

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.
Steepbrook
2-2

Form no.
~~X-2~~/501
104/13

1. Town Fall River, Mass.

Address 3538 North Main Street

Name North Christian Congregational Church

Present use Church

Present owner North Christian Church

3. Description: Frame church w/sq. belfry

Date c.1842

Source Phillips' History of Fall River

Style Gothic Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features Panelled pilasters, pointed-arch windows, palmette (pointed-arch w/fan carving) in gable field, square belfry.

Altered Yes Date 1974 (interior

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 11,794 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street
15 ft.

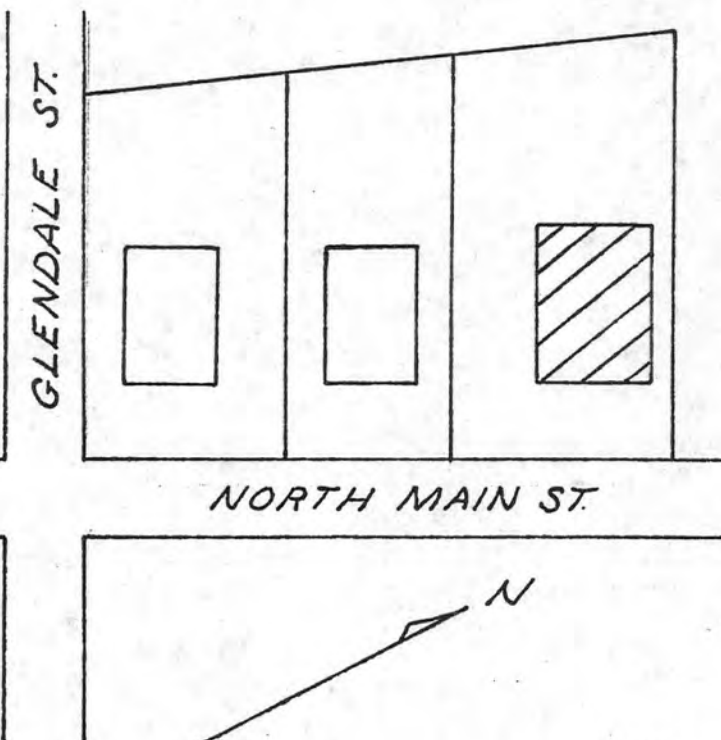
6. Recorded by Patricia Giza

Organization F.R.O.H.P.

Date December 8, 1980

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number SB II-19

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) North Christian Congregational Church

Original use Church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Parish History: The North Christian Church, although not incorporated as a Society until 1842, had its beginning in 1832 when local residents gathered in their homes for the study of the Bible. In 1835 Capt. John Read and C. C. Dillingham of the First Congregational Church organized a Sunday School and meetings were held in the school house until Mrs. Caroline Boomer donated the land and the church was built in 1842.

North Christian Church was founded as the First Protestant Church in the rural Steepbrook section of Fall River. Today it is the only Protestant Church in the northern part of Fall River. In 1933 it merged with the Congregational Churches, and in 1960 it merged with the United Church of Christ. The church was completely renovated in 1974.

The North Christian Congregational Church is a rare survivor--most of the other first period churches were located downtown and have not survived. Small, simple, but delicately detailed, this Gothic Revival church, really a Gothicized Greek Revival form, is one of the few remaining public buildings left in Steepbrook, the civic focus of Fall River in the eighteenth century until the early 1840's. The building retains its architectural integrity and, given the workmanship, design and setting, as well as historical associations, it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register.

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

Atlas of Bristol County-1895-structure shown

1883-structure shown

Steepbrook not shown on any other atlases.

Phillips' History of Fall River - 1944, Vol. 11, Pg. 22

Fall River Herald News clipping - June 10, 1942

Dec. 24, 1974

Mar. 15, 1977

History of Bristol County, Pg. 361

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 11/16/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area

State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Kennedy Park

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 Ann MacDonell

Attest

52. Kerr Thread Mill

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper

2/16/83 Ann MacDonell

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

53. King Philip Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

54. Laurel Lake Mills

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper

2/16/83 Ann MacDonell

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

55. Lindsey, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

56. Massasoit Fire House #5

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

57. Mechanics Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

58. Narragansett Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

59. North Burial Ground

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

60. North Christian Congregational
Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

North Christian Congregational Church (Fall River
MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/10/83

Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ 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 date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WELCOMES YOU
WORTH CHURCH
WEDNESDAY SERVICE 8:00 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL 10:00 AM
Y. LEONARD SILVESTER

NAME: North Christian Congregational
Church

LOCATION: 3538 North Main Street
Fall River, ^{MA} Mass.

PHOTO CREDIT: Pamela Shields (1981)

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Fall River Office of Historic
Preservation
One Government Center
Fall River, Mass. 02722
(PSNR-6-9)

IDENTIFICATION: North Christian Congregational
Church
Photo # 1 of 2
3/4 View, looking northwest



3538 No. Main SBT

#19

Fall River MA, Ma

North Christian Congregational Church

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279