

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 29 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUN 7 1976

**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 *Wm* Fulton Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

Fulton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fulton Street

CITY, TOWN

~~Village of~~ Fulton

VICINITY OF

Town of Fulton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Rock

CODE

105

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 COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Fulton Congregational Church of Fulton Village

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. Two

CITY, TOWN

Edgerton

VICINITY OF

Wisconsin

STATE

53534

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

51 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rock County historic sites and structures

DATE

Summer 1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rock County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Fulton Congregational Church is a handsome one story structure, 36' x 55', built over a limestone foundation with Cooksville red brick and trimmed with local cream brick. Its gable roof, with a return cornice, is broken by the front block of the brick church tower, which is surmounted by a four-square, pilastered belfry. The brick walls are recessed to form bays between the corner piers, with a three-bay division in front, centered by the tower block. The centrality of its round-arched entrance is emphasized by a recessed brick panel above. Recessed brick forms four bays down the sides, the three back bays punctuated with tall, round arched windows, like those which flank the front tower.

Besides an interest in the shadow cast by the play of planes of the red brick core, the builder utilized contrasts of color in the bands of cream brick which play against the varied oranges, reds and buffs of the Cooksville brick.

Cream brick bands or friezes include the five-course wide cream brick sill pattern above the foundations, a seven-course frieze under the cornice, which wraps around the walls under the return cornice, the cream brick sills, set like a table or inverted "U" under the windows, and the cream bricks set as voussoirs at the rounded window heads. Even the tower block is set off by a cream brick frieze below the wooden belfry. The belfry holds a 700 lb. bell, donated in 1880 and still in use. The steeple was struck by lightning and the roof blew off in a windstorm of 1876. The belfry is now capped with a simple pyramidal roof.

The leaded church windows were substituted for the original clear glass sometime before 1919, the date of what is presumably the latest window, dedicated to long-time Sunday School Supt. D. F. Sayre. From the exterior they appear ox-blood red; from the interior they glow in diamond grids of lavender, trimmed linear patterns of Eastlakean (?) blossoms, and borders of gold, green, lavender, red and blue.

The interior was renovated in 1973. The old walls were covered with new cream plaster. The oak pews of 1910 were stripped and refinished by parishioners. Gold carpeting and dossal curtain were installed, and two of the original scrolled curvilinear iron chandeliers, found in the attic, were converted from kerosene to electricity. A balcony in the rear was removed many years ago.

The church is sound and in excellent condition.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<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 1857-58

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fulton Congregational Church, a handsomely simple brick village church of transitional Greek Revival-vernacular Italianate style, is believed to be the third oldest church in Rock County in which continuous services have been held and to which no major structural changes have been made. (The other two, both limestone, are St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Beloit, 1848-51, and the Shopiere Congregational Church of 1850-53, with preliminary and final nomination respectively to the National Register.)

Organized in 1851, with the help of Revs. Dexter Clary and Hiram Foote, well known as organizers of Congregational Churches in southern Wisconsin, the congregation held its services in the local schoolhouse until it could build a church edifice.

Building of the church began in 1857, continued through 1858, and the church was dedicated April 21, 1859 at a cost of \$2,800, with no outstanding debt.

Temperance sentiment of the church members was demonstrated, according to church records, when a rumrunner from Janesville wished in 1870 to open a bar in the Fulton hotel. Parishioners organized a petition and prevented the granting of the license. Two girls from the parish went south after the Civil War to teach black children. The church has long had an active program and influence on the youthful membership.

The Fulton Congregational Church and the neighboring, Romanesque-corbelled cream brick school of 1865, now the Sunday School, are the only two brick structures ever built in the mill village of Fulton, a village of Greek Revival and vernacular frame houses bypassed by the railroad. It is the leading landmark and only church in the area, with an active congregation, and the center of community life.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rev. Dexter Clary. History of the Churches & Ministers..Presbyterian & Congregational Convention of Wisconsin. Beloit, 1861, pp 87, 117
 Western Historical Company. History of Rock County, Wis. Chicago, 1879, p. 692
Edgerton Reporter. Centennial issue. July 8, 1953
 Irene Pratt and Ruth Sayre. History of Fulton. Rock County, 1969, pp 27-30
 Files of the Rock County Historical Society

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	325930	4741230	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

March 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P O Box 896

TELEPHONE

608-756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

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

James Morton Smith

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

4/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

6/9/98

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-28-26

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ROR for WJM 5/28/76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

FULTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

6. Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

1976

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706