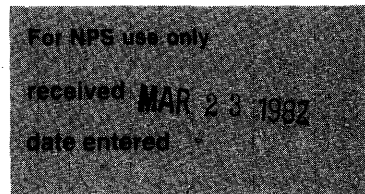


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5. (N-5603):

A. Property Name: Old First Presbyterian Church (Daugherty Hall)

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Old First Presbyterian Church is located in the south side of West Main Street between South College Avenue and Church Lane. The property being nominated includes the building only, which stands on a lot with a frontage of 92 feet in W. Main Street and a depth of 238 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 20, lot no. 3)

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall, Newark, Delaware, 19711

D. Property Description:

The Old First Presbyterian Church is a one story rectangular stone structure with a two bay facade and a tower at the northeast corner on Main Street. The original north portion of this building, begun in 1868, is constructed of random coursed granite ashlar with rusticated brownstone trim. Following the Gothic Revival style of church architecture, this structure features a steeply pitched gable roof, lancet windows with pointed arches and exterior buttresses. A large pointed arch stained glass window is also located at the north gable end facade. The one and one half story rear wing is a later 1920's addition which was built to match the original church nave. It also features an east side entry with corner buttresses and lancet windows with pointed arches of rusticated stone. In the 1960's the church steeple, which originally adorned the northeast corner tower, was replaced by a steep gable roof with flared eaves and a louvered belfry. Other than this latter and relatively discreet modification, the exterior of the First Presbyterian Church has remained essentially unaltered since the 1920's.

E. Historical Background:

During the first half of the nineteenth century, Presbyterians in Newark reflected the division in the national church and worshipped in two separate congregations. The New School Presbyterians had constructed a church at the corner of Chapel and Main Streets in 1843, while the Old School worshipped in a building in East Main between Academy Street and South College Avenue. In 1870, when the split in the national church was healed and the two congregations were united, they decided to construct a new church.

In 1866 the Church's architectural committee, headed by Edward D. Porter, hired the firm of Dixon & Davis of Baltimore to design the building. By June of the following year the church had received the plans, which were modified slightly in an effort to lower construction costs. By April of 1868, a stone mason named Robert Scott was hired in addition to a slate roofer and Samuel Darlington, a carpenter.

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That same year, the Wilmington Daily Commercial described the proposed building: "The Presbyterians are erecting a splendid stone church 60 by 80 feet. The main room will be 20 feet high in the clear. The windows will contain colored glass. There will be a large window in the front of the building. It is being built of blue granite and native brown stone which are produced in Chestnut Hill. There will be a steeple 100 feet high. It is being erected in a substantial and ornamental style and will cost more than \$20,000." The basement of the church was completed in 1870 and it was there that the congregation worshipped until the upper story was finished and dedicated in June 1872.

In 1927, a simple large addition, executed by Smyth Construction Co. of Wilmington, was made to the south facade of the building. This later portion was used for the church's Sunday School program. In 1968, the building was sold by the First Presbyterian Church to the University of Delaware. Since that time it was re-named Daugherty Hall and converted to a student canteen and lounge. Primarily the interior, as opposed to the exterior, of the building has been adapted to this new use.

F. Significance:

The Old First Presbyterian Church stands as a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, one of three such structures existing in Newark. Although the building no longer serves ecclesiastical purposes and has been adapted by the University, its exterior remains essentially intact and 95% unaltered.

N-5603
Old First Presbyterian
Church (Daugherty Hall)

Property no. 20
Lot no. 3

