located at 118-07, 118-09, and 118-19 14th Avenue in Queens, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission's Director of Research, Kate Lemos McHale, has reviewed the materials you submitted and has determined that the First Reformed Church of College Point meets the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Therefore, based on this review, the Commission supports the nomination of the First Reformed Church of College Point. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carroll

cc: Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research, Landmarks Preservation Commission



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



27 September 2018

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following eight nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Norwich Pharmacal Company Warehouse, Chenango County
Christ Church, Nassau County
First Reformed Church of College Point, Queens County
First African Methodist Episcopal Church: Bethel, New York County
North Park Branch Library, Erie County
Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville, Tompkins County
Chandler Street Industrial Buildings, Erie County
Abingdon and New Abingdon Apartments, Jefferson County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office