

FORM B - BUILDING

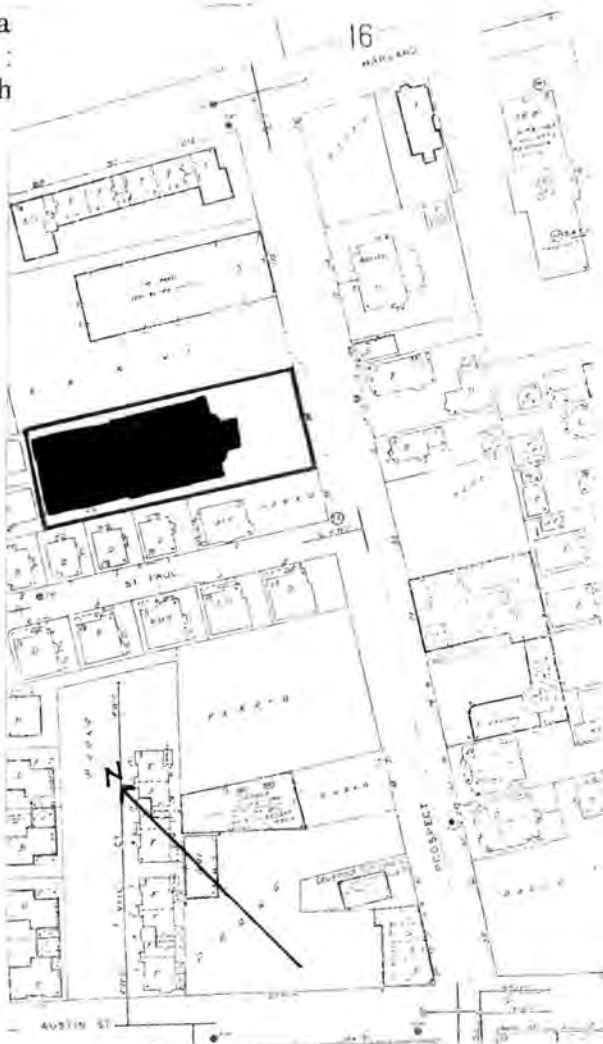
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.
MID CAMB.

Form no.
II C 4
Mc

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1093-21A

4. Map
in:
other



(over)

Assessor # 107-26

1. Town Cambridge
Address 99 Prospect Street
Name Prospect Congregational Church
Present use religious structure - church
Present owner Prospect Congregational Church

3. Description:

Date 1851
Source deed records, local history

Style Traditional northeast meeting-house form with Norman and Romanesque
Architect Alexander R. Esty / detail.
Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features round-headed windows decorated with carved zigzag pattern and colonnettes and capitals.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre ☐

Approximate frontage 85'

Approximate distance of building from street

60'

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm
Date 1968

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH
19/326810/4692540

7. Original owner (if known) Prospect Congregational Church

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>XX</u>
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Prospect Congregational Church is architecturally unique for its use of Norman/Romanesque details many years before the style was popularized by Henry Hobson Richardson.

Despite its overlay of medieval details, the Prospect Congregational Church for the most part retains the form and composition of a traditional New England church: a long rectangular box with a gable roof and projecting four-story entrance pavilion. Its Romanesque ornament included round-headed windows. The structural and spatial characteristics of medieval Romanesque architecture were unknown to mid-nineteenth century American architects, who simply embellished the familiar New England meetinghouse with Romanesque motifs.

The architect of the church was Alexander R. Esty, a Boston architect active from the 1850s to the 1870s, and designer of another Cambridge landmark, the Old Cambridge Baptist Church (1867). In 1879 the parish hall at the rear of the Prospect Church was extended by the architect Thomas Silloway, whose other work included the plans for the rebuilding of the Vermont State House.

The church was built to serve the growing population of mid-Cambridge. Although technically in the mid-Cambridge area, the congregation has always been Cambridgeport oriented. It originated as the Evangelical Congregational Society of Cambridgeport.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

NOV 14 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 10 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area

State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

91. Cummings, e. e., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-82

Attest

92. Divinity Hall

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

93. North Avenue Congregational Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-82

Attest

94. Prospect Congregational Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

William A. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

95. University Museum

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

96. Old Cambridge Baptist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

97. Ware Hall

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-82

Attest

98. Cambridge Public Library

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

99. Church of the New Jerusalem

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-82

Attest

100. Busch-Reischinger House

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

6-30-82

Attest

Harvard

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Substantive Review

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Prospect Congregational Church
(Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
State, County: MA - Middlesex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4/17/82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

photos 1
maps _____

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Locally significant for architecture for its early
employment of Romanesque Revival ornamentation

Recom./Criteria accept - C
Reviewer Patrick Andrews WAB
Discipline Historian
Date 3/12/82
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1093-21A

NOV 14 1980

1520

99 Prospect St.

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275