

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	31D-126

770

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Northampton

44 Center St.

Name First Church of Christ

Original church Scientist

Present church

Type: Private individual
 Private organization
First Church of Christ
Scientist
 Public

Original owner

Construction:

Date 1908

Source Hampshire Gazette

Style Roman Classicism

Architect S.S. Beeman-Chicago

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings connected to Italianate-
style house.

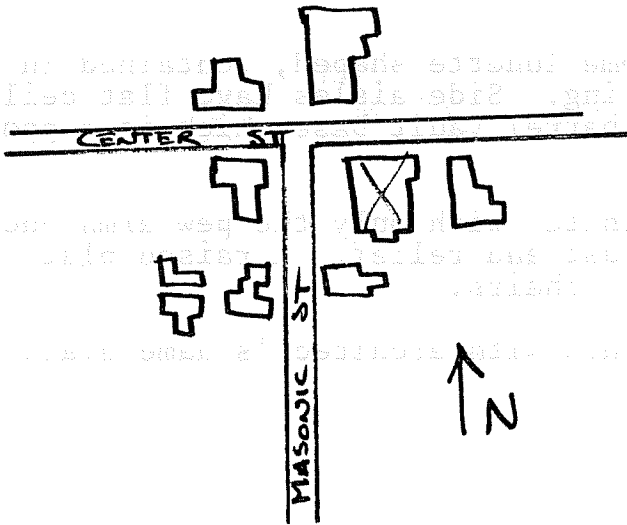
Major alterations (with dates)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting

Indicate north.



Recorded by _____

Organization NHC

Date July 1980

(Staple additional sheets here)

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)

The present reading room of the church at 79 Masonic St. was moved from the corner site upon which the church was built in 1908. It adjoins the church the facade of which, with its Doric columned portico, raised, is flanked by hipped projections. The entrance way has two narrow windows flanking the doorway which is crowned by a eight lighted transom. The symmetrical arrangement is carried out with nine windows on each side of the building while hipped dormers also project from each side of the roof.

Inside these dormer windows become lunette shaped, contained in an arch vault of the barrel vaulted ceiling. Side aisles have flat ceilings which join the corniced beams of the barrel vault base which is supported by two Doric columns.

The stark interior is all in white with only the pew arms and backtops done in dark wood for contrast and relief. A raised platform contains the preachers podium and chairs.

Original architectural blueprints with architect's name available in records in Church basement.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hampshire Gazette 11/10/ 54.
Blueprints, 1906: First Church of Christ.