

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

153-E

1. Town WorcesterAddress 909 Main StreetName Pilgrim Congregational ChurchPresent use church2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____Present owner Pilgrim Congregational Church of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1887-1888Source Building notices, Nutt
Roll 8 vol. IIStyle Romanesque RevivalArchitect Stephen EarleExterior wall fabric brick
Wooden buildingOutbuildings (describe) attachedOther features rock-faced sandstonetrim, triple arched entry porch
with stone columns, tower with open
landingAltered no Date _____Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 7, p. 13

5. Lot size: Lot 1 17,250 sq. ft.One acre or less x Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 189'Approximate distance of building from street
15'6. Recorded by B.R. PfeifferOrganization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date December 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Pilgrim 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	☒
Architectural	☒	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)

Recently steam cleaned and restored, the Pilgrim Congregational Church is an unusual example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The building is constructed of brick with rock-faced sandstone window and corner trim. Nearly rectangular in plan, the church has gables on its facade (west) and side walls (north and south), apparently corresponding to the nave and transept. Principal features of the building are a high corner tower (which rises to an open belfry and is trimmed with rounded stone corners and spiral-carved stone finials), a tri-partite arched entry porch, rose window and arched windows throughout. Both the high quality of the building's design and its excellent condition make it an unusually fine example of Victorian architecture.

Organized in May 1883, the Pilgrim Congregational Church was "received into the Congregational fellowship" in March of 1885. In the meantime land at the corner of Main and Gardner Streets had been given to the congregation by Francis B. Knowles and Mrs. Helen C. Knowles. A wooden chapel had been built on the property in 1884 and was first occupied in January of 1885. In 1886 an effort was made to collect donations for the construction of a more substantial building. As a result, the cornerstone of the present church was laid on October 22, 1887. Constructed by the building firm of Cutting & Bishop, the church was completed by July, 1888. Around the same time the wooden chapel was remodeled for use as a Sunday school.

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

Sanitary Engineer, vol. XV, 4/2/1887; supplement, p. iv; vol. XV, 4/16/1887, p.532; vol. XVI, 7/3/1887, p.248 (building notice)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp. 817-818 (history of church)

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description & statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). Historian
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79
Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

Concur with Bruce's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and #4. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. Architectural Historian
Archeologist

116-CBD-11 - Destroyed, cannot be listed.
130-CBD-44 - I am not convinced this has lost integrity. See attached.
102-L-3 - Period of significance and categorization of 1 bldg need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ both technically and to determine significance. Although some of the forms did not contain strong statements of significance the resource categories were thoroughly discussed in the body of the nomination; therefore significance was established. VBDs were not necessary because

Other
Accept
unofficial
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. HAER
Presence was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11/corrections.

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are

Inventory _____
Review _____

✓ 116-CBD-13 - destroyed by fire MD - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - does not retain integrity for individual eligibility

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~don't~~ ^{was} not convinced about boundaries but believe they could be OK. REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

Recommend now listing all properties except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ to discuss further w/NR staff + state. DOBIE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; 3/5/80
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state DOBIE
BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:

KEEPER

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & claims from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from state)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JAN 1978

JAN 1978

by Berkeley

Prestige Prints

153-E 30 AUG 1979
Pilgrimage Congregation Church
909 Main St
near to MRA, Na
north & west
elevations



80 AUG 1979

Prestige Prints
by Berkeley

JAN 1978

JAN 1978

Algrim Congregational Church

153-E

Wishes for MRA, Ma

909 main St

north + west
celebration

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000304

Pilgrim Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ

911 MAIN STREET AT GARDNER

WORCESTER, MASS. 01610

Oct. 7, 1979

Mr. Charles A. Harrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Dept. of the Interior, Pension Bldg.
440 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20241

Att: NOM - refer #663

Dear Mr. Harrington:

The Board of Trustees of Pilgrim Congregational Church met on Friday, Oct. 5, 1979 and decided they do not wish to be listed in the National Register of Historic places at this time.

In your letter of Sept. 27, 1979 you have the property listed as follows on your label: Pilgrim Congregational Church of Worcester, 909 Main Street, Worcester, Ma. 01610 RE: Worcester Multiple Resource Area/Church.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

J. M. Amit

J. M. Amit, Clerk
Pilgrim Congregational Church

ja

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **OCT 11 1979**

INDIV (ATTACHED)

INC (ATTACHED)

T. (ATTACHED)

DATE ACT. IN

INITIALS