



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

August 30, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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National Register of Historic Places
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613



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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

other names/site number Svenska Lutherska Maria-Kyrkan

2. Location

street & number 77 Franklin Square not for publication

city or town New Britain vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06051


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

 SHPO 7.13.10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

CT/SHPO
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

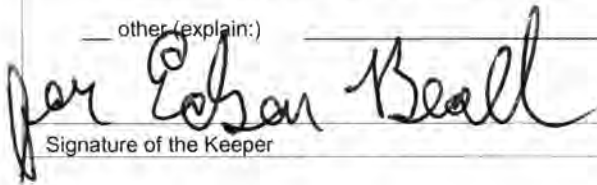
4. National Park Service Certification

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):


Signature of the Keeper

8.30.10
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**First Lutheran Church of the
Reformation**

Name of Property
Hartford County, Connecticut
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: masonry

walls: marble

roof: Slate and copper

other: Granite (external stair)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Late Gothic Revival-style First Lutheran Church of the Reformation (FLCR) was built in 1906 on the northwest corner of Franklin Square; a city park located adjacent to downtown New Britain (Figure 1). Historically a Swedish Congregation, it is significant for its association with the immigrant history of New Britain (Criterion A). It is also significant under Criterion C because of the high level of style and craftsmanship displayed on both the exterior and interior of the structure. An adjacent former church building, built in 1920 and acquired in 1966, is located on the same parcel. This structure is non-contributing due to the fact that it is not from the same period of significance.

Narrative Description

The First Lutheran Church of the Reformation is located on a large two-level lot facing Franklin Square, the access road on the western edge of Franklin Square Park (Figure 2a and 2b). Franklin Square Park is a narrow, wedge-shaped green space on the west side of South Main Street, with walks, ornamental trees, international flags and statuary. It is dedicated to Peace and Brotherhood with particular reference to Elihu Burritt.¹ A number of civic and religious institutions line the park including a mid-century Lutheran church (of another synod and founding nationality) next door. The Salvation Army area headquarters and a late Nineteenth Century Catholic church face the park on the other side.

The FLCR dominates the immediate area due to both its size and striking white marble exterior. The plan of the church is a modified (shortened) cross with the east-west axis (nave) measuring 105 feet and the north-south axis (transept) measuring 76 feet. Twin segmented towers, rising 63 feet from street level, flank the façade (eastern elevation) facing Franklin Square (Photograph 1).

¹ Among other enterprises at the turn of the twentieth century, this remarkable "blacksmith" was instrumental in creating the "peace stamp" which permitted same-cost international postage so all immigrants could correspond with their countries of origin. Swedes of the period tell of his having sent congratulatory flowers to one of their young ladies on her graduation from the New Britain Normal School (teacher's college).

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Section number 7 Page 2

Each tower features four distinct vertically-stacked and stepped segments each divided by a wide stone beltcourse. Each bottom segment features an arched entrance with stained glass filling the arch above the door. The two middle segments are each pierced by a single hooded Gothic arch window, while the top segment of each tower features a series of spires on each corner and lining each parapet wall. At the center of the façade is a massive arched central doorway featuring an elaborately carved surround and paired decorative pilasters. The doorway is surmounted by a large stained glass rose window set into an ornate gothic-arched recess (Photograph 2). Three motifs are repeated on the façade and throughout the exterior and interior – the gothic arch, an arch-topped column and a decorative finial (Photograph 3).² The building construction is load-bearing masonry, sheathed in white marble blocks set in an ashlar pattern. The blocks are rough-surfaced with the result that the building appears to change color in different light—from blue-white to slate grey. The blocks are finished only where they form a corner or abut a window or door (Photograph 4). Flashing, tower roofs, decorative pediments and finials are all copper.

The three main entrances are accessed by granite steps which span the façade.

The exterior north and south walls feature ground to roof buttresses between which are inset arch-topped stained glass windows occupying nearly half the vertical area. The transept ends, which extend three feet from the side walls, continue this construction, with buttresses in each corner, an arch-topped window on each side and two on each end (Photograph 5). Bands of decorative stone mark the main floor level and the first tower segment. The north side is identical to the south, while the west repeats the construction of pilasters and intervening arch-topped stained glass. A rose window finishes the western gable end to echo that on the east. The gabled roof is covered in slate and peaks at 52 feet, while the roof of the transept is slightly lower at 40 feet.

The original 1906 building is intact, with all elevations appearing as they did when originally built, with a few exceptions (Figures 4, 5 and 6). A handicap access entrance was added on the north side, of non-conforming stone. A large L-shaped two story wing was added to the west side of the building in 1957. Only the top of the rear elevation of the original building is thus visible at this time. It still retains the original rose window and two small windows on the wall behind the altar, although these windows are obscured on the inside (Photograph 6).

Originally, the towers carried 44 foot spires, topped by five foot copper crosses. Both experienced continual problems from water seepage. The steeples were removed in 1938. The upper levels of the towers have continued to experience problems, with various attempts to resolve them. Some of the decorative finials on top of the towers were changed or eliminated during this work. In the middle of the last century, all the external woodwork was scraped and painted the traditional dark red which it now carries. At that time, the deteriorated tracery around the rose windows was replaced with exact reproductions. Clear protective outer panels were installed over all the stained glass windows also at that time.

INTERIOR

The central doorway enters into the *narthex* (foyer). This space runs the width of the building, ending in staircases at the base of each tower. The narthex and stairway walls are lined in mahogany paneling decorated with the same arch-topped column motif seen throughout the building. The narthex is divided from the sanctuary by a wall with inset stained glass portraits—of Martin Luther and Gustophus Adolphus, an early king of Sweden (Photograph 7). A great double door leads into the main aisle, two single doors to the side aisles.

² "Arch-topped column" motif describes a modified column and capital in which the capital is topped with a gothic arch. This shape often appears in picket fences today, variously described as "gothic" or "Victorian".

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Stepping through any of these doors takes one beneath the choir loft and balcony. The back rows of pews therefore have a ceiling of approximately 8-10 feet in height. Stained glass windows fill both side walls, cut across in mid window by the balcony itself (Photograph 8).

Continuing down the main aisle from under the overhanging balcony one is overwhelmed by the sudden vertical space. The interior is open, the full width of the transept, and straight ahead to the altar at the end of the main aisle. The ceiling, composed of a series of groin vaults soaring to full roof height, is supported by slender pillars, plastered and faux-painted to resemble marble (Photograph 9). The pillars are, in fact, major structural support elements. Constructed of cast iron, they run from the footing, through the lower level where they are merely painted, through the sanctuary where they are disguised, and up through the ceiling to the great wooden roof trusses. The trusses are further supported at their ends by the buttresses which punctuate the external walls.

One of the side benefits of the very high ceiling and stone construction of the interior are the phenomenal acoustics: unamplified voices and acoustic instruments can be heard without distortion or echo especially when the room is empty. Initially, all preaching was done from an elevated and very ornate pulpit from which the sound must have rolled like thunder.

The choir loft or balcony features a unique ox-bow curve. The center of the choir loft parapet is a concave curve, flanked by two different convex curves (Photograph 10). It is also elaborately carved and like all of the woodwork throughout the building it is original and intact. Pews in the balcony are curved to echo the section of parapet behind which they sit (Photograph 9).

The stained glass in all four external walls is original to the 1906 building and was created and installed by the studios of Henry Birkenstock of Mt. Vernon, NY.³ The large windows at the ends of the transept, separating the narthex from the sanctuary, and over the altar contain not only stained glass but also painted picture panels (Photograph 11). First Lutheran Church of the Reformation has three very large wall paintings: one over the altar recess in an ornate wood *reredos* (surrounding frame), and two of equal size flanking it on the west wall of the sanctuary (Photograph 12). They are the work of Olof Grafstrom, then head of the Art Department at Augustana College. His work, both religious and *plein air* is still recognized and collected today.⁴

The lower level, containing the choir room, large meeting room and kitchen retains all its original carved woodwork, including floor to ceiling doors dividing the main room (Photograph 13). It also features the fluted cast iron columns that continue up to the main church space. The ceiling throughout this level is tin, stamped and embossed in various floral and geometric patterns, whether on the ceiling panels themselves, the beams or trim (Photograph 14).

³ Digital photos of other Birkenstock windows, primarily those in Jersey City, New Jersey and Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan, New York, are available through FLCR.

⁴ Presentation by Dr. Brian B. Magnasson, "Jonas Olof Grafstrom and the Pacific Northwest", November 9, 2008, Scandinavian Cultural Center, Tacoma, Washington. Digital photo of his altar paintings from Bethel Lutheran Church, Bethel, Nebraska and First Lutheran Church, Lake City Minnesota, can be obtained from FLCR, courtesy of those churches. FLCR has letters, minutes of meetings and other records of the decision to order and pay for the paintings.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Art

Ethnic Heritage: Swedish-American

Period of Significance

1903-1906: period of design and building

Significant Dates

May 20, 1906: dedication

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Swedish immigrant, late Nineteenth and early

Twentieth Century

Architect/Builder

William H. Cadwell

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Period of Significance (justification)

The building, inside and outside, was designed and erected between May, 1903 and May, 1906.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Although the property is, and always has been, owned by a religious institution and used for religious purposes, it is being proposed as a significant example of Swedish-American immigrant culture and artistry of the early Twentieth Century in New England. It is being proposed as an outstanding example, interior as well as exterior, of Late Gothic Revival architecture by a known architect. It is also being offered for its artistic merit on the basis of the workmanship in the shaping and fitting of the exterior stone, the stone and wood carving in both the exterior and interior, the stained and painted glass windows by a known artisan and the large wall paintings by a known artist.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The First Lutheran Church of the Reformation is significant under Criterion A at the local level as an expression of the vibrant Swedish immigrant culture in New Britain in the late Nineteenth Century. It is representative of the many diverse ethnic groups which were drawn to the great industrial concerns which gave New Britain the nickname of The Hardware City. The Church is also significant under Criterion C at the local level. The building was designed by a renowned local architect whose work is being recognized and preserved by New Britain and in one case is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The material is marble, exquisitely quarried and shaped in the near geographic area. The stained and painted glass windows were created by a respected studio of the time and three large painted panels are by a known artist. The building presents an elegant, cohesive and well-preserved example of Swedish-American Church Gothic architecture and art of the early Twentieth Century.

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

The Swedes who built their "Maria Church" in 1906 were only one of the many ethnic groups which comprised, and continue to comprise, the population of New Britain. These immigrants initially arrived from the British Isles, especially Ireland, and Northern Europe and Scandinavia. Central Europeans, including Polish, Slavs and Italians quickly followed. Presently, New Britain is seeing large numbers of immigrants from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Public announcements and posters in New Britain today are likely to be in English, Polish and Spanish. Then, as is still true, each ethnicity settled in discreet neighborhoods and built places of worship nearby. The New Britain skyline today is punctuated by their steeples, domes and towers. The twin towers at 77 Franklin Square are among the most distinctive.

The Church was originally organized on March 15, 1881 when twenty-eight Swedish immigrants established the Swedish Evangelical "Maria" Church in New Britain. Services were held wherever space could be found often borrowing space from existing churches. Two small churches built or acquired were quickly outgrown. In 1902, the congregation finished paying for the property on Franklin Square, architects were retained, and ground was broken in 1903. Much of the early spade work, literally, was done by the members of the church at the end of their shifts in New Britain factories. The contractor, Murphy Brothers of Norwich, was paid \$64,586 to erect the building. Dedication took place on the afternoon of Sunday, May 20, 1906 following a "Great Day of the Feast" in the morning. An increasing number of services began to be held in English. In 1924, the church name became First Lutheran Church of New Britain. In 1974 First Lutheran merged with Reformation Lutheran Church, a New Britain church established in 1906, leading to the present name of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Swedish men who founded FLCR came to New Britain primarily to work in the manufacturing industry. Their wives and daughters, however, were more likely to work as domestics in the large homes of the factory owners. Several present members of FLCR remember stories of their grandparents spending vacation time at some of the "cottages" owned by these families. Nearly every early immigrant ethnic group formed a "Social Club" to preserve their heritage. The SVEA club still maintains its clubhouse in a converted ice house and gathers on Sweden Day every summer. The VASA club continues to be socially active. The New Britain Industrial Museum already exists, giving evidence of the number of devices and appliances invented and manufactured here by immigrants. For example, the patents for several small appliances, and one major advancement in washing machine design, among others, were held by congregants of First Lutheran. The story of the immigrant groups can be told in part through the buildings they erected. FLCR was, and still is, a center for vocal music performance. For decades after its construction it was a favorite performance venue for Swedish choral groups because of its very fine acoustics.. FLCR, with its location on Franklin Square, would appear to be a likely candidate for Historic District.⁵

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN:

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation was designed by William H. Cadwell, a well-respected local architect. Cadwell designed a number of buildings still standing in New Britain: His rather grand home is on the corner of West Main and High Street. It presently houses the offices of a law firm. The Andrews Building is a four-story narrow commercial structure in the heart of downtown New Britain. It has just been respectfully renovated with an eatery on the first floor and offices above. The Vega Building is in the historic section of Arch Street, one of the oldest commercial sections of the city. It is known for its elaborate stone medallion of a ship, acknowledging the Swedish social club for which it was built. The Vega Society was not only a gathering place for social activities, but also took care of insuring the welfare of Swedish immigrants and their families, especially new arrivals. Present members of FLCR remember the second floor meeting room being lined with photographs of important members of New Britain Swedish society. The Vega block is being preserved and remodeled for use as transition residences by the Friendship Center of New Britain. Cadwell also designed the Saint Mary's Parochial School building near the Polish neighborhood of Broad Street, which is listed on the National Register (added 1991, Bldg. #91000364).

Cadwell designed FLCR as a modified cross, which is most evident when viewing the architect's original plans (Figure 7). The abundance and proportion of windows can be seen not only from the outside, but also from the original architectural drawings. The details of original stone carving, pediments and finials can also be seen in these drawings. All known Cadwell-designed buildings are distinguished by his use of elaborate stone carving and stained glass. In the 77 Franklin Square building, he also used the design technique of repeating major shapes and motifs throughout. The most evident of these is the Gothic arch, which is echoed in the top of every door and window, inside and out. The arch-topped column appears on all the carved wooden doors inside and out, and is repeated in the carved panels in the curved wooden balcony parapet and in the paneling in the walls of the narthex and stairways. The distinctive carved finial appears on the carving above the central door and on the corners of the roof. The carved wood tracery around the rose windows repeats the rose symbol depicted in many of the stained glass windows and appears again in the tin ceiling in the lower level. It is clear from the original designs that Architect Cadwell carefully planned every element of the building and envisioned it as a harmonious cohesive whole.

⁵ The church restoration effort has received letters of support from New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart and Director of Municipal Development Kenneth Malinowski, which mention many of these possibilities.

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Section number 8 Page 4

The marble was quarried and shaped to order at The Ashley Falls Marble Company in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, now defunct. When active, the company was renowned for the consistency of their stone and the quality of their shaping of it.⁶ What has yet to be researched is whether the carved stone details which can be seen throughout the building and especially over the front door, rose window, and surmounting the peak of the roof are also the product of the Ashley Falls workings. It is certain that they are original to the building.

It is also not yet known who carved the elaborate wooden surrounds of the arched windows, and the rose windows, though it can be assumed they were done at the Birkenstock studios. The dozens of stained and painted glass windows by the Henry Birkenstock Studios of Mount Vernon, New York appear on every wall at every level of the building. They vary from the great rose windows at each gable end, to tall arch-topped windows on all four sides. Stained glass even graces some major interior walls. Some of the large side windows feature painted portrait panels, which is characteristic of the work of this studio at the time. Glass from the Birkenstock Studio was featured in many historic churches and commercial buildings in the Northeast. The stained glass, along with half the cost of the original organ of the church, was paid for by Andrew Carnegie.⁷

The paintings by Olof Grafstom dominate the west wall of the sanctuary. Grafstom was one of the most sought-after Swedish-American painters of altar art in that era. Although little formal study has been completed on Grafstom, informal research is ongoing. The Grafstom family has made some effort to compile an inventory of his work, both religious and secular. He was also known for his *plein air* paintings which are still collected today. The paintings, which represented a large investment at the time, were paid for in-house: the Luther League (youth group) paid for the altar painting and the Bible Studies group paid for the other two.

7: "We quarry and finish the marble even to the finest of carved work.... Some of the most prominent buildings erected from our product are ... Swedish Lutheran Church, New Britain, Conn..." Letter from Ashley Falls Marble Co. addressed to Mr. A. M. W. dated January 5, 1909. Used by permission of The Sheffield (MA) Historical Society, Dewey Research Center, where the original is housed. Courtesy James Miller, volunteer archivist Sheffield Historical Society and also Crystalle Carlson, Falls Village Historical Society, Falls Village, CT.

⁸ Since this gift predates his philanthropic Carnegie Foundation by several years, it has been assumed that the gift was from him personally. He was known to have given generously for the installation of pipe organs through out the country in many denominations, but church researchers have been unable to find any other instance of his paying for church stained glass. Correspondence and records verifying the Carnegie gift are available at FLCR from the archives. The Carnegie trustee institution may have recently located records of the gift, which will be further researched.

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First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Anniversary Publications of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation:

Tempelklockan Luthersk Traktat-Tidning, Twenty-fifth anniversary bulletin, 1881-1906, in Swedish.

Fifty Years, 1881-1931, Fiftieth anniversary bulletin.

A Century of Achievement in Faith: First Lutheran 100 years; Reformation 75 years, 1981. Note: First Lutheran Church, the English name of the original church congregation, merged with the Church of the Reformation, leading to the present name.

Celebrate FIRST, "First Lutheran Church Of The Reformation, 1881-2006". John Darrow, Diane Wolf, Co-Editors, 2008. Lavishly illustrated history of the church.

Other sources:

Images of America: New Britain, Three Volumes, Arlene C. Palmer, Arcadia Publishing, Denver, 1996.

Svenskarna I New Britain, J. E. Klingberg, New Britain, CT, 1911.

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

Archives in subject building, many in secure

Name of repository: rvault

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.56

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 685125 4614879
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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

Property is bounded by Franklin Square (street) on the east; by the property line of Saint Matthews Lutheran Church on the South; by Glen Street on the west; by the property line of New Britain YWCA for the west half of the north and by the property line of the Carlson Funeral Home on the east half of the north.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were chosen to reflect the existing legal parcel as shown on the City of New Britain's Assessor's Map.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title S. W. Whicher, MA, JD, grant writer
 organization N/A date 1/8/10
 street & number 161 So. Main St., Apt. 312 telephone (860) 348-0030
 city or town New Britain state CT zip code 06051
 e-mail swwhicher@att.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name First Lutheran Church of the Reformation
 street & number 77 Franklin Square telephone _____
 city or town New Britain state CT zip code 06051

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 18 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.

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

1. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #1: East (front) façade. Photographer is standing on sidewalk, looking west.

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2. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #2: Detail of front door surround. Photo shows arch repeated in door surround and rose window. Note repeated arch-topped column design in stone. Note rose window and tracery in windows over door.

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3. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #3: Detail of frieze above front door. Photo shows the arch-topped column design and finial used throughout the building.

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Photographs, continued

4: Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #4: Detail of stonework (front façade). Photo shows three vertical examples of stone trimmed to sharp corners in contrast to rest of stone which has been left rough.

4 of 14

5. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: S. W. Whicher

Date Photographed: 6/09

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #5: South façade. Photographer is standing on adjacent property, looking north. Note non-contributing addition in left corner of photograph and non-contributing free-standing building in right corner.

Note: This photo has been altered to erase arm of electric pole intruding into upper right corner. No part of the building image has been changed.

5 of 14

6. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #6: Detail of west façade. Photo shows upper level of original west (back) wall. Roofline at bottom of photo is that of present L-shaped two story addition. Note two small windows still visible on outside.

6 of 14

Photographs, continued

7. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #7: Stained glass panels in interior wall.

Photo shows the two stained glass windows, with portrait panels, set into interior wall separating the narthex from the sanctuary.

7 of 14

8. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #8: Interior of north end of transept. Photo shows range of windows, rose, stained glass with large portrait panels and stained glass only partially visible on either side. Note edge of balcony showing on right side bisecting window.

8 of 14

9. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #9: Ceiling ribbing from balcony. Photo shows the many variations of arch in ceiling ribbing. Note the arch shape repeated in the painting surround and all visible windows. Note curved pews in balcony.

9 of 14

Photographs, continued

10. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #10: Balcony from floor of sanctuary. Photo shows the varied curves of the balcony parapet. Note organ flanking the east rose window. Note interior stained glass windows.

10 of 14

11: Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #11: view of altar wall (west) of sanctuary. Photo shows two of the paintings on the west wall. The third, over the altar is temporarily obscured by a Christmas tapestry. Note the elaborate *reredos* surrounding the altar painting. Note last supper stained glass panel under the rose window.

11 of 14

12. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #12: Interior, northwest corner of sanctuary. Photo shows arch repeated in ceiling ribbing, stone frame of painting and door frame. Arch window frame can be glimpsed at right.

12 of 14

Photographs continued:

13. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #13: South tower stairway, interior. Photo shows arch-topped column design repeated in stair rail and stair paneling. Note that design has been modified to "climb" the stair. Note also arched stained glass window.

13 of 14

14. Name of Property: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

City or Vicinity: New Britain

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Dario Bitzaya

Date Photographed: 12/24/09-1/6/10

Description of Photograph and number: Photograph #14: Detail of tin ceiling

14 of 14

Note: typos in titles of photos on CD are those of photographer who prepared the disk.

LIST OF FIGURES, FLCR:

Figure #1: Street Map

Figure #2a and b: Site maps

Figure #3: Site sketch, showing location of photographs

Figure #4: South façade, original architectural drawing

Figure #5: East façade, original architectural drawing

Figure #6: West façade, original architectural drawing

Figure #7: Main floor plan: original architectural drawing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Hartford

DATE RECEIVED: 07/16/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 08/30/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000825

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 8.30.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

Phone _____ Date _____

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

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





It's Now! It's New! It's For You!
Sunday Worship 6:30 PM

It's Now! It's New! It's For You!
Sunday Worship 6:30 PM
As You Are"

↑
Worship
8:00 AM
SCHOOL 10
12:00 PM
7:00 PM
WED
JAN 9
THE PASTOR
6. ALMAGAR
SUNDAY







WELCOME
2nd SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS
253 297
299 183
733 487
200







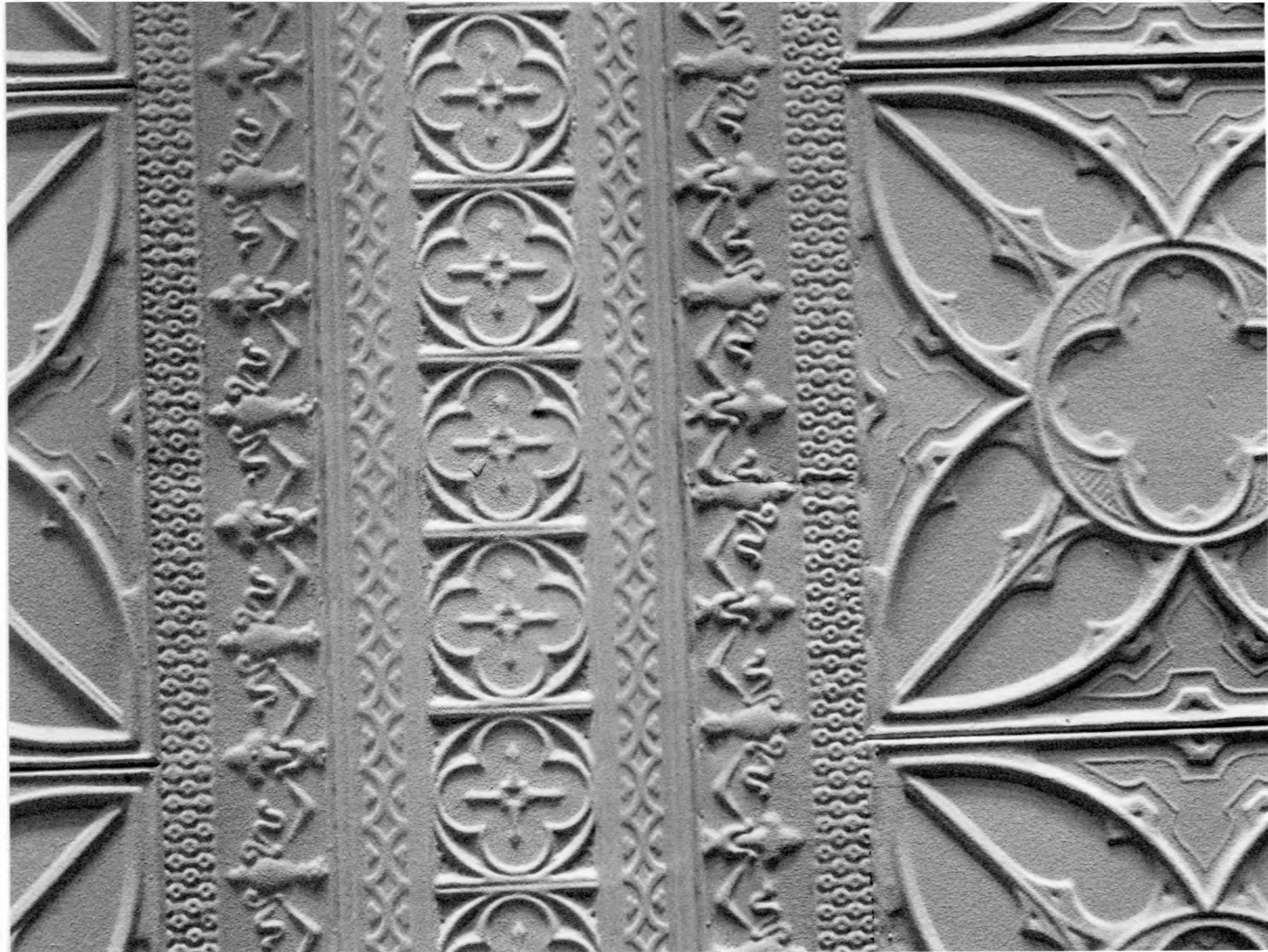


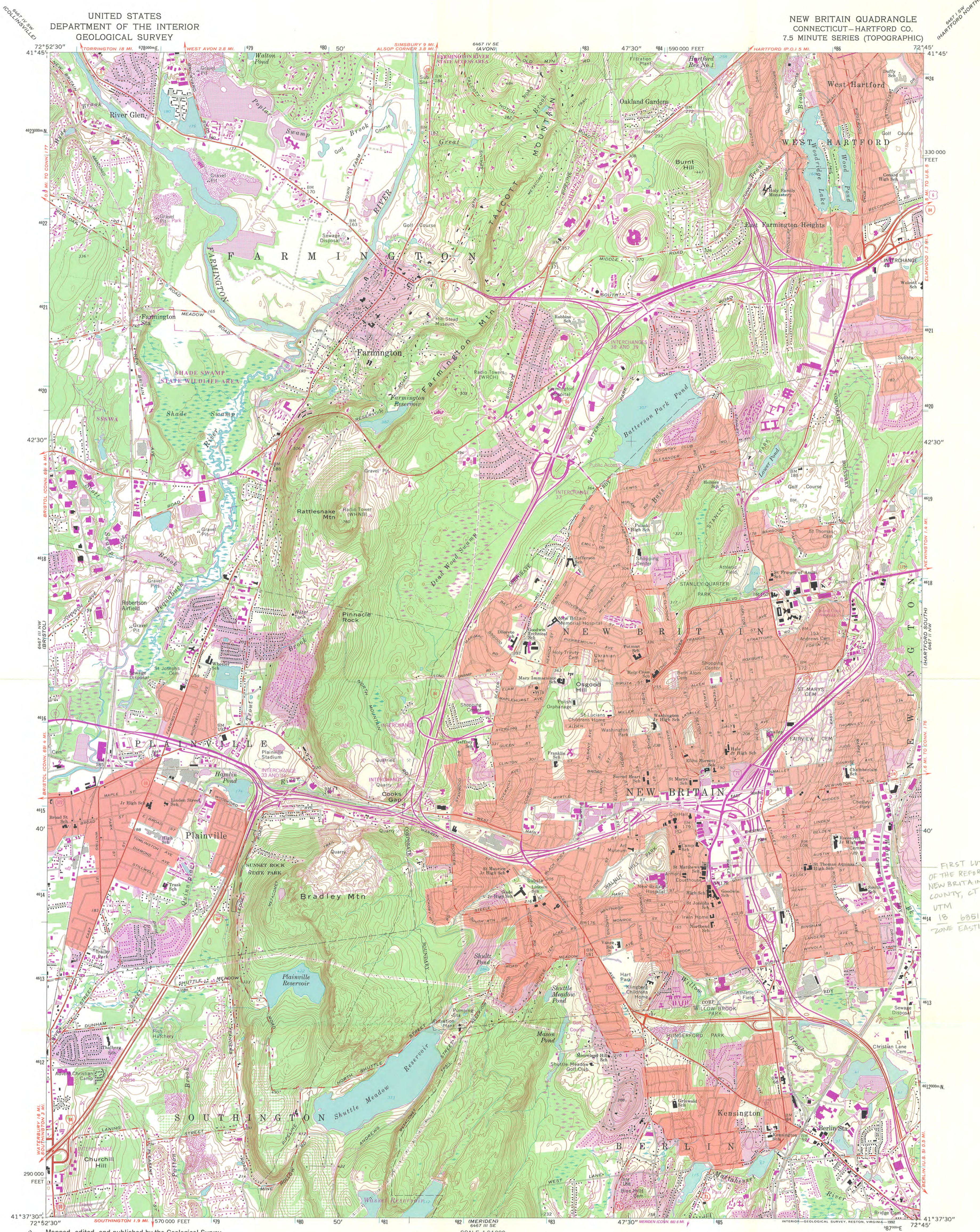






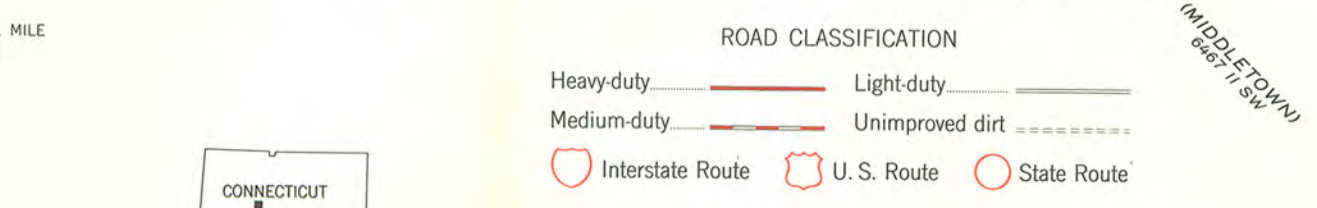
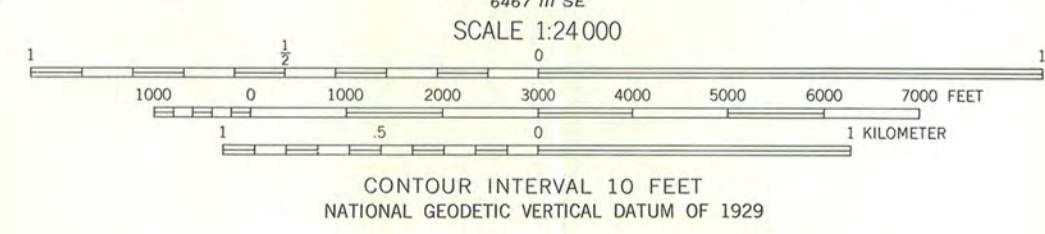
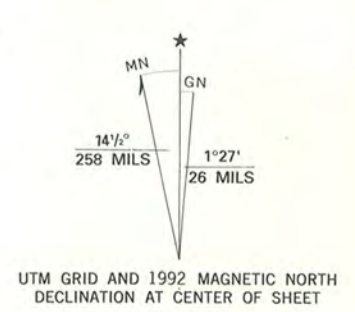






FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE REFORMATION
NEW BRITAIN, HARTFORD COUNTY, CT
UTM
18 685125 4614079
ZONE EAST 16 NORTH

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Connecticut Highway Department
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1941. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled
from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources
Contours not revised. This information not field checked
Map edited 1992
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
41072-F7-TF-024
1966
REVISED 1992
DMA 6467 III NE—SERIES V816





Arts
Tourism
Film
History

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2800
860.256.2811 (f)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger Reed
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

DATE: July 13, 2010

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

The following materials are submitted for nomination of the First Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Hartford County, Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please review
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Film Division

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

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www.cultureandtourism.org

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