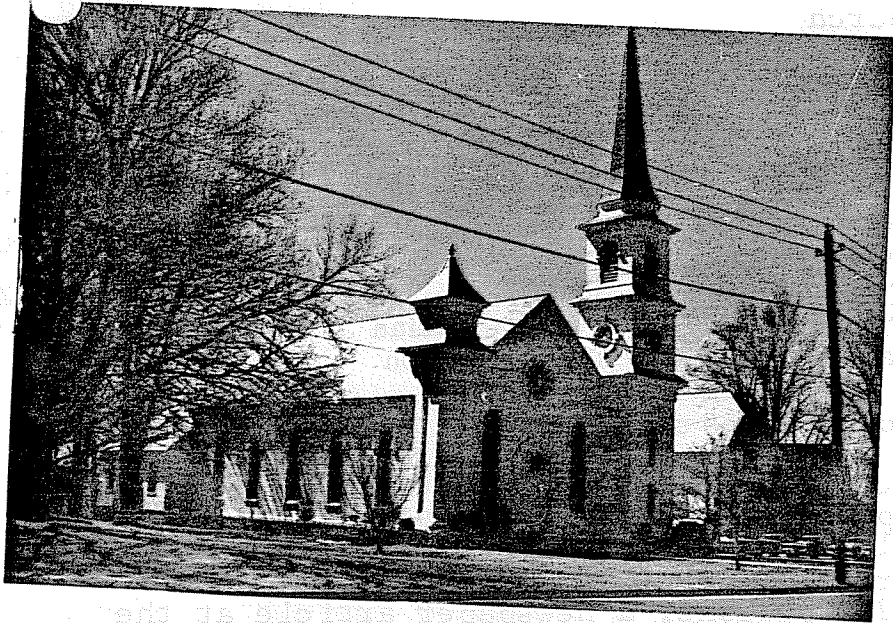


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-46

205



Florence (Northampton)

Park Street

Florence Congregational Church
present use Church

present owner Florence Congregational Church

Description:

1861
source Hampshire Gazette, 6/25/1861

style Romanesque Revival

architect William F. Pratt

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) chapel(1885)

Other features 2 towers of uneven height; Romanesque windows; wheel window; chapel-Queen Anne style

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 210 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
50 feet

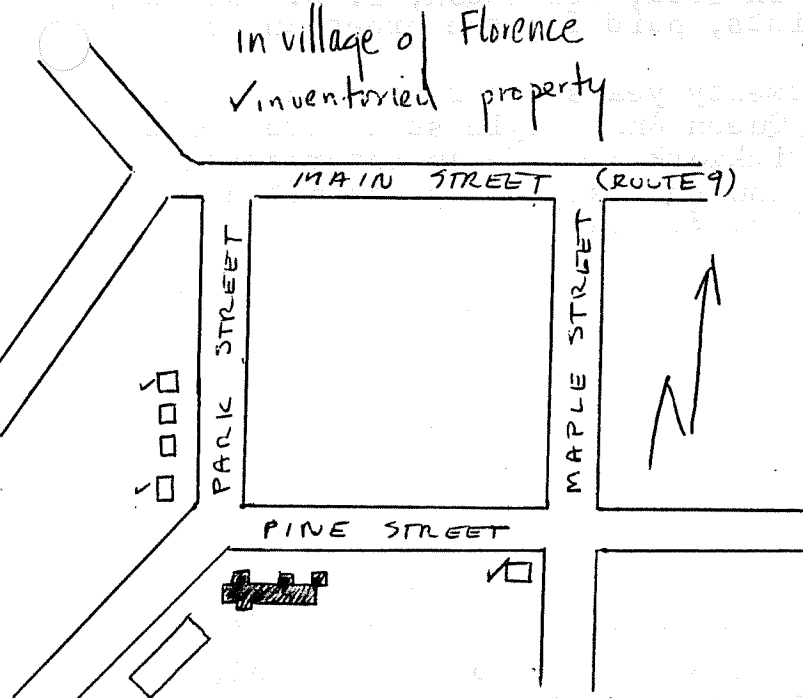
6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date October 15 1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

*in village of Florence
✓ inventoried property*



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

MAY 5 1976

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7. Original owner (if known) Florence Congregational Church
 Original use Church
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Church

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u> </u>	Religion	<u> x </u>
Architectural	<u> x </u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ Humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Congregational Church in Florence was constructed in 1861, at a cost of \$4,000. The impetus to build a house of worship in the village came from a small number of citizens, yet the funds (\$3600) had been raised before the structure was completed. The sanctuary originally seated 250 persons; a newspaper article at the time estimated there were 2000 potential users in the village. Funds for church construction were raised by various means including "strawberry suppers" given by the women of the congregation. Local philanthropists like A. L. Williston and D. G. Littlefield undoubtedly contributed heavily. In 1863, Williston, I. S. Parsons, and Littlefield, three industrialists, paid for the erection of a parsonage adjoining the church.

In 1864 a chapel was built; twenty years later it burned and was replaced by the present Stick/Queen Anne style structure whose shingles and flowing decorative stickwork provide an interesting contrast with the bold Romanesque church designed by the often heavy-handed local architect, William F. Pratt.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
 Hampshire Gazette, 1/8/1861, 6/25/1861, 10/8/1861, 10/15/1861, 10/20/1863, 6/28/1864. See also, Gazette Index, Forbes Library.