

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Congregational Church

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 120 North Jackson Street

City or town: Jackson State: Michigan County: Jackson/075

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Martha Mayson</u>		<u>2/13/17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	

Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

For Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7.10.17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone, Ceramic Tile, Enameled Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Congregational Church is a monumental brick Romanesque Revival building that was built in 1859-60, and has a 1960-61 two-story brick Christian Education Building or wing on its west elevation. The original building is clad with reddish brown brick, stands on a stone foundation, and is covered by an asphalt shingled gabled roof. The main mass of the church is rectangular in shape, but its façade has a projection that extends about three-quarters of the way across the center portion of the building. The projecting central part of the façade is dominated by two towers of different design that flank a further projecting central entryway. The north/rear end of the building is also narrower than the building's main mass, and also covered with a gabled roof. The building's long east and west sides are divided by raised brick buttresses, and each bay displays an original round-arch-head stained glass window of a grisaille style. The auditorium or sanctuary has a traditional auditorium plan with a raised chancel in the center of the north end and rear/south gallery. The modern style two-story Christian Education Building has brown brick walls accented with burgundy-hue enameled metal paneling around the windows. It rests on a concrete foundation and has a flat roof. The addition's façade is dominated by a three-color ceramic tile "Alpha and Omega" mural.

Narrative Description

The rear (north elevation) of the church is located on the corner of Pearl and Jackson Streets, and the façade (south elevation) faces the north end of Blackman Park. Blackman Park is the last remaining quarter of the public square which was platted at the four corners of the intersection of

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Jackson and Michigan Streets. When originally constructed the First Congregational Church was located at the extreme west end of Jackson's downtown and stood taller than nearby buildings. However, since then the downtown has extended to the west, and has surrounded the church. Nearby buildings taller than the church were constructed in the 1920s, but the church remains a visually prominent landmark in the downtown.

The First Congregational Church is a Romanesque Revival building constructed in 1859-60. The majority of the building's walls are constructed of reddish brown brick. The building rests on a coursed rock faced ashlar stone foundation and is covered with an asphalt shingled gabled roof. All the windows have tan limestone sills, but some are dark gray due to years of weathering. The windows at ground level have segmental-arch heads capped with reddish brick rowlock headers, while the tall upper windows are round arched with tan brick rowlock headers. All elevations are capped by a simple wooden cornice.

The gabled central entryway projects out from the façade, is constructed of red brick, rests on a concrete water table, and is covered with a slate roof. The entry stands at ground level with a recessed double door and round arched stained glass window above and topped by an arch formed with alternating rowlock and soldier brick courses.

The towered central part of the façade projects out from the body of the building behind it, and extends across approximately the central three-quarters of the main mass of the building. The projection has two distinct towers located at its east and west ends. The lower portions of the towers are symmetrical, but the upper portions differ. The west tower is shorter than the east tower, while the east tower is divided into four sections. The sections are framed with projecting brick piers at their corners, and divided vertically by belt courses of tan limestone stonework. The front of the lowest section of each tower contains a set of paired windows with a single window above. This section is capped with a heavy tan brick corbel table below the belt course. The second section of each tower's front contains a paired window, and a tan brick framed quatrefoil window above. The differences in the east and west towers become apparent above the quatrefoil windows. The second section of the west tower is capped with a corbelled brickwork-supported frieze containing a small cross form on each side below a corbelled brickwork-decorated wooden cornice beneath the roof. The tower is topped by a four-sided sheet metal bell-cast roof with a gabled dormer on each face. The third section of the east tower contains a series of three windows, and is topped with a tan brick corbel table. The highest section of the east tower houses the belfry with three tall and narrow windows with louvered openings. The center window is taller than the two side windows. This section is capped with a heavy corbel table below a sharply pointed cross-gable slate roof. The corners of the roof contain brick piers that once supported decorative finials. The exposed east, west and north elevations of the two towers are similar in appearance to their respective south elevations. The center section of the façade is recessed slightly from the two tower fronts, with the roof from the building's main mass projecting between the towers. This section is located just above the entryway and contains a series of three windows with the center window being much taller than the two side windows. A small round stone framed window is located above each of the three windows. The center section is finished with a corbel table and wood cornice that follows the rake of the gabled roof.

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The east and west elevations of the original building are similar in finishes. These elevations are each divided into six sections. Each section contains a center round arch stained glass window with tan rowlock brick headers. Each section is flanked with stepped brick buttresses with smooth tan limestone offsets. A brick corbel table tops each section below the frieze. The east elevation has an additional row of round arch windows at ground level that are aligned with the stained glass windows above.

The building's north end is slightly narrower and lower than the building's main mass. Its set-back east and west elevations each contains a set of upper and lower round arch windows. An upper door with a balconet on the east elevation is the original side entrance to the building before the building was raised and expanded.

The north/rear elevation is divided into three sections. The narrow center section is bordered by projecting brick piers with three round arch windows arranged from bottom to top. The east and west sections are wider and also contain round arch windows arranged from bottom to top like the center section. The east section has two lower windows side by side where the west section has only one lower window.

The colors of the First Congregational Church brickwork shows the evidence of where the building has been altered. The brick color of the original structure is reddish brown, while the newer red brick on the lower part of the building shows where the present ground story was inserted in 1871. In addition, numerous rectangular bricked areas along the east and west elevations show where wood beams were placed to support the building while it was raised during the 1871 renovations. The red brick of the entryway on the south elevation is from the 1895 remodel of the entrance. The most recent modern addition on the west end of the building also has a different brown brick color.

The interior of the church is accessed from the ground level central entryway on the building's front or south elevation. From inside the front door, two sets of dogleg stairways ascend to a second-floor narthex from which the auditorium/sanctuary is entered through a center arched entryway. The sanctuary is rectangular in shape with plaster walls and a wood wainscot. The rear sanctuary wall has two now non-functioning arched doorways that flank the center entryway. The doors and entryway display twisted rope round arch moldings. A gallery at the back of the auditorium is located above the narthex. Its front projects outward beyond the wall plane with its front resting on large wooden brackets. The central part of the gallery projects more than the curving section to either side. The gallery has a solid wood breastwork with recessed round arch panels. Three large arches in the auditorium's rear wall above the gallery reveal the stained glass windows in the church's front façade to be seen from the sanctuary.

The sanctuary has an auditorium plan with a center and two side aisles. The pews are the originals from 1859-61 and, divided by three straight aisles, are set in six tiers, two (separated by a partition) between the center and side aisle on each side and an outer row on each side angled inward slightly toward the chancel. The pews are constructed of butternut wood, but now stained walnut.

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The chancel is a raised platform which is rectangular in shape and projects into the sanctuary. The front of the chancel is divided into thirds, with the center one-third projecting further into the sanctuary and a center half-round section holding the pulpit extending beyond that. The recessed paneled woodwork on the front of the chancel is similar to the woodwork on the front of the gallery; the projecting central third of the front may date from 1859-60, with the side sections perhaps added in 1866 when the first organ was installed and the choir moved to the chancel from the back of the church, though the front of the chancel was moved out four feet in 1923 to accommodate a larger choir. The chancel woodwork is of oak, but is now stained a dark walnut. A broad and deep archway spans the back of the chancel with a simple raised molding framing the opening. Seating for the choir is located under this archway and consists of wood pews on three steps. The back of the chancel has an ornate wood quatrefoil-design screen which was installed in 1926 to hide the pipes of the organ. Although plans were proposed in 1936, 1958 and 1960 to redesign the chancel, none of the proposals were acted upon, and it retains its earlier look.

Unlike most Protestant churches of this age, First Congregational retains its original five-sided pulpit, which perfectly complements the building's Romanesque architecture and fits the rounded central projection of the chancel front. The pulpit has a two-step base that supports paired half-round Romanesque columns on each of the five sides. These are capped by bracket forms that each terminate in a descending finial or "drop." The brackets in turn support the pulpit's velvet-covered top.

With the exception of the window in the southwest corner of the sanctuary, which was broken and replaced in the 1950s, the auditorium's stained glass windows are original features of the building. Each window includes a pair of lower rectangular windows, a pair of upper windows with rounded tops, and a small stained glass medallion in the center above. The sections are separated by a wide vertical mullion and broad mid-level muntin. Each window has a center lozenge pattern of pinkish colored glass with a floral motif in the middle of each diamond shaped pane. The lozenge windows are similar on each window but are decorated with differing types of narrow borders adorned with repeating patterns of colored flowers and stems with solid backgrounds. One style of border contains white rounded flower petals and colored stems. Another border style contains flowers with squared white and yellow petals with white stems. Above and between the tops of each set of stained glass windows are small round stained glass medallions. Each medallion has a different design and all have a religious meaning behind them. The medallions are the only religious ornamentation in the sanctuary.

The ceiling of the sanctuary is supported by large brackets located between each pair of windows. The portion of the ceiling which is supported by the brackets angles upward at a low pitch toward the flat center. Two large square panels toward the front and back of the flat central part of the ceiling each contains a large round wheel-like device (called a "rosette" in a 1923 newspaper story about redecoration) that once served as a ventilator for the auditorium. These originally served as a means to vent hot air out the sanctuary during the summer months. The south one vented the air out to the west tower, the north vented air out to the north end of the church. Both were closed off when the church acquired air conditioning in 1999.

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The ground floor of the building serves several social functions of the church. The largest room is the Fellowship Hall and it comprises approximately two-thirds of the ground floor space below the sanctuary. Smaller rooms like the library, Heritage Room, rest rooms and lobby are located on the west side, and the kitchen and utility room are at the north end.

The 1960-61 Christian Education Building addition is a mostly two-story building of mid-century modern design. It rests on a concrete foundation and has a flat roof. The addition has a broad U-shaped footprint, with an open courtyard between it and the 1859-61 church and connectors at the north and south ends. The main mass is two-story and L-shaped, and is connected to the original church building by a one-story enclosed entry/vestibule on the south side and a second-story skyway to the second floor of the church building's rear extension on the north side. The façade of the addition has a recessed area of lower windows at each end, with an area of brickwork between. Above this the upper two-thirds of the front elevation displays an abstract mural, "Alpha and Omega," fashioned in small square ceramic tiles. The mural has a light green background with a regular pattern of side-by-side yellow "A" and "Ω" symbols alternating with white circles repeated in three rows in a diagonal pattern. The west elevation of the addition is largely finished in red brick but also displays sections of burgundy enameled metal panels located above and below the second-story windows and around the low ground-story ones. The addition's north elevation second story also displays the same burgundy enameled metal panels and metal framed windows. The addition's east side facing the courtyard also displays sections of brickwork and the enameled metal paneling, and the skyway is faced on both sides in the enameled metal paneling. The entry/vestibule on the south end of the addition is predominantly enclosed in glass with burgundy enameled panels above and at ground level.

The courtyard within the addition is paved with four sections of concrete divided into strips which run in a north/south direction. These sections are framed with paver brick borders. The courtyard is entered from the north side along Pearl Street, under the second-story skyway. The skyway runs from the north end of the addition's second story, to the recessed portion of the church's second-story west elevation. From within the courtyard the addition is entered through a door on the west end of the courtyard's south side. Both floors of the addition's west side contain classrooms that are connected without the use of a hallway. Offices are located on the south side of the first floor, and are connected by a hallway that leads to the one-story vestibule on its east end. This connects directly to the south end of the church's west elevation, and accesses the ground-story Fellowship Hall through a set of stairs. The vestibule can also be entered through a door on its south side.

The First Congregational Church retains a great deal of integrity. Besides the west addition, the exterior of the church has not changed since the front entrance was altered in 1895. The appearance of the sanctuary has gone through a number of changes, but mostly in paint colors, stenciling and different light fixtures. When the building was originally constructed the sanctuary was entered through what was then a ground-level foyer which extended across the entire width of the building. The sanctuary could be entered through the center archway, but also through the two side doors which are now nonfunctioning. When the church was raised and added onto in 1871, the now second-story foyer and original entrance were retained, with the exterior staircase to the entrance lengthened.

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In 1895 the front entrance was reconfigured to eliminate the exterior steps. The former main entrance, at the second-story level since 1871, was removed and a new entrance constructed at ground level. As part of the 1895 project the interior stairway to the sanctuary was constructed, and the two doors flanking the center archway to the sanctuary were closed and plastered over on the stairway side. The lowest two sets of round arch windows on the south elevation of the two towers were added and new stained glass was added to the windows immediately above them and above the exterior doorway.

Finials once adorned the tops of both towers. The east tower contained finials at each corner, and at the apex of each gable. Historic photos show the finials on the east tower in a variety of states of disrepair throughout the history of the church. The finials were all removed from the east tower sometime between 1900 and the 1950s. The current finial on the west tower was once taller.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Art

Period of Significance

1859-1961: Period from original construction to completion of Christian Education Building

Significant Dates

1859, 1860 Beginning/end of original construction

1871 Year church was raised and Parlor and Sunday School Rooms added

1895 Front entrance was reconstructed

1960, 1961 Beginning/end of construction of addition

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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Horatio Nelson White, Architect, Syracuse, NY 1859-1860 original construction

James Morwick, Builder, Syracuse, NY 1859-1860 original construction

Hugh Richards, Architect/Builder, Jackson, MI, 1871 addition

Claude Dewitt Sampson, Architect, Jackson, MI, 1960-1961 addition

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Jackson's First Congregational Church was founded in 1841, only twelve years after Jackson's first settlement in 1829, but the church's origins actually trace back a few years earlier, to 1837, when local Congregationalists helped found a Presbyterian church in the young settlement. This initial Jackson Presbyterian church disbanded in 1843 with many of its members joining the Congregational church. The First Congregational Church meets national register Criteria C for its architecture. The church is one of the oldest Romanesque Revival church buildings in Michigan. It is also significant in architectural terms for reflecting a pattern seen among a number of large Michigan church buildings built in the middle years of the nineteenth century in which Michigan congregations went to architects from the eastern United States to design their buildings. First Congregational was designed by Horatio N. White, an architect from Syracuse, New York, well known for his churches in central New York built in the 1850s-70s. The building is also notable in artistic terms for its stained glass sanctuary windows; installed when the church was built, they are likely among the oldest stained glass windows in Michigan.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Romanesque Revival Style

The Romanesque Revival style, a broad umbrella term for a variety of Romanesque that included what were then sometimes known as the "Norman" or "Lombard" styles, and also Romanesque from the German states, was popular in American architecture from the 1840s to the 1870s. An important influence was the early nineteenth-century German architecture known as Rundbogenstil, or translated into English as "Round Arch Style," pioneered by several architects including Leo von Klenze and Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The American Romanesque Revival style incorporated design elements from Germany, Northern Italy, and England. The first building designed in this style in America is considered to be the Church of the Pilgrims, in Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn, NY, designed by Richard Upjohn (1844-46). Other early examples include Upjohn's Bowdoin College Chapel in Maine (begun 1845; completed 1855), Leopold Eidlitz and Otto Blesch's St. George's Episcopal Church in New York (1846-48), and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. (1847-51), designed by James Renwick, Jr.

The Romanesque Revival as a style for churches was more popular in Protestant denominations than in Catholic. Catholic churches tended to be designed in the Gothic style, but some examples can be found in the Romanesque Revival style. Some early examples of Romanesque Revival in Detroit included the Tabernacle Baptist Church (1859-1860) on the corner of Washington and Clifford Streets, the First Baptist Church (1859-1863) on the corner of Fort and

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Griswold Streets, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church (1860-1861) located on the east side of Washington Street between State and Grand River (Farmer). All of these churches no longer exist.

Protestant examples of the style among Michigan churches that still exist include the following, among others: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jackson (1850-53), First Presbyterian Church, Coldwater (1866-69), First Free Will Baptist Church, Hillsdale (1867), First Congregational Church, Saginaw (1867-68), First Presbyterian Church, Three Rivers (1868-70), First Baptist Church, Jackson (1868-73), First United Methodist Church, Marquette (1871-72), First Presbyterian Church, Marshall (1872-73), and the First Congregational Church, Charlotte (1872-76). An early, still standing Catholic example is the St. Mary of Good Counsel Church in Adrian (1869-71).

History of First Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan

On July 3, 1829, Horace Blackman, originally from Berkshire, New York, along with his guides Capt. Alexander Laverty and Pewatum, a Pottawatomie, crossed the Grand River where Jackson Street and Trail Street currently intersect, and became the first white settler in Jackson County. At the time Michigan was still a territory; it would not attain statehood until 1837.

In the years following Blackman's settlement, a village called Jacksonburgh would begin to develop. The first part of Jacksonburgh was platted in January 1830, and later that year the settlement would attain a population of 123. The county of Jackson was organized in 1832 with Jacksonburgh being named the county seat. That same year the territorial road known as the St. Joseph Road was extended from Ann Arbor to the village. The name of the village would be shortened to Jackson in 1838.

The first religious meeting in the village was held in June 1830 at the home of J. W. Bennett, but was not officiated over by a clergyman. An unknown Baptist minister preached the first sermon in the village on the evening of January 26, 1831. The following evening the Methodist circuit preacher the Rev. Elijah H. Pilcher gave the first of what would become regular services in the town of Jackson. In September of the same year the Methodist church became the first organized religious congregation in the village. The Catholics were next to establish a church presence in 1836.

The Presbyterian Church in Jackson was organized in June 1837 with thirteen members by the Rev. Marcus Harrison. The church held services in a wood framed building they leased called the "Session House." The Rev. Harrison and many of the first members were originally Congregationalists before they moved from the eastern part of the country. The union between Presbyterian and Congregational churches in the western frontier was a common practice. A "Plan of Union" was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the (Congregational) General Association of Connecticut in 1801 and accepted by other statewide associations of Congregational churches during the next few years. The Plan of Union provided a means for avoiding the establishment of competing Presbyterian and Congregational churches in the same community by having members of both denominations form a single church. This

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practice of forming a single church seemed an appropriate one for newly settled areas with relatively small numbers of each denomination in that the two denominations held similar religious beliefs and only differed in their form of church governance. This unity combined resources and increased the chances of the united church's surviving and presenting a forceful voice in the community (Goodykoontz, pg. 149).

In effect in frontier areas of New York and Pennsylvania and to the west, until the late 1830s, the union of Presbyterian and Congregational churches usually resulted in the formation of a Presbyterian church. This was the case in Michigan. However, the late 1830s saw the Presbyterian General Assembly taking a more conservative stance regarding church polity that would result in congregations splitting away from the Presbyterian form of church government to the Congregational form. These changes were mainly in the method of church discipline but also involved the adoption of a more pro-slavery stance. The church in Jackson was one of the early churches in Michigan to leave the Presbytery. The church in Marshall left in 1838, Grand Rapids, Hudson and Vermontville in 1839, and Jackson along with Union City, Grass Lake and Almont in 1840. The cycle of Presbyterian churches in Michigan changing over to Congregational churches would increase and continue into the 1850s (Taylor).

On March 6, 1841, the Rev. Harrison along with fifty-eight members subscribed to the articles of faith and covenant of the Congregational Church, while a small portion of the original members continued their association with the Presbyterian Church. The Congregational Church immediately began making plans for constructing a new house of worship. In April 1841 plans were drawn up for a new brick building measuring forty by sixty feet, with a Greek temple portico on the front of the building. The church was located on the west end of the Public Square north of the present West Michigan Avenue. The Public Square consisted of two city lots located at each of the corners of the intersection of the present West Michigan Avenue and Jackson Street. This would be the first brick church constructed in Jackson.

Work on the building was begun in 1841. By 1842, with all the church's funds expended, work came to a standstill. During the construction of the new building the church continued to meet in the Session House. In early 1843 the Session House was sold to new owners who converted it to a carpenter shop. The Congregational Church would then share the use of the Presbyterian Church building, which was known as the "Pepper Box," for a few months. The Presbyterian Church disbanded in June 1843 and its members united with the Congregational Church (Jackson's present First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1883). With this union the Congregationalists acquired ownership of the building formerly owned by the Presbyterian Church. The Pepper Box was sold to the Methodist Church for the amount of \$350.00, and the money was put toward the completion of the Congregational Church's new brick building.

With the sale of the Pepper Box the Congregational Church moved their services to "Porter's Hall" located on the south side of the Public Square on the east side of Jackson Street. They met there until the completion of their brick building in the autumn of 1844.

The village of Jackson would steadily grow through the 1830s and 1840s. The 1838 *Gazetteer of Michigan* lists the town's population at four hundred, with seventy-five dwellings. The

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following year the population had grown to one thousand with two hundred buildings and eighty more stores and dwellings underway. By mid-century Jackson was served by two railroads, the Michigan Central (1841) and the Michigan Southern (1858). It was incorporated as a city in 1857.

With the growth of the city also came the growth of the Congregational Church. The year 1847 saw the church membership grow by ninety-five members. It would go down as one of the greatest years of membership growth in the church's history. By mid-century the church membership would grow to 222. The church began discussions on how to expand their building. However, in October 1858 the church's trustees were directed to find a suitable site for the construction of a new building (history of Jackson and First Congregational Church summarized from Deland, 202-210, and *History of Jackson County Michigan*, 483-495).

The Rev. William Dada became the new pastor of the Jackson Congregational Church in June 1858. Under his leadership Joseph E. Beebe, George F. Rice, F. Woodbury, N. S. Hubell, G. Thompson Gridley and Phillip Thurber were appointed a building committee. In December 1858 the committee was authorized to purchase two city lots on the north side of the Public Square from Fidus Livermore for a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars (DeLand, 208-209). By early 1859 they had accepted architectural plans from Horatio Nelson White of Syracuse, New York, and had also hired James Morwick, also of Syracuse, to construct the new church building. It is known that several, if not all, the committee members originated from the New England area, but it cannot be determined if any had a connection to Mr. White or the Syracuse area. However, the Rev. Dada was from Otisco, New York, a town only about ten miles from Syracuse.

It was not an unusual practice at the time for a congregation in Michigan to hire an architect from "back East." Several churches in Michigan from the late 1840s to 1870s hired architects from the eastern United States. Calvin N. Otis, an architect from Buffalo, New York, designed Mariner's Church (1849) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1852), both in Detroit, as well as St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jackson (1850-53). Charles Marsh from Rochester, New York, designed the First Congregational Church, Charlotte (1872-76), and the First Congregational Church, Romeo (1876-77). Another church, the 1866 Whitewater Congregational, near present-day Williamsburg, east of Traverse City, was built from plans of architect Sidney Mason Stone from New Haven, Connecticut.

Jackson First Congregational's architect, Horatio Nelson White, was born in Middleton, New Hampshire, in 1814. He moved with his parents to Andover, Massachusetts, where he worked as a builder and carpenter. Before coming to Syracuse, New York, in 1843, White spent a short time in New York City. He would soon leave for California during the Gold Rush where he continued to work as a builder and to a smaller degree a designer. Mr. White spent three years in California before returning to Syracuse in 1853, when he began work as an architect. His most well-known building was the Onondaga County Courthouse in Syracuse, which is Romanesque Revival in style and built in 1857. He also designed the Oswego County Courthouse (1859), the Chemung County Courthouse (1861), and the Jefferson County Courthouse (1865) in New York state. All of these courthouses were of similar design to the Onondaga Courthouse. Mr. White

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would later design the Hall of Languages (1871-73), the first building on the campus of Syracuse University. He was also reportedly responsible for the design of over one hundred churches, including the Church of the Messiah (1853), Plymouth Congregational Church (1858-59), and Grace Episcopal Church (1877), all within Syracuse. Elinore T. Horning's 1988 book on White and his work lists thirty-five then known churches, all but one in New York state (61-62), with the Jackson church not among them. He also designed an unknown number of residences, and numerous commercial and governmental buildings in the Syracuse area and New York state armory buildings for Syracuse, Dunkirk, and Ballston Spa. The title of Horning's book describes Horatio Nelson White as "The Man Who Changed the Face of Syracuse" (Parsons and Horning).

In designing the Congregational Church in Jackson it is likely the building committee, along with the Rev. Dada and Horatio Nelson White, consulted the *Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages*. This book, published in 1853, was a guide for Congregational Churches in America on the design of new church buildings. The book contained thirty pages of text followed by eighteen designs large and small by architects Henry Austin, William Backus, David R. Brown, Henry Cleveland, T. Reeve, James Renwick, Sidney M. Stone, Richard Upjohn, Joseph C. Wells, and Gervase Wheeler. Although it is not known who was the actual author, the book was written in consultation with businessmen Simeon B. Chittenden and Henry C. Bowen, both founding members of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn, New York, and three Congregational ministers, the Revs. Richard Salter Storrs, George Barrell Cheever, and Nathaniel Eggleston.

In making suggestions on church design the *Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages* exhibited a preference for the Romanesque style over Gothic, which many Protestants at the time viewed with disfavor because of what they saw as associations with "popery" – i.e. Catholicism. They considered the Gothic style to be inappropriate to their less liturgical practices. The *Book of Plans* spoke of Gothic, with its tall roofs and elaborate ornamentation, as an expensive style to build.

For building materials the *Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages* encouraged the use of stone for its natural look and permanence. Brick, though, would become the more popular building material. When brick and wood were to be used, the book advocated visual honesty. Honesty meant that brick or wood should not be made to look like any other material except its own. Brick could be painted as long as it was not meant to look like stone. In addition, interior walls were to be painted in soft neutral colors, and woodwork was meant to be stained and varnished.

The construction of Jackson's Congregational Church was begun in early 1859. The completed church was dedicated on October 18, 1860. The September 1, 1859, issue of *The American Citizen* had the following description of the proposed church:

Architecture of the church is to be of the Norman Gothic style, a trifle modernized in some points. The whole size of the church proper is 88 by 62 feet; attached to this and accessible by doors on each side of the Pulpit is the Session and Sabbath School room, which is 60 by 26 feet. In front of the church is a porch 12¼ by 6¼ feet; 18 feet high, finished by carved key stone and ornamented cornice. The floor of the porch is a single

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solid stone, 13 feet long; 7 feet wide and 8 inches thick. This stone is now on the ground and was occupied by the speakers as their platform. On each side of the porch rises two towers of brick and stone, 15 feet square. The Dwarf tower on the west, to be finished with Cupola roof and carved finial, is 75 feet high. The east tower is to be finished with four gables and eight carved finials, and is to be 100 feet high. The front steps are to be of solid stone, 9 feet long, 16 inches wide, 8 inches thick; the door sill 9 by 2½ feet, 8 inches thick of Joliet stone. There will be a large set of tribble windows in front over the porch, stone sills, half circle heads, two sets of double windows and the two four-foiled windows in each tower. The foundation walls are all four feet thick, laid of dressed stone, each bearing point strengthened by strong inverted arches. The basement is six feet in the clear. The walls of the main building are 31 feet high, the roof gable 18, making a total of 49 feet as the height of the church. There are to be six windows on each side, 4 by 18 feet, arched tops, to be set with stained diamond glass in colored borders. Between each window is a heavy buttress with double offsets, corniced with moulded stone. The main cornice is to be of wood and enriched with cobble brackets. The inside and ceiling is to be stucco and frescoed with antique mouldings and cornices. There is to be an orchestra over the front vestibule. The pulpit is of good size, not extravagantly ornamental, and to be of solid oak. There will be 156 slips; a row of wall slips on each side, slightly diagonal to face the pulpit and two tiers of body slips. The main aisles are four feet and the side aisles are three feet in the clear. The slips are to be of panel work, with carved arms, to be constructed of Butternut wood, varnished and upholstered throughout. Each slip will seat six persons, thus furnishing seats for 936 persons without crowding. The conference room is to be finished in a plain and substantial manner and will be very convenient connecting as it does by two doors with the main edifice and the street. The whole building is to be warmed by two large furnaces in the basement of the main building. The name of the Architect is H. N. White, Syracuse, N. Y., and the Builder is Mr. James Morwick of the same city. Both these men are able and experienced in their profession, as both design and work already show. Plymouth Church in Syracuse and the Baptist Church in Eldridge, N. Y., were designed and built by them. The total cost of the Church when completed is estimated at twenty thousand dollars.

As mentioned above James Morwick of Syracuse, New York, was the builder of the Congregational Church. Little is known about Mr. Morwick. He is listed in both the 1855 and 1859 Syracuse city directories as a carpenter and building contractor. The 1860 census lists him as 52 years of age, and his occupation as Master Carpenter. The 1862 Syracuse city directory does not include a listing for him.

Upon moving into their new building, the Congregational Church sold its former building to the Beth Israel congregation. They occupied the building until sometime between 1899 and 1907, when the First Church of Christ, Scientist, acquired it. The building is not shown on the 1930 Sanborn Map.

The decade of the 1860s continued to be a time of positive growth for the Congregational Church. The year 1866 was the largest year of growth in the history of the church with acceptance of 150 new members. As the result of a mission school which the church operated for a number of years on the east side of the city, the Second Congregational Church was

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organized in 1867. Another eighty-nine new members were received to the now First Congregational Church in 1869.

By 1871 the need for more room for church activities was evident. The problem was not the sanctuary, which could seat over 900 people, but the lack of a smaller meeting hall and Sunday school rooms. The church as built had a "lecture room" for smaller meetings located behind the pulpit area at the building's north end, but the installation of a new pipe organ behind the pulpit required the use of that space. The desire of the First Congregational Church to provide for these purposes followed a general pattern with other Protestant churches in the middle to late nineteenth century. In the past churches were content to use their auditoriums for most of their functions. By mid-century the desire for separate rooms to accommodate smaller gatherings deemed too small for the auditorium was becoming popular. The "Session and Sabbath School room" to the north of the auditorium in the First Congregational Church originally filled this purpose. The post-Civil War era also saw a rapid expansion of the Sunday school institution, and an increased need for rooms to accommodate those classes. In addition, rooms for parlors, chapels and other functions were growing in demand.

The difficulty for the First Congregational Church was where to build an addition. The church was located close to two adjoining streets on its north and east sides, to a city park on the south, and to the church's newly constructed parsonage on the west. The solution was to raise the building up and construct a new ground story that would fulfill the space needs beneath the existing building. This method of expansion was not uncommon for Protestant churches of the time. New churches were being constructed with the Sunday school rooms in a ground story and an auditorium above, but existing churches were also being raised, like the First Congregational Church, and new ground stories added beneath to fill the need for additional space for purposes for which the main sanctuary was not appropriate.

To build below the First Congregational Church, the building had to be raised off its foundation and the six foot tall basement made higher. The job of raising the building was performed by Hollingsworth & Coughlan of Chicago. James Hollingsworth originally partnered with James Brown, and their Chicago company entered into the business of raising and moving buildings starting in 1858. Hollingsworth and Brown were pioneers in the business of raising stone, brick and iron buildings. Most of their early work was confined to the Chicago area where they raised buildings along streets whose grades were being raised to improve the health conditions of the city. Chicago was a marshy area with frequent outbreaks of Typhoid fever and Dysentery. The raising of buildings and in some cases entire streets of buildings allowed for the marshes to be filled in and proper sewage systems to be installed. By the time Hollingsworth & Coughlan came to Jackson in 1871 they had developed a reputation of being the premier company in the Midwest to safely raise a building without damage to the structure. Their field of activity extended from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean and as far south as New Orleans.

The work of raising the First Congregational Church was begun on July 5, 1871. Eight days later the local newspaper reported, "The foundations have been pretty well knocked out from under the Congregational Church, and it will be ready to be raised soon" (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, July 13, 1871). About one week later the paper wrote, "The Congregational Church will be

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raised tomorrow morning...The timbers have all been placed in position, and the building rests upon the screws. If they can be obtained, forty men will be employed in raising the building” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, July 21, 1871). The process of raising the building was explained the following day: “The preliminaries having been all arranged, the work of raising the Congregational Church commenced this morning with quite a large force. Every precaution has been taken to prevent damage to the walls, and as far as we are able to judge, none will occur. The *modus operandi* in working the jacks after they are in position under the timbers which supports the walls is very simple. Each of the men engaged attends to a certain number of screws, and at the signal from a policeman’s whistle, gives each a certain number of turns, and then waits for another signal, when the operation is repeated; and so on till the screw is run out, when new blocking and jacks are placed in position, and the operation is resumed. There are six hundred jacks under the building at one time. Today it has been raised about a foot and a half; but it will take all of next week to complete the job, as a great deal of time is consumed in changing the screws” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, July 22, 1871). The raising of the church by the required eight feet was completed on July 28, 1871.

With the building now raised the next step was the masonry work. The *Jackson Daily Citizen* gave several reports each week on the progress of the construction, and filed this report on July 29: “The church having been raised the required distance, the mason work was commenced this morning by Mr. Hugh Richards, the contractor. It will be carried forward as rapidly as possible” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, July 29, 1871).

A series of three articles were published in a nine-day span in mid-August detailing the progress of the brickwork: “The brick work upon the Congregational Church is nearly far enough advanced for the removal of the screws employed in raising it. The ground is to be graded up in front for the new entrance, and stone steps laid a portion of the way up” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, August 15, 1871). “This morning the removal of the screws and beams upon which the Congregational Church rested was commenced. They will be removed a few at a time as fast as possible until the job is completed” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, August 18, 1871). “The last beam will be removed from under the Congregational Church tomorrow, and it is expected that the building will be ready for resumption of services by the time Mr. Hough’s return, which is to be on or before the 3rd of next month. The preliminary work upon the basement has already been commenced. The new part will be cut up as follows: Off the front end will be a furnace room fourteen by forty feet, then back of that will come the chapel, forty feet square, still further in the rear is the church parlor, twenty-eight by forty feet, and in the rear of the whole is a room which will ultimately be used for an engine in case of the adoption of steam for warming purposes. Off the west side will be taken three rooms each twenty by twenty eight feet. They will be used for bible classes and prayer meeting rooms, etc.” (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, August 23, 1871).

The *Jackson Daily Citizen* gave the following recap of the construction:

The last beam has been taken from under the Congregational Church and the last brick has been laid. The workmen are today engaged in shoveling the dirt out of the basement, and in laying the stone platform in front, up to which the ground is to be graded.

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Now that the most difficult part of the work has been completed it is befitting that we speak of it, and tell how it is done. The raising of the building done by Messrs. Hollingsworth & Co. of Chicago has been chronicled as it progressed and commented on. The mason work executed by Mr. Hugh Richards of this city, architect and builder, has been only casually alluded to. No one unacquainted with mason work can fully appreciate the difficulties in working around the timbers and beams in such a job as this, but not withstanding all these Mr. Richards has done an excellent piece of workmanship – the best according to Mr. Hollingsworth that the firm who raised the church ever has done for them. This considering the source is no insignificant praise.

Mr. Richards, who has only been in Jackson about two years has erected some of the finest blocks in the city. He has built the Hurd House Block, Withington's Block, Reynold's Block at the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets, the Central Block, and the Jackson City Water Works. He was also the builder of the new hotel recently erected at Eaton Rapids. Mr. Richards is now engaged upon the new store in process of erection for Alfonso Bennett Esq. near the Methodist Church..." (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, August 30, 1871).

Hugh H. Richard (he dropped the s in Richards by about 1880) came to Jackson from Tecumseh around 1869 (if the above account is reliable) from Tecumseh and was listed in the 1872 Jackson directory. He continued as a contractor, "taking contracts for the erection of numerous blocks, schools and state institutions in various portions of Michigan," and "acquired a competence" before his death in 1893 at the age of 69 ("Death of a Prominent Citizen," *The Jackson Daily Citizen*, August 3, 1893). Richard's "competence" permitted him in 1888 to build the fine brick Queen Anne house that still stands at 505 Wildwood Avenue. The house, already listed in the National Register, has been beautifully restored; its owner, Dr. John Hand, received a Governor's Award for Historic Preservation for his good work in 2014.

By the end of September with the church basement not yet finished the newspaper reported: "The Congregational Society has not decided yet whether to borrow money and finish off the basement of the church this fall or allow it to remain until next spring. A meeting of the trustees will decide the matter next week" (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, September 27, 1871). The trustees at that meeting voted to go ahead and finish the building immediately instead of waiting until the spring (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, October 7, 1871).

The entryway was the next addition to the First Congregational Church building. The current ground-level main entry was constructed in 1895 (*Jackson Daily Citizen*, June 19, and September 9, 1895). Prior to this change the church's main entrance was still the original one, but since the 1871 renovations located a story above ground level at the head of a long exterior flight of steps – a decided drawback during inclement weather. The new ground-level entrance allowed for the stairs up to the sanctuary to be indoors. The vestibule with the dark oak stairway was added, along with the two lowest stained glass windows on the façade. The two side entrances at the south end of the sanctuary were fixed closed in favor of the center entrance. New stained glass windows were installed in the second story of the entryway.

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The interior of the church building has gone through a number of modifications to its decorations and furnishings but without fundamentally changing the sanctuary space. These updates took place about every twenty years. The years in which these changes took place and the modifications are described as follows:

1880 From Deland, page 210

The sanctuary is re-frescoed, new carpeting, chandeliers, and pulpit furniture added at a cost of about \$2,000.00.

1899 *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, October 14 and 16, 1899

The sanctuary and Sunday school rooms are redecorated, new carpeting and electric lighting installed, and steam pipes overhauled, at a cost of \$2,400.00.

1923 From *Jackson Daily Citizen*, October 7, 1923

The auditorium of the church has been entirely re-decorated and furnished with all new lighting fixtures during the summer. The pews, pulpit, furniture, wainscoting and all the woodwork have been stained in walnut. The floor covering has been replaced and the pew cushions have been entirely re-covered.

The walls have been given a two-tone finish with a red and green stencil above the wainscoting. The rosettes in the ceiling and the moulding have been finished in gold and green bringing out the full beauty of the architecture. The ceiling itself, the arches over the windows, the arch over the organ recess and the gallery arches have all been finished in ivory.

Indirect Lighting System

The new lighting fixtures are of hammered Swedish iron with an Etruscan finish mixed with touches of polychrome. The glassware in them is all ivory-etched, made in a mold designed particularly for the First Congregational Church. The fixtures are also designed unique to the local church. There are no exposed light sources, thus preventing any glare but allowing an adequate illumination for the entire auditorium. Light will be provided by 106 lamps.

The platform has been extended into the auditorium four feet to give sufficient room for a large chorus choir. A new grand piano has been installed to supplement the organ in chorus work.

The church is Gothic in architecture and the subdued effect obtained in the re-decorated interior gives an atmosphere of rest and peace, probably unexcelled in any Jackson church. An air of an old European cathedral pervades the auditorium since its renovation, offering the best possible background for Divine worship.

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All the materials for the work were furnished through Jackson firms and practically all Jackson labor used.

1945 From *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, November 3, 1945

First Congregational Church members and friends will meet Sunday morning in the main auditorium or sanctuary which has been closed four weeks while being repainted and redecorated. The church has just completed improvements that cost upward of \$6000.00.

The ceiling of the auditorium has been painted a deep blue and the walls an antique pink and mellow colors have been employed throughout, in keeping with the age and dignity of the building erected in 1859 and enlarged in 1871.

Other portions of the building have been repainted and redecorated, and the improvements included new furnace equipment with stoker and automatic controls. Some work was also done on the outside of the edifice and at the parsonage.

1954 From *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, 1954

After fifteen years of being unused because of safety issues, the bell and the belfry are repaired.

Stained Glass Windows

The sanctuary's large side facade stained glass windows are without a doubt original to the building. They fit the description of the windows from the 1859 newspaper article describing the soon to be built church: "There are to be six windows on each side, 4 by 18 feet, arched tops, to be set with stained diamond glass in colored borders" (*American Citizen*, September 1, 1859). The windows, featuring floral motifs and small glass medallions each containing a Christian religious symbol rather than depicting representations of saints and scenes from the Bible, were similar in character to the stained glass windows installed in other non-liturgical Protestant American churches from the 1850s til the late nineteenth century. Their age makes them some of the oldest stained glass windows in the State of Michigan. Who designed and made these windows is not currently known.

Organs

The church has had two organs during its history. The first was acquired in 1866 from the Hook Brothers of Boston at a price of \$3,500.00. When the church was first completed in 1860 until 1866 the music was always performed from the gallery at the rear of the church. When the Hook organ was purchased the plan was to place it behind the pulpit instead of up in the gallery. To accomplish this the large lecture room located behind the pulpit was converted to an organ loft, with additional space from the room used for the pastor's study (Deland, page 209).

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The Hook organ served the church until 1926 when it was replaced by the current Casavant organ. The Hook organ was sold to the Congregation Church in Hart, Michigan. The Casavant organ was purchased from the firm of Casavant Freres, of Saint-Hyacinthe, Province of Quebec, Canada. The J. A. Herbert & Son Company in Detroit installed the organ (Davey).

Bell

The bell which is located currently in the east tower was acquired in 1846 for the Congregational Church when it constructed its first brick building. It was made by the Andrew Meneely Foundry in West Troy, New York, in 1846. When the current church building was constructed the bell from the 1840s building was removed to this building. From historic photographs the bell has been located in a number of places through its history. For a time between 1871 and 1895 the bell was located on the southeast corner of the east tower. Between 1895 and 1900 the bell was located on the southwest corner of the west tower. Since about the turn of the twentieth century the bell has been located within the east tower.

Christian Education Building

The mid-twentieth century saw the need for once again expanding the church building. This time a shortage of space for the new addition was not a problem. The parsonage on the west side of the church was removed sometime between 1945 and 1950, and replaced with a parking lot. The new Christian Education Building or wing provided classrooms, offices for the pastor, assistant pastor and secretary, along with a conference room, restrooms and storage areas. To save space and money, the classrooms were built with doorways connecting one to another instead of using a hallway. The addition was built with a proposed budget of \$140,000.00 (*Jackson Citizen Patriot*, June 25, 1960).

The Christian Education Building with its distinctive "Alpha-and-Omega" ceramic tile mural is itself an attractive building of mid-century modern design. In its design the building complements the historic church building it adjoins, sharing a similar color of brick while maintaining a low profile, with flat roof, and a physical separation from the historic church that maintains the visual dominance of the church building without copying its lines. The addition has its own distinctive character but neither visually overwhelms nor provides a discordant contrast to the historic church. Although built well before the adoption of the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation that provide guidance on the appropriate character of additions to historic buildings, the Christian Education Building in its design embodies the Standards' precepts.

The addition was designed by local architect and church member Claude Dewitt Sampson. Claude Sampson graduated with his undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of Michigan in 1930. The following year he studied at the L'Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris, France, where he specialized in ecclesiastic architecture in the Atelier Gromort. Mr. Sampson then earned his graduate degree in architecture from the University of Michigan in 1933. After working for a number of firms Claude Sampson opened his own firm in Jackson in 1948. Buildings designed by Claude Sampson, listed in his entry in the 1956 and 1962 editions of the

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American Architects Directory, include: W. S. Butterfield Residence, Jackson (1952), Woodworth Elementary School, Leslie, MI (1953), Mrs. B. F. Green Residence, Hillsdale, MI (1953), Jackson County Library (1954) and First Baptist Church sanctuary remodeling (1954), both in Jackson, and the Hanover-Horton School, Horton, MI (1954). At the end of his career Sampson designed the Woodland Cemetery Chapel, Jackson (1975).

The First Congregational Church was designated as a Historic Site in 1977 by the Jackson Historic District Commission, and was listed in the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1987.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.248140 Longitude: -84.409277

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

First Congregational Church

Jackson, Michigan
County and State

Name of Property

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots number One and Two in Block number One south of Range number One of the Original Plat of the Village of Jacksonburg.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Entire property historically and currently owned by the First Congregational Church, the same property purchased in 1859.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kenneth Lingaur
organization: Lingaur Preservation L.L.C.
street & number: 313 East 7th Street
city or town: Clare state: Michigan zip code: 48617
e-mail klingaur@gmail.com
telephone: 989-418-2101
date: September 2, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Jackson, Michigan
County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Congregational Church

City or Vicinity: Jackson

County: Jackson

State: Michigan

Photographer: Kenneth Lingaur unless otherwise noted.

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0001) June 10, 2015.
Church façade (south elevation) looking northeast.
- 2 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0002) June 10, 2015.
Lower façade looking north.
- 3 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0003) August 4, 2016.

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Jackson, Michigan
County and State

Connection between addition and original church, south elevation looking northwest.

- 4 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0004) June 10, 2015.
South elevation of addition looking northeast.
- 5 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0005) June 10, 2015.
West elevation looking east.
- 6 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0006) June 10, 2015.
Northwest corner of church looking southeast.
- 7 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0007) June 10, 2015.
East elevation of church looking southwest.
Photograph provided by John Guidinger.
- 8 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0008) June 10, 2015.
Southeast corner of church looing northwest.
- 9 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_009) August 4, 2016.
Interior of courtyard looking north.
- 10 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0010) August 4, 2016.
Interior of courtyard looking south.
- 11 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0011) June 10, 2015.
West elevation of church looking east within courtyard. Upper brickwork is the original church, lower brickwork is the 1871 addition, center rectangular areas show the location of beams that supported upper structure when building was raised in 1871.
- 12 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0012) January 19, 2016.
Sanctuary looking north from gallery.
- 13 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0013) January 19, 2016.
Chancel looking north.
- 14 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0014) January 19, 2016.
Sanctuary looking south showing upper gallery.
- 15 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0015) January 19, 2016
Typical stained glass window with round flower petal border within the sanctuary.
- 16 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0016) June 10, 2015.
Close up of sanctuary stained glass with squared flower petal border.

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Jackson, Michigan
County and State

- 17 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0017) January 19, 2016.
Stained glass window above front entrance looking south within the foyer. This stained glass was added when the entrance was altered in 1895.
- 18 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0019) December 17, 2015.
Stairway from entrance to sanctuary.
- 19 of 19. (MI_Jackson_First Congregational Church_0019) January 19, 2016.
Basement of church.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



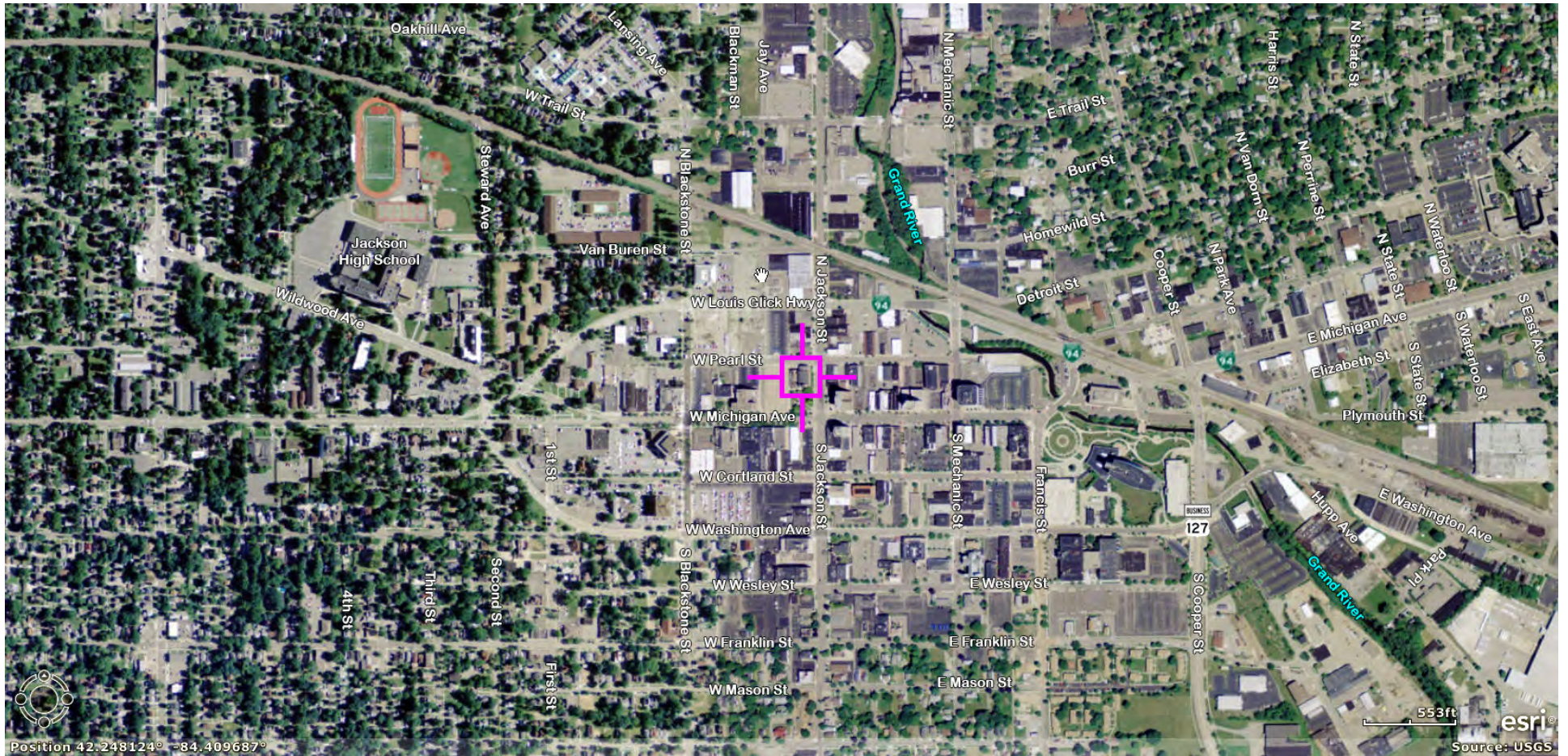
First Congregational Church

120 North Jackson Street, Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan

Lat. / Long.: 42.248140 / -84.409277

one inch = 50 feet





First Congregational Church

120 North Jackson Street, Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan

Lat. / Long.: 42.248140 / -84.409277

one inch = 553 feet















SURE WISH MORN HAD
SWATTED THOSE
TWO MOSQUITOES



S. JEFFERSON

















GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST







Hearing Difficulty?
Please ask an usher for a
Personal P. A. Receiver





BOOK STORE

CHURCH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/26/2017 Date of Pending List: 6/28/2017 Date of 16th Day: 7/13/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/10/2017 Date of Weekly List: 7/13/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/10/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

KEVIN ELSENHEIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

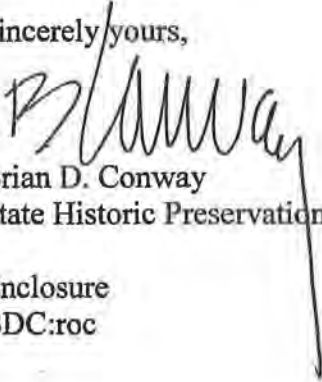
October 28, 2016

Mr. Adam East
Planning & Zoning Enforcement Officer
City of Jackson
161 E. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear Mr. East:

Attached is a National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the First Congregational Church. In accordance with our Certification Agreement with the city, we request the city's review of this nomination at the earliest available meeting of the city's Historic District Commission. To provide a record of the city's review of the nomination, please complete and return to us the enclosed "Certified Local Government National Register Nomination Report" form.

Sincerely/yours,


Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure
BDC:roc



Certified Local Government
National Register Nomination Review Report

Michigan State Housing Development Authority
State Historic Preservation Office

Name of Property: First Congregational Church
Address: 120 North Jackson Street, Jackson
Owner: The Rev. Kerry Taylor-Snyder, Pastor, and the Board of Trustees (Tim Kohlitz, Chair),
First Congregational Church, 120 N. Jackson St., Jackson 49201-1290
Date completed nomination approved by the SHPO: October 27, 2016

The CLG agrees with the SHPO to expedite the review period for this nomination.

YES _____ (date of agreement) _____ NO _____

Signature of CLG Commission Chairperson _____ Date _____

Signature of Elected Chief Official _____ Date _____

Date(s) of commission meeting(s) when nomination was reviewed:

Date of written notice to property owner of commission meeting:

The CLG provided the following opportunities for public participation in the review of this nomination:

Were any written comments received by the CLG? YES _____ NO _____
(Please submit copies with this report.)

Was the nomination form distributed to CLG Commission members? YES _____ NO _____

Was a site visit made to the property by CLG Commission members? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, when? _____

Did the CLG seek assistance of the SHPO in evaluating the eligibility of this property for the National Register? YES _____ NO _____

VERIFICATION of Professional Qualifications of Commission in accordance with 36 CFR 61, Appendix 1, of Michigan's Certified Local Government Program.

List those commission members who meet the 36 CFR 61 qualifications required to review this type of resource.

Commission Member	Professional Qualifications
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____

Was an outside consultant used? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, provide the name and list the 36 CFR 61 qualifications the person meets:

The CLG Commission finds that the property meets the following national register criteria of significance:

The CLG Commission finds that the property meets the national register standards of integrity.
YES _____ NO _____

Recommendation of CLG Commission:
APPROVAL _____
DENIAL _____ (specify reasons on a separate sheet of paper)

Signature of Chief Elected Official _____ Date _____

Date of transmittal of this report to SHPO _____

Date of receipt of this report by SHPO _____



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

BRIAN MILLS
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 13, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **First Congregational Church, Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan**, to the National Register of Historic Places. We enclose a copy of our notification and request for comments regarding this nomination to the city of Jackson, a Certified Local Government. At the time of this submission our office has not received a response. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to our forwarding this nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, National Register coordinator, at (517) 335-2719 or christensenr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Martha MacFarlane-Faes
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

