

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 25 1982

DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1982

**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 East Hartford and Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

First Congregational Church of East Hartford and Parsonage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 829-837 Main Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

East Hartford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 st

STATE

Connecticut

NA VICINITY OF

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME First Congregational Church of East Hartford, Connecticut

STREET & NUMBER

831 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

East Hartford N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. East Hartford Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

740 Main Street - Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

East Hartford

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1975

--FEDERAL STATE --COUNTY --LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 East Hartford is a large frame Greek Revival Church built in 1835. It sits close to the street on a busy corner, the intersection of Main Street and Connecticut Boulevard, a major route across the river to Hartford. Most of the nearby buildings are low 20th-century commercial blocks, but sharing the large lot with the church is the parsonage, built sometime in the 1850's.

The main part of the church is rectangular in plan 60 x 76', the equivalent of 2½ stories high, with the ridge of the roof perpendicular to Main Street. The east gable end is brought forward to form the pediment of a portico, supported by six fluted Ionic columns on stone bases. The columns rest on a platform which is constructed of large granite blocks, as are several steps leading up to the portico. The rest of the foundation is brick. The main facade within the portico is five bays wide, with three entranceways flanked by a window at either end and five corresponding windows on the second level. The side facades show two tiers of four windows, and the rear or west gable has two quarter-round windows. Above the asphalt-shingled roof rises a square two-stage tower, positioned just behind the portico. The first stage is a belfry with corner pilasters and two plain columns in antis within a louvered opening on each side. The second stage is similar but smaller, and has four clock faces. Both stages terminate with wooden Greek parapets. The entire exterior of the church, including part of the tower, has been covered with aluminum siding, completely obscuring the clapboards, window and door moldings, plain corner pilasters, and flush boarding which appear in old photographs. The seriousness of this alteration is lessened somewhat by the application of the siding over the details, rather than removing them altogether. Other exterior modifications include aluminum shutters on the sides, and a round ocular window in the front gable, where old prints show a plain tympanum.

The church has several additions to the rear. These are all smaller and lower than the main building and are not obtrusive. The first of these is the 1888 chapel, now used for offices. Herein is a stained-glass rose window in memory of Samuel Pitkin, a deacon and first superintendent of the Sunday School. Immediately west, and also used for offices, is an earlier 1867 chapel, moved back when the later one was built, and lastly is the present modern chapel.

In 1876 the interior was severely damaged by fire and completely redone, so that everything inside, with the possible exception of the gallery seats, dates from that year or later. There is a gallery on three sides supported on fluted Ionic columns (1937), and a pilastered and pedimented backdrop (dating from 1910) to the sanctuary. The church originally had box pews, but these were replaced by curved-arm seats with dark wood trim, some of which remain in the gallery. The interior of the attic shows heavy king-post trusses carrying the roof (reinforced by later diagonal planking), and separate framing for the support of the tower.

The parsonage just south of the church is a two-story frame house, cubical in form with a nearly flat roof. The main facade is three bays wide with a central entrance lighted by sidelights and transom. There is a flat-roofed entrance porch carried on square columns, with panelled

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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bases and large capitals. The roof has a wide overhang at the eaves. Apparently, the house was in the Tuscan Villa style, but it, too, has been completely aluminum-sided, so that other than the entrance porch, there are no stylistic details visible. It is now used as the sexton's residence and for other parish purposes.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Congregational Church, East Hartford. Records, State Library, Hartford.

Goodwin, Joseph O. East Hartford: Its History and Traditions. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1879.

Tuthill, William B. The First Congregational Church, East Hartford, Connecticut, 1702-1902. Hartford: Elihu Geer Sons, 1902.

(continued)

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 695770 4626600

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes both the church and the former parsonage next to it, both on East Hartford Assessor's Map 13, Lot 111.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

June 25, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

(203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:


NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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



TITLE

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

February 5, 1982

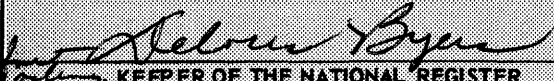
FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

3/25/82


KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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the "Old White Church," as it is sometimes called, has stood on this prominent site at one of the busiest intersections in the town. Barber in 1836 described it as "beautifully situated at the entrance of the principal avenue to Hartford,"¹ and it has been the symbol of the center of East Hartford since its construction.

¹John W. Barber, Connecticut Historical Collections (New Haven: 1836),

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Bibliography (continued):

Williams, Mary L. The Story of the First Congregational Church, East Hartford, Connecticut, Covering the Century 1835-1935. East Hartford: First Congregational Church, 1935.