

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	353

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

Town Fall River

Address 100 Rock Street

Historic Name Central Congregational
 Church

Use: Present Church

Original Church

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1875, 1891

Source A.A. & BN/Water Dept/Bldg permit

Style Ruskinian Gothic

Architect Hartwell & Swazey

Exterior wall fabric brick, Scotch Granite

Outbuildings Pilgram House (Sunday School)

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting _____

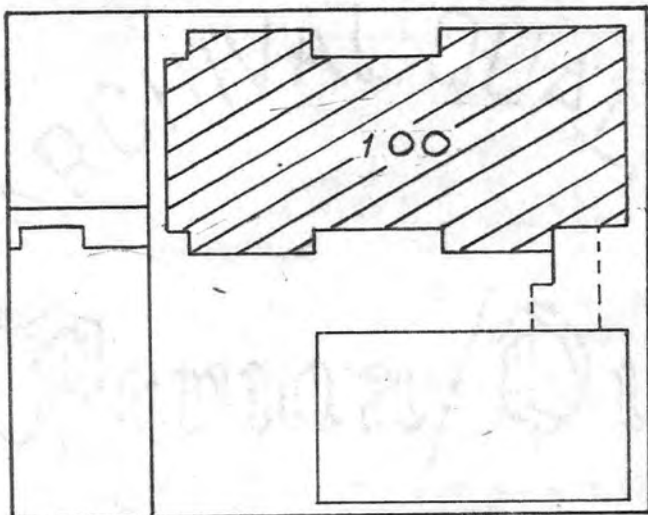
PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
 staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

FRANKLIN ST.

PURCHASE ST.

ROCK ST.



N

(over)

Organization F.R.O.H.P

Date October 6, 1980

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community.)

This is a major Fall River Structure in the Ruskinian Gothic Style. It is the work of the prominent Boston firm of Hartwell & Swazey, who published illustrations of it in the first volume of American Architect & Building News when it was newly completed, with its red pressed brick walls sharply contrasted with light buff-colored scotch granite trim, and the tensions created between horizontal and vertical design elements, the church is a clear example of its style. It is related to several other major buildings of its type of Fall River: of these large Ruskinian structures, the Academy Building on South Main Street and four fire-stations, ^{are} also known to have been designed by Hartwell & Swazey.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Parish History: Seventy members of the First Orthodox Congregational Church, then under the pastoral care of Rev. Orin Fowler, were dismissed from that church, and united to form this new body. A council composed of the pastors of the neighboring churches, with their delegates, confirmed and ratified the organization which assumed the name of the Central Congregational Society. A lot on Bedford St. known as the Massasoit lot, was donated by the Durfee family for the erection of a church. Under Reverend Michael Burnham's ministry the church continued to prosper and increase in numbers and it was thought best to build a larger church. In March and April 1872 a valuable lot was secured, comprising the whole space on Rock Street between Franklin and Bank Streets. In May 1874 a contract was made for a brick and stone building in the Victorian early English Gothic style, designed by the firm of Hartwell & Swazey. The church was opened and dedicated December 13, 1875. An elegant cloister joins the main building to a chapel, erected in 1891 on the south end of the lot, facing Bank Street; it appears to have been part of the original design.

The Central Congregational Church is an outstanding example of Ruskinian Gothic, it is intact on the exterior, as well as the interior. From its inception, it has been the church of the elite mill owners. By its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship & association, the church meets Criteria A and C of the National Register.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date, and publisher)

Atlas of Bristol County-1895-Structure shown

1883 Structure shown

1871 no structure

Water Department Central Church-June 15, 1876 app. #1204

History of Bristol County-1883 pg. 394-353

Fall River Herald News clippings

A.A. & B.N. Volume 1, p.5 (January 1, 1876) ill. & Plan.

Birds Eye View of Fall River, 1877

Building Permit #177, Central Congregational Society, June 17, 1891, Brick and Stone Chapel 48z90 with Rock foundation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Borden, Ariadne J. & Mary A., House
Substantive Review

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

12. Border City Mills
Substantive Review

Keeper 12/11/83 [Signature]

Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

13. Borden, N. B., School
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

14. Borden-Winslow House
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

15. Brayton Methodist Episcopal Church
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

16. Brightman, Hathaway, House
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

17. Bristol County Superior Court
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

18. Cadedy, Squire William B., House
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

19. Cataract Engine Company No. 3
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

20. Central Congregational Church
Entered in the National Register

Keeper 2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Central Congregational Church (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ACCEPT 2/16/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
 Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ alterations/integrity
- _____ dates
- _____ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



NAME: Central Congregational Church
LOCATION: 100 Rock Street
Fall River, Mass.
PHOTO CREDIT: Vivienne F. Lasky (1981)
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Fall River Office of Historic
Preservation
One Government Center
Fall River, Mass.. 02722
(VLNR-2-22)
IDENTIFICATION: Central Congregational Church
looking north-west

Photo # 1 of 2



Fall River MPA, Ma

Central Cong. Church

100 Rock

CP II - # 7a

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279