

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 5 1976

DATE ENTERED

→ APR 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

South Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

45 Maple Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Hamden

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

South Congregational Church

STREET & NUMBER

45 Maple Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hamden County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield,

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Congregational Church is situated high atop the First Eastern Connecticut River Terrace at the curve in Maple Street on the corner of High Street. Its prominent site enables the church to be visible for a considerable distance southward.

The South Congregational Church was designed by William Potter and dedicated on February 24, 1875. The building measures 136 feet by 77 feet, and constructed of Longmeadow sandstone on a foundation of Monson granite. The elaborate trimmings include ornamental columns of polished Aberdeen granite, window tracery of terra cotta, and beltings of yellow Ohio sandstone.

The apse fronts on Maple Street and has a high conically-shaped roof which is cut off by the transept's ridge roof. The original structure terminated in a chapel with small gables. At the southwest corner of the church at the intersection of High and Maple Streets is the 120-foot tower which serves as the principal entrance to the church. Another entrance, at the northwest corner, was originally a small, hip-roofed replica of the tower entrance. This section was subsequently enlarged, given a crenellated, flat roof, and provided with two doorways. The tower is also relieved and richly ornamented by numerous windows, openings and arches with granite pillars, carved capitals of yellow stone, and boldly carved yellow belting. The tower contains a belfry, below which is a gable on both the east and west facades.

There are nine arched windows in the apse, 15 feet in height, and five in the chapel's High Street gable. The rose windows located in the transept's gable are each 26 feet in diameter and bordered by two rings of alternating dark and light voussoirs. Originally the polychromatic slate roofs of the nave, transept, chapel and tower were finished with iron cresting.

In the late 1940's a large parish house was added to the eastern end of the church. Primarily constructed of brick, it is faced with Longmeadow sandstone which had been quarried at the same time as that used in the church. The stone was acquired when the First Baptist Church at the corner of State and Spring Streets was demolished. Within the past year a small brick plaza has been constructed in front of the church on Maple Street.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1875 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Potter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Congregational Church is significant as an outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic architecture in Springfield and for its associations with a number of prominent citizens in the city.

The church was designed by William Potter and built by Norcross and Brothers of Worcester. William Potter had recently completed his training in his brother Edward's New York architectural office. Edward was a specialist in ecclesiastical design and worked with the Ruskinian mode of the Gothic Revival. William's first commission, the Chancellor Green Library at Princeton in 1872, reflects the direct influence of his brother's work. Another of William Potter's early works, the South Congregational Church, was built the year Potter became U.S. Supervising Architect. In this capacity he designed several large post office buildings and customs houses, and during the next twenty years he designed many churches in New York City and several other buildings at Princeton College.

South Congregational Church has been described by Henry Russell Hitchcock as "one of the finest examples of the High Victorian Gothic in America." The Springfield City Directory of 1873-1874 stated that the church was "indeed a rather bold departure from ordinary models, being much like an amphitheater and entirely unlike any other church building in Springfield." The lateral walls of the interior are unbroken by any projection so that pews in the transept as well as in any other part of the church may have an unobstructed view of the pulpit. The building is further distinguished by its carved capitals which represent elements in nature, such as at the tower entrance where Spring is represented by the tulip, Autumn by wheat, Summer by the sweetbriar, and Winter by the holly. This drawing from nature rather than from more conventional forms illustrates the influence of the pre-Raphaelite theory upon late nineteenth century architecture.

The South Congregational Church was aided in its building drive by four prominent Springfield citizens. George and Charles Merriam, the brothers who published Webster's Dictionary, contributed \$15,000, while Daniel Wesson, head of Smith and Wesson, the nationally known munitions works, gave \$10,000. Another important contributor was Daniel Harris, purchaser of the Howe bridge truss patent and president of the firm which constructed railroad bridges throughout the northeastern and midwestern states.

Samuel G. Buckingham was offered the pastorate of the South Congregational Church when the society formed in 1842. Desiring to remain at his Milbury, Connecticut post, he declined and his brother-in-law Noah Porter was appointed. In 1847 Reverend Porter became a professor at Yale and Dr. Buckingham accepted the pastorate which was then at a small, recently-built church on Bliss Street. Dr. Buckingham spearheaded the

continued

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fortieth Anniversary of South Congregational Church, Springfield. 1883.
Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Springfield Architecture, 1800-1900. 1934.
Springfield City Directory, 1873-74 and 1874-75.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

4663

A 18 699820 4662740
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Edmund Lonergan, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 24, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

3/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/30/96

ATTEST:

Charles A. Smith

DATE

4.30.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 5 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

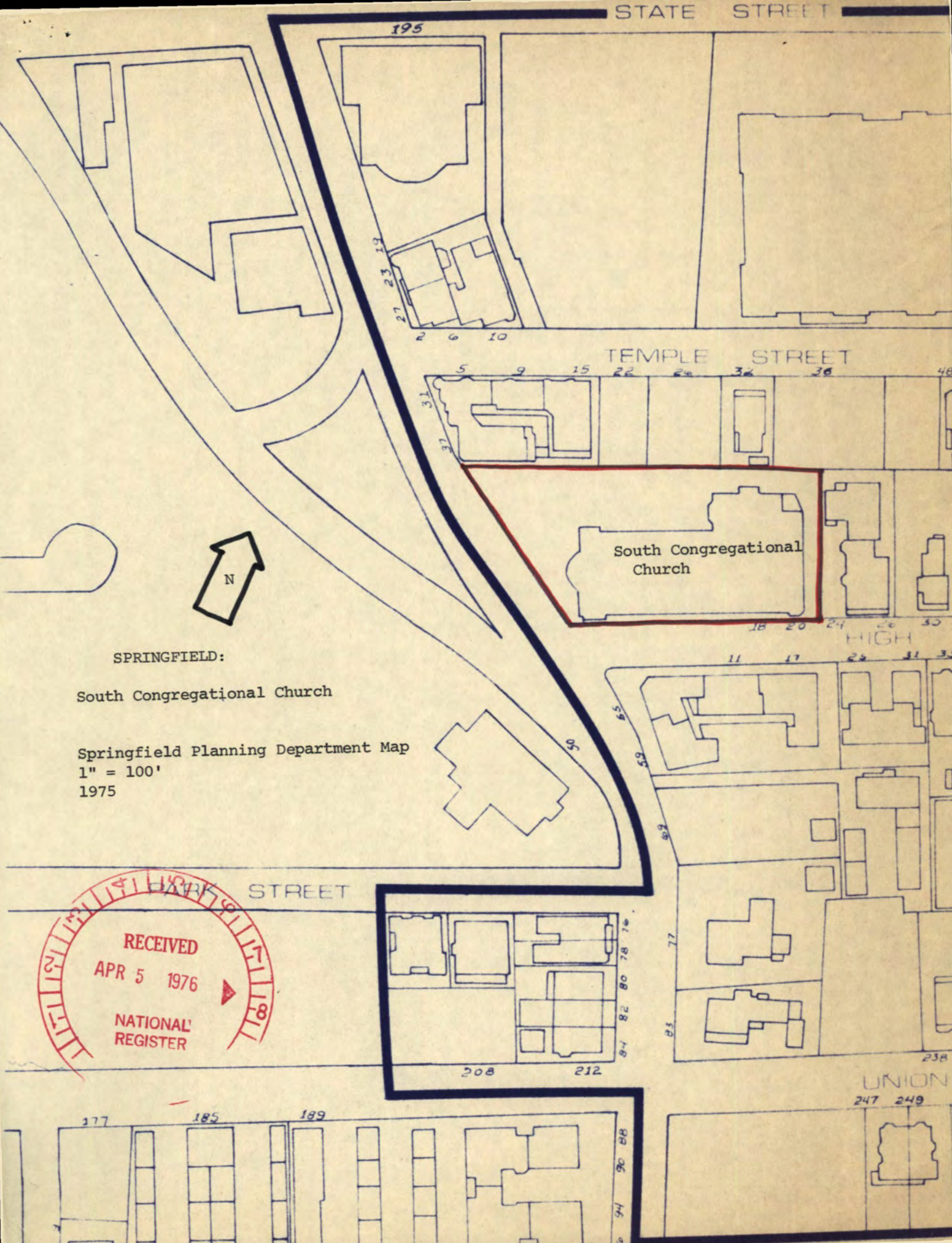
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

#8:

drive which resulted in the present edifice on Maple and High Streets. During his forty-seven years of service at the South Congregational Church, Buckingham became widely known for his many ecclesiastical publications and had a Springfield junior high school named for him in 1890 in tribute to his long-standing concern for quality education in local schools.

Philip Moxom succeeded Dr. Buckingham as pastor in 1894. He was also a prolific writer on church matters and served as University Preacher at Harvard between 1894 and 1897. Reverend Moxom was a nationally known advocate of peace movements and he served as a delegate to several international peace congresses. A well-rounded community leader, Moxom was president of the Appalachian Mountain Club for two years and published a book on Robert Browning's poetry.

James Gordon Gilkey was named as Reverend Moxom's successor in 1917, a position he held for thirty-eight years. Continuing the tradition of the other leaders of South Church, Gilkey taught at Amherst and Springfield Colleges and published eighteen books on religious life and daily living. Reverend Gilkey's other interest was music, and he served as president of the Springfield Symphony for ten years.



SPRINGFIELD:

South Congregational Church

Springfield Planning Department Map
1" = 100'
1975



STREET

208

212

UNION

247 249

Property South Congregational Church

State Massachusetts Working Number 4.5.76.2946

76000245

Hampden

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 2

Nothing incorrect

CONTROL

em

4.6.76

Fine!

HISTORIAN

Accept

Rittenbaum

4/19/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

Sebanich

4.13.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

4.20.76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hung

4.30.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered **APR 30 1976**

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



South Congregational Church
Springfield, MA
Kathleen Morehead, photographer
January 1976
Morehead Photography, 37 Old Acre Road,
Springfield, MA *Hampden Co.*

West facade.

APR 5 1976

Photograph #1 *of 2*

NPS # 4/30/76

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



South Congregational Church
Springfield, MA
Kathleen Morehead, photographer
January 1976
Morehead Photography, 37 Old Acre Road,
Springfield, MA *Hampden Co.*

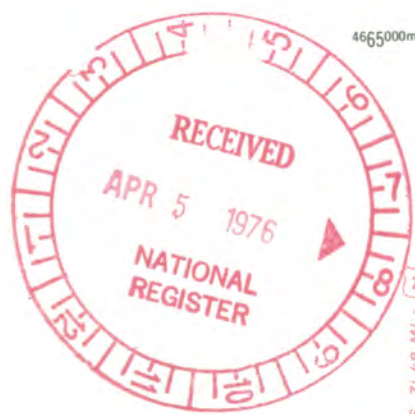
South facade, showing addition of 1940's.

Photograph #2 of 2

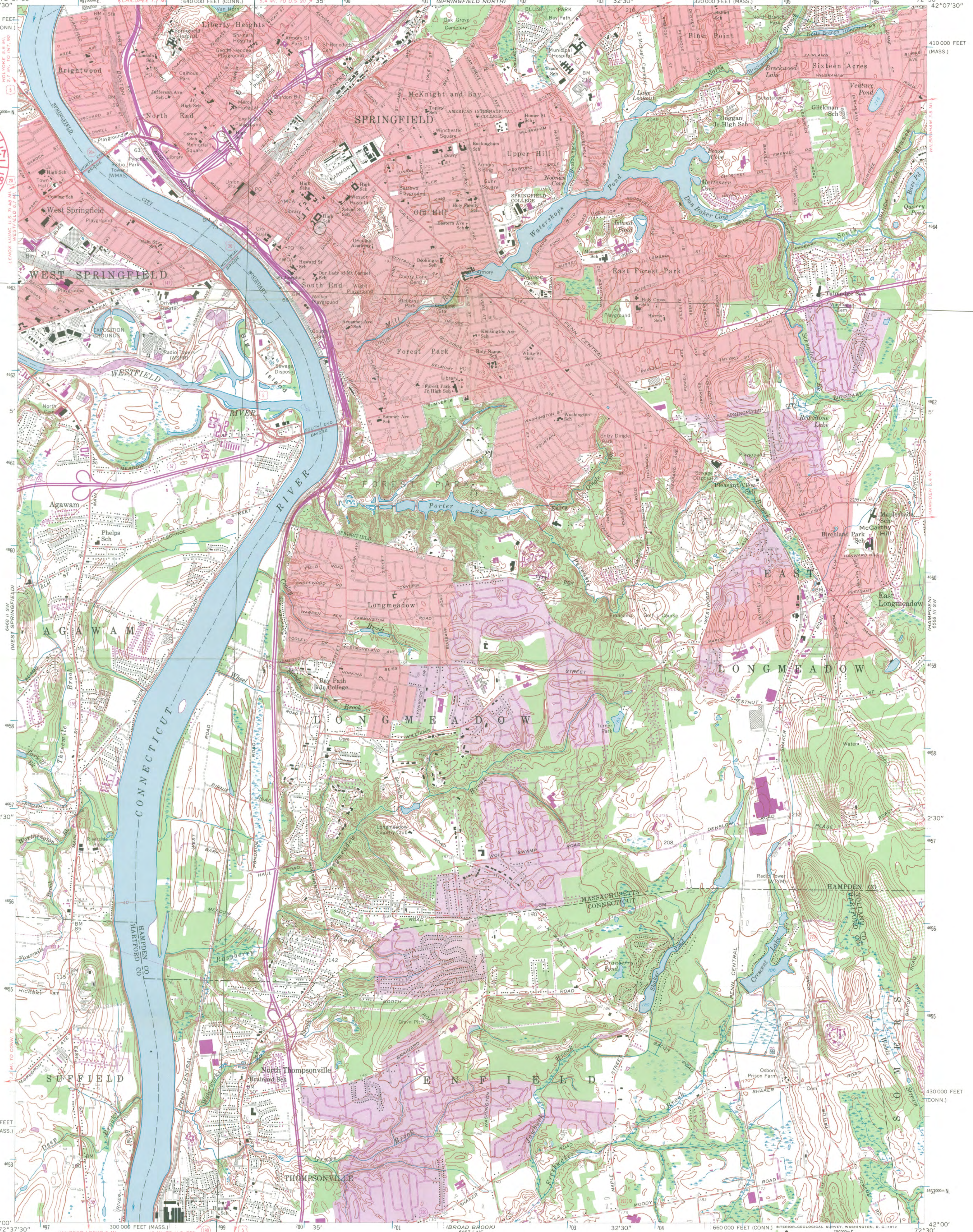
APR 5 1976

NBS # 4/30/76

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



SPRINGFIELD:
South Congregational
Church
UTM:
18/699820/4662740



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958

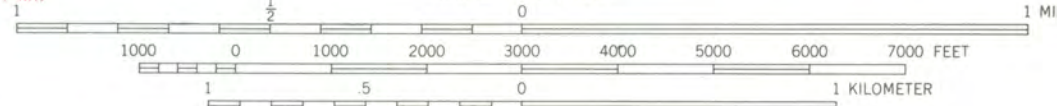
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.
N4200 - W7230/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814



PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

March 30, 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington
Registration
National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find three nominations for the following properties:

1. Newton, Woodland Railroad Station, Newton Highlands Railroad Station, Newton Centre Railroad Station and Baggage and Express Building
2. Shirley, Shirley Shaker Village
3. Springfield, South Congregational Church

These properties have been voted eligible by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Pat

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mw
Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **APR 30 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Stone Building	Lexington Middlesex County
Superior Courthouse and Bartlett Mall	Newburyport Essex County
The Follen Community Church	Lexington Middlesex County
Sands, Hiram, House	Cambridge Middlesex County
Lexington Green Historic District	Lexington Middlesex County
South Congregational Church	Springfield Hampden County
Paine, Timothy House	Worcester Worcester County
Bartlett-Russell-Hedge House	Plymouth Plymouth County

5/4/76

PR:M Mott:coc

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Edward P. Boland
Hon. Joseph D. Early
Hon. Gerry E. Studds

Also Notified

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PUBLICATION DATA SHEET

State:

IA

MASSACHUSETTS

County/indep. city

I06

hampden county

City/vicinity

I07

Springfield

PRIMARY TITLE

I08

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(Secondary Title)

Address/location

I09

45 Maple St.

Statement of significance including construction date, alteration date, present use, and style.

I10

1875 High Victorian Gothic church built by William potter; parish house added, 1940's; still in use.

Statement of significance including important peoples names; include key words for search of events and areas of significance.

I11

Considered one of the country's finest examples of this architectural style.

Other surveys, include number of habs or haer drawings

#C

Ownership/agency

#I

Private.

Date of entry

I12

(4-30-76)

Areas of Significance (circle those which apply to property)

I13

1. historic archeology 2. prehistoric archeology
 3. agriculture 4. architecture 5. art 6. commerce
 7. communication 8. conservation 9. economics
 10. education 11. engineering 12. exploration 13. industry
 14. invention 15. landscape architecture 16. law
 17. literature 18. military 19. music 20. philosophy
 21. politics/government 22. religion 23. science
 24. social/humanitarian 25. transportation 26. entertainment
 27. health 28. recreation 29. settlement 30. social/cultural
 31. urban and community planning

Indexing Items

☒ CEPotter, William ☒ CF☒ CE~~Buckingham, Samuel G.~~ ☒ CF☒ CE~~Woxom, Philip~~ ☒ CF☒ CESouth Congregational Church, MA: ☒ CF

CE

CE

CE

CE

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

5M
Mk

① NAME as it appears on federal register: South Congregational Church

② OTHER NAMES:

③ date of entry: (4-30-76)

④ county code: 013

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 45 Maple St. city / town: Springfield vicinity of: state: MA county: Hampden

⑥ NPS REGION: North Atlantic

⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)

⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ NARS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL

⑩ FUNDED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 2nd

⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

⑮ ACREAGE: 1

⑯ ACCESS ☒ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown

⑰ ADAPTIVE USE ☒ YES ☐ NO

⑱ SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO

⑲ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

⑳ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28

☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29

☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31

☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25

⑳ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

㉑ functions

WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CHURCH

CURRENTLY: CHURCH

㉒ dates of initial construction: 1875

major alterations: 1940's - Parish house

historic events:

㉓ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉔ architectural style(s): HIGH VICTORIAN GOTHIC

㉕ architect: William Potter ②

㉖ master builder:

㉗ engineer:

㉘ landscape architect / garden designer:

㉙ interior decorator:

㉚ artist:

㉛ artisan:

㉜ builder / contractor: ③ Norcross and Brothers

㉝ NAMES give role & date

PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

㉞ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP CUT SANDSTONE, GRANITE FOUNDATION; 1 STORY, L-SHAPED, CROSS-GABLED ROOF SECTIONS, EXTERIOR CHIMNEY, OFF-CENTER DOUBLE-DOOR ENTRANCE IN COMPOUND POINTED-ARCHED RECESS WITH COLONNETTES AND BICHROMATIC VOUSSOIRS; IN BASE OF 120' TOWER WITH FOLIATED ROUNDELS, OPEN WORK BELFRY, ARCADE AND STEEP HIPPED ROOF; MASSIVE APSIDAL FRONT WITH TWIN DOUBLE-DOOR SIDE VESTIBULE, PROMINENT GABLE END ROSE WINDOWS, SHARPELLED SIDE PROJECTIONS, BUTTRESSES, LANCERS, WINDOW QUOINS; PARISH HOUSE ADDED, 1940's. EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HIGH VICTORIAN GOTHIC DESIGNED BY PROMINENT ARCHITECT, WILLIAM POTTER, JUST PRIOR TO BECOMING U.S. SUPERVISING ARCHITECT.