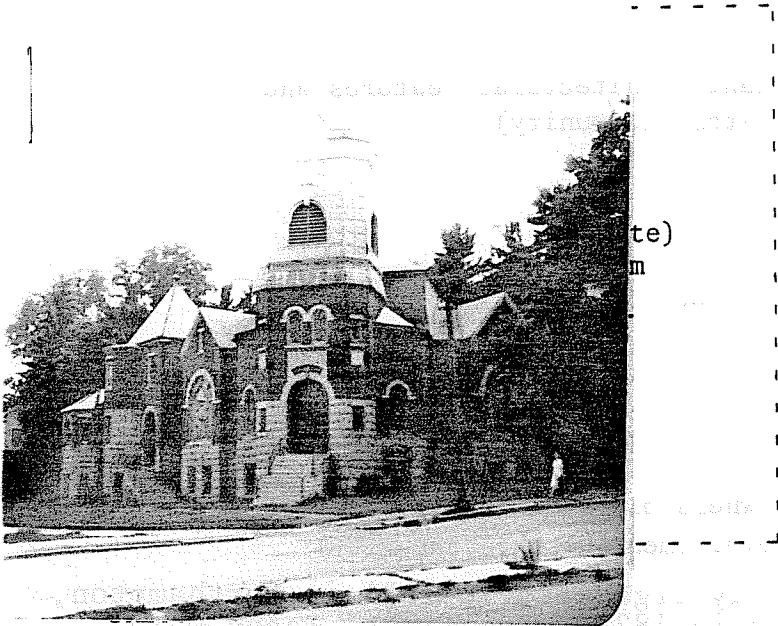


FORM B - BUILDING

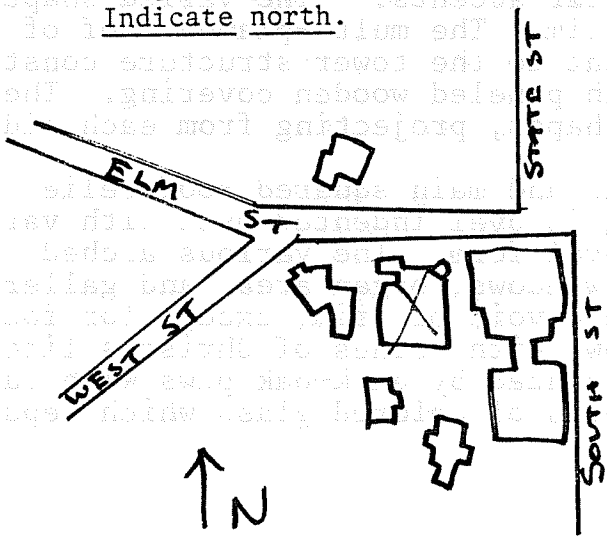
Area	Form no. 31D-98
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston MA 02108



Town Northampton
 Address West St.
 Historic Name First Baptist Church
 Use: Original church
 Present church
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Baptist Church
 Public _____
 Original owner Baptist Church

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1904
 Source Hampshire Gazette
 Style Victorian Romanesque
 Architect M.H. Hubbard
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage one acre or less
 Setting _____

Recorded by _____
 Organization NHC
 Date July 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

See Below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

First Baptist Church, originally organized in 1824 in Northampton, built their first church on this site in 1828. The first Isaac Damom designed church was replaced by the present structure in 1904. Presenting a solid shape, the Victorian church also projects many faceted architectural shapes and colors. Its stolidity is emphasized by the lighter horizontally based bands of stone which have red mortar accents. The varied shaped windows have granite nassoirs and sash trim. The multi-planed roof of red and grey slate provides a colorful accent to the tower structure constructed of bands of granite, brick, topped with paneled wooden covering. There are many tower projections, of varied shapes, projecting from each side.

The varied side tower projections and main squared roof belie the oval-shaped sanctuary whose ceiling is oval indented oval with various arch vaults extending from the center oval form. The various arched, apse forms in the interior contain the windows, organ area and gallery. The plastered walls, painted green, are devoid of trim, except for four large arched leaded-colored glass windows with scenes of Christ's life. The very asymmetrical arrangement is accented by dark-oak pews with carved ends, walnut framing and the sliding doors of colored glass which separate the sanctuary from the prayer room.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hampshire Gazette: Aug. 5, 1954.
Information on Architect: Church's Recotr.