

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Wisconsin</b>       |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Milwaukee</b>      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                 |
| ENTRY DATE<br><b>DEC 30 1974</b> |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**First Unitarian Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1009 East Ogden Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Milwaukee**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**5th**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

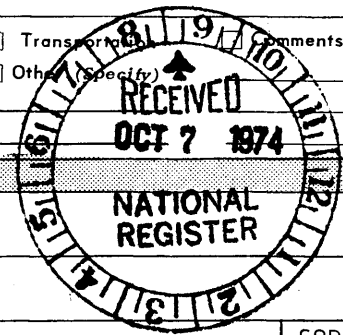
CODE:  
**55**

COUNTY:  
**Milwaukee**

CODE:  
**079**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**First Unitarian Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1009 East Ogden Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Milwaukee**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Milwaukee County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**901 North Ninth Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Milwaukee**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**District of Columbia**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Milwaukee**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1074**

DATE: **DEC 30 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the southeast corner of North Astor Street and East Ogden Avenue, First Unitarian is a graceful, unpretentious, well-preserved Gothic Revival church. It was erected in 1891-92 and enlarged by construction of a two-level addition, containing parlor and church school rooms, on the south-east corner of the fabric in 1957-59.

Viewed from the west, the plan of the original fabric is T-shaped, the "vertical" (west wing) oriented east-west and comprising the entrance porch, vestibules, nave, and chancel; the "horizontal" (east wing) oriented north-south and containing offices on the first story and a meeting room on the second. Within the angle formed by the wings is the tower, surmounted by a broach spire. Steeply pitched gabled roofs, pierced by dormers, cover the east and west wings. West, north, and east walls are gray, rock-faced Bedford limestone; the south wall combines Bedford and local cream-colored limestone. On the west and north elevations are a number of interesting carved stone bosses and corbels, some of them portrait-like heads, others clumps of foliage, still others, grotesques.

The main entrance is on the west and consists of two Gothic-arched portals which give access to the recessed porch, from which doorways in the north and south walls open into small vestibules. The auditorium is crowned by a handsome hammerbeam ceiling, the arches resting on the exterior bearing walls and on oak brackets that terminate in exquisitely carved stone corbels. An oak railing separates nave and chancel, the latter containing the organ and pulpit and a richly carved oak sedilia. Windows throughout are abstract designs executed in autumnal hues. The auditorium has undergone no major alterations, and the few changes that have been made--installation of new lighting, modification of the chancel fittings and furnishings--have been in harmony with the 19th century design.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1891-92**

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Unitarian is the oldest existing church of the denomination in Milwaukee. Modest in scale, refined in detail, the building is a particularly attractive example of the reserved and scholarly Gothic Revival style that gained currency toward the end of the 19th century. Noteworthy features include the carved stone corbels of exterior and interior--the work of Frank Steven, a gifted local craftsman--together with the oak sedilia, stained glass, and hammerbeam ceiling of the auditorium. First Unitarian was designed by the distinguished Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry & Clas, with George Bowman Ferry playing the major role in its design. Designated as a Milwaukee Landmark in 1967, the church was recorded for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1970.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

415  
16  
448-50  
4269750

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The HABS data-report incorporates a two and one-half page bibliography. Key sources cited therein include:

Historical Sketch of the First Unitarian Church of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, 1892.

Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 84.

Perrin, Richard W. E., Milwaukee Landmarks, Milwaukee, 1968, 19-20.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | O<br>R  | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE |         |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | N 43      | 02      | 53      |
| NE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | W 87      | 53      | 57      |
| SE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       |           |         |         |
| SW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       |           |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.0

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 Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Milwaukee Landmarks Commission

DATE: Aug. 9, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
734 North Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee

STATE: Wisconsin

CODE: 55

**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: James Morton Smith  
James Morton Smith

Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date: Oct. 1, 1974

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/30/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 27 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |           |             |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| STATE            | Wisconsin |             |
| COUNTY           | Milwaukee |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |           |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |           | DATE        |
|                  |           | DEC 30 1974 |

(Number all entries)

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (state)

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

14 September 1974

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

