

MISSION
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NR	717
In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31B-286</u>

1. Town Northampton, Mass.

Address Main and Center

Name First Church of Christ,

Present use Congregational Church

Present owner First Church of Christ

3. Description:

Date 1877-1878

Source Daily Hampshire Gazette

Style Gothic Revival-High Victorian

Architect Peabody and Stearns

Exterior wall fabric Brownstone rockface

with smooth trim
Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Richly stenciled interior
with hammerbeam roof, iron columns,

Tiffany windows and other fine
stained glass windows. Splendid

stone spire.
Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75 feet

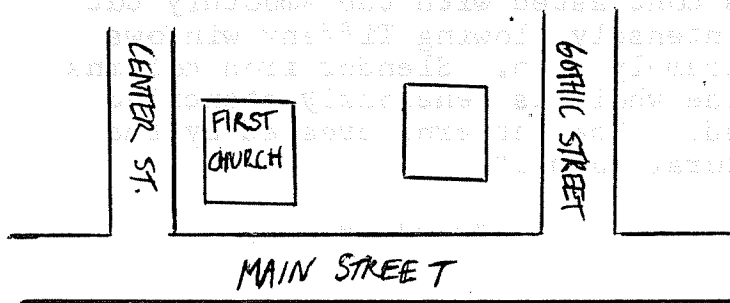
Approximate distance of building from street
30 feet

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical

Date March 10, 1975 Commission

other buildings. Indicate north.



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

RECEIVED

MAY (over 2) 1975

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) First Church of Christ

Original use Church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates none

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

"The First Church of Christ, Congregational, stands on the site of the third meeting house of 1737-1812. The Victorian structure of 1877 was designed by the Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns, who also did a number of buildings at the time for Smith College.

The church is an outstanding example of the creativity and originality connected with the Gothic Revival for it is not so much a revival as an interpretation of 13th century architecture in 19th century terms. The same oversized scale and simplification of details that was noted in the Smith Charities building may be seen here. In contrast to much 1870's architecture, the building is basically monochrome but it is polytextural, for the rockfaced texture of the brownstone walls is contrasted with the smoothly cut brownstone trim. There are some intensely glowing Tiffany windows and the interior as a whole is extremely rich. Slender iron columns support exposed timber beams and the whole is generously stenciled in the deep colors Victorians loved. The patterns created by the stenciling are abstractions of natural forms."

—Helen Searing

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) May 7, 1878