

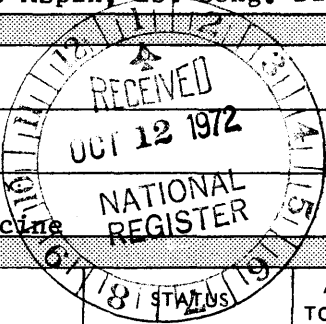
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Racine</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>101</b>	DATE <b>MAR 20 1973</b>

1. NAME	
COMMON: <b>First Presbyterian Church</b>	Congressmen to be notified: <b>Sen. William Proxmire</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Same</b>	<b>Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson</b> <b>Rep. Les Aspin, 1st Cong. Dist.</b>

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>716 College Avenue</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Racine</b>			
STATE <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	COUNTY <b>Racine</b>	CODE <b>101</b>



3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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: <b>First Presbyterian Society</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>716 College Avenue</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Racine</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE: <b>55</b>	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Racine County Court House</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>730 Wisconsin Avenue</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Racine</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE: <b>55</b>	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Historic American Buildings Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1934-36</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE: <b>11</b>	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

First Presbyterian Church, located on the southwest corner of Seventh Street and College Avenue in downtown Racine, is a simple, dignified, and exceptionally handsome specimen of Greek Revival design.

Oriented north-south, the church is a rectangular building having cream-colored brick walls (now weathered to a warm, mottled gray), a low-pitched gabled roof, and an impressive five-stage wood spire. The symmetrical, pedimented facade (north elevation) presents a recessed entrance portico dominated by two massive Doric columns that are surmounted by an entablature of the same order. Doric pilasters frame the bays of front and side elevations, and engaged columns of the Ionic order ornament the spire.

Three doors in the north portico open into the shallow vestibule which gives access to the auditorium and, via stairways at east and west ends, to the small balcony at the north end of the fabric. The auditorium itself, with pilastered walls and arched, panelled ceiling, is as stately and serene in character as the exterior. The present color scheme is predominantly off-white, with linear accents of dark brown in the moldings at the tops of the pews and in the painted ornament on walls and ceiling. And this pale, neutral tone contrasts effectively with the dark wood of the organ, installed in the sanctuary during the 1930's, and with the brilliantly colored stained glass windows. All of the windows are original; all are geometrical designs; and all are composed primarily of vivid pastel hues--orange, pink, and gold, in the main, with accents of blue, green, and red.

In the early 1940's an addition housing Sunday school rooms and offices was erected at the south end of the church (and in 1956 a chapel was built at the south end of this wing). The addition brought few changes in the original fabric, however, and beyond these minor alterations and installation of the present organ, First Presbyterian Church has not been modified in any important way during its 120-year history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. 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) **1851-52**

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

In his report on Racine's First Presbyterian Church prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey during the 1930's Alexander C. Guth wrote: "The entire building is marked by sincerity and refinement and an entire freedom from excess or affectation. The disposition of the parts is so happy, its treatment so broad and simple that it produces an unusual effect." More recently, Rexford Newcomb praised the church for its "sincere and highly refined design" and Richard W. E. Perrin called it "quite the most distinguished surviving Wisconsin church building in the Greek Revival style."

To their testimony one may add that the fabric comes down to us in almost original form, that First Presbyterian Church is one of the few documented works of the gifted St. Louis and Racine architect Lucas Bradley, and that it is today the oldest remaining church building in Racine.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic American Buildings Survey, Wisconsin Architecture, Washington, 1965, 24, 67.  
 Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, Chicago, 1950, 135.  
 Peet, Stephen, History of the Presbyterian and Congregational Ministers in Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1851, 152.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 64.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, 1962, 54, 55-56.

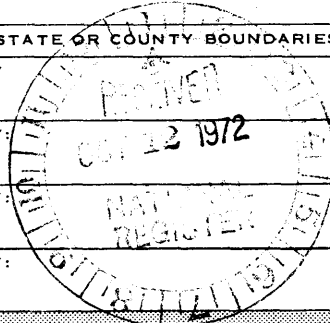
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 42° 43 ' 32 "	W 87° 47 ' 06 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.25

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Milwaukee Landmarks Commission

DATE: 20 August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 210 West Michigan 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 26 1972

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

Robert K. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/20/73

ATTEST:  
W. M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-13-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Racine	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1973

(Number all entries)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (State) 1971

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

22 August 1972

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

