

0070

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 24 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name First Church of Christ Scientist

other names/site number Renaissance Place

2. Location

street & number 1443-1451 North Prospect Avenue N/A Not for Publication

city, town Milwaukee N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53211

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

1/12/89
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

[Signature] 3/8/89

 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Other: Convention Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First Church of Christ Scientist, re-named the "Renaissance Place" in 1986, is located on the lower east side of Milwaukee at 1451 N. Prospect Avenue. Begun in 1907 and completed in 1909, it was designed by architect Solon Spencer Beman. The 96' 0" x 110'-0" x 64' -0" high building is a distinguished example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. It is constructed of load bearing masonry cavity walls of brick and limestone veneer with a braced gable roof flanked by flat roofs. It was built as a church, however it is now a convention hall.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The First Church of Christ Scientist faces Prospect Avenue and is situated on the northeast corner bounded by North Prospect Avenue to the east, Curtis Place to the north and a parking lot to the west which exits onto Farwell Avenue. The site is level and is paved except for a few bushes and trees that surround the parking lot.

To the south of the First Church of Christ Scientist at 1443 North Prospect Avenue, there sits a companion building built in 1950-52. Approximately 40' - 0" wide x 100' - 0" long x 32' - 0" high (two-story), it was constructed to provide space for Sunday school, a nursery, library and church offices. The building was designed to harmonize with the simple classical quality of the church. It now serves as the First Church of Christ congregation's church building. This companion building is physically joined to the historic First Church of Christ Scientist by a blocked-off enclosed walkway at the back. The walkway was blocked when the First Church of Christ Scientist property was converted into a convention hall in 1986. Because of this physical connection the congregation's church building will be considered a noncontributing building resource for the purposes of the nomination

X See continuation sheet

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This portion of North Prospect Avenue is lined with a number of impressive late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential structures which are largely used for commercial purposes today. Modest historic apartment buildings, modern apartments and commercial towers are intermixed. Architectural styles which exist in the neighborhoods adjacent to the site are primarily Tudor, Elizabethian, and English Renaissance, but also include representative examples of Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Italianate, Georgian Revival, Chateausque, Art Moderne and eclectic combinations. These properties reflect the recent trend of the avenue to convert the older structures to more public uses such as lawyers offices and apartments. This is due to their close proximity to the downtown one mile south, and to the Brady Street Commercial business district which is three blocks north.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR ELEMENTS

The First Church of Christ Scientist is a two-story, Neoclassical edifice with a rectangular form and a symmetrical composition. The outside walls are faced with buffed Indiana Limestone set in a running bond pattern. All exterior stone detailing is also cut limestone. The main elevation is dominated by a projecting, front-gabled pavillion featuring a recessed portico and a large tripartite grand window.

It sits on a limestone raised base with low-pitched gabled and flat roofs. The front facade exhibits symmetrically-composed elements that are modeled after Roman prototypes. Two recessed entrances with pedimented surrounds and shoulder architraves flank the recessed central colonnade. A returned cornice crowns the center gabled pediment. The end bays feature paired two-light casements topped with transoms. These windows light the stairwells and further the symmetry of the main front facade. The end bays have simpler cornices than that of the central pavillion. The secondary cornice line above the colonnade wraps about the front and sides.

Resting directly above the central colonnade and entablature is the large (16' high x 25' wide) tripartite window. It employs a segmented Roman arch, tripartite mullions and uniform Roman star patterns in the muntins.

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The main facade on Prospect Avenue is flanked by two pierced piers which support a simple Doric entablature of a bare architrave, a frieze ornamented with triglyphs and metopes. The urns and simple wrought iron railings on the front were added in 1950-52. The seven entrance steps on Prospect Avenue lead to a recessed in antis portico which is sixty-four feet long and contains three entrances to the building. The tetrastyle portico has partially fluted Greek Doric columns.

Three different Greek meanders appear in the ceramic floortile of the portico at the center of the three entries. These tile patterns appear in the floortile inside and out at the other two front doors. Transom windows with muntins in Roman key design are above each of the three main entries. The main entries are wood frame 8-light double doors. The brass hardware on the double doors is original with the exception of a new brass deadbolt on the center door.

The north and south side elevations are similar to each other and nearly identical. Three 32' tall and 10' wide stained glass windows with segmentally arched heads dominate the facades from the first to the second floors. They are divided by decorative wood spandrels at 1/3 height and are tripartite in composition. They also have smaller divisions horizontally. The secondary entablature wraps around the north and south facades but is interrupted by these windows. Other fenestration includes a window with a simple pediment head and twelve lights employing the Roman key transom located at the front stairwell, a window with a flat head similar to the front stairwell window in the rear stairwell, and pedimented double doors that were replaced with doors which had no lights except for the Roman key muntins in the transom above.

The rear facade is also nearly symmetrical with severe bold planes and little articulation. The few windows on the first and second floor are small and close together in comparison to the rest, with placement determined by interior function. The facade is dominated by the exterior chimney. The wall face extends to the roof parapet with no transition.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR ELEMENTS

The interior elements consist of the first floor entry, a colonnaded reception hall, rear service rooms and on the second floor, a great hall, balcony, and service rooms at the rear.

The configuration is basically rectangular and symmetrical from side to side with transitions occurring on axis. The main interior axis is from east to west.

Starting with the entrance vestibule, there is original ceramic floor tiling (3/4" x 3/4") in white and sea green. It is also found outside on the portico as previously described, in the side vestibules and in the first floor reception hall. At this time, the vestibule is not carpeted, however the main reception hall and beyond is carpeted. A Greek meander is found in the tile on the perimeter of the vestibule floor with a unique and different welcome key at most doors.

The vestibule walls have a decorative running board around the perimeter of the walls at 3' - 0" above the floor and a simple crown molding along the ceiling. Presently, the vestibule is divided from the reception hall by large modern glass partitions and doors. They do not detract from the building as they simply act as a clear partition.

RECEPTION HALL

The original Tuscan columns throughout the first floor are stout, plain and painted in the original color scheme. The ceiling has original one foot acoustic tiles and new contemporary lighting fixtures in keeping with the shape and size of the originals.

The windows are stained glass in diamond shapes with delicate rose, white and sea green colors. Windows are tripartite with the largest segment in the middle and are divided by wooden mullions. These windows flank two gas fireplaces on either side of the reception hall. The fireplaces feature decorative ceramic logs, brass and irons, a marble frontispiece, new glass fireplace screen and simple decorative wooden painted mantle with paneling above.

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There are two identical marble water fountains located on the side walls under the grand staircase. They are approximately seven feet tall by three feet wide with delicate shell shapes in the backs and basins. A conventional water fountain has been installed to meet code requirements.

Located near the fireplaces are the side staircases. They feature decorative banisters and newel posts ornamented with dentils and beads. The spindles are painted, but the railings and newel posts are not. The tread carpeting in a floral pattern was added in the course of renovation.

The entrance to the central grand staircase has a two step marble landing with solid balustrades, 12-light mahogany double doors flanked by mahogany paneling and side pilasters with electric wall sconces which highlight the composition. Once through the doors, mahogany steps ascend to the great hall and mahogany paneling adorns the stairwell walls. Tread carpeting installed during the renovation respectfully accents the staircase.

SERVICE ROOMS

To the east behind the reception hall on the first floor is a sharp transition to the service rooms. There is a women's toilet room in its original location. The cloakroom is now a service bar and catering service kitchen. On the south side an office with a fireplace and vault is now the men's toilet. On the north side, a committee room with fireplace now serves as the coat room. A vestibule in the southwest corner has been enclosed to create an office. Identical stairways with no less stature than the front stairways service the rear. The side vestibule in the northwest corner is now only used for emergency exit purposes and access to the basement.

GREAT HALL

Upon ascending the grand staircase, the space opens up dramatically to the great hall with a seating capacity for 1,200. An impressive barrel vaulted ceiling flows continuously across the entire length of the space supported by interior columns and entablature.

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The focus of the great hall is the proscenium on the west wall that once held the "dummy" facade of pipes for the Austin Universal Airchest Organ. Behind the proscenium was the pressurized loft with the air chests. Now dismantled, the air chest and organ have been reinstalled in the 1950-52 church building to the south.

The paneling and "dummy" organ balcony of the west wall were once the backdrop for the real center of attention below, the First Readers stand. Once centrally located on the stage, it now stands under the balcony on the east wall. Other decorative paneling in short wing walls to hide the stairs remain intact. The stage was altered when the edge moldings were removed & the gold leaf words "God is Love" on the paneling behind the First Reader stand were removed.

Because the room is now a convention hall and heating, ventilating and air conditioning needed to be accommodated, the floor which once sloped toward the stage from the rear windows, has now been leveled. The original slope can still be seen near the east wall. New carpeting in a wine color with a floral motif has replaced the original carpeting throughout the grand hall. An indication of the original floor can be seen at the rest platform of the grand staircase in front of the stage as this was the original floor height before more steps were added. The staircase is in the original location, but the railing about it was replaced by a new railing meeting safety code requirements. The new railing is painted metal and in a Greek fret pattern to fit into the style of the building.

Three decorative features accents the barrel vaulted ceiling of the hall. The vault ceiling section over the balcony has attractive coffers to accentuate it along with decorative grilles placed in the coffers. Another highlight is a decorative gold leaf floral medallion approximately 10' in diameter centered above the grand staircase in front of the stage. The ceiling over the stage also has one row of coffers at the wall.

The ceiling vault is supported a double set of four columns with lintel spans. Side aisles are located between the columns and the outside walls. The colossal columns have Ionic capitals with smooth Tuscan shafts painted a dull wine color to further accent the gold leaf decorative capitals.

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Rising from the columns is an interior entablature. Acting as a transition to the ceiling vault, it frames the room. It is only interrupted by the great window on the east and the air chest balcony on the west. The architrave includes Doric order plinths above the capitals and Corinthian fascia. The frieze has triglyphs above the capitals and a Greek fret along the rest. The cornice has bends of ovolos, dentils, fascia, a cyma recta and evenly spaced fleurons crowning the top. There is indirect lighting behind the cornice.

The space is also lit naturally by the east wall great window in the balcony and the six other tall windows. These windows also have diamond shapes on the stained glass just as the windows below them in the reception hall door. Each window has a decorative air grille above. New velvet curtains were added to all of the windows of the great hall and also on that of the organ air-chest balcony above the stage.

The balcony on the east wall is accessed by open side stairwells and remains intact. A catering service and storage room was added below the balcony on the east wall. The original readers stand now sits in front of the catering room on the east wall of the great hall.

Below the air-chest balcony and behind the paneled west wall of the great hall are church service rooms for the First Reader, Second Reader, Soloist and Organist. The original mahogany music cabinet with slots for music remains in the organists room.

FURNITURE

There are many pieces of the original mahogany furniture that remain in the building. They were designed with the style of the original church in mind and are Empire style. These include mahogany long-benches with the Roman star in the armrest, side tables, two large desks and their chairs and other wooden office furniture. Other artifacts such as folding chairs, comfort chairs, table chairs, religious pictures, odd pews, etc. are in storage in the basement or in the balcony storage room. The original pews were purchased by a church in Philadelphia.

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In December 1969, an oil-hydraulic elevator was installed in the south end of the foyer. The north-most entry doors on the front were sealed. A handicapped doorway was cut in and installed at grade level that leads to the elevator.

In 1987, the building was converted into a convention hall.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) X A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907 (1)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beman, Solon Spencer (2)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The First Church of Christ Scientist of Milwaukee is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under National Register Criterion "C". The First Church of Christ Scientist represents the work of the architectural master Solon S. Beman and embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of the Neo Classical Revival style in the United States around the turn of the century. The First Church of Christ Scientist is an exception to criterion consideration "A" (Religious Property) because it is being nominated solely for its architectural significance. Criterion "C" will be developed under the theme of architecture following a brief historical overview.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In about 1880, Milwaukee experienced a significant transition from a commercial trade center to an industrial city. (3) City industries such as tanning, brewing, slaughtering and meatpacking began to take on national importance. Most of the founders of these wealthier industries lived within the city limits. Because the East Side neighborhood was close to their prospective businesses, many of the city's affluent built their mansions along the lake bluffs on North Prospect Avenue. (4)

Although lower Prospect Avenue was platted in 1947, only a handful of residences were built by the mid-1850s. The neighborhood's distance from the heart of the city accounts for its slow development. By 1862 a street car line extended up North Prospect and encouraged settlement along Prospect Avenue. Although the earliest houses were rather modest, the avenue later developed a reputation as Milwaukee's "Gold Coast." By the 1870s the city's most prominent architects were being engaged to build lavish homes for the Milwaukee's economic elite.

 X See continuation sheet

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Prospect Avenue reached its zenith during the turn of the century when prominent financiers, entrepreneurs, industrialists and commercial figures constructed homes in the neighborhood. The area continued to be a fashionable address into the 1920s. As time progressed, mansions were replaced by luxury apartments or converted to hostelrys or boarding houses. Many of the larger mansions were adapted for the use of schools or organizations. A construction boom in the 1960s replaced many opulent residences with apartment buildings.

Milwaukee played an important role in the history of the Christian Scientist religious movement. Milwaukee was the second city to organize a Christian Scientist Association. The first was Boston, Massachusetts, where the religion was established by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. (5)

Although Wisconsin's Christian Science movement began in Milwaukee, the first edifice built for worship was the small frame First Church of Christ Scientist (NRHP 1974) in Oconto, Wisconsin. Erected in 1886 and still in use, this building was the first of its kind not only in Wisconsin, but in the World. While several Christian Science churches had been established in the different parts of the United States prior to 1886, none of them, including the Mother Church founded by Mrs. Eddy, had erected a church edifice. (6)

Christian Science religion was first introduced in Milwaukee in the year 1883. The first meetings were held in private homes and sometimes in a dental office. In December of 1887, the Christian Science Public Service Society was organized and services were conducted formally in a rented hall. (7)

The early years were characterized by the founding of separate congregations followed by their merger into a single entity. The first Christian Science church was incorporated in 1889. A second was incorporated in 1892. In 1901, a third was formed and a fourth in 1903. In April of 1904, the first and second Christian Science churches united and the First Church of Christian Science was incorporated. In January of 1906, the third and fourth churches dissolved their organizations and united with the First Church of Christ Scientist. The First Church of Christ Scientist was holding its services in the Pabst Theater until the new edifice at 1451 North Prospect Avenue was completed in 1909. (8)

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Although this monumental structure could accommodate 1,200 persons, the rapidly increasing congregation outgrew the building before it was completed. As a result, the Second Church of Christ Scientist (now Baptist), was organized and incorporated in 1909. (9) Since 1883, seven organizations have been founded and six churches have been erected in the City of Milwaukee.

Architecturally, the Readers rooms of the church are particular to the Christ Scientist Church service needs. Trained clergy are not used in favor of two Readers elected by each branch church who read alternatively from the Bible and the church's denominational textbook. The Sunday services are conducted by the Readers. (10)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The First Church of Christ Scientist of Milwaukee on Prospect Avenue is architecturally significant because it represents the distinctive characteristics of the Neo Classical style in the United States around the turn of the century. It is a significant ecclesiastical work of the architectural master Solon S. Beman. The following narrative will discuss the important relationship of the architectural master S. S. Beman to the Neo Classical style in the United States and will also discuss the way in which the First Church of Christ Scientist, Milwaukee was a significant representation of his career.

SOLON S. BEMAN

Mr. Beman's architectural career in the Midwest was extensive and significant to the architectural development of the Midwestern region. Throughout the course of his career, Mr. Beman was predominantly concerned with the re-interpretation of Classical antecedents. He was born in 1853 and died in 1914 with a F.A.I.A. standing. Beman was born in Brooklyn and educated in both public and private schools. While still a youth, he entered Richard Upjohn's office in New York, and after a period of training under that noted master of church design, remained with him for a number of years as a draftsman. Under Upjohn's direction Beman became proficient at ecclesiastical design. In 1877, Beman founded his own firm and went on to larger projects. (11)

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One of Beman's most important works was the City of Pullman. In 1879, he came to Chicago at the request of George Pullman, renowned railroad car magnate. Pullman awarded Beman one of the largest architectural commissions of the time. Beman was to plan and supervise the construction of the City of Pullman (now annexed to Chicago), the first example of a planned company town to be realized in the United States. The Pullman project included 1,200 houses, a factory, theater, church, hotel, market, hospital, and schools. The project eventually cost one million dollars. (12) The Pullman commission brought Beman national attention. Because of this, he was also asked to serve as architect on a similar project for the town of "Ivorydale," IL. Smaller in scale than Pullman, it was sponsored by the firm of Proctor & Gamble. (13)

Following the Pullman and Ivorydale commissions, Beman received commissions for the 1893 Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago. He was architect of the Mines and Mining building and the smaller Merchants' Tailors Building which stood on the edge of the lagoon and faced the Fine Arts Building. (14)

The Exposition provided America with an elaborate display of architecture based on classical models, particularly those of ancient Greece. As a result, classicism came to dominate American architectural expression. The two styles that have had a major impact on both residential and municipal design in the United States in the past 95 years are the Neo Classical Revival and Beaux-Arts Classicism. In Milwaukee, as elsewhere, the Neo Classical Revival was applied to the design of banks, civic buildings, and other monumentally-scaled public buildings. (15)

Beman's Fine Arts Building was much admired for its classicism, and later became a prototype for Christian Science churches built in many cities throughout the country. The basic approach to Christian Scientist church design features a monumental classical facade consisting of a portico with Greek ordered columns, side piers to set off the composition with the three entry doors and side wings with one window. (16) Many of these churches were designed by prominent architects.

Beman was one of the most prominent architects to emerge from the Exposition and continued on to design a number of classically derived buildings in Chicago, Milwaukee and elsewhere. An important area of his professional development included ecclesiastical designs for the Christian Scientist Church. Beman designed a total of twenty Christian Scientist churches in various cities: one in Milwaukee (First Church of Christ Scientist), six in Chicago, and others in New York,

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Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Denver, Cleveland, and Portland. He also served as architectural consultant and advisor on the planning and erection of the 1906 "Mother" church in Boston, Massachusetts. Generally, Beman was chosen for the first Christian Scientist Church to be opened in a community which would set the precedent for consecutive Churches. The fact that Beman was also a Christian Scientist convert further tied him to the Christian Scientist Church organization.
(17)

Of the seven Christian Scientist Churches built in Chicago between 1894 and 1907, Beman designed all but one, the Third Church of Christ Scientist. Three of his Chicago churches are known to be extant: the First, Second and Sixth Churches of Christ Scientist. The first two built and still extant are of brushed limestone. While the classical designs of the churches vary between Beaux-Art, Greek, Roman and Federal interpretations, their exterior appearances remain stoic and upright. As found in the First Church of Christ- Milwaukee, there is no relief sculpture or Corinthian capitals on the exteriors. A list of the six Christian Science Churches designed by Beman in Chicago include: First- 1894-7, Second- 1898, Fourth- 1904, Fifth- 1904, Sixth- 1911-12 and Seventh- 1907.

Between 1880 and 1920, Beman established a wide-ranging reputation for ecclesiastical, commercial and business structures in Chicago and other cities. He was widely respected in residential design for a number of luxurious homes built in Chicago, Illinois, during the late 1880s.

As his architectural office was in Chicago, Beman's work is rarely found in Milwaukee. Beman designed four buildings in Milwaukee: the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Building- 1884 (NRHP 3/20/73), the Pabst Building- 1891, the First Baptist Church- 1888 and the First Church of Christ Scientist- 1907. All are extant, classical in style, and National Register potential.

Although Solon S. Beman's work for the Christian Science faith was not the most notable of his career, it represented an important aspect of his professional development. While Beman will continue to be recognized primarily for his large and prestigious commissions at Pullman, Ivorydale and the Chicago exhibition, his ecclesiastical commissions for the Christian Science church reflect a more deeply personal aspect of his career and represent a fascinating fusion of Beman's personal and professional interests.

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The study of Beman's First Christian Science church will likely provide a more complete understanding of the scope and breath of his work and offer insight into Beman's design solutions to the special needs of the Christian Science faith. Because of Beman's prototype designs for the Christian Scientists, he was ultimately responsible for the formulation of the architectural image of the faith. Beman freely re-interpreted a variety of Classical antecedents in all of his architectural work but his ecclesiastical work reflect the definitive doctrines of the Christian Scientists. While these ideals required a certain message to be conveyed to the visitor, none of Beman's Christian Science Church designs are identical. These churches express both his personal reflection and insight into the Christian Science faith and architectural skill. The First Church of Christ Scientist, Milwaukee, is representative of his endeavors in ecclesiastical design and illustrates the importance of his ties to the Christian Science Church.

The monumentally-scaled First Church of Christ Scientist is architecturally significant under criterion C as a fine example of early 20th century Neo Classicism. It exhibits pure characteristics of the Neoclassical Revival style and is one of the best ecclesiastical designs (of which there are few examples) in Milwaukee. Significant qualities of the Neoclassical style, in general, include: solid and rather severe geometric planes, smooth ashlar finish, restrained decoration, exterior facades directly symmetrical with unbroken contours and masses which are rigidly defined. Other common features include a portico with colossal columns, raking cornice with returns, an entablature with Greek/Roman ornamentation, a rectangular symmetrical plan with axis and cross-axis and also Tuscan and/or Ionic columns. The First Church of Christ Scientist exhibits all of these characteristics in restrained classic formality as will be shown.

The First Church of Christ Scientist has a rectangular form with a symmetrical composition. It sits on a slightly raised base and has low-pitched gabled and flat roofs. There is one projection from the main body, a slight articulation. There are no other masses in the vertical or horizontal and these two masses are rigidly defined. The exception is the main elevation which is dominated by a projecting, front gabled pavillion featuring a recessed portico and a large tripartite grand window. The plain tetrastyle portico has partially fluted Greek Doric columns. Other windows and doors are flush with the rectangular planes.

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Ornamentation is kept to a minimum. The main facade features a simple Doric entablature of a bare architrave, a frieze that has projecting triglyphs and metopes and also a secondary cornice line with mutule blocks underneath which wraps the building on three sides. The north and south side facades are similar to each other and nearly identical. Three 32' tall and 10' wide windows with segmentally arched heads dominate the facades.

The interior floor plan reflects the innovative classical design typical of other Christian Science churches. The main entry has a low ceiling and is smaller in width which gives a compressed feeling to the visitor. Upon entering the first floor main space the area opens up into a large colonnaded hall. On direct axis from the main entry is the grand stairway to the great hall or auditorium on the second level which in turn was in direct line with the First Readers stand and stage.

The First Church of Christ Scientist is typical of Christian Science church design. It resembles the "Mother" church in Boston in the smooth limestone exterior and simple classical characteristics. However, it is unusual in its severity. The embellishments of small scale details on the outside are kept to a bare minimum so as to appear stoic and upright. Like other Christian Science churches, it has no religious iconography; its relative lack of embellishments reflect the seriousness with which Christian Science practitioners view their faith.

Neo Classicism can be seen in other Christian Scientist churches in Milwaukee. In comparison is the Second Church of Christ Scientist, now Baptist, on Highland Avenue designed by Carl Barkhausen, of Milwaukee. Built in 1913, shortly after the first church on Prospect Avenue, it also exhibits classical elements of a raised base, portico, cornice line and entablature. However, it expresses the Classic Renaissance style and has more embellishment with Corinthian capitals and other small scale details. Also, common Neo Classical elements such as a rotunda and major projecting pavilions exist in the church on Highland Avenue while S. S. Beman chose not to incorporate them into the First Church of Christ Scientist on Prospect Avenue. The varying roof heights and projecting rooms of the church on Highland Avenue gives further articulation to the massing in contrast to the solid regular massing of the First Church of Christ Scientist on Prospect Avenue.

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The Third Church of Christ Scientist on Sherman Boulevard is also similar to the First Church of Christ Scientist in some of its classical characteristics. It is a two story solid rectangular mass with smooth faced limestone. However, in contrast, the Third Church of Christ Scientist has a large rotunda, a large base, and the portico has Ionic pilasters. The portico and main entrance is situated on the long side of the rectangular form, departing from the First Church of Christ Scientists use of the classical entrance at the short side of the rectangle. Both the Second and Third Churches of Christ Scientist have tan face-brick with some terracotta ornamentation for polychromy.

Other faiths also used classicism in the design of their churches built in Milwaukee. The Saint Josaphats' Basilica, built in 1897, on West Lincoln Avenue has a Renaissance Revival design. It contrasts in the heavy articulation of massing and detailing of the stonework. It is much larger in size and taller in profile.

The Congregational Emau-El B'Ne Jeshurun Synagogue, built in 1921, on Kenwood Avenue has similar characteristics to the First Church of Christ Scientist on Prospect Avenue including limestone cladding and little exterior detailing or massing. Its' front facade is symmetrical with a large frontal window in the low pitched gable end and similarity extends to the simply treated auditorium-like sanctuary interior. The synagogues size and proportions are also similar to that of the First Church of Christ Scientist on Prospect. The design of the synagogue illustrates the influence of Beman's design fourteen years earlier in the First Church of Christ Scientist on Prospect Avenue.

So it can be seen that the First Church of Christ Scientist is architecturally significant under criterion "C" because it is a pure and rare example of Neo Classical design in Milwaukee. It features a severity of design not ordinarily seen in the style and represents the ecclesiastical works of the architectural master, Solon S. Beman.

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CRITERIA CONSIDERATION "A"

The First Church of Christ Scientist is an exception to criteria consideration "A" because it is being nominated solely for its architectural significance.

APPENDIX I

Among Beman's most important works were: The nine-story Pullman office building at the southwest corner of Adams and Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 1881; the northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1884; two Studebaker Buildings in Chicago, Illinois, 1885 and 1888; Batavia Bank Building, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1887; the Grand Central Terminal of the Wisconsin Central R.R., Chicago, Illinois, 1888; the Michigan Trust Building, Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, 1891; and the Pabst Building, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1891. Among his later works were the sixteen-story Berger Building, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 1906, and the Hamilton Club on Dearborn Street in Chicago, Illinois.

Those designs which deserve special mention were: A large stone house on Lake Shore Drive and Billevue Place, was known successively as the Jones, General Torrance, and the Rockefeller-McCormick residence and was also occupied later in 1946 as a school for juveniles. The house at 1234 Lake Shore Drive was built for Robert Todd Lincoln (son of Abraham Lincoln) on his return to Chicago after serving four years as U.S. Minister to Great Britain; the W.W. Kimbal mansion (1890) on Prairie Avenue; and the renovation (1907-1910) of the Newton, Massachusetts home of Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Scientist Church.

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FOOTNOTES

1. The construction date is from the datestone on the building; and building permit for 1451 North Prospect Avenue.
2. Building permit for 1451 North Prospect Avenue dated April 23, 1907; Milwaukee Sentinel, December 21, 1908, p. 4.
3. Landmarks Research, Built in Milwaukee: An Architectural View of the City, (Milwaukee, WI: Department of City Development, 1981), p. 17.
4. Ibid., p. 17-18.
5. Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 3, (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Section 4-1.
6. Ibid.
7. The Midwestern, April 1909, (A newspaper article found by Les Vollmert of Milwaukee Department of City Development), p. 22.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 3, p. 4-1.
11. Adolph K. Placek, ed., Mac Millan Encyclopedia of Architects, (New York: The Free Press, 1982), p. 175.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), pp. 49-50.

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FOOTNOTES (continued)

15. Built in Milwaukee, p. 54.
16. An interview with Charles Hosmer, "The Cultural Climate of Christian Science in 1890-1910", Progress at Principia, (Summer 1979), pp. 1-3.
17. Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Architects Design, (Chicago, Chicago Art Institute and Rizzoli, 1982), pp. 41-42.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
x 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 #

X See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other
Specify repository:
Milwaukee, Department of City Development

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 3 Acres

UTM References

A 1/6 4/2/7/1/3/5 4/7/6/6/4/4/0 B / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
C / / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The site being nominated is the portion of the property historically associated with the building being nominated and includes the former annex at 1443 N. Prospect due to its physical linkage to 1451 N. Prospect.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dawn Goshorn-President, Kris Johnson-technician
organization Hatterhorn Enterprises, Inc. date August 30, 1988
street & number 5550 North Kent Street telephone (414) 961-7103
city or town Whitefish Bay state Wisconsin zip code 53217

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- Placek, Adolph K., ed. Mac Millan Encyclopedia of Architects. New York: The Free Press, 1982.
- The Midwestern. April 1909. Copy available at Milwaukee Department of City Development- Landmarks Historical Division.
- An interview with Charles Hosmer, "The Cultural Climate of Christian Science in 1890-1910." in Progress at Principia, 1979.
- Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 3. Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS

1443 N. Prospect Avenue, City of Milwaukee, County of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin. Roger Addition in S.E. 1/4 Section 21-7-22, Block 198,
Northeasterly 61.35, Lot 6 except street.

1451 N. Prospect Avenue, City of Milwaukee, County of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin. Ronald Subdivision of Lot 7, Block 198 and Lot 11, Block 199
in Rodger Addition in S.E. 1/4 Section 21-7-22, Lot 1 except street and
Lots 5-9 and 13 and Lot 17 and 18 except street.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 First Church of Christ Scientist
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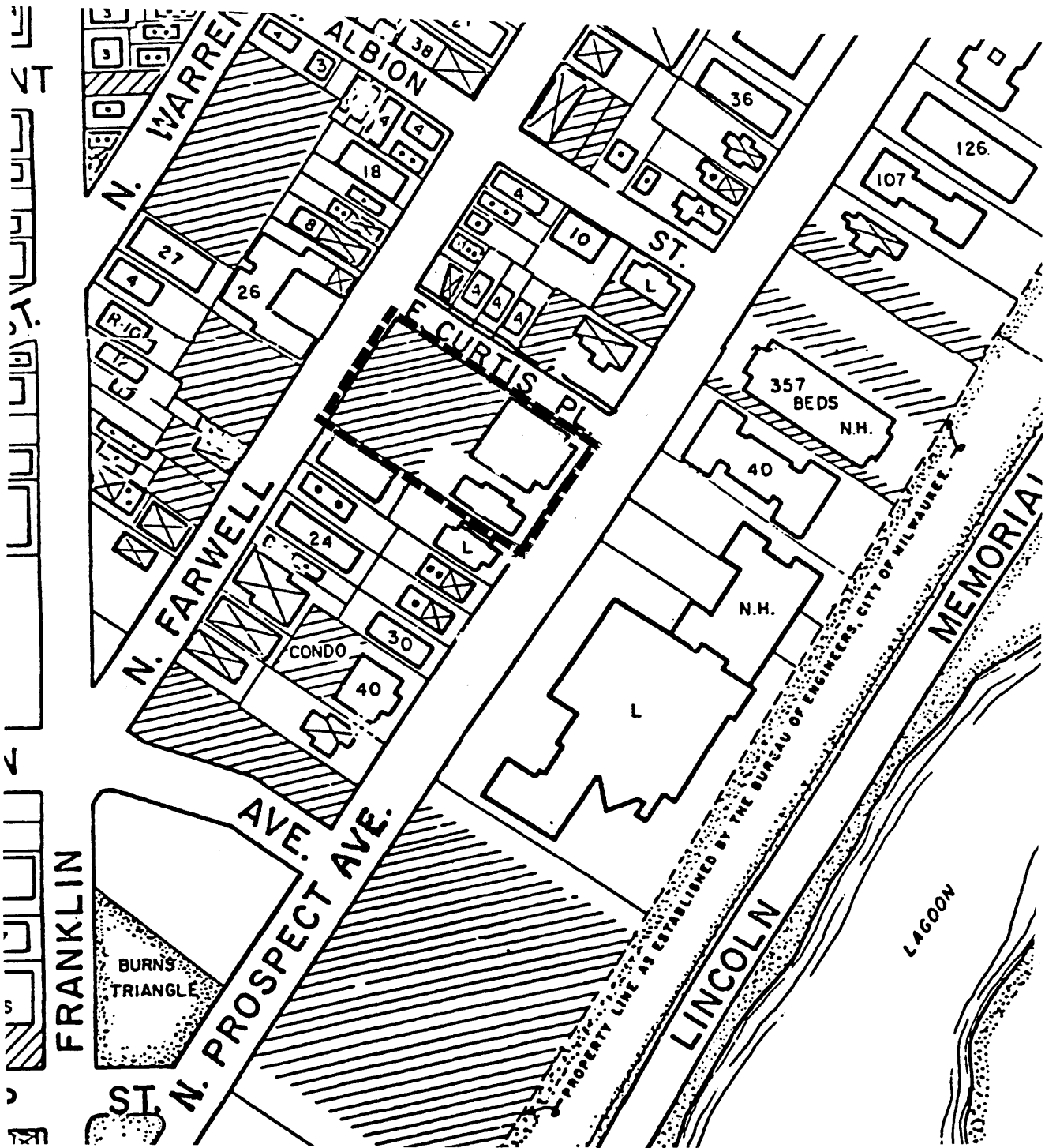
The following information applies to all photographs:

First Church of Christ Scientist
1443-1451 North Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211
Photographs taken by Kris Johnson, October 1987
Negatives at Wi Historical Society.

Photo 1 of 6	View of Main Facade, Looking West.
Photo 2 of 6	View of steps, Looking Southwest.
Photo 3 of 6	View of Cornice detail, Looking West.
Photo 4 of 6	View of NE facade, Looking Southwest.
Photo 5 of 6	View of NE facade, Looking Southwest.
Photo 6 of 6	View of NW facade, Looking Southeast.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST
1443-1451 North Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI

Figure 1



----- = Property Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

