

## Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100001963

Date Listed: 1/19/2018

Property Name: First Congregational Church

County: Strafford

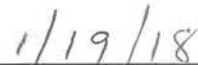
State: NH

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This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance/Significant Dates. On page 11, the significant dates are outside the period of significance and therefore dropped. On page 13, the period of significance of 1875-1967 is incorrect. The period of significance and significant date remains 1875.

Header. Throughout the nomination the incorrect header of "Farmington Congregational Church" is used. The correct name of the property is "First Congregational Church."

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The NEW HAMPSHIRE SHPO was notified of this amendment.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority** (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1963

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Congregational Church

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 400 Main Street

City or town: Farmington State: NH County: Strafford

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

		<u>11-27-17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>NH Division of Historical Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Lisa Delina*

Signature of the Keeper

1/19/18

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Granite, Cast Stone, Wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Farmington Congregational Church is a modestly sized brick rectangular Gothic Revival church with a corner steeple that hosts the town's clock. The church sits on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets in the center of Farmington's downtown, a 19th century village center with commercial, industrial, residential, and civic buildings that date from the 19th and 20th centuries. The church sits next to the town's public library and has two story wood framed commercial buildings across the street. The town's fire station and town hall are also located on Main Street just south of the church. Main Street is also part of Route 153, a moderately trafficked state highway that parallels the more heavily traveled NH Route 16. Route 153 begins in Farmington and travels approximately 50 miles north to the village of Conway in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire. The building retains its original doors and stained glass windows. With only minor (now historic) modifications to its sanctuary in the early 20th century and a modest 1970s one story office addition that extends from the rear of the building, the church has a high level of historic integrity.

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

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## Narrative Description

### The Exterior:

The First Congregational Church of Farmington, New Hampshire is located on .590 acre parcel of land at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets in the downtown business area. The front elevation faces east towards businesses and restaurants on Main Street. The north elevation faces the Goodwin Library, (which is listed on the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places) and the parking lot of the TD Bank. The south elevation is parallel to Pleasant Street and faces the United States Post Office, parking area and private homes. The west elevation faces several blocks of residential homes. The property is attractively landscaped with bushes, trees and a memorial park bench.

The 1875 church is a large rectangular building measuring approximately 110 feet in length and 50 feet in width with an offset corner steeple. The building is erected on a foundation of cut granite blocks with rubble stone below grade. The walls of the building are red brick laid in a common bond with narrow mortar joints. Under the eaves is an ornamental dentil cornice. A unifying feature is the fenestration of all the windows and doors which display a Gothic arch voussoir with an emblem at the apex. Fourteen buttresses with angled capstones support the walls. A belfry tower and steeple, rising 120 feet into the air at the northeast corner is a distinctive landmark.

A shed roof addition with centered gabled dormer extends from the steeple across the full length of the church. The front entrance sits under the gabled dormer with nine foot high arched double doors. Each wooden door has four panels and is three inches thick. Ornamental iron hinges add to the Gothic styling. Bracketing the entrance are two engaged buttress piers. Supporting the arch over the doors are rounded imposts or pilasters. The voussoir is a stone casting with an ornamental keystone revealing a concave cupped emblem and a protruding stem. This design element is repeated above every doorway and window arch of the building's exterior. Over the main entryway an historic light with an opaque white glass globe extends out from the building. A stone carving above the light bears the date "1875" and a decorative stone carving is above that with floral designs. A gable roof over the entrance has a triangular stone inset in the shape of a trefoil mounted at the peak. Above that is a stone cast Celtic cross. These details replicate the larger trefoil and Celtic cross at the peak of the main building on the east elevation.

Above the gable roof of the vestibule entrance is the largest arched stained glass window in the building, measuring 9 feet wide and 5 feet to the top of the apex of the voussoir. This window carries through the Gothic motif that is present throughout the exterior. Above the window is a small lancet stained glass window which draws the eye to the larger trefoil and Celtic cross at the peak of the roof.

On the northeast corner of the building is a 120 foot high tower and spire, the tallest structure in downtown Farmington. The 14 foot square base extends out from the main building and

Farmington Congregational Church

Strafford County, NH

Name of Property

County and State

vestibule. A recessed arched entrance, identical in size to the vestibule entrance is on the east face of the tower. Three 24 foot high corner buttresses, each with stepped angle capstones, support the first stage of the tower.

The second stage is the belfry with the 1915 Henry Wilson Memorial Bell. This features wooden louvered arched openings recessed on each face of the tower. The third stage is the 50 foot spire presents the town clock on all four sides of the spire. The 5 foot diameter clock faces are set in wooden frames that come to a peak. . The clock, once manually wound each week, was electrified in 1941. Exterior lights illuminate the clock dials at night Above the clock, the spire is octagonal in shape and is capped off by a weathercock and decorative metal finial.

The north and south elevations have arched windows separated by buttresses and are topped with a sawtooth cornice. Six bays with arched windows appear on the north wall and four bays with arched windows appear on the south wall. In 1982 a concrete ramp entrance and metal handrail were installed on the south side elevation to provides access to the vestry and sanctuary. The entryway is a single Gothic wooden door. The rear (west) wall of the church is 60 by 30 feet with the vestry and kitchen on the main floor. A basement area once used by children and youth is now used by the thrift shop and food pantry.

In 1967 the church purchased property to the south for a parking lot. In 1974 a two-level brick building was built on this lot and added to the west wall of the church. This 40 by 48 foot, two-level education building provides on the main floor two classrooms, a nursery, two offices and bathrooms. A thrift shop and food pantry occupy the basement level. An unfinished attic is used for storage. The building is accessible by two outdoor entrances and a doorway from the vestry through the west wall.

### **The Interior:**

The church is entered from the north by a pair of double gothic arched doors on the front gable end of the church. These doors open into a one story interior hallway that runs the full length of the front of the church. Both doors have an upper and lower panel of diagonal stained bead-board framed with stained wood rails with beveled corners. The door openings have no casings. The hallway walls are finished with a stained bead-board wainscot with a darker stained molded chair rail. The walls above are textured plaster. The entrance door is flanked by two Gothic arch windows to the north and a single Gothic arch window to the south. All three have matching leaded windows of stained glass laid out in geometric patterns. The plaster ceiling slopes up from the exterior wall of the hallway to the interior wall of the church. The interior of a gabled dormer finished with plaster frames the top of the front exterior entrance, becoming increasingly shallow as it rises to meet the church wall. A stained glass Tiffany style lamp hangs from the center of the gable. A plaque on the wall notes it was donated to the church in memory of Theora H. Weymouth in 1975. On the wall opposite the main entrance is the first of three sets of wood double doors set in a gothic arch. To the north the hall leads to another door that provides entrance to the sanctuary of the church. Here the plaster ceiling meets the end wall of the hallway with a hipped configuration reflecting the exterior roof of the building.

To the south the hallway ends in an open gothic arch finished in the wainscot and plaster that opens into a room at the base of the steeple. The north wall of the room has a gothic stained glass window set deeply into the masonry wall. It matches in color and design the stained glass

Farmington Congregational Church

Strafford County, NH

Name of Property

County and State

windows in the hall. The room's finishes matches the hall but with a higher flat plaster ceiling. The east wall of the room has a second exterior entrance that matches the exterior entrance in the adjacent hallway. Across the room from the main entrance on the west wall is the third set of doors leading into the sanctuary. All three sets are two panel doors with stained wood rails and stiles that surround stained plywood panels are inset to a thick masonry wall. Both sides of the door openings have flat stock casings with a beveled interior all in stained wood. The floors in both the hallway and room are covered with a modern red wall to wall carpet. The northwest corner has a wood framed chase finished in bead-board and stained wood that provides access to the steeple above. The bell rope also hangs down in this location. A gothic style electric sconce, likely from the mid-century modern period illuminates this space. Two more identical sconces light the adjacent hallway.

The interior of the church's sanctuary is a large rectangular space with smooth plaster walls and a pressed tin ceiling. It is accessed from the north through the three doors described above. The doors are evenly spaced along the back wall of the sanctuary. Each door opens into an aisle defined by the two rows of 30 fixed curved wooden pews that are original to the church. All walls are plainly finished in plaster. Historic photographs show that the side walls were originally detailed with a stenciled frieze and cornice. These continued to the front of the sanctuary (the south wall) which also included further stenciling above the cornice that created a tromp l'oil effect of a paneled wall. Historic images of the back or north wall are unavailable but it is likely this decorative paint scheme would have continued there. A wood baseboard of stained wood with a darker stained top molding runs the perimeter of the church. On the side walls these are partially obscured by modern radiators in metal casings painted white. Above the radiator casings, each wall has four leaded windows of stained glass arranged in geometric pattern. The second and third window on each wall contains a cobalt blue rondel sporting a religious icon. A praying angel and Shepard's crook and a crown surrounding a cross are found on the west wall, A stylized "IHS" (the Greek monogram for Jesus) and an anchor adorn the east wall. On the north wall above the doors is a sixth window of stained glass. This window, the largest in the church, is a three part gothic arched window. Two lower triangular leaded windows of gemoetirc stained glass flank and support a diamond shaped window with the image of an angel with crossed arms also completed in leaded stained glass.

The ceiling is supported by three scissor trusses, the lower part of each visible form the sanctuary. The trusses are finished with a stained wood cladding with beveled edges. The trusses terminate on each wall with a pointed molded bracket. The center of each truss is adorned with four-sided wood pendant decorative wood rondels on each side. The pendant is separated from the truss by a molded cornice. The bottom of each pendant has a brass cap that retains the original hooks for the three oil lamp fixtures (no longer exant) that used to illuminate the sanctuary. Today the sanctuary is illuminated with two wall sconces on the north wall of the church as well as a total of six brass and glass hanging gothic light fixtures (each truss supports two) that are of the same style and period as the wall sconces mentioned above.

The walls and the beveled ceiling are divided by a molded wood cornice. The upper ceiling is divided into three plains by the scissor trusses. The side ceilings are divided into six equal plains each by the scissor trusses and a cased beam of stained wood that runs horizontally the full length of the church. Historic photos show that the ceiling was originally plastered and



Farmington Congregational Church

Name of Property

Strafford County, NH

County and State

decorated with trompe l'oeil panels. In the early 20th century these were covered with pressed tin with a repetitive design of circles, floral motifs, and shells surrounded by a defined boarder. Two of the upper panels on each side have triangular dormers finished with tin pressed with a simple diaper pattern. Each dormer contains a triangular leaded window of stained glass arranged in a geometric pattern.

The front of the sanctuary is dominated by a raised platform accessed by a set of five steps that line up with the center aisle of the church. The front of the platform base is decorated with a series of trifole arches supported by chamfered rails that frame a plywood panel. The corners of the platform base that flank the stair flair are accented with a lower molding and beveled cap trimmed with a scalloped frieze. The platform steps back on either side before the ends curve back to meet the wall. A railing that matches the base of the platform described above begins with a square newel and terminates at a staircase on either side that separates the railing from the south wall of the church. The base on the side flanks are decorated with stained bead-board.

The platform contains two gothic revival chairs as well as choir pews original to the church. An ornate pulpit, also original sits on the east side of the platform and a simple podium on the west side. The pulpit was originally placed in the center of the platform where the stairs (added c.1947) are today. The back of the platform was once dominated by a large gothic revival organ case. Sometime before 1947 the organ was replaced. The upper portion of the case was removed, including the pipes. The organ case was significantly reduced in depth and the lower section of the case, became an impressive paneled half wall of bead-board panels with topped with a tall set of curtains. The alter in front of this paneled wall was likely added at this time. On either side of the platform on the south wall is a broad arched four panel door. The door to the west provides access to a small vestibule with bead board wainscot. This small space has a gothic arched door that provides access to the exterior of the church. It also provides access to a small water closet, the basement, the parish hall, and the kitchen that supports functions in that hall. The door to the east provides direct access to the Vestry and kitchen.

The vestry is 27 x 40 feet with laminate flooring, plaster walls and a newly installed LED lighting system on the ceiling. This space is used for dinners, speakers and other social events in the community. The kitchen is a 20 by 20 foot room with linoleum floor, built in cabinets (some historic and possibly original to the building's construction) two electric stoves, a refrigerator, dishwasher, two sinks and an island for preparing meals. A bathroom is in the entryway. The basement under the vestry is finished as a room for Sunday school classes. In 1974 a new brick building was added, the McLaughlin-Kimball Education building. This 40 by 48 foot structure provides two classrooms, a nursery, two offices and bathrooms. The lower level is unfinished and is used by the church for a Thrift Shop and a Food Pantry. The main floor is wood frame and panel construction for the classrooms and offices. The unfinished attic is used for storage.

### **The "Grisaille" Stained Glass Windows:**

The unity of design of the building is reflected in the lancet glass windows in the sanctuary and the vestry. Eight windows appear on the north and south walls, each measuring 90 inches by 30 inches. Four of the windows have foliage patterns only. The other four windows have Christian emblems or a figure in round colored glass circles called "roundels": The Crown and the Cross, the Anchor Cross and the I.H.S. monogram for Jesus Christ and a "Shepherd Angel".. Two foliage windows of the same dimensions appear in the vestry. Neither of these windows has a

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

roundel emblem. Four identical triangular windows are in the ceiling with images that resemble a carpenter's square, perhaps reflecting a masonic influence of the period. The largest window is on the front wall (east elevation). It is an arched window 9 feet at the base and 5 feet to the apex of the arch. It is a three panel design: two curved side panels with identical floral designs and one panel showing an angel figure with folded arms. Smaller lancet windows appear in the vestibule, above the arched window and in each side of the first stage of the tower.

These windows display an early technique in stained glass called "grisaille". Grisaille or quarry painting uses black or gray vitrifiable enamel paint to trace tin stencils on glass. These stencils feature foliage (oak, maple, rose) or geometric patterns. The glass patterns are then assembled with lead in lattice systems or vertical or diagonal formats.

The windows in the First Congregational Church in Farmington are well preserved examples of early American stained glass production, in the style the Boston artist Samuel West who was active in New England from 1850 until his death in 1891. Through consultation and research with national stained glass studios and art historians, the grisaille windows precede the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany who began his designing with opalescent stained glass in the 1880's.

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1875  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c1900-Pressed Tin in Sanctuary  
1915-Addition of Wilson Memorial Bell  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Frederick N. Footman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Farmington Congregational Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent local example of Gothic Revival architecture. The building is also eligible under Criterion C as a local example of the work of architect Fredrick N. Footman who was born in nearby Somersworth, NH and practiced architecture out of Boston, MA. The period of significance reflects the year the church was constructed and the significant dates highlight the addition of tin ceilings to the sanctuary and the erection of a memorial bell in the building's steeple. The Farmington Congregational Church meets Criterion Consideration A in that it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The First Congregational Church of Farmington, New Hampshire is a recognized local landmark and the oldest church in continuous use in the Town of Farmington, NH. The stately brick church, built in 1875 is a well-preserved example of Gothic Revival architecture, the only building in the town that is constructed in this style. The distinguishing exterior features representing the Gothic Revival include the fenestration and buttresses, a 120 foot high belfry, clock tower and spire and the decorative voussoir stone castings. The interior reflects the Gothic Revival style with its trussed ceiling and thirty curved, mahogany pews and other original furnishings in the sanctuary. The design is complemented by the pressed tin ceilings added in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The well-preserved, stained glass windows contribute to the Gothic Revival style of the building in their shape and design that include the gothic arched window on the façade of the main building and the eight, lancet sanctuary windows, six on the north facade and four on the south facade of the building. The colored glass has designs including quatrefoils, diamonds, circles, painted with organic patterns that reflect both the Gothic Revival and the Aesthetic Movement. The windows represent the early artistic technique known as "grisaille", a method of painting on glass, that is rarely seen in churches today. These windows pre-date the opalescent stained glass windows of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933).

The Gothic Revival style became popular in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. It was based on a revival of Gothic style architecture that began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century in Great Britain. Building pattern books and the works of landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing helped popularize the style here in the United States. The style was originally used for both domestic, public as well as ecclesiastical buildings in the 1840s but never gained the same level of popularity as the Greek Revival style. While the Gothic Revival style waned in overall popularity in New Hampshire in the 1850s it continued to be the predominate style for church buildings well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The First Congregational Church in Farmington, New Hampshire is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in New Hampshire. The building is characterized by heavy massing and tall spire which

Farmington Congregational Church

Name of Property

Strafford County, NH

County and State

gives the structure its identity as a church. The quality of the masonry construction, the fenestration of arched windows and doorways, the contrasting color and texture of brick, granite, cast stone and dark wood, the steep gabled roof and prominent tower and steeple, all are elements that define the building as a Gothic Revival structure and set this building apart from any other in this rural community.

The architect who designed the First Congregational Church was Frederick N. Footman (1848-1898) of Somersworth, New Hampshire with offices in Dover and Boston. In 1865-66, when only 17, he attended the newly organized Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was influenced by Professor William Robert Ware who directed the first collegiate program in architectural education in the United States. Footman, being one of the first students to enroll in the M.I.T. architectural program would design buildings in New Hampshire that are today listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Period of Significance for the property begins the year of its design and construction in 1875 through 1967. The First Congregational Church meets the National Register Criteria Consideration in the Area of Architectural type and style which is used for religious purposes.

Frederick N. Footman was born in Great Falls, New Hampshire (today Somersworth) August 30, 1848. At the age of 17, he is listed among the fourteen students on *A Programme of Instruction* at the newly organized Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge in 1865-66. As a student of architecture, Footman was under the instruction of William Robert Ware (1832-1915), the first professor of architecture at M.I.T. Ware planned and wrote a curriculum that included drawing and design, architectural history and construction and practice, the use of building materials, specifications, components and contracts. It is historically significant that Frederick N. Footman is a protégé of William Robert Ware and a student in the first collegiate program in architectural education in the United States under Professor Ware. The Directory of Boston Architects, 1846-1970 lists F.N. Footman as an architect in the Boston City Directories from 1875-1893 and from 1896-1898. Between 1893-1896 he was a building contractor in Boston.

The design of the First Congregational Church in 1875 appears to be one of Footman's earliest commissions. According to church records, Mr. Footman, age 26, met with the church leaders on June 8, 1875 at which time his design for the church was approved along with a tower and a clock to be installed at a height of 66 feet. Footman continued to design in the area surrounding his home town of Somersworth. In 1876 he designed the (Somersworth) Savings Bank building (no longer extant) which was three stories of shops and offices under a Mansard Roof. On May 4, 1877 The Great Falls Free Press raved that "Mr. Footman's work on the (Somersworth) Savings Bank building is a standing recommendation of his skill as an Architect." The paper went on to comment on Footman's recently opened Dover office by stating "although his office has been opened but a few weeks, he has contracted for nine buildings in that city and a four story brick shoe firm at Farmington, 160 x 40 feet." In 1882-1883, Footman designed the Almshouse at the Strafford County Farm in Dover after the earlier Almshouse burned. In 1981, the Almshouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for architectural significance as an example of "the best arranged public building for the purpose for which it was designed in the state."

Farmington Congregational Church

Strafford County, NH

Name of Property

County and State

Between 1886-1887, Footman designed the Laconia High School, which was converted to the Laconia District Courthouse in 1977-1978. In 1982, this building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural design as a “fine example of Victorian school architecture and the monumental and complexity expected in late 19<sup>th</sup> century public buildings.” Footman also designed The American Brewing Company Brewery at 249A Heath Street in Boston, MA.

F.N. Footman died in Boston, May 10, 1898 at the age of 49. He is buried at the National Register listed Forest Grove Cemetery in his hometown of Somersworth, NH.

### **Historic Background:**

The area that is now Farmington, NH was chartered as part of the original town of Rochester in 1722. The area now known as Farmington developed around saw and grist mills and became known as the Northwest Parish. Responsible for supporting a church dozen miles away a movement began in the 1770s to separate from Rochester. On December 1, 1798 the town of Farmington was incorporated. Over the next two decades the town struggled to organize and build a church and was primarily served by intenerate ministers.

The First Congregational Church in Farmington was organized in 1819 with a starting membership of eight people. In 1820 the First Congregational Society of Farmington was organized made up of parish and church members to control the business affairs of the church. The church grew slowly and by 1844 the first church was built on land donated by Judge George L. Whitehouse. In 1870, the current parcel of land on the corner of Main and Pleasant Street was purchased to construct a larger church. A large wood framed church was constructed at a cost of \$25,000.00. The building, which included a town clock, was predominately Italianate in design but with some Gothic Revival features. At approximately midnight on a particularly frigid night on February 10, 1875 a fire broke out in a stable across the street from the church and soon set the church’s roof ablaze. The fire spread into the church and its steeple and as the church’s clock bell began to chime the three a.m. hour it collapsed through the steeple. By morning the church was completely lost.

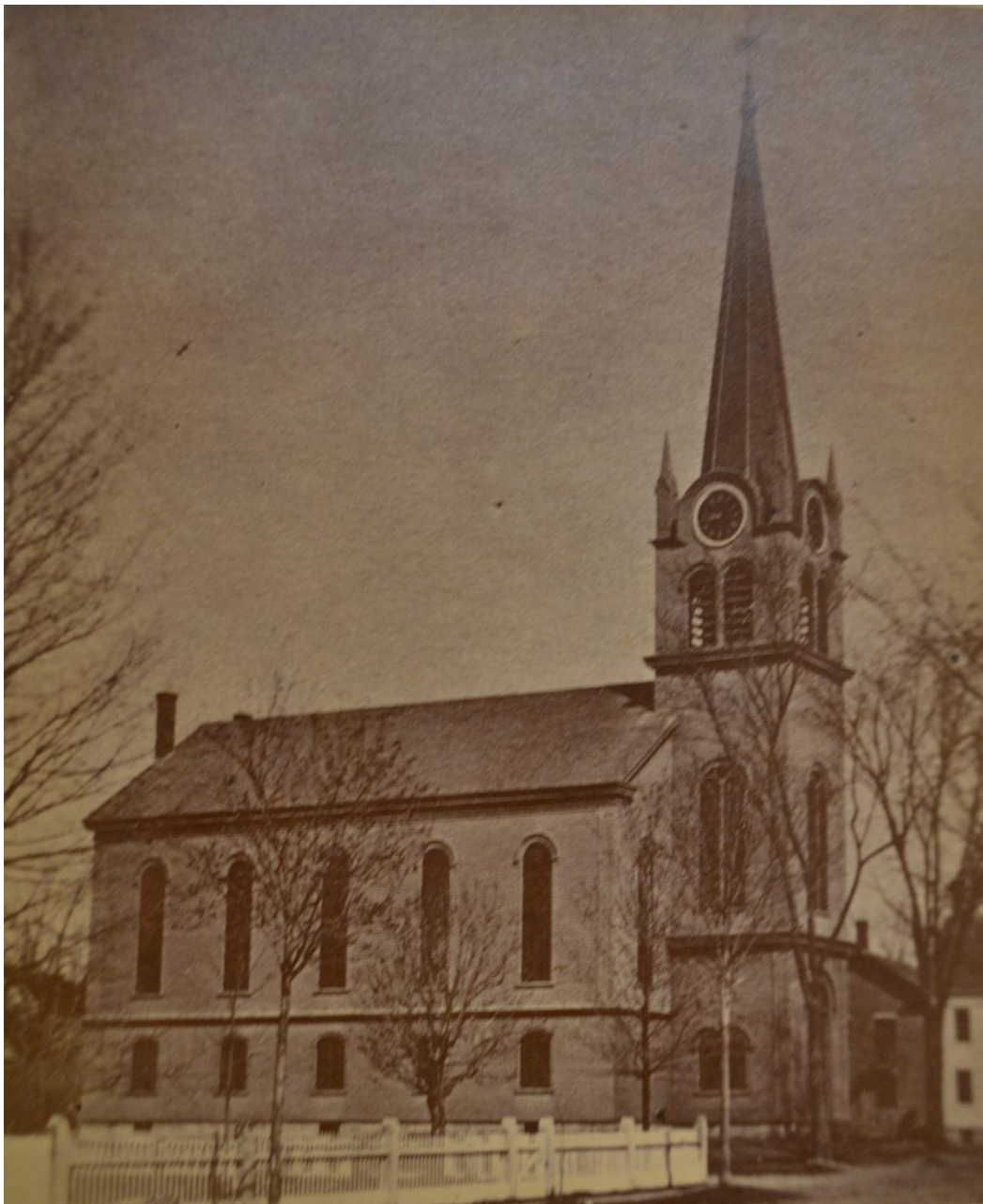
The congregation immediately began to plan for the construction of a new church building. Funds were raised in part by recycling the metal of the old bell into rings, crosses, and pendants that were sold for the purchase of a new bell. The congregation hired Boston based architect Frederick Nathaniel Footman to design the new building which used fire proof materials in its design. Interior finishes for the church were donated by a variety of organizations. The stained glass windows are in the style of and reflect the artistry of Samuel West of Boston. They are, intact examples of a technique known as “quarry glazing” in which small sections of glass are stenciled in a grisaille floral patterns and then fired to affix the paint and pattern to the glass.

Around 1900 the stenciled ceiling of the church was updated and covered with pressed tin. The current church bell is the third bell to hang in the belfry of the First Congregational Church in Farmington, New Hampshire. Weighing 2,508 pounds it was installed on Monday, May 17, 1915 by E.A. Meneely, fourth generation of the Meneely family who found the business that

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

bears their family name in Watervliet, New York. The bell rings every hour and on Sunday before worship. It is inscribed “Ring to the memory of Henry Wilson, Farmington’s Honored Son” – “1915”. Henry Wilson, was born in Farmington in 1812. He learned to read the Bible at the church’s Sabbath School at the age of 12. He entered politics and served as Vice President of the United States (1873-1875) under President U.S. Grant. In 1948 the Chancel was renovated and the organ case modified to its current configuration.



**The 1870 building for the First Congregational Church, Farmington.**



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State



**The First Congregational Church, Farmington before the c.1900 addition of pressed tin on the ceiling. The original light fixtures, wall & ceiling stenciling as well as the display pipes and upper portion of the organ case are visible.**

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bicentennial History Committee, *The History of Farmington, New Hampshire*, The Foster Press, Farmington, NH, 1976.

Doe, Lorraine D., "*First Congregational Society Record Book Transcriptions, 1870-1903*", Unpublished manuscript in the files of First Congregational Church, Farmington, NH, 2017.

Farmington News, "*Here and Now*", Friday, September 2, 1898, cites the architect and builders of the First Congregational Church, Farmington, NH.

First Congregational Church, *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet*, self- published, 1919

First Congregational Church, *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet*, self- published, 1969

First Congregational Church, *175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet*, self- published, 1994.

Garvin, James L., *Research on the Life of Frederick N. Footman*, unpublished, 2017

New Hampshire State Library, "*The Death of F.N. Footman*", Somersworth Press, May 13, 1898.

Pitkin, Rev. Paul Henry, *A Covenant and Constitution Manual 1876, First Congregational Society of Farmington, NH*, from the Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

Raguin, Dr. Virginia Chieffo, *Stained Glass from its Origins to the Present*, Harry Abrams Publisher, 2003.

#### Interviews:

Jenne Holmes, Curator, The Somersworth History Museum, Somersworth, NH

Dr, Virginia Raguin, author and educator, Dept. Head of the Division of Arts, The College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Pomeroy-Draper, Stacy, Curator/Archivist at Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, NY who advised us on the E.A. Meneely Bell Foundry Records and Letters

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** .590

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 43.388910                      Longitude: -71.065180
2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The east and south sides of the boundary follow the public sidewalks on Main and Pleasant Streets. The west boundary follows the property line between the church and the house immediately to the south. This is visible where it separates the parking lot of the church from the driveway for the house and continues across an open grass lawn to the library parking lot that sits north of both buildings. The northern boundary follows the paved parking lot and driveway for the adjacent library.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the land associated with the church since 1870 as well as land purchased in 1967 for parking and the education building addition.

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: \_\_ Lorraine D. Doe, History Committee Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_  
organization: \_\_ First Congregational Church \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: \_\_ 400 Main Street \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town: \_\_ Farmington \_\_\_\_\_ state: NH \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: 03817 \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_ farmingtonnhucc@metrocast.net \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: \_\_ 603-755-4816 or 207-457-2134 \_\_\_\_\_  
date: \_\_ July 16, 2017 \_\_

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: First Congregational Church

City or Vicinity: Farmington

County: Strafford

State: NH

Photographer: Peter Michaud

Date Photographed: September 14, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 7. Front elevation of the Farmington Congregational Church taken facing west.
- 2 of 7. South elevation of the church taken facing north-east.
- 3 of 7. North elevation of the church taken facing south-east.
- 4 of 7. Interior of the church sanctuary taken facing east.
- 5 of 7. Interior of the church sanctuary taken facing south-west.
- 6 of 7. Detail of stained glass window taken facing north.
- 7 of 7: Detail of chancel taken facing west.

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 1





Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 2



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 3



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 4



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

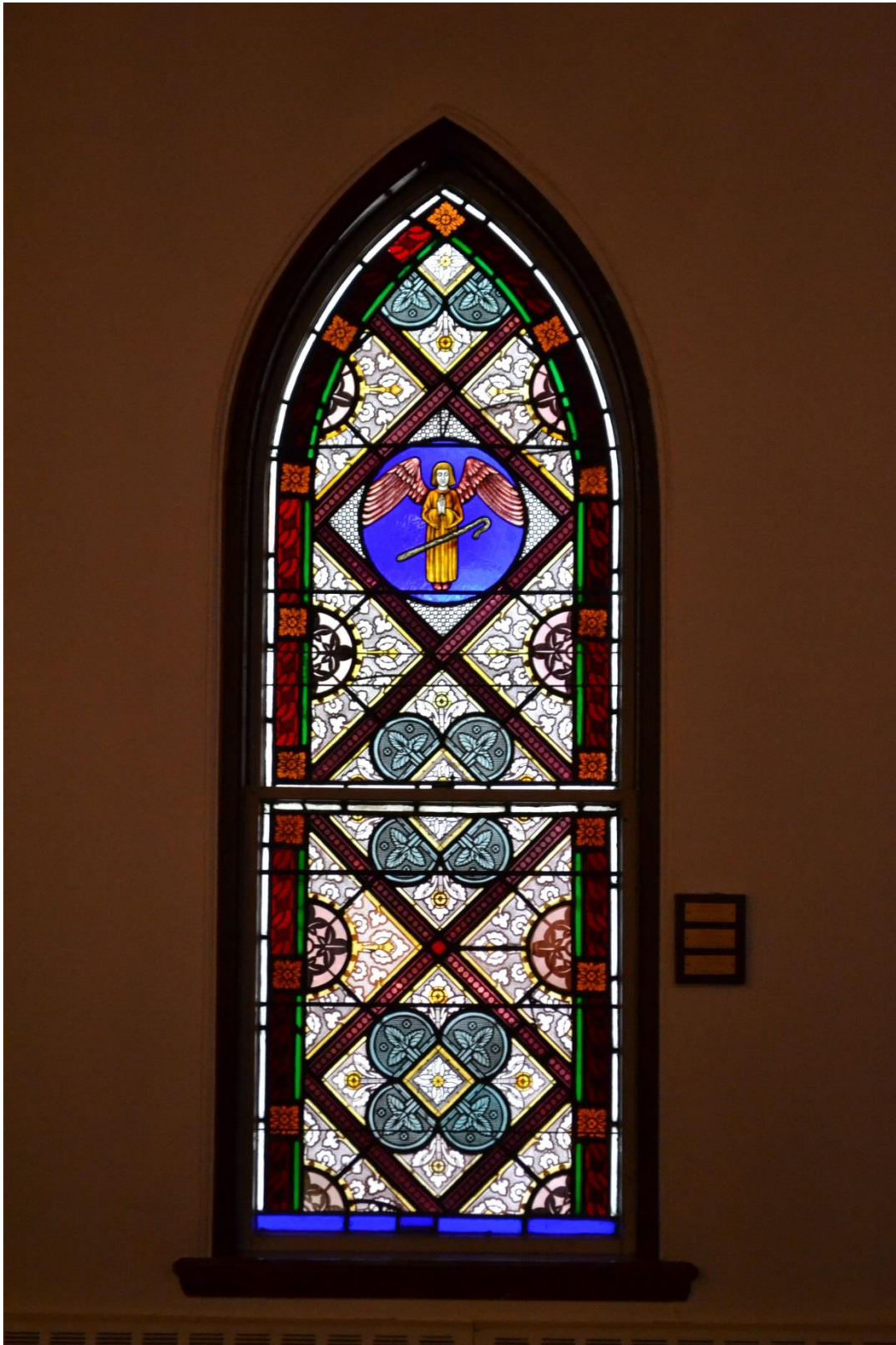
Photo 5



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 6



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

Photo 7



Farmington Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
County and State

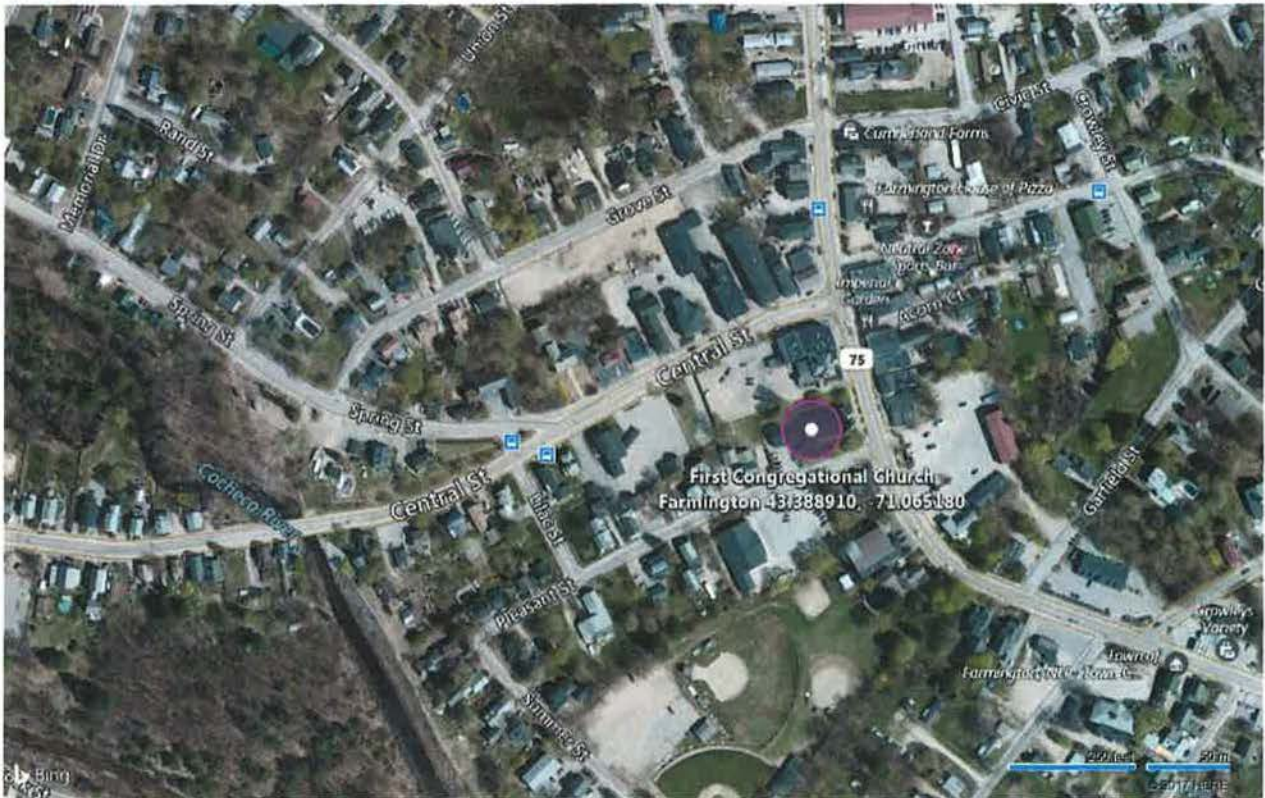


**First Congregational Church Farmington 43.388910,  
-71.065180**

400 Main St, Farmington, NH 03835

**Address:**

400 Main St, Farmington, NH 03835







**FARMERS MARKET**















EXIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/28/2017      Date of Pending List: 1/2/2018      Date of 16th Day: 1/17/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/12/2018      Date of Weekly List: 1/19/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Period          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years         |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      1/12/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





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NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Edson Beall  
**From:** Peter Michaud  
**Subject:** National Register Nominations  
**Date:** November 27, 2017

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Dear Mr. Beall,

Enclosed are two nominations for the National Register.

The enclosed disks for the First Congregational Church in Farmington, NH and the Concord Gas Light Company Gasholder House in Concord, NH contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for these properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Michaud".

Peter Michaud  
National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives,  
& Easements Coordinator  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271 3583 *fax* (603) 271 3433  
Peter.michaud@dcr.nh.gov