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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old West Church is a large, square, two-story brick structure with stepped gables, and a three-and-one-half story projecting porch that is topped by a square tower with a cupola and dome. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, the main building is about 75 feet square and the porch, or vestibule, located on the south (front) elevation, projects another 20 feet and is 46 feet wide. Windows of the main building are arranged in two tiers and all have flat lintel and sills of stone. Upper tier windows of the east and west side walls are set in one-story high arcades that spring from the stone belt course that marks the second-story floor level.

The dominating feature of the exterior design is the $3 \, 1/2$ story porch, which, with the tower and cupola included, rises to a height of 96 feet. The porch is divided into three bays vertically. The bays of the first two stories are separated by giant recessed panels of brick which convey the effect of pilasters. Each bay is comprised of an entranceway, with a white swag panel located at the second story floor level, and a largerectangular window above. The second-story cornice of the porch is Grecian Doric and this is carried completely around the building, forming its main cornice. The very elaborately decorated third story of the porch has three roundheaded windows which are framed by pairs of wooden Doric Pilasters and a heavy Doric cornice. The ornamentation of the third story is further emphasized by the plainness of the brick stepped-parapet gables of the main roof, which are located behind the porch. The attic or half-story, also divided into three bays, has a round clock in the center, and two flanking small rectangular windows. Above the clock is festoon drapery and a central wooden pediment. The brick porch is surmounted by a square-shaped wooden cupola with a gilded dome and weathervane. The cupola or belfry has an arched opening with louvers in each of its four faces and these openings are grand by paired columns done insthe Ionic order in ...

In the vestibule stairways, located against the side walls, lead up to the galleries, and three doors also open into the audience room. Highly ornamented galleries, supported by columns in the Composite order, extend around the east, south, and west sides of the auditorium. The galleries and columns are original. The ceiling has a central dome, 42 feet in diameter and 6 feet in height. The level corner areas of the ceiling are ornamented with sunken panels. The existing rectangular-shaped apse was probably added about the middle of the 19th century to the north (rear) side of the structure; four of the nine windows in the north wall were closed at that time. The main floor originally contained 112 pews. The existing pulpit and pews were constructed as part of the 1963 restoration project.

In excellent condition, Old West Church is again being used for religious purposes and is also open to visitors.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known) 180	06	······································
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	🔲 Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

Designed by the Noted Boston architect Asher Benjamin and built in in 1806, Old West Church is an early and highly successful example of a monumentally-scaled church constructed in the then-new Federal-Adamseque style. Widely copied throughout New England, Old West Church is still considered to be one of the finest of Benjamin's churches. The structure has been little-altered on the exterior, but its interior was considerably changed during the 19th century and has required extensive restoration to return it to its original appearance.

History

Old West Church was designed by Asher Benjamin, builder and architect, in 1806 for use as a Congregational meetinghouse. The last church service was held in the building on April 18, 1892. The structure was then remodelled on the interior, reopened as a Branch Public Library oń February 3, 1896, and served this purpose until 1960. An order of General Court of Massachusetts made the closed library building available to the Methodist Conference in 1962. In 1963 the interior of the old church was restored to its early 19th century appearance and the structure was reopened on May 10, 1964 as a United Methodist Church.

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Talbot F. Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944),96 Massachusetts, A. Guide to its Places and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 152. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATTUDE AND LONATUDE COORDINATES DEFINITIONE AND LONATUDE CONTUNE TO LESS THAN TEN ACRESS DEFINITIONE AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTY. 1 ACCTS DEFINITIONE Seconds Degrees Minutes Second 12 ° 21 ° 11 ° 10 ° 03 ° 55 ° DEFINITIONE AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTY. 1 ACCTS DEFINITIONE SECOND DEGREES TO REALE DEFINITION TATE: CODE COUNTY: CO	Henry	-Russel	l Hit	tchco	ock, Archite	ecture,		Nineteenth and Tw	ent	ieth (Centur	ies
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Title Keeper of The National Register	Name											
Keeper of The National Register								ATTEST:		*		
Date	Title			- <u></u>			Keeper of The National Register					
	Date							Date				

INSTRUCTIONS

S E E

Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Massachusetts

STATE

COUNTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Old West Church (Continuation Sheet)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NUMBER DATE

Suffolk

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical Reference for Old West Church, Boston:

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