Form DPF-054

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY # 3713 7 7 0 INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

| HISTORIC NAME: | Congregational Church | | First Congregational Church |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| LOCATION: | 42 South Fullerton Ave. | BLOCK/LOT | of Montelair 2203/09; 42-6/61 |
| MUNICIPALITY: | Montelair | COUNTY: | Essex |
| USGS QUAD: | Orange | UTM REFERENC | ES: |
| OWNER/ADDRESS: | Congregational Church See above | • | Zone/Northing/Easting |

DESCRIPTION

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Construction Date: 1920

Source of Date: Corner stone

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Architect:

Perpendicular Gothic Style:

Compound Form/Plan Type:

Nave - Single story Number of Stories: Side Buildings - 21/2 stories

Foundation:

Concrete, stone faced. Rusticated random ashlar (Philadelphia gneiss w/ Bedford Exterior Wall Fabric: limestone trim).

Builder:

Church; tracery windows w/ leaded lights in the nave. 1st floor; side aisles & church offices show multi-light casements w/ stone Fenestration: mullions.

Roof/Chimneys: Pitched roof w/ polychrome slate, copper gutters, downspouts & flashings.

Additional Architectural Description:

The church entrance, below a recessed compound arch portal w/ wrought-iron lanterns at impost level & rusticated plaque in the parapet, is flanked by gabled side buttresses. Above, the nave facade is dominated by an extensive stained glass tracery window w/ stone mullions & elaborate detailing. Recessed back from the front elevation, a port cochere w/ lancet arch extends to the south. High clerestory tracery windows line the south nave wall & the center bays of the side aisles below are defined by double casements w/ alternating stone trim. On the main facade, a square battlemented bell tower extends to the north. Flat-topped turrets define the corners of the tower, which has lancet windows w/ louvered openings on all sides. The panelled entrance door to the tower is recessed below a compound arch w/ elaborate stone decoration in the spandrels above, surmounted by a rectangular inscribed plaque, The parish offices extend 8 bays to the north & have cabled buttresses between the first floor windows.



PARKS AND FORESTRY NEW JERSEY 08625 TRENTON IENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION, 109 WEST STATE STREET. STREET DEPA OFFICE

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The church and its outbuildings occupy the entire west corner of the block between Plymouth St. & The Crescent.

Plus one acre.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban [] Suburban [x] Scattered Buildings [] Open Space [] Woodland [] Residential [x] Agricultural [] Industrial [] Downtown Commercial [x] Highway Commercial [] Other []

Area zoned for mixed use, combination of Institutional, Residential, & Commercial.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Designed in the Perpendicular Gothic style, by the nationally renowned architect, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the Montclair Congregational Church is one of the finest examples of Gothic church architecture in the country. The architect employed modern methods to enhance the appearance & usefullness of the building. Pillars were eliminated from the trancepts & trancept gables were introduced to bring the congregation closer to the speaker. Accoustic tiles were cleverly used in the vaulted ceiling & high clerestory windows accentuate the fine stained glass, which was designed by Harry Eldridge Goodhue. The nave memorial window was dedicated to young men of the church who lost their lives in World War I, and the belltower was built to the memory of Amory Howe Bradford, a prominent Montclair citizen who was pastor of the church between 1870 - 1911.

Details of the interior were published in "The Architectural Record", Vol. LX, 1926, p. 351.

| ORIGINAL USE: Church | PRESENT USE: Church |
|---|----------------------------------|
| PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent [x] Good [] | Fair [] Poor [] |
| REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes [83] Possible [] | No [] Part of District $[^{XX}]$ |
| THREATS TO SITE: Roads [] Development [] | Zoning [] Deterioration [] |
| No Threat [] Other [X3] | |
| COMMENTS: | |

Designed by the well known architect, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, this Perpendicular Gothic church is eligible on its own merit for individual National Register nomination.

REFERENCES:

Franklin Survey Company. Atlas of Montclair, Glen Ridge, Cedar Grove & Verona; 1933.

National Encyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. XIX. See p. 402 on Goodhue.

RECORDED BY: ORGANIZATION: Eleanor M. Price Preservation Montclair DATE: 9/19/80