

PH0002127

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 23 1974

1 NAME

COMMON:  
Plymouth Congregational Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2 LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3429 Devon Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Coconut Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Eleventh

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Dade CODE: 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

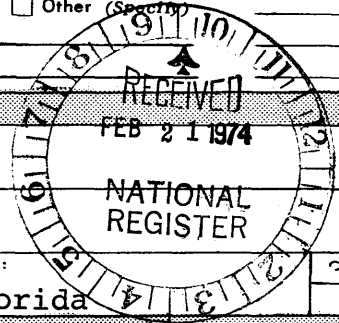
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Plymouth Congregational Church, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3429 Devon Road, Coconut Grove

CITY OR TOWN:  
Miami

STATE: Florida CODE: 12



5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Dade County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
73 West Flagler Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Miami

STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Florida Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Archives, History and Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE: Florida CODE: 12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Plymouth Congregational Church is situated on a spacious tract of land in Coconut Grove, Florida. The building, patterned after a Spanish Mission Church in Mexico, was designed by Clinton MacKenzie of New York. A Spanish stonemason, Phillippe Felix Rebom, was commissioned to set the stones. Each of the hand-hewn native limestone blocks was placed by hand during the 18-month period of construction. The one-story stone structure has three doors and two bell towers in the main facade. The main entry is a massive, 300-year old, hand-carved door composed of walnut, backed with Spanish oak, and contains the original hand-wrought iron fittings. The central door is of immense proportions, is semi-circular, and ornamented with stone pilasters supporting an entablature. A niche above this door has a broken pediment above. The central door is flanked by smaller entrance doors leading to side loggias. These side loggias enclose the interior and extend the length of the church in a south to north direction. Evenly spaced posts support the eaves which extend from the gabled roof. The roof covering consists of red Spanish and French tiles. The main facade is perfectly balanced in appearance, and this symmetry is continued in the pair of bell towers which extend upward from the roof line. The bell towers are capped with stone finials, and are notable features of the exterior. A scalloped parapet between the bell towers is also topped with decorative finials. The lower portion of the main facade containing the side doors are joined to the upper portion by large scrolls. The majority of the main facade is heavily covered by dense vine growth. Overall plan of the Church is cruciform, with aisled nave and includes wing extensions at the rear (north) portion of the building. Window treatment consists of diamond-shaped panes in french doors, with semi-circular arched transoms above. There are no windows in the main facade. The exterior and interior walls are formed from irregular hand-cut block of native coral.

The entire complex includes several buildings in addition to the core building; among them are: the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, an office building, a school, and the walled gardens. The sanctuary and gardens are the oldest portions in the complex. The garden on the east side of the sanctuary is walled on three sides, and enclosed on the fourth by the church. Loggias around the walls present the effect of a cloistered courtyard. In the north end of this courtyard there is an open pulpit built of the same coral rock. The west side of the courtyard is not enclosed and is open to the other buildings.

The sanctuary was enlarged in 1953, with additional expansion in 1958. Architect Robert Law Weed designed the additions in a style compatible to the original structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1917

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Settlement</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plymouth Congregational Church plays a major role in the settlement of Coconut Grove, Florida. The growth of this 19th century bay community traces from the earliest settlers in the area who organized the Union Chapel which was the forerunner of Union Congregational Church, founded in 1897. James Bolton, the first pastor, offered incorporation of his congregation into whatever denomination would provide financial assistance, and when the Church of the Pilgrims accepted, the church was renamed Plymouth Congregational Church. The church facility was constructed over an 18-month period, from 1916-1917. However, the history of the congregation and the first chapel began with the establishment of a one-room Sunday School building, erected in 1887.

Earliest known Church records of the Union Congregational Church are dated March 2, 1901. During the first three years of existence, a small chapel was erected on land donated by Commodore Ralph M. Munroe. The names of Coconut Grove's first settlers appear among the list of founders of the congregation, and it is from this standpoint that the Plymouth Congregational Church derives its primary significance. The first Congregationalist minister was Solomon G. Merrick, who became pastor in May, 1901.

Significance of this property relates not only to its direct association with the pioneers of Coconut Grove in the late 19th century, but also to its architectural design. As an outstanding example of Spanish Mission style, it has been recognized by leading architects as one of the finest specimens of Spanish design in the South, as well as being one of the most historic churches in Dade County, Florida.

The Church building represents the history and development of one of South Florida's earliest settlements.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached Sheet)

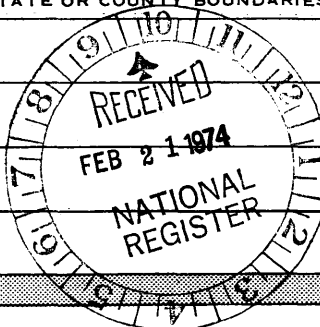
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N25° 43' 19"	W80° 14' 53"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt. DATE: 8/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

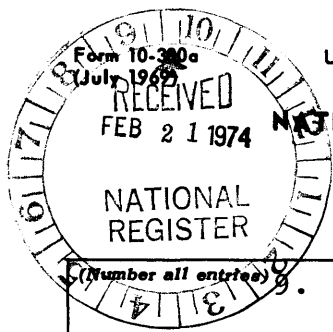
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/23/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7.19.74



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
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9. Major Bibliographical References

American Institute of Architects, Inc. A Guide to the Architecture of Miami, South Florida Chapter, 1963.

Ash, Agnes. "A Vine Place to get Married," The Miami News, June 12, 1966.

Bischoff, William H. "Every Stone in the Church was 'Loved' Into Place," Miami Daily News, 1946.

"Church Beautiful at Coconut Grove," Miami Herald, April 14, 1919.

Coral Gables Times, March 20, 1958.

Dade County Courthouse, Miami, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Dade County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

Ferguson, Gladys. Personal Interview (by Mary K. Evans) February, 1972. Plymouth Congregational Church, Coconut Grove, Florida.

Florida Collection. Documents, photographs, articles, news clippings. Miami Public Library, Miami, Florida.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Caribbean. Special collection including photographs, documents, newspaper articles, and miscellaneous materials relating to Coconut Grove. Miami, Florida.

Kent, Gertrude M. The Coconut Grove School in Pioneer Days, 1887-1894. Coral Gables, Florida: Parker Printing Co., 1972.

Miami Herald, November 17, 1922; November 19, 1922.

Muir, Helen. Miami, U.S.A. Coconut Grove, Florida: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1953.

Munroe, Ralph M. and Vincent Gilpin. The Commodore's Story. New York: Ives Washburn, 1930. Reprinted Miami: Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1967.

Overstreet, Mrs. J. D. "The Church in the Garden" (A History of Plymouth Congregational Church from 1897-1950), Coconut Grove, Florida, (n.d.).

Parks, Arva Moore. The History of Coconut Grove, Florida, 1821-1925. University of Miami Master's Thesis, 1971.

(con't.)

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(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References (con't.) -2-

Plymouth Congregational Church. "This is Our Church," Coconut Grove, Florida, 1964.

Rogero, Nancy. "Plymouth Church Has Mellow Beauty," Miami Herald, 1939.

Trapp, Mrs. Harlan. My Pioneer Reminiscences. 1940. (n.p.).

