

In Area no.	Form no.
	130-C

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.

1. Town Worcester
 Address 5 Chestnut Street
 Name Former Union Congregational Church
 Present use Chestnut Street Congregational Church
 Present owner Chestnut Street Congregational Church of Worcester
 3. Description: 5 Chestnut Street
 Date 1895-1897
 Source Nutt, C. History of Worc.
 Style Gothic Revival
 Architect Earle & Fisher
 Exterior wall fabric rock-faced granite sandstone trim
 Outbuildings (describe) chapel
 Other features paired towers with gargoyles, pointed arch windows, rose windows, crenellations, buttresses
copper-clad
 Altered spire removed Date 1954
 Moved no Date _____
Assessors' Book 3, p. 30
 5. Lot size: Lots 5B & 7 61,617 sq. ft.
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
 Approximate frontage 187'
 Approximate distance of building from street 10'
 _____ D. Latino
 6. Recorded by ed. B.R. Pfeiffer
 Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.
 Date revised March 1979

UTM: A/268630/4682720

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____ MHC Photo no. _____
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(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Union Congregational Church

Original use Church, chapel and parish house

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u> x </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Designed by Stephen Earle and Clellan Fisher, the Union (now Chestnut Street) Congregational Church is a major local example of Gothic Revival architecture. Reminiscent on a smaller scale of Notre Dame de Paris, the church's major facade is flanked by two matching towers which rise to open landings formed by paired pointed arches with crenellated parapets and gargoyles above. Set between the towers are an entry porch made up of three trefoil arches at the ground level, above which are a large rose window and an open arcade of trefoil arches which connects the two towers. Behind this facade is the steeply pitched roof of the church hall; until 1954 an ornate copper-clad spire (derived from those of Notre Dame de Paris and Sainte Chapelle in Paris) rose to a height of 180' over the crossing of the church's nave and transept. Immediately south of the church is the Moen Chapel and parish house, both of which are original to the 1895 design. The parish house is largely concealed by the Moen Chapel, which is a one-story structure of irregular plan with a hipped roof and an octagonal turret at its southeast corner. Although smaller in scale than the church, the Moen Chapel shares the same decorative elements of pointed arch windows, trefoil lights, buttresses and an entry porch formed by a trefoil arch. With the exception of the removal of its spire, the Union Church (including its chapel and parish house) is superbly preserved, retaining abundant stained glass and carved stone ornament. Located on a rise at the head of Pearl Street, the Union Church is visible from Main Street and serves as an imposing landmark.

(cont.)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Worcester Historical Society. Pamphlet and Church files.

American Architectural and Building News, vol. 58, p. 107, pl. 1148, 12/25/1897 (photo.)

Engineering Record, vol. XXXII, July 13, 1895, p. ix; Aug. 3, 1895, p. ix (building notices)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 807-811 (photo.)

Property Name: Union Congregational
Church

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9.

The Union Congregaional Church was formed in 1835 by members of the First Congregational Church of Worcester and the Second (Calvinist) Church of Worcester. In 1836, a meeting-house was built on Front Street at the corner of (modern) Commercial Street. The Front Street meetinghouse was enlarged in 1845 and again in 1861 to accommodate the growing congregation. By 1879, it was considered that "the houses (of worship) of the Plymouth and Piedmont Churches made it, by comparison, unattractive;" the meeting-house was demolished and a new one built on its site. In 1894 a committee was established to consider sites for a new church. In February 1895, the site of the present building (formerly the Kinnicutt Estate) was purchased and ground broken for the new building in July, 1895. The Church's cornerstone was set in February 1896; the Moen Chapel, a gift in memory of Philip Louis Moen, completed in September 1896; and the main hall of the church completed in February 1897. While the church was under construction, the Salem Street Church merged with the Union Church.

In 1936 the Union Church merged with the Piedmont and Plymouth Churches to become the Chestnut Street Congregational Church. In 1941 stained glass windows were removed from the Plymouth Church, re-cut and fitted to varous windows in the Chestnut Street building. In 1948 the building received a new slate roof, was repointed and had some interior decoration carried out.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

HISTORIAN

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description or statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified, & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

Call/Accept
Lightner
10-30-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Concur with Bruce's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and 44. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms.

ARCHEOLOGIST

116-CBD-11 - Destroyed, cannot be listed.
130-CBD-44 - I am not convinced this has lost integrity. See attached.
102-L-3 - Period of significance and categorization of 1 bays need to be discussed with State.

OTHER

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ BOTH TECHNICALLY AND TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE FORMS DID NOT CONTAIN STRONG STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE THE RESOURCE CATEGORIES WERE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN THE BODY OF THE NOMINATION; THEREFORE SIGNIFICANCE WAS ESTABLISHED. VBDS WERE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE

ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

HAER

OF THE SCALE MAPS AND CLEARLY DELINEATED BOUNDARIES. PRESENCE WAS MISSING ON SOME PROPERTIES BUT IS NOW INCLUDED AFTER THE 2/11/CORRECTIONS. THE ONLY PROPERTIES THAT I DO NOT RECOMMEND LISTING ARE
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~am~~ am NOT CONVINCED ABOUT BOUNDARIES BUT BELIEVE THEY COULD BE OK. BASED ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend Listing all ^{now} properties ~~except~~ ^{except} these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ to discuss further w/NR staff + State. DOBIE
Return 102-L-3 to State for correction; 3/5/80
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from State
DOBIE

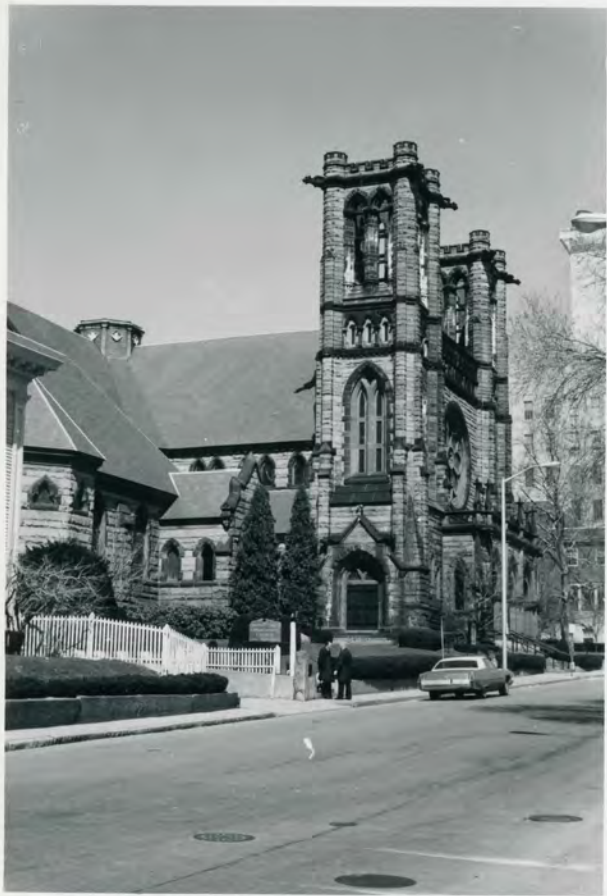
BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

KEEPER

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:
Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & demo from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (listing from state)

Soldha
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____



30 AUG 1979

Unit Congregational Church

130-C

Worcester, MA, Ma

5 Chestnut St.

South & east
elevations



90 AUG 1979

Unit Congregational Church

130-C

Worcester, MA, Ma

5 Chestnut St

East elevation

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304