



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 South Presbyterian Church
other names/site number _____
name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 2110 South Salina St. N/A not for publication
city or town Syracuse N/A vicinity
state New York code NY county Onondaga code 067 zip code 13205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Michelle Polyzos Deputy SHPO 26 JAN 2017
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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] 3/27/17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early 20th Century Revival: Romanesque

foundation: stone, brick
walls: stone, brick
roof: terra cotta
other: _____

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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

South Presbyterian Church is located on a 0.77 acre parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection of South Salina Street and Colvin Street in the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. The church is an L-shaped masonry building consisting of a 1902 chapel and a connected, much larger sanctuary built in 1907; the chapel was entirely incorporated into the larger church complex. During its more than a century of use, the exterior and the sanctuary interior underwent few changes, the most consequential of which was the removal and replacement of stained-glass windows in 2008. The Romanesque style church is an example of the work of Binghamton architects S.O. and H. A. Lacey. The church is situated in a mostly residential neighborhood contemporary with the church. Historically, commercial and institutional buildings (stores, school, theater, bank, and library) were also situated close to the South Salina and Colvin Street intersection and some of these structures survive. The church and this cluster of buildings are located three blocks south of the South Salina Street Historic District (NR listed 1986). Despite the loss of the windows, the church retains a high level of architectural integrity from its period of significance in terms of location, form, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting.

Narrative Description

South Presbyterian Church is located on a large lot at the northwest corner of South Salina and West Colvin Streets in Syracuse, New York. The lot consists of the original rectangular mid-block lot on West Colvin Street that contained the first chapel and the larger adjacent corner lot that contains the 1907 structure. These lots were combined in 1905 for the construction of the existing church. When viewed from Colvin Street, the chapel is unified stylistically through stonework, step gables and a connecting portion that was added as a side entrance and porte cochère. When viewed from the north (rear of the building), the gap between the chapel and church is visible as is the connecting Colvin Street portion.

South Salina Street is U.S. Route 11, the primary north-south route in the region before the completion of Interstate I-81. South Salina Street is still a major artery for traffic between the city's south side and downtown Syracuse. Until the opening of the I-81 highway in the early 1960s, South Salina Street was both the formal and actual dividing street between the city's east and west. Consequently, the church was passed by almost everyone entering the city from the south, whether heading to the downtown area or passing through the city to travel further north.

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Colvin Street runs east to west and is one of the few major arteries in the city's south side that almost completely traverses the south side. When traveling east, Colvin jogs slightly to the north at South Salina Street around the corner on which South Presbyterian is located. As a result, travelers have a full view of the church when traveling west while waiting to cross South Salina Street. A 1905 news article described the site as "unquestionably the best corner lot in the southern part of the city. East Colvin Street, by reason of a jog in the street, opens directly opposite the lot."¹

South Presbyterian Church is a large Romanesque Revival, two-story, L-shaped brick and stone building with a masonry foundation. The east, west and south elevations are faced with Genesee Valley bluestone and the north elevation is brick. A square tower imbedded into the cross-gable plan of the structure marks the building's corner, emphasizing its prominent site location. Tall gable ends with large windows face each of the main streets: South Salina (east elevation) and West Colvin (south elevation). The church is built almost to the lot line on the east and south sides. A shallow landscaped strip of property separates the sidewalk from the building. An expansive parking area is part of the lot, west and north of the church building.

The ground plan of the church is essentially two unequal joined rectangles, creating the longest elevation of the building along West Colvin Street. The smaller of the two rectangles is the chapel, oriented north-to-south with a prominent front gabled roof. The sanctuary wing is much larger, dominating the corner of South Salina and West Colvin Streets. It is essentially an interior cruciform sanctuary embedded into the larger rectangle and is oriented south to north with a cross-gable roof plan. Connecting the two (church and chapel) is a flat roofed square section on the south that contains the Colvin Street entrance. The chapel and church are unified through the use of the same terracotta roof, while the connecting entrance roof portion is black EPDM. The north corner sections of the church building are squared on the north elevation, each with a two story section and also appear to be flat roofed EPDM. The north elevation of the chapel still retains its historic shingles in the gable end.

Each prominent gable end of the roof of the church ends in a stepped gable design and features a large centered window with smaller windows below and on either side. The two principal sides of the church face the major streets (South Salina and West Colvin), are faced with limestone and present monumental facades. The square tower in the southeast corner is the main entrance for the building and contains an upper level office. The northeast corner contains another entrance/stair hall, and the remainder of the interior spaces house offices, storage and robing rooms.

The transitional space facing West Colvin Street is also two stories and has a secondary entrance marked by an impressive stone porte cochère. The space includes a ground level stair that leads down to a large basement beneath the

¹ "The \$60,000 Edifice Under Construction for the South Presbyterian," *The Syracuse Herald*, November 11, 1905.

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sanctuary or up a half-level to a vestibule, offices and the chapel. The vestibule leads to the main floor of the sanctuary or to the upper level via another stair north of a large office in the southwest corner of the church/sanctuary. This internal wooden stairway leads upstairs to classrooms and meeting rooms as well as provides access to the sanctuary balcony from the west.

Exterior

South Presbyterian Church is brick of construction over a stone foundation, with a stone facing of Genesee Valley bluestone (also known as Warsaw blue limestone) on the primary elevations. Genesee Valley bluestone is frequently referred to as a limestone, but it is really a fine-grained, dark, blue-gray sandstone from near Portageville, New York, quarried by the Genesee Valley Bluestone Company at the time South Presbyterian Church was built. The bluestone is rough-cut in different size rectangular blocks and tightly laid with thin mortar beds in an uneven pattern. The southeast cornerstone is inscribed in raised lettering: *South Presbyterian Church, 1901-1906*. The roof is covered with glazed red terra cotta tiles. According to an early description of the church before it was completed, the roof was intended to be slate, but the earliest photos of the church show the tile roof, indicating a change in plans.²

The South Salina Street elevation consists of a dominant gable wall with windows, slightly off center. This wall is the east wall of the sanctuary, which has seven rectangular windows on the ground floor level; a large centrally placed arched window with a sill of that corresponds to the balcony level within; and, two smaller windows flanking the large window and three small arched lancet windows with louvers higher in the gable at the attic level. The ground floor windows are a group of five immediately under the great arched window, and the group is flanked by similar single windows set at a slight distance on either side. These windows originally had colored glass panes, but are now clear glass or infilled with wood.

The large arched window is filled with protective glass panels through which stone tracery is visible. The center portion of the tracery contains a rose window set over four vertical window sections, the upper edges of which terminate in scallop patterns. The large segmented arch over the window projects slightly from the plane of the exterior wall. The window is flanked by two smaller windows that are each set apart and aligned above the similarly separate rectangular windows on the level below. All have narrow stone sills. The masonry between the group of five ground floor rectangular windows and the sill of the great arched window is composed of six rows of square cut stone blocks, a common feature seen in Romanesque buildings. At the top of the wall, the gable is stepped with each step terminated by a flat stone cap that slight overlaps the wall edge.

² "The \$60,000 Edifice Under Construction for the South Presbyterian," *The Syracuse Herald* (Nov. 11, 1905).

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The South Salina Street wall continues with a two-story elevation with three rectangular windows below and three segmented arched windows aligned above before it connects with the corner tower at Colvin Street. The lower windows have narrow stone sills and rectangular stone lintels. The masonry is the same even rows between the two levels of windows and random pattern on the rest of the wall. This portion has a stone corbeled cornice between the step gable and tower. The tower is two stages with a crenelated top. Stone belt courses delineate the stages with plain stone between the first and second level and stone corbels marking the upper course. The first stage has groups of three narrow windows on each side and groups of louvered openings with arched lintels in the upper part. Traditionally, this upper space would have housed church bells.³ At ground level, the main door is set into a segmented arch opening accessed by four stone steps. The door is non historic glass and metal with a rounded transom. Stone buttresses protrude from the three exposed corners of the tower, which extend from each base toward the street and narrow as each rises to the height of the tops of the doorway arches to be flush to the tower walls.

Another door is on the West Colvin Street side of the tower and is identical to South Salina Street entrance. On this elevation, the large gable wall of the sanctuary abuts the tower on the east. At the top of the wall the gable is stepped, with each step terminated by a flat stone cap that slightly overlaps the wall edge. The three levels of gable wall windows are the same as on the South Salina Street elevation. The great arched window is the same as on the east elevation except for a row of five basement windows at ground level. These are similar to the east elevation ground level windows and light the rooms below. The inclusion of the basement windows forced the raising of the level of the ground floor windows to correspond to a parlor/library room within, so the distance between the tops of these windows and the bottom of the great arch window is less and only has three rows of regular masonry. To the west of the gable wall is a short continuation that fills the space between the new church and the original chapel. Here, as on South Salina Street, is the same arrangement of three rectangular windows and three arched windows; the wall between levels of windows is treated with rows of squared stones.

To the west of this section of wall is the most distinctive element of the West Colvin street elevation. It prominently features a projecting porch in front of an entrance way. The porch marks a ground level arched doorway that leads directly to the office, classroom and chapel space of the church, including interior staircases that lead to all levels. The porch marks the separation point of the older and newer sections of the building, even though these have been integrated into a single design.

Interior

From the tower's main entrance, stairs lead to the vestibule area with access to the sanctuary, which occupies the entire northeast section of the church. The sanctuary is an auditorium plan of one large open space with a wide front part at the

³ It is not clear whether this screened room ever held bells at South Presbyterian.

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north end and a narrower south end. Separate plaster cross vaults cover these spaces divided by a high wide arch. The rear, southern space is covered with a barrel vault, and in the front part, the center areas of the main sanctuary are surmounted by a plaster cross vault, while slightly flattened barrel vaults flank this space and cover the balconies. The sanctuary has fine woodwork throughout, almost all of which is intact and in good condition. There is an evident rake to the sanctuary floor, which slopes from the rear northward toward the pulpit platform. The curved oak pews are arranged in four semi-circular rows divided by a central aisle and two side aisles under the balcony. The wood floor is carpeted except for the pews, with runners in the aisles and carpet on the pulpit steps.

The balconies on three sides of the sanctuary are connected. This continuous structure abuts the inner walls and is supported by thin columns. The balcony extends around the entire sanctuary, except where the pulpit platform and large pipe organ fill the north side. The balcony is wood with plain, dark mahogany panels taking on a sinuous ribbon-like form that visually ties the space together. Wooden stairways with solid wood sides are continuations of the balconies, connecting the pulpit platform to the balcony at the north. The balcony level slopes slightly toward the sanctuary center at the same grade as the floor of the sanctuary.



Undated historic view showing balcony

The north end pulpit platform is a stage-like structure that partially protrudes into the sanctuary space and partly recedes into the recessed north sanctuary wall. The front of the platform is faced with wood paneling similar to that of the balcony. Behind the pulpit platform, the lower part of the wall is also covered with wood paneling. The upper part is filled with the large decorative pipes of the organ and entirely fills the space up to the curved moldings under the vault. The organ loft is directly behind the pulpit.

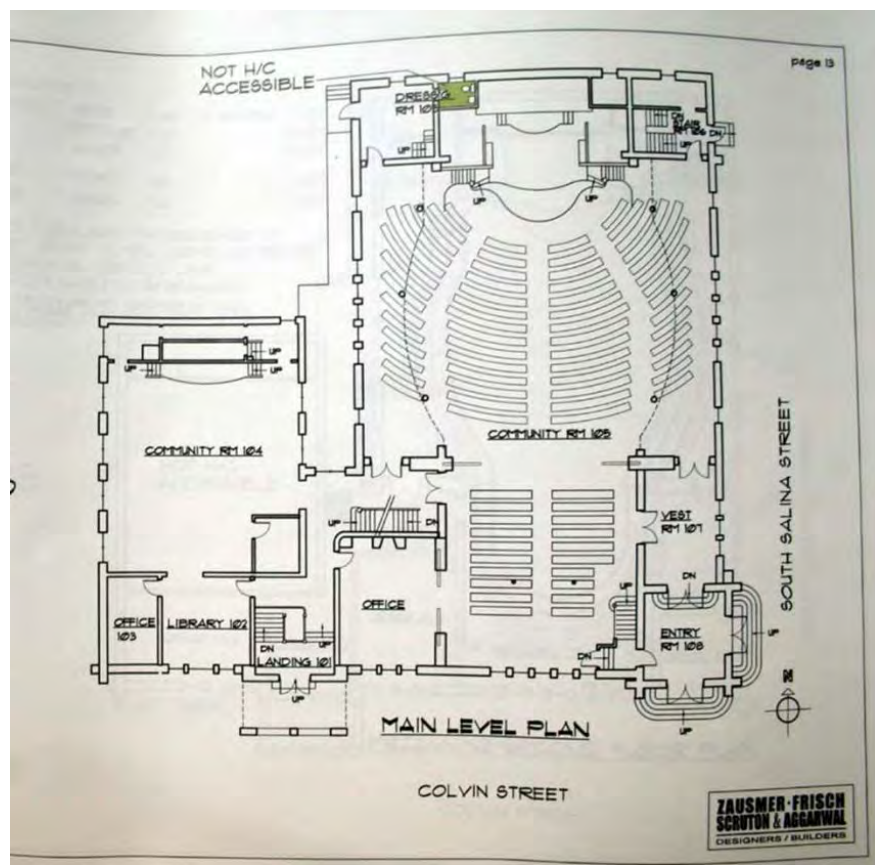
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The rear (south end) of the sanctuary opens via sliding original wood paneled doors on the west wall into a rectangular parlor area, which retains its original built-in bookcases and cabinets. One interesting feature is a dumbwaiter that can descend to the kitchen directly below in the basement. The rest of the church interior consists of a basement beneath the sanctuary and a west chapel used as a community room (west side of building). In the 1960s, the community room was remodeled with a drop ceiling, carpeting and interior walls clad with plywood. Removal of portions of the drop ceiling and wall panels reveal extant historic fabric. The stair from the entrance to the door is original and features a wood panel balustrade at the upper landing, which opens into a hall with access to the parlor, sanctuary and chapel. The basement consists of a kitchen area with a pass-thru space in the wall separating it from a large, open dining area. The areas are utilitarian in nature and contain no outstanding historic features, except for the dumbwaiter in the kitchen.

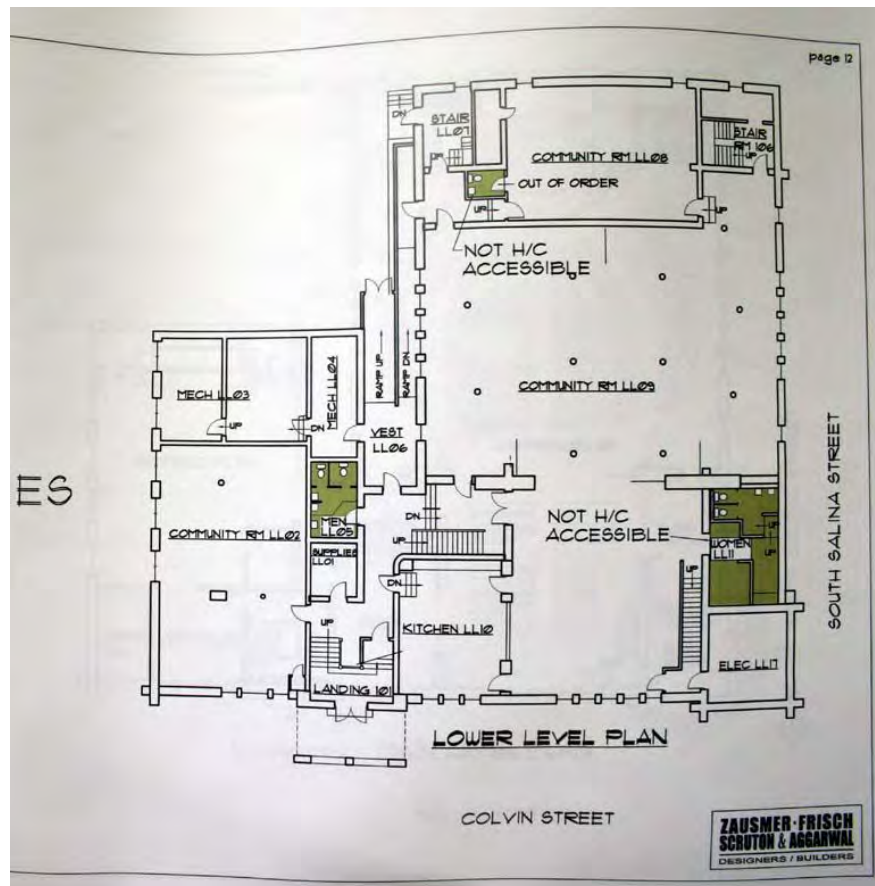
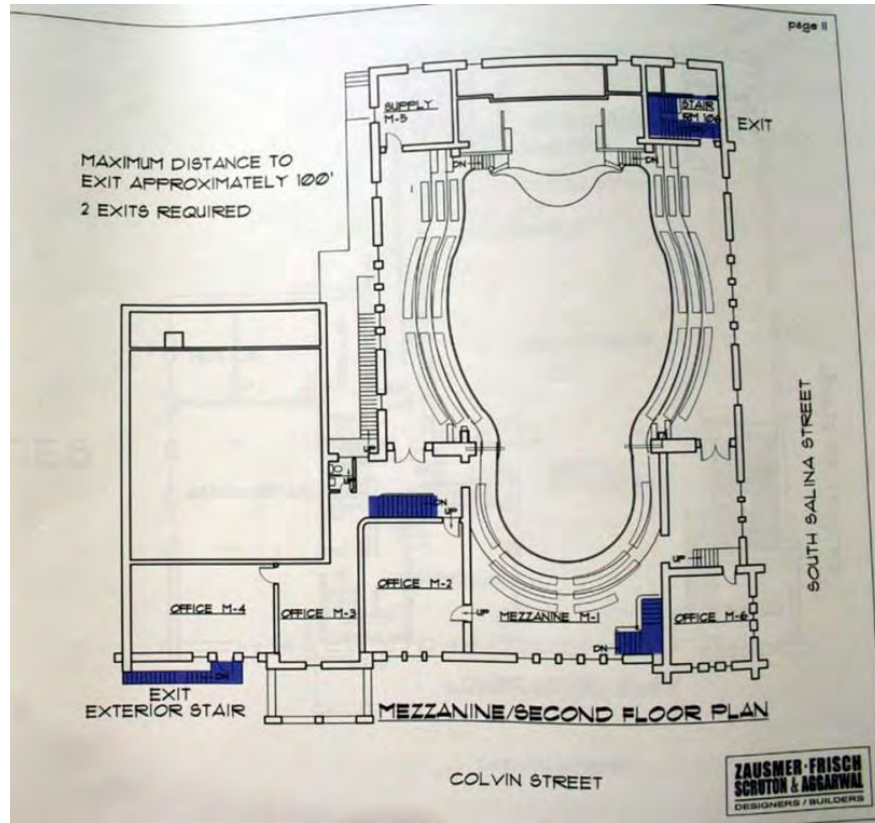
Windows

The sanctuary originally had two tiers of art glass windows produced by Tiffany Studios. According to records, none were memorial windows and all but one of the windows (small, rectangular window in the parlor) were sold in 2008 to a collector. The Tiffany windows were almost entirely geometric, with the inclusion of few Christian symbols, including a cross and the letters “IHS,” representing the first three letters in the Greek name for Jesus (*Ihsus*). New stained glass windows have been installed to replace some of the larger missing windows. The remaining windows are clear glass.



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8. 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902-1907

Significant Dates

1902, 1907

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sanford O. and Halbert A. Lacey (architects)

A. E. Badgley, builder

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of first South Presbyterian Church in 1902 and ends with the opening of its larger church building in 1907.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The building is no longer owned by a religious organization nor used for worship.

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

South Presbyterian Church is significant in the area of architecture as a distinctive example of a Romanesque Revival church that has dominated the corner of West Colvin and South Salina Streets since it was opened in 1907 and for its association with the growth and development of the Southside neighborhood. The design and construction of the church expressed the functional requirements and the aspirations of a rapidly expanding congregation that was one of the largest and most dynamic in the city throughout much of the twentieth century. The history of the growth of South Presbyterian Church was intertwined with that of the Southside neighborhood, which quickly developed as a residential neighborhood with commercial development located along two of its major transportation arteries: South Salina and Colvin Streets. The commercial buildings that were built along these streets in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reflected the popular architecture of the day, including Beaux Arts, Neoclassical and various revival styles. When it opened in 1907, the new church incorporated a small chapel that was constructed in 1902, and the large church joined this collection of high style buildings. It quickly became a landmark with its striking version of the Romanesque Revival style designed by prominent Binghamton architects S. O. and H. A. Lacey. The Laceys' bold design made a strong urban statement establishing the church as the most outstanding and recognizable architectural form in the neighborhood, The spacious sanctuary was as welcoming as it was inspiring as a worship space. The building remained largely the same until the interior of the chapel was renovated in the 1960s. The only significant loss was the Tiffany sanctuary windows, which were sold in 2008 and replaced with other stained glass. The building's presence is still as impressive as it was when first planned and built by the congregation in the early twentieth century.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Nineteenth Ward

At the time of construction, South Presbyterian Church was located in the city's nineteenth ward. The nineteenth ward developed into what became known as Southside, which included the former village of Danforth, annexed by the city of Syracuse in 1887.⁴ Colvin Street and South Presbyterian Church were located at the south end of the former village. The area was already being subdivided for building lots by the 1860s. A notice in the *Syracuse Standard* (October, 11 1869) stated that "Persons purchasing on the Salina street front, with the intention of building, will be required to erect good buildings, at least medium size, with two story front." Most "good buildings" along this stretch were at first brick Italianate houses and later more elaborate wood-frame Queen Anne style structures. Even so, a map of 1892 shows the

⁴ For more information on Danforth, see http://www.edrdpc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Village-of-Danforth_Historic-Resource-Survey-Report.pdf.

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area sparsely developed. One developed lot in 1892 was the Van Duesain lot, upon which a building was indicated on the 1892 map; this was the parcel where the chapel was erected in 1902.

When construction of the South Presbyterian Church began in 1906, the imposing structure of the Brighton School already occupied a site on South Salina Street just south of Colvin. The Brighton Public School was founded in 1842. Its third school building was opened in 1891, four years after the Brighton School district was incorporated into the city. A new two-story brick school was built at the corner of South Salina and West Colvin Streets, immediately opposite the new church, both being the largest in the area as clearly depicted in a 1908 plan.⁵ A fire engine house stood just south of the school, facing South Salina Street.

As the area continued to develop, a Neoclassical style branch bank for the First Trust & Deposit Co was built in the 1920s on the southeast corner of Colvin and South Salina streets, replacing a two-story gable-front wood-frame structure that housed Van Buskirk's Drugstore. The old South Side branch of the public library was originally founded in 1912 in Bunker's Pharmacy at South Salina and Colvin Streets. In 1917 the library moved into a mid-nineteenth century Italianate residence, the Alvord House, which stood on South Salina Street directly across from South Presbyterian Church. The house/library was then replaced by the new Beaux-Arts designed Beauchamp Library, which opened in 1929. This resulted in an intersection marked by distinctive public institutional buildings.

History of South Presbyterian Church

South Presbyterian church played a significant role in the early development of the Southside neighborhood of Syracuse from the time of the congregation's official formation in 1901 until its demise in 2006. As early as 1900, a number of Presbyterian families in the south part of the city were meeting to discuss the need for a new church in what was one of the city's most rapidly developing residential areas. On November 15, 1900, a meeting at the home of Lucius M. Kinne (1530 Salina Street) created an organization leading to the congregation's formation. A second meeting of the new congregation took place on December 13, 1900, in a house opposite the current site of the church. This new congregation then rented a vacant store at 1425 South Salina Street and held its first service there on February 3, 1901. The Rev. George Black Stewart, president of Auburn Theological Seminary, presided over this inaugural service. On March 31, 1901, the trustees met and drafted a petition to the regional Presbytery asking that the church be recognized and the church was formally established on May 17, 1901. The first service was held the same day at the Reformed Presbyterian Church when 70 new members were admitted to the church and four were baptized.

⁵ The school building was demolished ca. 1964.

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The Rev. Murray Shipley Howland, then assistant pastor of the West End Church in New York City, was hired as pastor and preached his first sermon on May 25, 1902. In addition to hiring a pastor, the congregation constructed a modest two-story wood frame chapel on a stone foundation, with a square tower surmounting a gable front roof, dedicated July 6, 1902. This structure located on West Colvin Street, was later incorporated into a new and much larger church when it was built on the adjacent corner lot at the intersection of South Salina and Colvin Streets.



South Presbyterian Church, 1902 (later incorporated into the new church as a chapel)

Demand and enthusiasm for a larger church building to serve the developing Southside was so great that within five years of building the first church, the congregation was planning for a larger building with a sanctuary capable of seating 1400 people. The members of South Presbyterian Church had the resources to fund such a venture. The new congregation saw steady growth during its early years and its membership included some of Syracuse's most prominent citizens, including Oliver Murray Edwards, founder of O.M. Edwards Manufacturing Company, who chaired the building committee.

One of the earlier prominent Presbyterian churches in Syracuse was Park Church, which was organized in 1847 and its building completed in 1848. Park Presbyterian had a new impressive building designed by noted local architect Archimedes Russell in 1875. Following that, the First Presbyterian Church (founded in 1826) completed a substantial house of worship in 1904, designed by New York City architects Evarts Tracy and Egerton Swartwout.

No doubt the successful completion of these church buildings motivated Second Presbyterian Church's members to move forward with plans for a new, larger building. As with the other churches, well-known architects were selected for the project when the congregation hired S.O. & H.A. Lacey from Binghamton, New York. The architects presented a drawing in November 1905 that incorporated the earlier chapel into the new design by altering its exterior and cladding it in stone to conform to the design of the planned new structure.⁶ The cornerstone was laid May 27, 1906 in an impressive ceremony. According to the *Syracuse Herald*, more than 1,000 people attended the event. The cornerstone was placed by the pastor, the Rev. Murray Shipley Howland. Construction proceeded quickly and the first service in the new church was held on April 21, 1907.

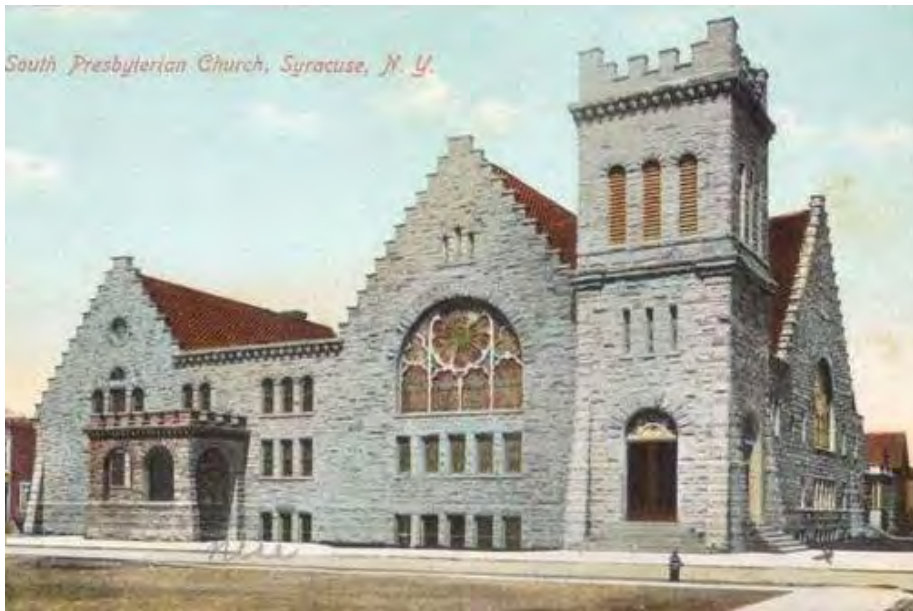
⁶ "The \$60,000 edifice Under Construction for the South Presbyterian," *Syracuse Herald*, Nov. 11, 1905.

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undated postcard view of church

As an affluent congregation, the members of South Presbyterian planned to outfit the new church with art glass windows, chandeliers and other fixtures from Tiffany Studios of the New York City. At a meeting of the trustees held on September 17, 1906 the president of the congregation was authorized to enter into a contract with Tiffany Studios for glass and decorating of the church at the price of \$6,500. When the church opened in 1907, no mention was made of the Tiffany designed interior and or the windows, suggesting that the windows may have been installed after the building was dedicated in 1907. At that time, it had 582 members and seating for 1,100.

Following the appointment of the Rev. Dr. John Murdoch McInnis as pastor in 1913, the church grew rapidly in the first decades of the century, as the neighborhood in the area developed. McInnis was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. John T. Reeve, installed October 12, 1923. Growth continued through the prosperous 1920s, though at a slower pace when the building of new housing slowed in the area due to the saturation of residential blocks. Although the congregation was one of the youngest in the city, it was still one of the largest, and even with the onset of the Great Depression, in 1936, South Presbyterian maintained a membership of 1,351 with a Sunday school enrollment of 900.

For decades, the church building was one of most remarkable landmarks of the city in the Southside area. The building's unique architecture included an imposing exterior mass and profile and an extraordinary sanctuary. By 2006, circumstances changed the area and the church membership declined significantly. The church eventually closed in 2006 and the Tiffany windows were sold in 2008. Even without these windows, the sanctuary space remained visually striking, architecturally inspiring, and functionally effective.

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Criterion C: Architecture

Architecturally, South Presbyterian was one of several impressive religious buildings erected in Syracuse in the early years of the twentieth century. Other buildings included the First Presbyterian Church, 1904; First Universalist Church, 1905; Holy Trinity Church, 1905-13; Temple Society of Concord, 1910-11; People's African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1911 (NR listed 2011); Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (now Basilica), 1910; First English Lutheran Church, 1910-11 (NR listed 1997); St. Anthony of Padua, 1911; and the First Baptist Church and Mizpah Tower, 1912 (NR listed 1980). South Presbyterian Church became a prominent landmark in the city's south side and one of the area's most architecturally striking churches. It was rivalled only by the nearby Saint Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church built in 1911, a Romanesque building with domed towers, designed by prominent Syracuse architect, Archimedes Russell.

Inspired by medieval English architecture, the father and son team of S.O. & H.A. Lacey of Binghamton used rough-cut masonry in their design for South Presbyterian Church. Sanford O. Lacey (1856-1927) and Halbert Alonzo Lacey (1879-1909) recently completed the design and construction of the Carnegie Public Library in Binghamton (with Isaac G. Perry as the consulting architect), begun in 1903, before being awarded the contract for South Presbyterian Church.⁷ Sanford O. Lacey apprenticed with Isaac Perry when the latter worked on completing the New York State Capitol Building in Albany in 1883. The apprenticeship allowed him to observe first-hand the work of H. H. Richardson, since Richardson's impressive Albany City Hall opened in 1883 and was across the street from the capitol. The influence of this building may have been a strong one on Lacey, since it also placed a square corner tower snug against the arms of a cross gable plan and used segmented arches over windows and doors and ashlar stone in a combination of random and linear patterns.

Sanford O. Lacey was the nephew of leading Binghamton architect Truman I. Lacey (1833-1914), who headed the firm of T.I. Lacey and Son. The firm designed Binghamton's Security Mutual Building (1904), the Press Building (1903), the Kilmer Building (1903) the Davidge-Pratt House at 10 Riverside Dr. (1905), and numerous other buildings. In 1892, Sanford Lacey formed a partnership with E. H. Bartoo, who had been a fellow draughtsman for Perry in Albany.⁸ The new firm lasted until 1896, and, under the supervision of Perry, they designed the Columbia Theatre in Binghamton (1892).⁹ Other buildings in Binghamton by Sanford O. Lacey included the Bijou Theater (1893, demolished 1950), Harding House on Grand Boulevard (1897-98), and the Boston Store (1899), with son, Halbert A.¹⁰ After Halbert's early death in 1909, Sanford Lacey worked alone, designing the Star Theater (1913, demolished 1951), the Goodwill Theater

⁷ "Binghamton's Landmark library," *Treasures of the Tier*, online at: <http://nyslandmarks.com/treasures/09apr.htm>.

⁸ <http://bundymuseum.org/site3/about/the-history/elfred-bartoo-bio/>

⁹ Soon renamed Stone Opera House, and later the Riviera; <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/11547/photos/45283>.

¹⁰ "Lacey Architecture: A Family Legacy," brochure from 2003 exhibition at Binghamton Visitor Center (2003). Online at: <http://www.pastny.org/landmarks/support/architects/TrumanLacey.pdf>

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in Johnson City (1920); and the 4th and 5th Ward School Buildings in Binghamton (1915).¹¹ Sanford O. Lacey later formed a partnership with Gerald G. Schenck (Lacey and Schenck). In 1920 the firm expanded to Lacey, Schenck and Cummings, but dissolved within a year for unknown reasons.

In constructing the substantial brick and stone structure at the corner of South Salina and Colvin Street, the Laceys incorporated the earlier chapel as part of the building and added a brick and stone exterior to match the rest of the new church on the primary elevations. The rear or less visible sides were left with the brick exposed with no need for facing in stone, saving in labor and overall costs.¹² The original chapel became a secondary worship space and later a multi-function area/community room.

The style of South Presbyterian Church is an eclectic mix of Picturesque English Romanesque massing and details, Flemish/stepped gables and an exterior of rough-cut masonry characteristic of the Romanesque style. Richardsonian Romanesque was popular in the previous decades, becoming a major influence on American architecture. The style was once highly visible in Syracuse, used for several late nineteenth century public buildings, such as the Federal Building and Post Office (1889, demolished 1949), the New York Central Downtown Syracuse Train Station (1895, demolished 1936), and the still extant Syracuse City Hall, designed by Charles Colton in 1891(NR listed 1976). Architects influenced by H. H. Richardson tried to avoid copying his designs outright by employing novel details such as stepped gables in the Flemish style. The stepped gables in the design for South Presbyterian were one of the building's most prominent design features. Other buildings by different architects that used the same feature were Engine House #10 on Euclid Avenue (1903), and the former American Legion Post/Loyal Order of Moose Lodge at 643 West Onondaga (1903). As for South Presbyterian Church, it was the only documented house of worship in Syracuse to incorporate the feature.¹³

The use of rusticated masonry contributed to the rugged look of South Presbyterian Church. South Presbyterian also had a short tower set on the corner, tucked into the cruciform plan of sanctuary, a feature most often found in designs inspired by rural English parish churches, mostly built in the Gothic style. The Brown Memorial United Methodist church, built in Syracuse in 1876, had a corner tower, but it was twice the height of the sanctuary and loomed over the rest of the structure. The Methodist Episcopal Church on the north side also had a square tower similar to the one at South Presbyterian, but was taller in proportion to the rest of the building.

¹¹ <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/14713> & <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/18727>; *The American Contractor*, Vol 36 (New York & Chicago: F. W. Dodge Corporation, 1915), 48.

¹² A bit of the original wood clapboard siding can be seen on the rear gable end of the former chapel.

¹³ On the religious buildings of Syracuse see Gruber and Harvey, "Religious Properties of Syracuse: A Cultural Resource Survey" (unpublished Cultural Resources Survey carried out for the City of Syracuse, 2014).

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The new church was intended for social functions as well as worship. The basement of the structure was intended from the start to provide substantial usable social space for the congregation. Much of the space, especially the area closest to Colvin Street, was really a half basement, with half of its height above street level and lit by a band of sizable ground level rectangular windows. During construction the original plans for the basement were fully described:

The basement of the new church will be cut up into a number of rooms, suitable for use at church socials and other similar gatherings. Among other things, there will be two sets of toilet rooms there on opposite sides of the basement with dressing rooms. The floors of these will be of tile. Along the West Colvin street side of the basement will be a kitchen, pantry and social room. The kitchen will lie fitted with both gas and coal ranges bricked up.

Back of these rooms will be an immense room which will be devoted to Sunday school purposes and other large gatherings. To the left of this is still another large room.¹⁴

In 1906, South Presbyterian Church trustees approved a contract with Tiffany Studios for the manufacture of the windows for the sanctuary. According to the minutes of September 19, 1906, the church's board president was "authorized to enter into and execute a contract with the Tiffany Studios for the glass and decorating of the new church at the price of \$6,500." The new windows were primarily geometric in design rather than representational religious scenes. When the church closed a century later (2006), a collector from California came forward with an offer to purchase the Tiffany windows and in 2008, the windows were sold and removed over the protest of the Syracuse Landmarks Preservation Board. Replacement windows were commissioned from artist Tony Serviente. The new windows were much less geometrically complex than the original Tiffany windows, with a palette that was somewhat brighter; however, the replacement windows sufficiently muted the exterior's bright light while providing sufficient illumination to display the architectural splendor of the sanctuary.

Currently, South Presbyterian Church is a local protected site. In spite of the loss of the windows, the building retains the majority of its design features and is currently owned by the local land bank, which is searching for new tenants or owners willing to restore and begin a new life for the church. The prominence of the building in the neighborhood, combined with its intact architectural features and impressive sanctuary space, contributes to its historic and architectural integrity and to the need for additional recognition.

¹⁴ "The \$60,000 Edifice Under Construction for the South Presbyterian," *Syracuse Herald*, November 11, 1905.

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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
Name of repository: Greater Syracuse Land Bank

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>406631</u> Easting	<u>4764297</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the same as for the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Samuel D. Gruber & Bruce Harvey
organization Gruber Heritage Global date 8 December 2106
street & number 123 Clarke St telephone N/A
city or town Syracuse state NY zip code 13210
e-mail samuelgruber@gmail.com; bgharvey@me.com

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.

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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.)

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.

Name of Property: South Presbyterian Church

City or Vicinity: Syracuse

County: Onondaga State: New York

Photographer: Bruce Harvey/Greater Syracuse Land Bank

Date Photographed: July 2014 (photos 1-3)/ October 2016 (photos 4-16)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0016: South and east elevations of South Presbyterian Church, view looking northwest.
- 0002 of 0016: East and north elevations of South Presbyterian Church, view looking southwest.
- 0003 of 0016: Tower detail, view looking north.
- 0004 of 0016: South elevation showing chapel and porte cochère, view looking northeast.
- 0005 of 0016: Interior view of tower entrance.
- 0006 of 0016: View from office into south end of sanctuary.
- 0007 of 0016: North wall of office between West Colvin entrance and south end of sanctuary.
- 0008 of 0016: Remaining historic window first floor office.
- 0009 of 0016: Interior view of sanctuary looking northeast from south end of mezzanine.
- 0010 of 0016: Interior view of pulpit platform and organ pipes (north end of sanctuary).
- 0011 of 0016: Interior view of sanctuary balcony, looking southwest.
- 0012 of 0016: Interior view of chapel.
- 0013 of 0016: Exterior view of west side of church and north and west elevations of chapel.
- 0014 of 0016: Detail view looking towards Colvin Street connector between church and chapel.
- 0015 of 0016: Interior view of basement kitchen showing dumbwaiter in corner.
- 0016 of 0016: View of basement social room, looking northeast.

Property Owner:

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

name Greater Syracuse Land Bank

street & number 431 E Lafayette St Suite 375 telephone N/A

city or town Syracuse state NY zip code 13202

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.).

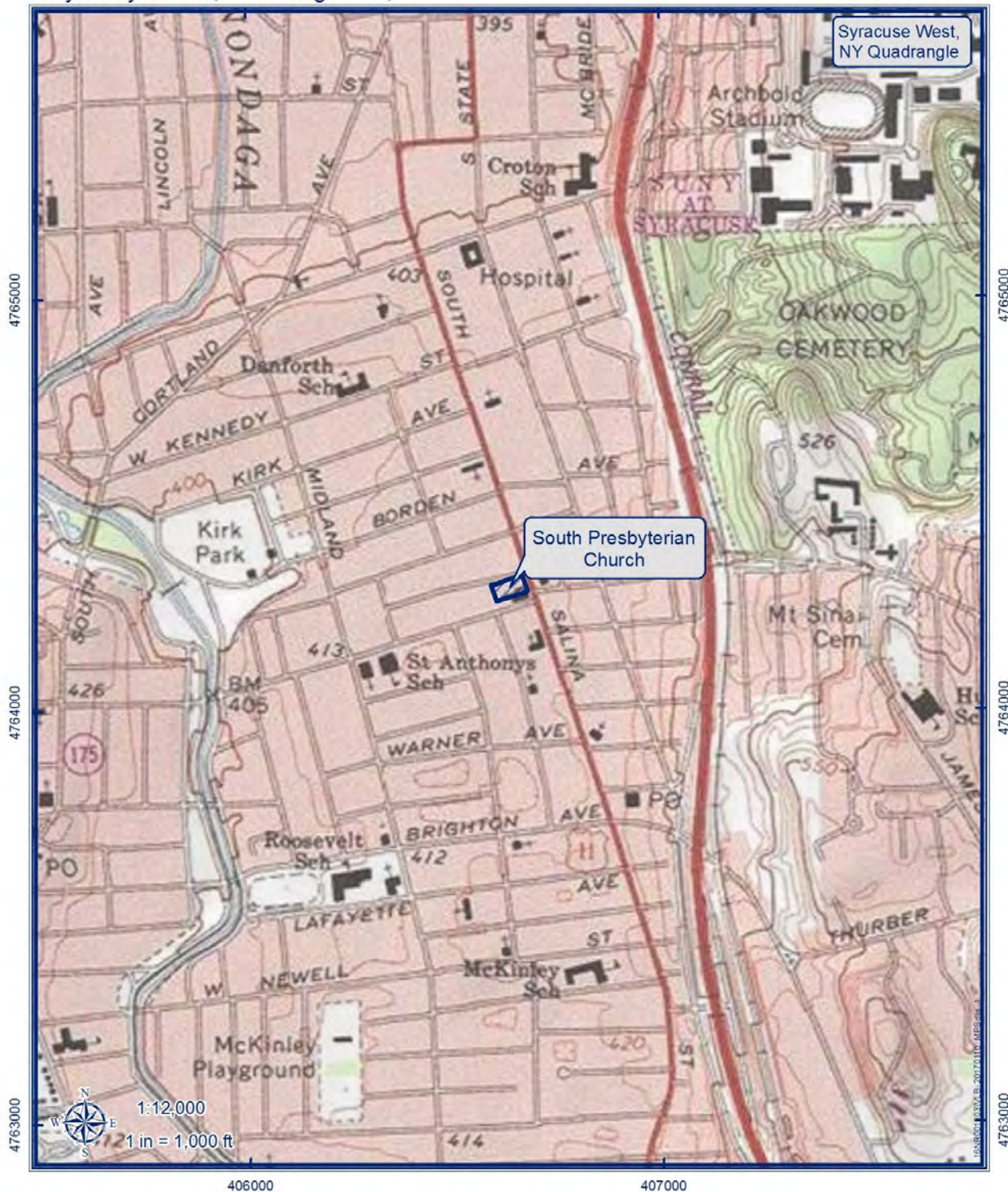
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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South Presbyterian Church
City of Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY

2110 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13205



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter





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IF BELL RINGS PLEASE CALL FIRE DEPT.





IF BELL RINGS
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FIRE DEPT.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

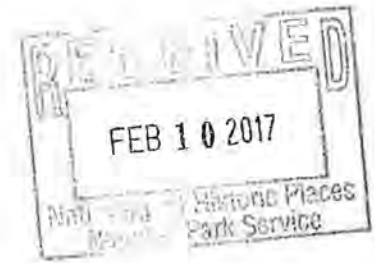
If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



6 February 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following four nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Common School 32, Delaware County
First Methodist Episcopal Church of Walworth, Wayne County
South Presbyterian Church, Onondaga County
Bushwick Avenue Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Kings, County

I am also submitting additional information for the:

Alice Austen House, Richmond County (see letter).

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office