

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 31 1985

date entered JAN 30 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Christ Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1220 River Street NA not for publication

city, town Boston (Hyde Park) NA vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☒ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Parish of Christ Church

street & number 1220 River Street

city, town Boston NA vicinity of state Massachusetts 02136

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Courthouse, Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number 650 High Street Pemberton Square

city, town Dedham, Massachusetts Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

a) Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
title of Massachusetts, FORM # HP 506 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate August 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston, state Massachusetts

7. Description

Christ Church, Boston (Hyde Park), MA

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Christ Church is an Episcopal parish church building designed in the Late Gothic Revival style by the firm of Cram and Wentworth in 1893-94. Located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston, it is situated in the immediate vicinity of Cleary Square, the town's major commercial center formed by the intersection of River Street and Hyde Park Avenue.

The Church and its connecting Parish House sit on a slightly elevated site at the corner of River and Maple Streets. A granite retaining wall outlines the property along this north-east frontage. To the south the rear of the lot abuts a residential area. To the west the property is adjacent to a modern commercial block. A small park in the front of the Parish House along River Street and a landscaped strip along Maple Street set the Church apart from the predominantly commercial character of the area.

Christ Church is a modestly scaled basilican plan building with a slate gable roof. It consists of a nave and chancel (choir and sanctuary) with flanking side aisles and a small enclosed front entry porch. It is constructed of random-coursed, rough faced Quincy granite. Nova Scotia freestone is used for door and window trim and for a belt course outlining the basement level. Sandstone-colored stucco is applied to the sides of the building at the clerestory level and to the entire rear wall. Connected to the rear of the chancel is the Parish House. The Church itself has undergone only minor alteration. In 1920 a sacristy was added to the side of the sanctuary.

The 5 bay, 1 story clerestory nave and choir are articulated by high flanking buttressed aisles. Five arched, double windows line each side of the clerestory. Three broadly pointed windows, each with triple cinquefoil panels and stone tracery in the Perpendicular style dominate each aisle. A side door is located in the first bay of the Maple Street aisle. A tower was originally designed for this section, but was never built due to lack of funds.

At the rear of the Church are the single bay walls of the sanctuary. The only opening in this section is the cathedral window over the altar, also designed in the Perpendicular style with 5 panels.

Projecting from the central section of the symmetrical three bay, buttressed front facade is a small entrance porch with a pitched roof and small side windows. A series of steps leads up from the street to a pointed arched doorway, simply decorated with freestone trim and a carved quatrefoil. A cathedral window, of similar design as the first, dominates the central bay. The single traceried windows of the side bays repeat the design of those in the side aisles. At the top of the central gable is a stone cross.

Continued

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date entered

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The interior of the Church is organized by a pair of pointed arched stone arcades which separate the nave from the side aisles and lead to the chancel. The high ceiling of the nave and choir is composed of dark wooden beams supported by simple trusses. Antique oak wainscoting of rectangular panels and a shoulder-height molded rail line the walls of the aisles and the rear of the nave, contrasting with the off-white stone walls. The paneling is repeated on the lower sections of the simple stone piers. A simple molded rail outlines the clerestory level. The fixed oak pews have carved cinquefoil panels in their end boards. Along the right side aisle a Lady's Chapel was furnished in 1914.

In contrast to the simplicity of the nave is the more decorated fabric of the chancel. An intricately carved oak rood screen separates the two sections of the Church. The chancel is composed of the choir lined with oak pews and an organ case and the sanctuary with the altar and related furniture. A gradual series of steps elevates the sanctuary and the altar, the focal point of the Church, above the floor of the nave. Behind the altar is a finely carved wooden reredos composed of cinquefoil panels with projecting stone carved figures of the four Evangelists. The slightly lower, arched ceiling of the sanctuary further distinguishes this section from the rest of the Church.

The five clerestory windows lining each side of the nave have diamond shaped panes of various shades of yellow. Stained glass fills the cathedral window over the altar, four of the eight side aisle windows, and the Lady Chapel window. Diamond shaped panes of various shades of pink fill the rest of the windows.

Designed to commemorate the life of Christ, the fine collection of stained glass represents the evolution of this art over 50 years, from 1895-1945. In 1895 the Crucifixion window was installed, representing the Tiffany-type opalescent window, in which, strands of color were introduced into the molten glass. The only painting in the window is on the flesh and in the lettering. Harry Goodhue, a talented Boston designer, did the figure window over the altar in 1901, featuring Christ, the two Marys and Saints Peter and Paul. He achieved his fine colors and forms through the use of two layers of glass, antique transparent and opalescent in the manner pioneered by John La Farge. In 1901 Sarah Whitman designed the Lady's Chapel window depicting Christ after the Temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Continued

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The last three windows are English-inspired. In 1912 the Resurrection window was added. Based on windows in Salisbury Cathedral, portions of its background represent the grisaille tradition. Developed in 13th century England, this method made use of only slightly tinted or clear glass on which foliated patterns were painted. The emphasis of these was based upon light and design instead of color and figures. In 1925 the well-known London firm of Powell and Sons: Whitefriars Glass Works made the All Saints' window. Their symbolic signature of a robed white friar is located in the lower right hand corner. The last window, the Good Shepherd, was designed in 1945 by the firm of Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock of Boston, all of whose principals were trained in the Connick studio. Previously they had executed windows for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Princeton Chapel and the Washington Cathedral. Of all the windows in Christ Church, this window most nearly represents the medieval tradition of emphasis on the primary colors. The windows are currently in fair condition due to buckling problems.

The original 1861 church building was a simple Gothic style wood frame, gable roofed structure with bell tower and decorative bargeboards. In 1893 this structure was moved to the rear of the lot to serve as the Parish House. In 1913, the original interior fabric of the single story central hall was retained within an extensively enlarged and remodelled Parish House. Cram and Ferguson enlarged the Parish House into a stone structure abutting the Church with the addition of two wings and a two story section in the rear to produce the current building. It has a steeply pitched roof and is similar in its stone wall surfaces and compatible in style to the Church. A broad cross gable extends from the north side, sheltering a recessed offset entrance. Window openings in the parish house are filled with grouped units of square above vertical rectangles, each divided into small panes. Two small hipped dormers project from the roof on the north.

8. Significance

Christ Church, Boston (Hyde Park), MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1893-4; 1913; 1920 Builder/Architect Ralph Adams Cram

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Christ Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, and association and meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. It is significant as an excellent local example of the Late Gothic Revival, designed by the foremost proponent of this style, Ralph Adams Cram, and reflects his ideas on village parish church design and the importance of art to religion. The Church possesses several fine stained glass windows designed by noted Boston and London firms, dating from 1895-1945.

The Episcopal Parish of Christ Church, the oldest church organization in Hyde Park, was formally established on November 8, 1860, eight years before Hyde Park became incorporated as a town. In 1861, the Parish built the first church in Hyde Park, a simple wood frame Gothic Revival structure with tower. The altar used in the Lady's Chapel is from the original church. By 1890 the growing Parish needed a larger church. They dreamed of a stone church to occupy the central position on the town square. The Vestry approved the plans submitted by the firm of Cram, Wentworth and Goodhue in May 1893. The cornerstone was laid on September 20, 1893, and the formal opening was held on December 4, 1894. The original church, moved to the rear of the property, became the Parish House.

Ralph Adams Cram (1863-1942) is credited by Douglas Shand Tucci in Church Building in Boston, 1720-1970, with "revolutionizing the visual image of American Christianity in the first four decades of this century" (p. 49). As the designer of such major works as St. Thomas Church, Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Princeton University Chapel, Cram was the leader of the Late Gothic Revival Style. Rejecting the artificial and gaudy forms of Victorian Gothic, Cram proposed to return church architecture to the Perpendicular Gothic style of nearly 16th century England at a point where Henry VIII and the Reformation had cut off its evolution. His intent was not to copy models, as he thought Pugin and other proponents of the Early Gothic Revival had done, but to continue its development "along what might be assumed to be logical lines, with due regard to the changing conditions of contemporary culture" (Cram, My Life in Architecture, p. 73).

While Cram's first church, 'All Saints' at Ashmont (Dorchester), is considered to be his masterpiece of suburban parish church architecture, Christ Church is cited to be one "of the most important of Cram and Goodhue's early local churches," and of this group of four it is the earliest.¹ Designed immediately after All Saints', Christ Church helped to influence the use of the Gothic style for village parish churches that were being built in Boston's emerging suburbs in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century. While the Georgian style continued to be popular, the Gothic parish church was prevalent.

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 21,179'
Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1" = 25,000

UTM References

A

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3	2	4	3	0	0
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4	6	8	0	7	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Nominated property conforms to City of Boston Assessors' Parcel number 9134 (Ward 18).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/ a	code	county	code
-------	------	------	--------	------

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edie Clifford, Boston Landmarks Commission/ Sarah Zimmerman, Director of Preservation Planning

organization for Massachusetts Historical Commission date August, 1985

street & number 80 Boylston St. telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 12/20/85
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 1-30-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Boston

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Page |

Christ Church introduced the Gothic Revival style to Hyde Park, and as the third oldest church building in this town, offers an interesting contrast to the earlier Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne church buildings. The building, the only church in Hyde Park to be designed by a nationally known architect, reflects Cram's talents "as a master of mass and proportion, simply composed."² Though the church was technically incomplete, Cram wrote that "the church will, even without the tower, yet to all appearances (be) practically complete."³

In 1912, the Town of Hyde Park was annexed to Boston. Within the context of the larger city, Christ Church is one of the two surviving Gothic village parish churches designed totally by Cram. The other village church is All Saints'.

The fine quality of the interior design and materials demonstrates Cram's innovative integrated design concept. For Cram, art was the visible expression of religious ideals and emotions. He therefore felt that for a church to function as a coherent whole, all the art associated with it, from the design of the structure to the carving of the interior wooden panels should come under the supervision of the architect. Bertram Goodhue, who later became Cram's partner, was known as a master of interior detail and worked on Christ Church as a draftsman. Cram also gathered around him a group of artisans to help him carry out his ideas, some of whose work is represented in Christ Church. The finely carved rood screen has been initially attributed to the firm of Irving and Casson, although final documentation is lacking.⁴

Of particular note is the fine collection of stained glass which, designed to commemorate the life of Christ, represents the evolution of this art over 50 years, from 1895-1945. In 1895 the Crucifixion window was installed. In 1901 Sarah Whitman, "One of the social and intellectual leaders of her time in Boston," designed the Lady's Chapel window depicting Christ after the Temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane.⁵ Harry Goodhue, a talented Boston designer, did the figure window over the altar in 1901, featuring Christ, the two Marys and Saints Peter and Paul. The last three windows are English-inspired. In 1912 the Resurrection window was added. In 1925 the well-known London firm of Powell and Sons: Whitefriars Glass Works made the All Saints' window. The last window, the Good Shepherd, was designed in 1945 by the firm of Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock of Boston, all of whose principals were trained in the Connick studio. Previously they had executed windows for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Princeton Chapel and the Washington Cathedral.

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Continuation sheet Christ Church, (Hyde Park) MA Item number 8

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NOTES

1. Douglas Shand Tucci, Church Building in Boston, 1720-1970. Concord, 1974. p. 49.
2. Douglas Shand Tucci, Built in Boston, p. 167.
3. An Appeal for the New Christ Church, Hyde Park, Massachusetts. Hyde Park, 1983. p. 13.
4. Parish Records Christ Church, Hyde Park, Massachusetts - 4/13/1891 -- 12/28/1920. pp. 305, 306. On these pages the rood screen is mentioned as being donated to the Church in 1912. There is no mention of the designer. Irving and Casson are listed as the designer in Tucci's Church Building in Boston, p. 126, with the Cram Archives at the Boston Public Library given as source. However, a recent check of the Cram Archives by personnel from the Library's Print Department could not locate this reference.
5. Wilbur Burnham and Joseph G. Reynolds, Jr., "Two Boston Studios Collaborate on Washington Cathedral Apse Windows," Stained Glass, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 111, Autumn 1943, p. 84.

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Continuation sheet Christ Church, (Hyde Park) MA Item number 9

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Continued

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September 28, 1893.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Christ Church
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 31 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-3-87
Date Due: 1/30/86 - 2/14/86
Action: ACCEPT 1-30-86
Entered in the National Register RETURN
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	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____



Christ Church
1220 River St.
Hyde Park (Boston), Massachusetts

Rosalind Pollan, 1981
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commission
Boston City Hall

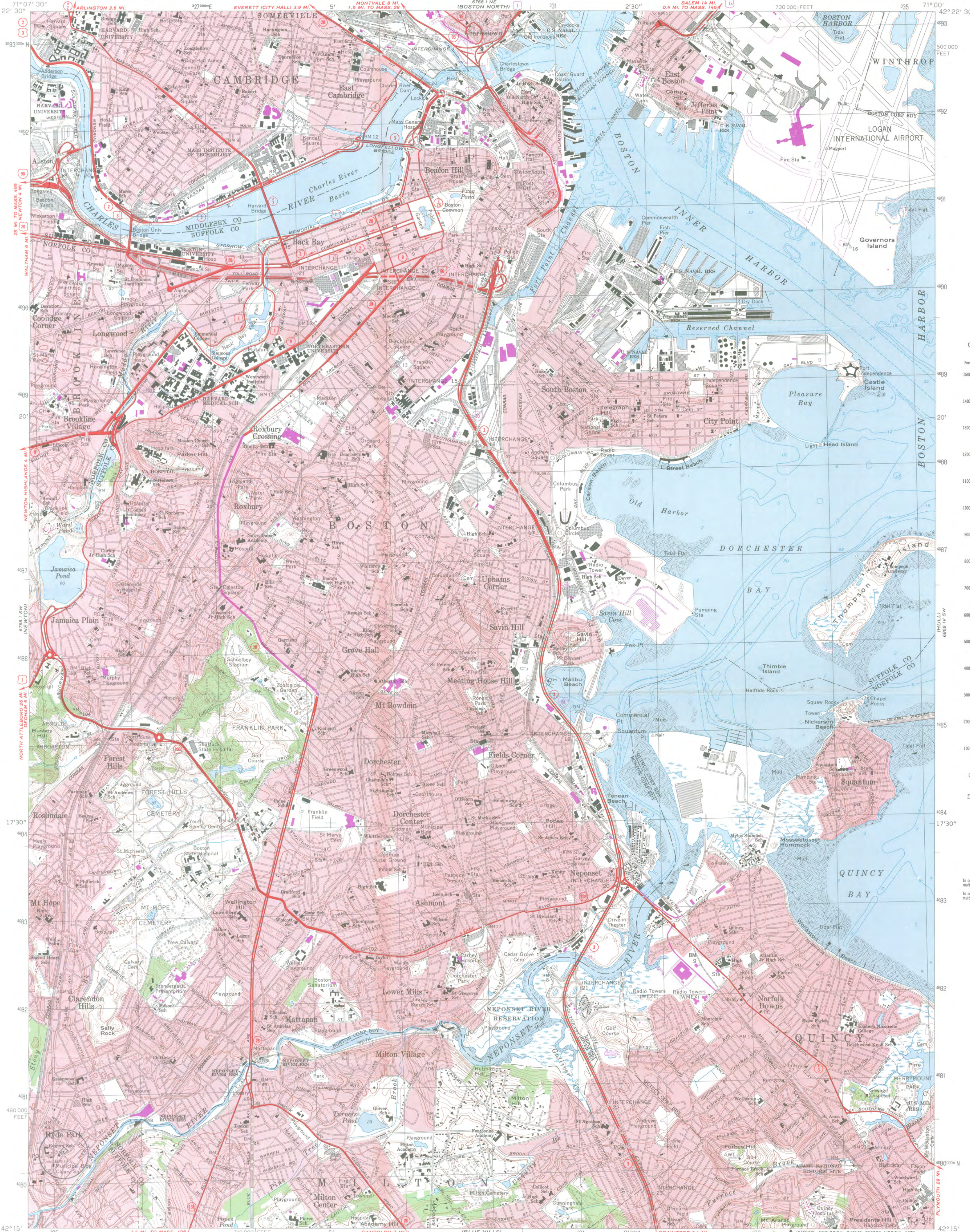
Photo #1 of 2
Northeastern oblique view,
camera facing southwest



Christ Church
1220 River St.
Hyde Park (Boston), Massachusetts

Rosalind Pollan, 1980
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commission
Boston City Hall

Photo #2 of 2
Northern elevation,
camera facing south



CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	750
6000	500
5000	250
4000	100
3000	50
2000	25
1000	10
500	5
200	2
100	1
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Christ Church
1220 River St.
Boston (Hyde Park), MA (Boston South Quad)
UTM References: 19/324300/468700
Scale: 1" = 25,000'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planimetric surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:25 000
1 000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORLINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE ON MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH
c/o Mrs. Reed Freeman

9 LOCHLAND ROAD, HYDE PARK
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02136
(617) 364-0022

November 5, 1985

✓S2
Jill W/NR
RECEIVED

NOV - 6 1985

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 MASS. HIST. COMM.
attention: Valerie Talmadge

Gentlemen:

We understand from a letter of October 24, 1985, that Christ Church, Hyde Park, will be considered by your State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on December 11,

May we urge you to approve, and submit, this nomination?

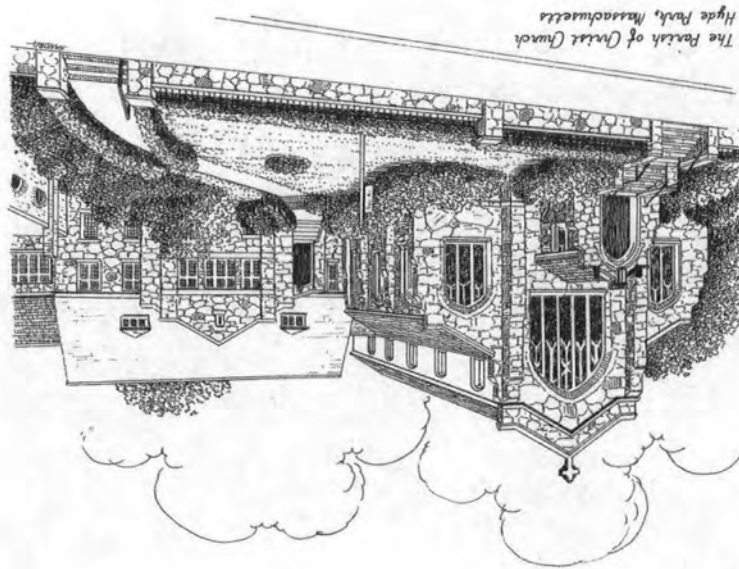
We are the oldest church in Hyde Park; this year, in fact, we are celebrating 125 years of continuous service to God and to the community. 125 years may not seem as "old" as some of the properties you consider, which probably date back to Colonial Times, but in the history of Hyde Park, we are the oldest church organization, and also the oldest actual church building.

Of equal, or perhaps more, importance, is Christ Church's architectural significance. We are a Ralph Adams Cram church, the second oldest one, pre-dated only by All Saints in Ashmont. We are surpassed by none in beauty, not only in overall design but in the finishing touches such as our stained glass windows and our hand carved rood screen. Rather than go on at any greater length, may I close by saying we want this honor not only as an aid in putting across the importance of preserving our church for the future, not only as an official recognition of our special qualifications, not only for the prestige it might be thought to bring us. We feel it might also serve as an example and inspiration toward the preservation and care of many other historically and architecturally significant places in Hyde Park, and give added impetus to the overall trend toward historical preservation - especially right here in this town of Hyde Park.

I hope I have succeeded in putting forward our case as strongly as I wish.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Freeman
Elizabeth H. Freeman, parishioner



66 Maple ST 82
 HYDE PARK BF
 02136 MASS file
 Nov 11 1985 - w/ no

DEAR VALERIE TALMADGE:-

I wish to say that
 I AM IN FAVOR OF
 CHRIST CHURCH HYDE PARK,
 MASS. BEING NOMINATED
 FOR LISTING ON THE
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF
 HISTORIC PLACES

I AM A MEMBER
 OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 KIND ATTENTION

Yours truly,

Innamarie Clifford



**City of Boston
The Environment
Department**

Boston City Hall/Room 805
Boston, Massachusetts 02201
617/725-4416 or 725-3850

November 12, 1985

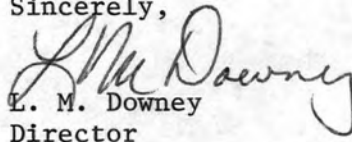
Valerie Talmage
Executive Director/
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage:

Mayor Flynn has forwarded your letter, concerning the consideration of Christ Church, 1220 River Street, Hyde Park for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, to me.

As you know, the Boston Landmarks Commission has approved the submission of this nomination and looks forward to the listing of Christ Church on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


L. M. Downey
Director

RECEIVED

NOV 18 1985

MASS. HIST. COMM.

52
BF
file w/ NR

Dec. 2, 1985 *52*

file w/INR

Att: Valerie Talmadge

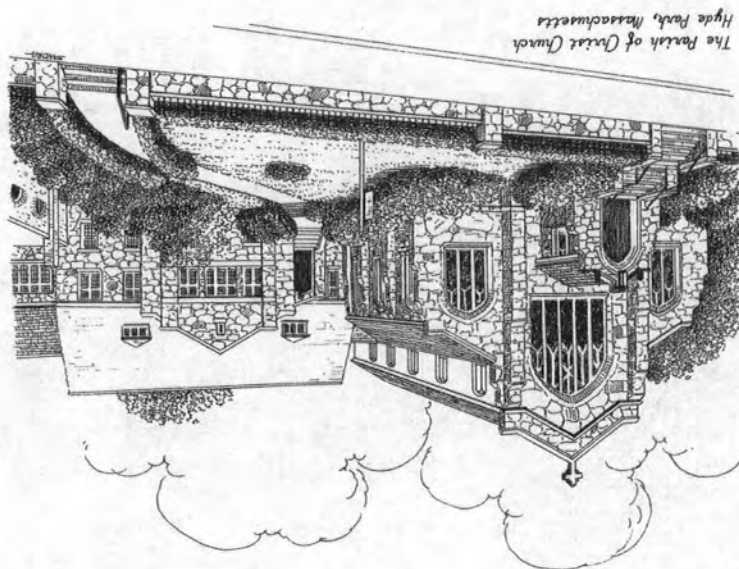
I believe that Christ Church in Hyde Park, Mass. should be designated as an historical landmark because it was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, one of the greatest church architects of the United States, and it is a prime example of his work.

As a vestryman of Christ Church and recording secretary of the Hyde Park Historical Society, I ask that you approve this petition.

Christ Church is celebrating it's 125th. anniversary this year and this would add to our celebration and benefit the community of Hyde Park.

Sincerely,

Chel Reed



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DEC 2 1985

MASS. HIST. COMM.



RECEIVED

To: Valerie Talmadge

Dec 6 1985

DEC -9 1985

This is a letter of support for Christ Church of Hyde Park to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. HIST. COMM.

I have been a member of the parish of Christ Church for the past four years and from the first day I entered the Church was impressed by its beauty and its feeling of history; it leaves one with the impression of.

In this age of constant change and transient life styles, this Church has stood as a constant reminder of what a constant value and standard should be. If any building deserves to be called a national treasure, Christ Church certainly qualifies to be such a place.

I hope and pray for the support of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to send their nomination to Washington. And I would be personally thankful and grateful for that. There is a very personal and emotional feeling for this Church on my part and I openly admit to that, it is more than just a building to me and again, I do hope that Christ Church will be recognized as the historical landmark it is.

Thanking you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely
Norman Marsh

52
15 Setucket Rd
Yarmouthport, Mass. 02675
Dec. 6, 1985

Massachusetts Historical Comm.
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass. 02116

RECEIVED

Gentlemen;

DEC 10 1985

It is my wish to give support to the inclusion of Christ Church, Hyde Park, MASS. HIST. COMM. in the National Register of Historic Places.

Having grown up in this parish, I can remember the beauty of the stained glass windows, especially with the sun shining through. This church with its long life, a dignified ediface, deserves to have special respect.

Christ Church should be recognized as a historic building, and an important national treasure.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Sutherland
(Miss) Eileen Sutherland

52
51 Greenwood Ave
Hyde Park, N.Y. 10021
RECEIVED
Dec 7, 1985
DEC 10 1985

Dear Mr. Talmadge

MASS. HIST. COMM.

I believe the Christ Episcopal Church in Hyde Park should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, because it was Ralph Adams Cross first church.

Very Truly Yours
Marcus J. Lenz

82
MRS. WALTER R. COLLINS
90 BEACON STREET
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS 02136

December 8, 1985

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Baylston Street
Boston, Ma 02116

RECEIVED

DEC 10 1985

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Dear Mr. Talmadge,

I believe that Christ Episcopal Church at 1220 River Street, Hyde Park should be included in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a Ralph Adams Cram building - one of only three in the area.

It is a large building in the center of Hyde Park. There are many fine old Victorian homes in the area. There is a great deal of history in this area also. This church was incorporated 125 years ago and it seems appropriate

to consider it an historic place.

yours truly,

Dorothy S. Collins

(Mrs. Walter R.)

Dec. 9, 1985

RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to show my support for the inclusion of Christ Church, Hyde Park, Massachusetts in the National Register of Historic Places.

For one hundred and twenty five years, Christ Church has played an integral part in the community. A listing in the Register might encourage other historical preservations in Hyde Park. It would also mean that consideration of our standing as a national landmark would have to be given before any Federal construction, rehabilitation, or redevelopment projects could be undertaken in the area.

As an early Ralph Adams Cram design, our architectural merits deserve consideration. Christ Church is a beautiful building. If we are listed on the Register, we would be able to apply for any available federal grants for preservation of the Church. We are a small parish so this would benefit us greatly.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Carol T. Hewett



ELLEN H. ANDERSON
ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission*

20 Somerset Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1985

December 10, 1985

Ms. Valerie Talmage MASS. HIST. COMM.
Massachusetts Historic Commission
80 Boylston St.
Boston, Mass. 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage,

I am writing to support the application of Christ Church, Hyde Park, for placement on the National Register. As a parishioner and member of the vestry of Christ Church I have come to understand and appreciate the church's important architectural and artistic qualities as well as its significance in the history of Hyde Park and Milton.

The protection of historic properties has been one of my major concerns as a member of the Metropolitan District Commission. I have come to care very deeply about giving proper recognition to all of the treasures of our heritage in Massachusetts. Christ Church is really one of those treasures and I hope you will be able to give it the recognition and protection it deserves.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ellen H. Anderson".

Ellen H. Anderson