

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 2 8 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**NAME**

HISTORIC

Stewart Memorial Church (Presbyterian)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

116 East 32nd Street (32nd at Stevens Ave. South)  
NO. FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Minnesota

CODE  
22

COUNTY

Hennepin

CODE

053 ✓

**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE

 BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: Day Care Center

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bethlehem - Stewart Church

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2539 Pleasant Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hennepin County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6th Street at 3rd Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

STATE

Minnesota

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Working Drawings and Letters

DATE

Drawings dated December 1909  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Northwest Architectural Archive, University of Minnesota Libraries

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis - St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Thirty-second Street and Stevens Avenue in Minneapolis. Construction began in 1909 in accordance with designs prepared by Prairie School architects William Gray Purcell and George Feick. These designs provided for the building to be constructed in two parts, the first being a large cubiform auditorium (or sanctuary) and the second a lower, rectangular Sunday School wing. The resulting plan formed an "L", the shorter leg of which was occupied by the dominant auditorium.

The auditorium section was first to be constructed. It was completed in 1910. It is of frame construction and is sheathed in a brick and cast stone veneer. The upper levels of the exterior are sheathed in a pigmented stucco. The south and east façades are dominated by huge expanses of green-tinted glass. The entire composition is crowned by a projecting horizontal eave and flat roof.

The interior of the auditorium is oriented on a north-south axis; the altar occupies the north end of the room. The south end is bisected by a balcony at the second story level. Pews are arranged in three straight rows, the center of which faces directly onto the pulpit. An early alteration (1912) resulted in the extension of the pulpit and raised dias into the auditorium itself; the alteration was undertaken to accommodate the installation of an electrically powered organ.

Woodwork in the auditorium section is of a dark-stained oak. Thin strips of oak arranged in geometric patterns on the walls and ceilings provide principal decorative features. Noteworthy is the manner in which the strips converge at the bases of the suspended light fixtures (fixtures are not original) to form crosses. Another form of decorative treatment typical of the Prairie Style is a pigmented plaster in shades of light green, salmon, and tan.

The Sunday School wing was constructed in the early 1920's. (Funds had not been available at the time of initial construction to allow for it.) The point of linkage to the auditorium was temporarily closed. Today, large sets of sliding doors open to provide an unobstructed view from the wing into the auditorium; the original intention of the Akron Plan was, therefore, realized. The wing is two stories in height. The central portion is open to the ceiling and forms an atrium court flanked on two sides by balconies. Opening off of these balconies are individual classrooms with folding doors. These doors can be opened to provide a view not only of the center space, but also of the auditorium. In addition, four clerestory windows light the atrium from above. At the western end of the wing is a large meeting room which incorporates facilities for a small library, work tables, and a kitchen.

Both the Auditorium and Sunday School Wing are virtually intact and accurately represent the original intent of the designers. The building continues to serve as a church and is in a good state of preservation.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Purcell and Feick

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by William Gray Purcell and George Feick, the Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church is the largest commission to be undertaken by these architects prior to the time that they were joined by George Elmslie. It is one of the extremely few churches to be executed in the Prairie Style, and is reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's innovative design for Unity Temple (1906) in Oak Park, Illinois. Such buildings represented a radical departure from established concepts in ecclesiastical design, and, perhaps, for this reason, did not receive widespread acceptance.

The Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church is noteworthy in its retention of original design integrity. Little alteration has occurred, with the exception of the replacement light fixtures in the auditorium. Other work such as the addition of the organ and the construction of the Sunday School Wing were accomplished under the direction of the architects. The building continues to be well maintained and respected by the congregation and the community. It has been designated for preservation by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School, Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, '72.
- Gebhard, David, Purcell and Elmslie, unpublished MSS, University of Minnesota, 1957.
- Purcell, William Gray, Parabiography, Work of 1909, unpublished MSS, 1939. (Copy at the Northwest Architectural Archive, University of Minnesota Libraries, Manuscripts Collection)
- Purcell, William G., "Expression in Church Architecture," The Continent, June 29, 1911.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4, 7, 8, 2, 6, 0	4, 9, 7, 6, 6, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Shown on the Minneapolis Planning & Development Department atlas plate 10B (NE 1/4 & N 1/2 of SE 1/4 Sec 3 T 28 R 24), the property is 129.17 feet on the south (32nd Street) and 92 feet on the east (Stevens Avenue South) and is bordered by an alley on the west side. It occupies lots 11 and 12 on block 6.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John R. Burrows, Student Intern

January 10, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Historic Resources Committee, Minnesota Society AIA

DATE

612-874-8771

STREET & NUMBER

314 Clifton Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Minneapolis

STATE

Minnesota

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/25/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles Allen*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Mary R. Franklin*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-28-78

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-28-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Hennepin

DATE RECEIVED: 4/09/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/25/01  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78001543

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5/16/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 5/16/01

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Stewart Memorial Church  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Section number   2   Page   1  

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**Reference Number:** 78001543

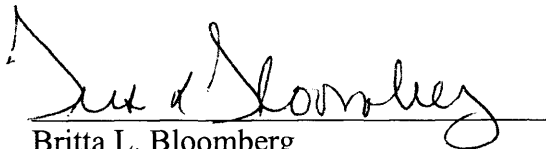
**State:** Minnesota

**County:** Hennepin

**Resource Name (Historic):** Stewart Memorial Church

**Other name:** Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church

**Comments:** The Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church Congregation purchased the building from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities area in 1988, and recently completed a 2.3 million dollar restoration of the Prairie School Style Church. The congregation requests that their name is represented in the church's National Register file.



Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

  4/4/01    
Date