

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 4 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Congregational Church of Ripon

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

220 Ransom Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ripon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Wisconsin

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
55

COUNTY
Fond du Lac

CODE
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Congregation of the First Congregational Church of Ripon
Carl Haggquist, Moderator and Coordinator

STREET & NUMBER

415 Thorne Street

CITY, TOWN

Ripon

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54971

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fond du Lac County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 509

CITY, TOWN

Fond du Lac

STATE

Wisconsin 54935

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Congregational Church of Ripon, built between 1865 and 1868, embodies characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. It is sited on a high point in the city of Ripon and is one of the city's major landmarks. In plan, the stone church is composed of a large, rectangular nave, a spired tower projecting at the southeast corner and housing the vestibule, and a small, polygonal apse on the west wall.

There are six structural bays on the side walls of the church. Inside, six ribs springing from pendent posts span the three-planed ceiling. On the exterior there are narrow structural buttresses at each truss location.

The church is built of rough cut, random length coarsed ashlar limestone. Hoodmolds at the doors and windows are of smooth finished limestone, with hand carved details. All stone is local.

Cornices on the church are sharply defined with an arched corbel table. The corbelling is repeated at the cornices on the tower. Further embellishment on the tower consists of corner piers, paired round-arched windows, and round-arched vents at the belfry. A spire with clocks at four facets of the base tops the belfry, and a metal cross tops the spire.

The facade of the church has some interesting details, notably a stylized Palladian window to the east of the center entry. This entrance has a segmental arch in contrast to the round arches on all other openings. A large, round-arched window pierces the wall above the entrance.

A notable interior feature is the round-arched opening to the apse, embellished with wood moulding and details. The back wall of the apse is pierced by a stained glass window. There are two sets of pews, each attached from the front to the rear by a continuous partition. Interior walls are plastered, and woodwork at the choir stalls, doorways, and ceiling is well proportioned and crafted.

In 1952 a wing was built onto the west and south sides of the church. The addition houses classrooms, a chapel, and a lounge. In 1969 an addition was built on the south side of the church. This houses offices and a pastor's study. The additions are low and extend from the least prominent aspects of the church; they are not obtrusive.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> REGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1865-1868¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. Lanning/
Edward Townsend Mix²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Ripon is significant to the area's history and possesses architectural significance as well. The building is the second edifice of a congregation that was associated with the anti-slavery movement, the formation of the Republican Party, the establishment of Ripon College, and the development of the city of Ripon. The congregation and its activities are historically interesting in that they reflect the New England congregationalist traditions and the reformist social consciousness that large numbers of "yankee" settlers from New England and the "burned-over district" of upstate New York brought with them to Wisconsin. The building is of architectural significance as a notable work of the important Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix and is an excellent interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style as applied to churches in the mid-nineteenth century. Although additions have been made to the rear of the building, the main part of the structure is little altered from the time when it was built. Sited on a high elevation in the city, the church is a dominant visual landmark; the spire is visible for miles as one approaches Ripon from any direction.

HISTORY The First Congregational Society of Ripon, the first church organized in the village, was formed in 1850, with its members mainly of old yankee stock. The first permanent settlement of the village had occurred several years before as a neighboring rival settlement to the utopian socialist Ceresco Fourierist colony. Other than the membership of William Dunham, who was a member of the colony and later a member of the church, there appears to have been little connection between the two. Nevertheless, the Congregational Church reflected the desire for moral and social improvement that many yankees brought to the midwest. Early in its history, members of the congregation became involved in the formation of the Republican Party and took a strong stand in favor of the abolition of slavery. In 1854 the original edifice of the congregation was the scene of the first of the "Bovay meetings;" at that meeting the citizens of Ripon "remonstrate[d] against the [Kansas-] Nebraska [Bill] swindle." The Bovay meetings led to the founding of the Republican Party in Ripon in succeeding months. William Dunham, then a trustee of the church, was moderator of the first Bovay meeting. During the period the congregation, itself, went on record in opposition to the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. (Pedrick & Miller, 1964: 107) One charter member, Francis Strong was an early and strident abolitionist in the Ripon

1. Samuel M. Pedrick, History of the First Congregational Church of Ripon, Wisconsin 1850-1950, p. 14.

2. Ibid. p.14

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conard, Howard Louis, History of Milwaukee County. Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co., [n.d.]. v. II, pp. 445-448.

Milwaukee Journal, Sept. 24, 1890.

Pedrick, Samuel M. "History of the First Congregational Church, Ripon, Wisconsin." (cont)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .69

QUADRANGLE NAME Ripon, Wisconsin QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	352050	4856100	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The church occupies Lot 4, Block 12 of Newton's Resurvey of Ripon, it is bounded on the south and west by Ripon College, on the east by Ransom Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mrs. Margaret Maitland	(continued)
ORGANIZATION First Congregational Church of Ripon	DATE 5 December 1978
STREET & NUMBER Route 3, Union Street	TELEPHONE (414)748-6205
CITY OR TOWN Ripon	STATE Wisconsin 54971

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard H. Eney

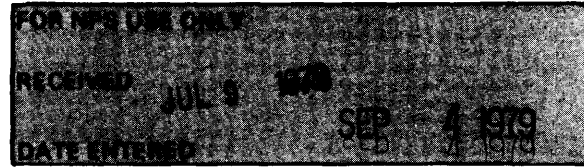
TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 5/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Justin Cole Shull</i>	DATE 9-4-79
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <i>Emma Jane Sage</i>	DATE 9-4-79
CHEF OF REGISTRATION	
<i>Regional Coordinator</i>	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

area. In a resolution of January 19, 1856, the congregation voted "that it will not fellowship slaveholders, nor admit them to our communion." (Pedrick, 1950:9)

From its earliest history, the church has been informally associated with Ripon College. The school originally was named Brockway College, for William Brockway, an early trustee of the church who contributed heavily for the construction of the college's first building. Throughout its early years the college depended heavily for support upon the Winnebago Convention of Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, of which the First Congregational Church of Ripon was an important and active member. Since that time, the relationship between the college and the church has been cooperative. In the nineteenth century the church provided scholarships for needy students, and from 1921 to 1949 the church auditorium was used as the college chapel. (Pedrick, 1950:66-72)

The church's tradition of social responsibility has continued since it took its stand against slavery. The church respected the leadership abilities of women, and as early as 1896 two women were elected to the Board of Trustees. In 1949 the church sponsored the immigration of more than eighty displaced persons, mostly from Latvia. Several of these people still reside in Ripon and are members of the church.

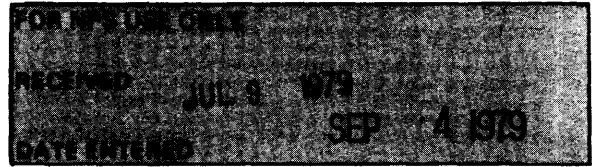
The building being nominated is the second edifice constructed by the congregation. The first, a small single-story frame Greek Revival structure built in 1853, is no longer extant. Shortly after completion, the congregation began to outgrow it. In 1857 the congregation voted to enlarge the structure, and in the following year the construction of a new edifice altogether was suggested. It was not until December 1864, however, that the congregation employed Edward Townsend Mix to prepare plans for the new edifice. In February 1868 the building was dedicated. (Pedrick, 1950: 8-9, 13-15)

ARCHITECTURE According to Perrin, the name of E.T. Mix appears very frequently "in connection with Milwaukee's earlier architecture, and particularly its finest church work" (Perrin, 1968: 15). Born in 1831 in New Haven, Connecticut, Mix spent his youth on a farm in Illinois and later in New York City. In 1848, he began working as an assistant for Major Sidney Stone in New Haven (Stone was one of the earliest American professional architects; he studied under Ithiel Town) (Withey, 1956: 57

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

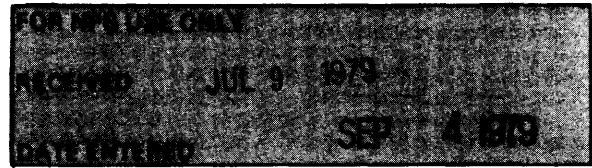
Mix moved to Chicago in 1855 where he entered the office of W.W. Boyington as its foreman. In 1856, he moved to Milwaukee as a partner in the firm to supervise some projects, and in 1857 he began his own practice in Milwaukee. Besides designing many of Milwaukee's and the state's major buildings during his 32 year career in Milwaukee, Mix also served as the state architect from 1864-1867, was an active member of the New York Institute of Architects, was president of the Wisconsin Architectural League from 1888-1890 and was elected a fellow of the A.I.A. in 1873. In 1886, he joined in partnership with W.A. Holbrook and in 1889 moved to Minneapolis, where he died the following year.

Other churches designed by Mix include St. Paul's Episcopal (NRHP), Immanuel Presbyterian (NRHP), and All Saints' Cathedral (NRHP), all in Milwaukee, First Methodist Church in Monroe (NRHP), and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Racine (currently being nominated).

First Congregational Church in Ripon is an excellent example of Mix's mastery of church design. It shares with many of Mix's other churches a dominating front tower and a wide nave sheltered by a unifying gable. It has suffered few alterations through the years and is among Ripon's finest remaining churches. Grace Church (NRHP) is a fine example of the frame Carpenter Gothic, the American Legion Post represents the Greek Revival church form, and the neighboring German Lutheran Church is a good example of the simple German Gothic Revival church executed in brick. First Congregational is an excellent representation of the Romanesque Revival style, with its round-arched windows and heavy stonework. Situated on a high point overlooking downtown Ripon, its tower can be seen for miles and is a dominating visual landmark in the community.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 11 PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

Pedrick, Samuel M. and George H. Miller. A History of Ripon, Wisconsin. Stevens Point, Wisconsin: The Ripon Historical Society, 1964.

Perrin, Richard W.E. Milwaukee Landmarks. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in History. 1968.

W.P.A. - Wisconsin Biographies, field notes for biography of E.T. Mix in the collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc. 1970.

11. FORM PREPARED BY: continued

David Donath, Katherine Hundt and Barbara Wyatt

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

April 9, 1979

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706