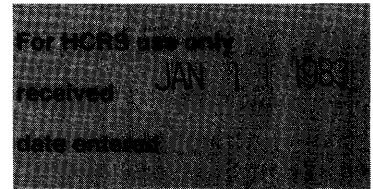


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

1. Name

historic Central Presbyterian Church

and/or common Central Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number 500 Cedar Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Central Presbyterian Church

street & number 500 Cedar Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota, 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/80 - 11/82 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th Street

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota, 55102

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

Central Presbyterian Church is located on Cedar Street near Exchange Street, just north of the commercial center of downtown St. Paul. It is situated opposite Central Manor (built in 1908 as St. Agatha's Convent and Conservatory of Music), near the St. Paul Arts and Science Center. The church lies immediately south of the St. Louis Parish House and adjoining Church of St. Louis, both built in 1909 and the latter designed by prominent French-born architect Emmanuel Masqueray. The six story Hanover Building, erected in 1962, obscures the south facade of the church.

Central Presbyterian Church is an imposing, three bay, asymmetrical structure designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and built at an estimated cost of \$85,000. The facade and west 1/3 of sidewalls are constructed of rockfaced coursed ashlar superior brownstone laid in rows of alternating thickness, while most of the side walls and the rear of the 120 feet wide by 160 feet long by 80 feet tall building are built of red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond with stone sills and watertable. The principal facade of the church (facing Cedar Street) is dominated by an 80 foot tall square tower located at the southwest corner of the building pierced by narrow, vertically aligned rounded arched and rectangular windows on the first two stories. Located above these windows is a belfry formed by pairs of narrow rounded arches supported by clustered colonettes with leafy capitals, recessed within larger rounded arches. The corners of the corner tower at this level are defined by four rounded stone finials which project above the base of the spire. The tower is topped by a 70 foot tall octagonal spire with four gabled dormer-like projections at its base. The tower terminates in a metal crocket and a large ball finial pierced by skewers supporting a flat metal ring.

At the northwest corner of the church stands a round 3½ story tower with a conical roof. This tower is lighted by narrow vertically aligned rounded arched and rectangular windows above which is located a wide band of foliated carving. Situated between the two towers is a wide gable end with elaborate relief carving, dentil-like molding, and a crocket at its peak. Three narrow rounded arched windows and a wide half-rose stained glass window set within a large rounded arch are located at the middle of the gable end. The main entrance of the church, located immediately beneath the half-rose window, consists of two stone gables into which two rounded arch doorways are deeply set. Two oak double doors with elaborate golden hinges topped by rounded arched stained glass tympanums featuring rondell motifs are set within the rounded arches. The entrance is further ornamented by bands of geometric detailing and foliated relief carvings.

The now-obscured south facade of the church is similar to the main facade with a wide gable end flanked by the principal southwest tower and a smaller square tower with a steeply pitched hipped roof. A large stained glass half-rose window, similar to that on the main facade, is set into the wide gable end. There is a small spire at the peak of the gabled roof. The rear of the church is dominated by a polygonal apse-like projection which now houses Sunday school rooms. Most windows in the rear of the church are rectangular in shape and have recently been filled with brick.

The sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church, reached via a shallow foyer, features rows of pews and balcony seating arranged amphitheater-style, curving outward from the altar which is located in the northeast corner of the large room. Clusters of wooden ribs springing from engaged columns support a slightly domed ceiling dominated by a round opening, the walls of which curve up to a small stained glass skylight. The eastern wall of the sanctuary was comprised originally of sliding panels which revealed Sunday school space also used for auxiliary seating, however, in 1960 a solid wall was constructed and the auxiliary space converted into a smaller chapel, lounge, and Sunday school rooms. (see continuation sheet)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1888-1890 **Builder/Architect** Warren H. Hayes, Architect
Taylor and Craig, Contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Central Presbyterian Church, built from 1888-1890, is historically and architecturally significant as one of St. Paul's earliest Presbyterian congregations established in 1852, as one of the city's finest Richardsonian Romanesque churches and one of only two designed on such a large scale, and as one of the few known St. Paul designs of prominent Minneapolis architect Warren H. Hayes, a specialist in church design who is credited with developing the "diagonal" form of auditorium employed in the Central Presbyterian Church.*

The Central Presbyterian Church congregation was organized in 1852 by Reverend John G. Riheldaffer, a missionary sent to St. Paul one year earlier by the Board of Home Missions of the conservative Old School Branch of the Presbyterian Church. The congregation, which numbered eight at its first meeting, held services in a variety of locations including Riheldaffer's house, the first Baptist church, Ramsey County's first courthouse, and the old State Capitol on Wabasha Street before erecting its own brick Gothic Revival church in 1854 on land donated by real estate speculators Robert and Randall. The congregation assumed the name of Philadelphia's Central Presbyterian Church which financed much of the construction of the first church. Reverend Riheldaffer, who also organized Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and East Minneapolis Presbyterian Church, left Central Presbyterian in 1864. Although the first church building was enlarged in 1873 in an attempt to accommodate the growing membership, by the mid-1880's the need for an entirely new building became apparent. In 1888 the congregation began construction of the present church on the foundation of the previous building.

Warren H. Hayes, the architect of the present Central Presbyterian Church, was born in Prattsburg, New York and attended a seminary before studying civil engineering at Cornell University. He established an architectural practice in Elmira, New York after graduation and then moved to Minneapolis in 1881 where he worked until his death in 1899. Hayes became a specialist in church architecture and pioneered the diagonal arena-like form of seating and was one of the first Minnesota architects to use the "Akron Plan" which employed the use of sliding doors to provide extra seating in an early form of modular design. Among his finest church designs in Minneapolis are the Richardsonian Romanesque First Congregational Church (1886) which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Wesley United Methodist Church (1890-91), and the Westminster Presbyterian Church (1898) which he designed with Charles Sedgwick. Hayes also designed the First Presbyterian Church of Mankato, Minnesota (1893-96) and University Hall at Hamline University in St. Paul (1883) both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Central Presbyterian is the only St. Paul church known to have been designed by Hayes.

Despite expanding commercial development in downtown St. Paul and a corresponding decline in the numbers of people living in and near the area, Central Presbyterian Church has remained vital to the community. In the 1960's the congregation purchased the adjacent St. Agatha's Conservatory and renovated two of the buildings to provide low cost housing and other social services. Two of the Conservatory buildings were razed and a senior citizen high-rise was erected. Today Central Presbyterian Church is one of five downtown churches which continue to serve the business community, a large number of elderly people, and other downtown residents.

*Henry J. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956, p. 274.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Building Permit # 20388, City of St. Paul Building Permits Division.
 Central Presbyterian Church Seventy-fifth Anniversary Proceedings. St. Paul: Central Presbyterian Church, 1927.
 Conversation with Alan Lathrop, Curator of Northwest Architectural Archives, Sept. 15, 1981.
 Reeves, Will. "Missing Landmark is Back on the St. Paul Skyline." (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1
 Quadrangle name St. Paul, East Minn. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	1 5	4 9 2 4 5 0	4 9 7 7 2 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Cedar Street vacated adjacent and following excluding Southerly triangle being 8 99/100 feet on Cedar Street and 111 25/100 feet on extended south line of Lot 9 and all of Lots 7 and 8, Block 12, Robert and Randall's Addition.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Survey Research Assistant
 organization Ramsey County Historical Society date 10/1/81
 street & number 75 W. 5th Street telephone (612)292-0090/222-0701
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota, 55102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/27/82

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Keptner of the National Register [Signature] Entered in the National Register date 2/10/83
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Ramsey County

Continuation sheet

Item number 7,9

Page 1

7. All of the wood ornamentation in the sanctuary was originally stained wood but was painted in the course of interior redecorating in 1902-05 and 1960. Although most of the stained glass in the sanctuary has been replaced, the half-rose window on the south facade is original.

The exterior of the church has also undergone some alteration. In 1949 a windstorm severely damaged the wood frame spire which was replaced in 1952 by a steel frame replica constructed under the direction of George M. Riedesel, an Ellerbe and Company architect. Regretably, the exterior of the church was sandblasted and protective colorless plastic panels fitted over the half-rose windows in 1956-57. In 1962 the Hanover Building, a white six story parking ramp and office building was erected which adjoins the church and obscures much of its southern facade. Additional alterations include the replacement of the original slate roof with asphalt shingles and the removal of narrow signs reading "Central Presbyterian Church" which curved over the half-rose windows. The sign on the main facade has been replaced by a relief carved stone panel installed between the two rounded arched doorways which comprise the main entrance. The front steps, originally brownstone, have been replaced with concrete.

9. St. Paul Pioneer Press, November 9, 1952.
St. Paul Dispatch, October 13, 1956.
The Spirit of Central: 1852-1962. St. Paul: Central Presbyterian Church, 1962.
Withey, Henry J. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956, p. 274.