609) 292-2023

Form DPF-054

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY # 9713 7 7 0 INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Congregational Church

LOCATION:

42 South Fullerton Ave.

COMMON NAME: First Congregational Church

BLOCK/LOT

of Montclair

42-9/61

MUNICIPALITY:

Montclair

COUNTY:

Essex

USGS QUAD:

Orange

UTM REFERENCES:

OWNER/ADDRESS: Congregational Church

See above

Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: 1920

Source of Date: Corner stone

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue

Builder:

Style:

Perpendicular Gothic

Form/Plan Type:

Compound

Number of Stories:

Nave - Single story

Side Buildings - 2½ stories

Foundation:

Fenestration:

Concrete, stone faced.

Rusticated random ashlar (Philadelphia gneiss w/ Bedford

Exterior Wall Fabric:

limestone trim).

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

mullions.

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

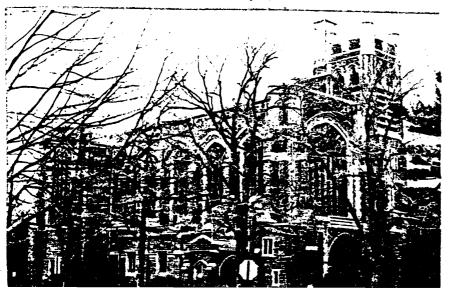
flashings.

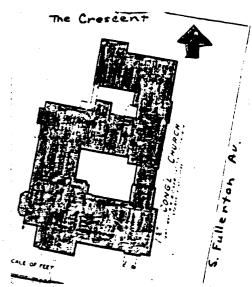
Additional Architectural Description:

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.

Negative File # R34.19

Map (Indicate North)





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	i Buildings	[]
Open Space	[] Woodland	[] Reside	ential [x]	Agricultural	[]	-	_
Industrial	Downtown	Commercial [x] Highw	ay Commercial	[] Other	٢	1

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

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent [xx] Good [] Fair [] Poor []

REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes [xx] Possible [] No [] Part of District [xx]

THREATS TO SITE: Roads [] Development [] Zoning [] Deterioration []

No Threat [] Other [xx]

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: Eleanor M. Price DATE: 9/19/80

ORGANIZATION: Preservation Montclair