

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

1913 and 1921 Main St.

STREET & NUMBER 1921 Main Street, including Parsonage at 1913 Main Street
—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Hartford VICINITY OF 1st - William R. Cotter
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Hartford CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Union Baptist Church of Hartford

STREET & NUMBER 1921 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Hartford VICINITY OF STATE CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hartford City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER 550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Register of Historic Places

DATE 1979 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

GOOD

RUINS

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Union Baptist Church, originally known as the Memorial Church of Saint Thomas (Episcopal), is a small stone church built in 1871 in the Early English Gothic style. Located on Main Street in Hartford's North End, a busy area mostly of multi-family dwellings, the church shares its lot at the northeast corner of Old North Cemetery with the parish hall and the parsonage. The hall is a one-story frame structure connected to the rear of the church, and the parsonage next door to the south is a 2½-story brick house with a hipped roof, dormers, and projecting gabled bay in front. The hall was added in 1884 and the parsonage in 1894.

The plan of the church includes a nave, side aisles, short transepts and an apse. There is a small projection, probably the sacristy, off the north transept. The church is oriented toward the east, and the entrance is on the south side, near the rear, where there is a small porch. The walls are a coursed ashlar of rough-surfaced grey Westerly granite, with gables and buttresses coped with a similar but lighter and smoother stone. The main part of the church is divided by buttresses into three bays of 16' each; it was planned to add another two bays, so the west wall was considered temporary and was made of brick. This plan was never realized. The slate-shingled gable roof has a very steep pitch which breaks somewhat over the aisles. The most serious alteration to the exterior was the destruction in the 1938 hurricane of the bell-cote. This was a buttressed extension of the wall at the east end of the nave to form a steep gable which was pierced by two openings for bells (never hung); only the very lowest part of the bell-cote remains. Some cresting was also blown off the roof of the apse.

The windows are for the most part simple lancets grouped in twos and threes. The east wall of the apse has a plate-tracery arrangement of two lancets and a quatrefoil light above, the whole surrounded by a pointed arch done in the stonework. The brick west wall has a large wheel window above four simply traceried openings. In the south wall of the south transept is a smaller wheel. The nave is also lighted by dormers, three on the north side and two on the south (where apparently one was removed). The small entrance porch is mostly of frame construction on a stone base. An intricate system of hammerbeam bracing in the gable does not appear in an early engraving and may indicate some rebuilding of the porch.

The interior of the church is very light and open. Octagonal columns with foliated capitals support both the simple chancel arch and a series of arches between the nave and each aisle: the spandrels in these arcades are filled with a circular trefoil bracing. Similar arches support the aisle roofs, and within the apse is a simple vault of wooden ribs, but the ceiling of the nave is plain and plastered so that the roof timbers do not show. Because of the change in denomination, the chancel furnishings have been considerably modified, and now include a baptismal pool and a central pulpit.

The stained glass windows appear to have come from at least three different manufacturers, but all are typically Victorian, with realistically drawn figures and objects, historically-detailed clothing, and generally static compositions. Some pieces have been replaced because of storm damage, but most of the glass is intact. The west wheel shows the Adoration of the Magi, and the lower west windows have as their themes the Good Samaritan, Christ's Baptism, the Holy Family, and Jesus and the Little Children; the circles in the windows have the signs of the Evangelists. In the south transept is Christ Walking on the Water, and in the wheel, a harp as a memorial to Hartford poet Lydia Sigourney. In the south aisle is a pair of lancets depicting Christ as the Good Shepherd. Only in the apse, where there is the life

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Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)
Hartford, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Surveys:

Survey of the Architectural & Historical Resources of Hartford
1975-78 Local Hartford Architectural Conservancy
Hartford, CT

Inventory and maps with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

Complete material with Stowe-Day Foundation
Hartford, CT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

of Christ (Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension) is there a scheme to the glazing. The remainder of the windows have grisaille glass with floral decorations, colored borders, and medallions, of which the north transept group is the most outstanding. In some cases, the plainer glass was installed where more pictorial windows were expected. For example, the northernmost two windows in the apse were to be the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus, but apparently donors were not forthcoming.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871 - built BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry M. Congdon, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union Baptist Church is both historically and architecturally significant. For more than 50 years, the building has been home to an active and influential congregation that has been an important part of Hartford's black community. As an organization, and through its leaders and individual members, Union Baptist Church has made critical contributions to the early civil rights movement on both the local and state levels (Criterion A). In addition, the building is important as an example of Gothic Revival architecture (Criterion C). Because of this dual significance, both the present name and the original - St. Thomas's Church - are meaningful historic names.

Leading Union Baptist's struggle in the cause of civil rights was the Reverend John C. Jackson (1866-1953), who began his ministry in 1922, shortly before the congregation purchased this building. Dr. Jackson worked tirelessly to open up employment opportunities for blacks, especially for public school teachers and social workers. One of his first accomplishments was the hiring of the first black teacher in Hartford schools, C. Edythe Taylor, a member of the church. Other members of Dr. Jackson's flock served as the city's first black school board member, welfare board member, and policeman. Under his leadership, the church purchased a lifetime membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Dr. Jackson was also influential in the founding of the Inter-Racial Commission, a state agency formed in 1943 to report on racial injustice, recommend remedial laws, and later, enforce the Fair Employment Practices Act. Dr. Jackson was an original member of that body, now called the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. The local Urban League was also set up through the efforts of church members, particularly Rachel Milton.

These early victories may seem small now, compared with the enormity of the barriers still faced by many of Hartford's black citizens. Nevertheless, these "firsts" were important in establishing the principle of equal opportunity. Similarly, the Inter-Racial Commission was important because it was an affirmation of the state's responsibility to eliminate discrimination, a principle by no means taken for granted in 1943.

Places owned and used by religious bodies are ordinarily excluded from the National Register, as are those whose significance has been achieved in the past 50 years. Against the first objection must be weighed the historic role that black churches played in the civil rights movement, serving as a source of leadership and as a medium for organization. While infused with a strong religious faith, the actions of the churches went beyond religion to address the temporal social condition. To the second objection, it is not too early to answer that the civil rights movement was one of the most important developments of the past 50 years, not only affecting blacks, but serving as a model for other groups in their struggle for their rights. Since "civil rights" is an abstraction, there are only a few places that commemorate the countless individual actions that make up a movement. Union Baptist Church is one of these. In memorializing John C. Jackson's efforts of the 1920's,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cohens, Bennett, et al. Union Baptist Church. Hartford: priv. pr., 1972.

"Dr. Jackson Dies; Pastor for 30 Years," (Hartford) Courant, January 3, 1953.

Geer's Hartford City Directory, 1873, p. 294. Includes engraving.

Miller, Franklin H. "St. Thomas's Church 45 Years Old Today," Courant, July 18, 1915, pt. 3, p. 8.

(Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 693060 4627870

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes Parcels 22 and 23 (church and parsonage) as shown on Hartford's Assessor's Map 621, Block 001.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE February 8, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford

STATE CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE x LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.


STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE June 15, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE 8-15-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: 

DATE 8/19/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)
Hartford, CT

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

'30's and '40's, this historic site testifies to the continuity of the struggle for equal rights, as well as showing that the history of that movement took place not only in the South, Washington, D.C. and big cities, but also in small cities like Hartford.

Apart from its historic associations, the building is of interest to architectural historians as a Gothic Revival church built on Ecclesiological principles. St. Thomas's was intended as a memorial to Thomas Brownell, former Episcopal bishop of Connecticut, and to the family of Mrs. William Mather, who donated the land. The original Episcopal congregation was very small, so many economies were resorted to in 1871 when the church was built, such as the dormers instead of a clerestory, the uncompleted windows, and the temporary west end. The architect was Henry Martyn Congdon (1834-1922) of Brooklyn, New York. Masonry and carpentry were done by local contractors. The sources for the stained glass are as yet unknown, but the themes were selected by the architect.

The style of the building is thoroughly Early English, and quite accurately done. Of the three periods of English Gothic, Early English was the most favored by American Ecclesiologists, especially for small parishes like St. Thomas's. The inspiration for the church is Long Stanton St. Michael's, Cambridgeshire (c. 1230), a design found throughout the ecclesiologists' patternbooks and executed in this country and Canada. The key features are small proportions, rough masonry, simple lancet windows, side porch entrance, steep roof, and a bell-cote at the east end. St. Thomas's has all of these, but departs somewhat with its apse and stubby transepts. Even though its bell-cote was blown off, the church retains a medieval, almost rustic appearance, and still reflects the original goals of the design. The stained glass is typically Victorian and in no way was considered as a reproduction; at once representational and sentimental, it accurately shows the taste of its time.

Ecclesiology began in England and had spread to New York by the late 1840's. The members of the English Camden Society and their American counterparts sought to recapture the intensity of Medieval faith, and believed that architecture was the key to that end. The role of the architect was a critical one: through his study of English Gothic examples, he was to recreate the appearance and atmosphere of a medieval church. Such a setting, they thought, would itself engender feelings of mystery, piety, and devotion in the faithful. Ecclesiology was a major influence in the building of Episcopal churches in the 19th century. Like most of the architects involved, Henry M. Congdon himself was an Episcopalian. Throughout his long career, he built almost nothing but churches and church-related buildings. He was a member of the New York Ecclesiological Society and later, an active Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He received his training under John Priest of Newburgh, New York.

Hartford has a number of outstanding examples of Gothic Revival architecture:

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Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)
Hartford, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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early work by Town and Davis, such as the Wadsworth Atheneum and Christ Church Cathedral; collegiate Gothic at Trinity College; and High Victorian exuberance in the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Connecticut State Capitol. As a typical example of a small church built by an Ecclesiologist, St. Thomas's is a worthy addition to the catalog of Gothic architecture in Hartford.

The boundary of the site was chosen to include both the parish hall and the parsonage. The hall, a very plain and somewhat deteriorated structure, was a temporary chapel used by the original congregation when they were dispossessed of the church by a builder's lien in 1875. It was moved from its original location near Mahl Avenue to the rear of the church in 1884, when the congregation regained the building. Although the present congregation's plans for the hall are uncertain, and may include its replacement, it was included in the nominated property because it is physically attached to the church and because of its historical association with the first church.

The parsonage was included because of its proximity, separated from the church only by a narrow drive, and because it functioned as an integral part of the church. Although its architectural significance is not outstanding, it is a well-built house typical of its period. It was built as and used as a parsonage by the original congregation, but has served as church offices for the second.

NOTE

¹Mrs. Mather and her husband were early proponents of establishing an Episcopal parish in the northern part of the city, as was Bishop Brownell. To aid in this effort, the Mathers offered part of their farmland for the church. The plan could not be accomplished, however, before the deaths of Mr. Mather and his son, within a month of each other, nor before Bishop Brownell died shortly thereafter. Mrs. Mather then placed the land in the hand of trustees, in honor of her husband and son, and stipulated that the church should be a memorial to Bishop Brownell.

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Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)
Hartford, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 5

Bibliography (cont.):

St. Thomas's Church Records, State Library, Hartford, 4 vols.

Property Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church)

State ct. (Hartford)

Working Number 6.21.79.1516

79002634

TECHNICAL

Photos 8
Maps 1

CONTROL

pl
OK 6.21.79

Nomination ignores half-century of Episcopal history and post-1921 broad role in community; also presents civil rights argument in chronological and thematic vacuum. However, author makes strong case for exceptional significance for associations with Rev. Jackson, aggressive pre-WWII leader in struggle to achieve equal employment opportunities for Blacks; this argument strongly supported by voluminous correspondence attached to nomination.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
8-13-79

J.M. Towne

ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH'S EARLIER ASSOCIATIONS ARE PASSED OVER IN THIS NOMINATION A GOOD CASE IS MADE FOR EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF BLACK HISTORY. ALSO, ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE IS WELL JUSTIFIED -- STYLISTIC IMPORTANCE AND CONTEXT ARE CLEARLY STATED.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
MAC DOUGAL
8/19/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
MAC DOUGAL
8/19/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

9-4-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered **86 15 1979**



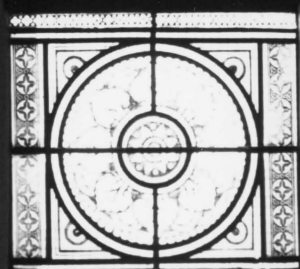
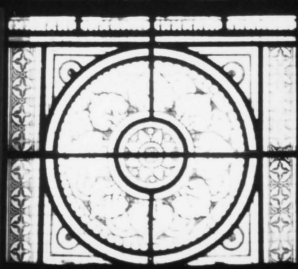
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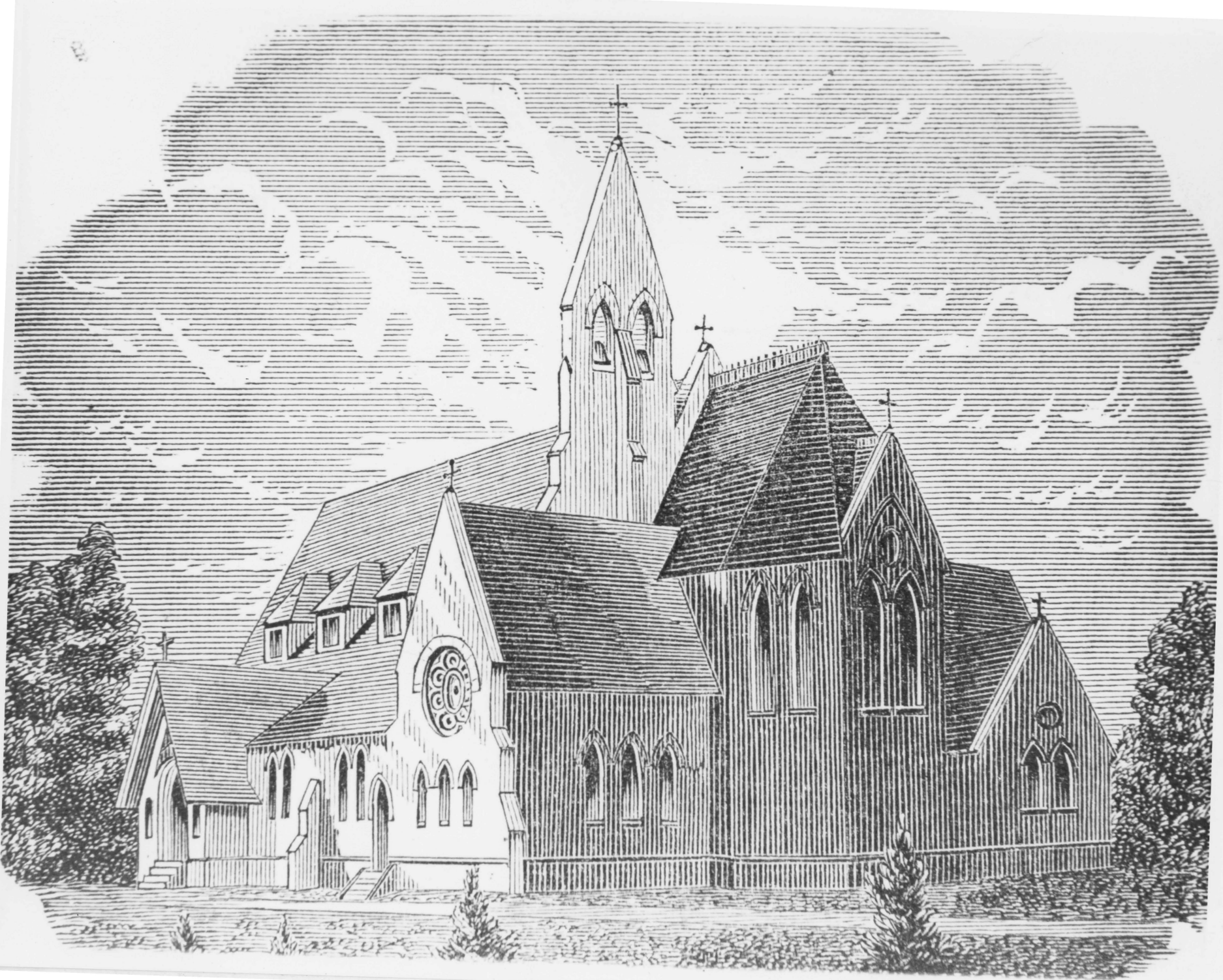




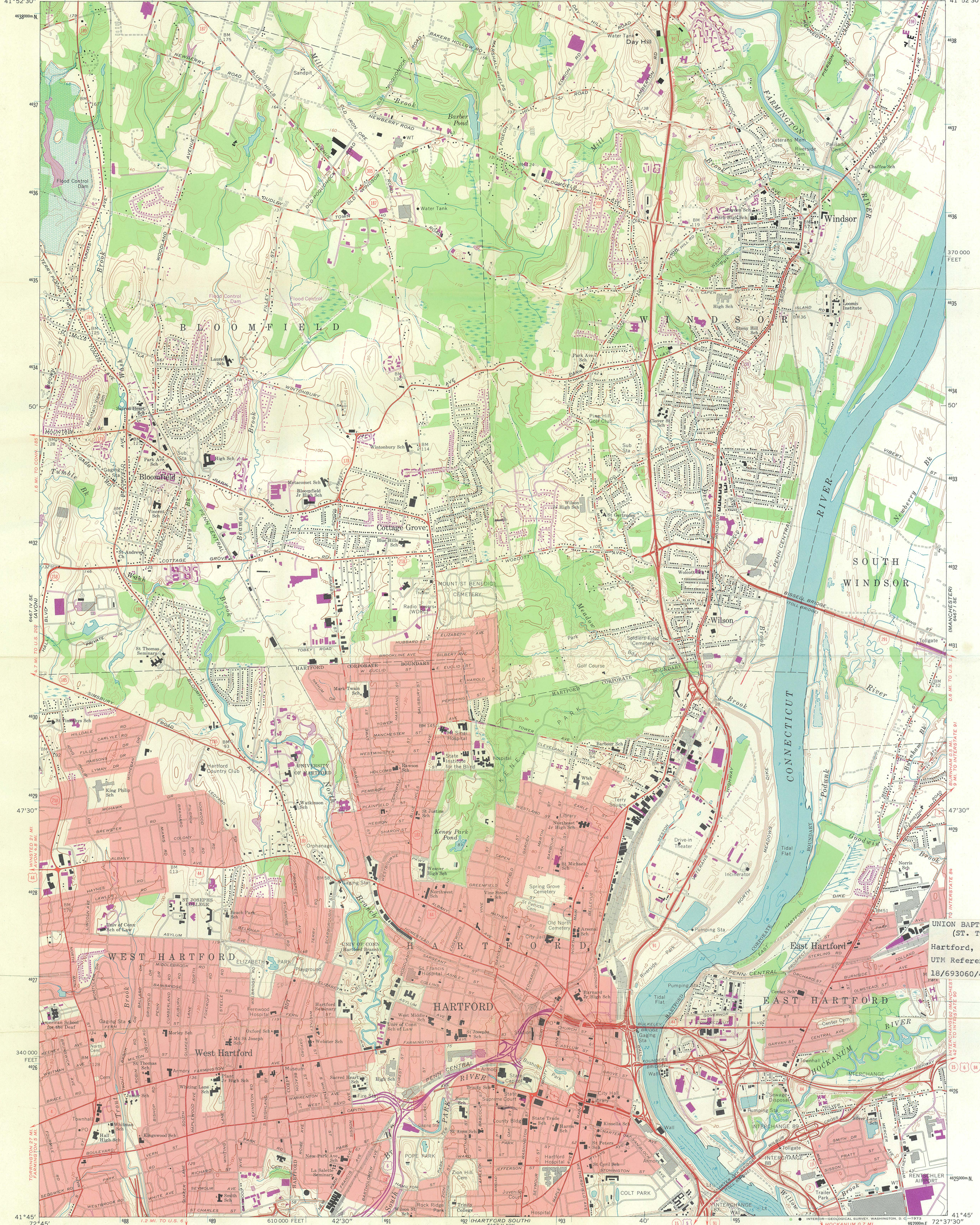








41°52'30" 72°45' 187 MASS STATE LINE 14 MI GRANBY 7 MI 1880000 E EAST GRANBY 5 MI 189 42°30" 6467 NW (WINDSOR LOCKS) 1893 POQUONOCK 2.2 MI 40' THOMPSONVILLE 10 MI 1895 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 16 MI WINDSOR LOCKS 4 MI 1896 630 000 FEET 72°37'30" 41°52'30"



Mapped by the Geological Survey and City of Hartford
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Connecticut Highway Department
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1941. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised 1964
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 267 (1962)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject
to controlled inundation

SCALE 1:24 000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.7 FEET

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
133° 240 MILLS
133° 28 MILLS

CONNECTICUT
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

HARTFORD NORTH, CONN.
N4145—W7237.5/75
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 6467 1 SW—SERIES V816

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
(ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH)
Hartford, CT
UTM Reference:
18/693060/4627870

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1 1979
NATIONAL
REGISTER

AUG 15 1979



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

GREATER HARTFORD BRANCH

P. O. BOX 12313

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06112

(203) 527-7856

THOMAS WRIGHT
President

May 15, 1979

RECEIVED
MAY 18 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

ATTENTION: DIRECTOR

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Hartford Branch N.A.A.C.P., to appeal to the Commissioners of the Connecticut Historical Commission to consider placing the Union Baptist Church on the National Register of Historical Places.

We feel that the Union Baptist Church and its history fall within your selection criteria:

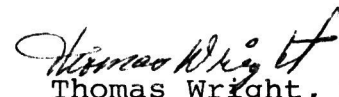
1. Union Baptist Church can identify significantly with the expansion and growth of our history in this state.
2. The building's architecture has the distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. It was built in 1871.
3. It can be identified with Thomas Brownell, Third Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, and founder of Trinity College.

These are just a few of the things that we would like to identify with as we continue to strive for a better community.

As our community grows, so should the history of the Union Baptist Church so that it can be shared with generations to come.

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Thomas Wright, President
Greater Hartford Branch
N.A.A.C.P.
Pastor Robert M. Feldmann
Treasurer

TW:jcg

Robert J. Pernell, Jr.
Vice President

Ella Cromwell
2nd Vice President

Ernestine White
3rd Vice President

Elaine Wilcox
Secretary

Pastor Robert M. Feldmann
Treasurer

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
1921 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06120

May 15, 1979

Senator William Cotter
450 Main Street
Hartford, Conn

Dear Senator Cotter:

We are asking that you write a letter to the Connecticut Historical Commission asking that Union Baptist Church be placed on the National Register of Historical Places. This letter should be sent to:

The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The church meets the following criteria for evaluation:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
2. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.
4. It is a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction and historical importance.

Please send your letter prior to May 30, 1979, since the Commission will meet early in June to act upon applications.

Yours truly,
Rachel T. Milton, Chairman
The Union Baptist Church Proposal Committee

Mrs. Mary J. Lee
Mrs. Rachel T. Milton
Mr. George P. Thomas

Footnote: Union Baptist Church occupies the site of St Thomas Episcopal Church, built in 1871 in memory of Thomas Brownell, Third Episcopal Bishop of Conn., and founder of Trinity College.

LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

STATE OFFICES:
BRIDGEPORT
U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
915 LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD 06604
PHONE: 203-579-5830
TOLL FREE 1-800-972-4239
HARTFORD
ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA 06103
14TH FLOOR
PHONE: 203-244-2882
TOLL FREE 1-800-842-0128

May 17, 1979

RECEIVED
MAY 21 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

Mr. John W. Shanahan
Director
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Mr. Shanahan:

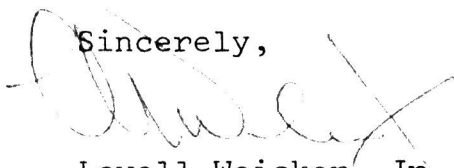
I am pleased to learn that the Union Baptist Church of Hartford, Connecticut is being considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

I hope that every appropriate consideration is given this nomination to be listed on the National Register as a cultural resource worthy of preservation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,


Lowell Weicker, Jr.
United States Senator

LW:DC:mc

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

PLEASE REPLY TO

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FEDERAL BUILDING
450 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103
TELEPHONE: (203) 244-2383

May 18, 1979

Mr. John W. Shannahan, Director
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Mr. Shannahan:

Enclosed please find the letter which I recently received from Rachel T. Milton of the Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

As you can see from the enclosure, the Union Baptist Church is asking to be placed on the National Register of Historical Places. The Church Committee feels that Union Baptist meets the criteria to be qualified for same.

I request that your Commission give every appropriate consideration to this application. Further, I would greatly appreciate it if you would be so kind as to advise me of the final decision on this matter.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



WILLIAM R. COTTER
Member of Congress

Enclosure

May 22, 1979
134 Steele Road
West Hartford, CT 06119

Director
The Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06106

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

Dear Sir:

I enthusiastically recommend that Union Baptist Church of Hartford be placed on the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

1. The church is of historic significance in that a former pastor, the Rev. John C. Jackson, was a pioneer in the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1943 Dr. Jackson, a black man, spearheaded the creation in Connecticut of the first state-wide Civil Rights Commission in the United States. He served as a member of the commission until his death in 1953 at 86 years of age. The Rt. Rev. Walter H. Gray, who later served as the eighth Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, was the first chairman of the commission.

Another member of Union Baptist, Mrs. Rachel Milton, pioneered the creation of a local Urban League in Hartford. It is also significant that her brother-in-law, the Rt. Rev. Cedric Mills, became the first black Episcopal Bishop of the Virgin Islands.

2. Union Baptist Church was originally St. Thomas Episcopal Church. It was built in 1871 to honor the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Brownell, third Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut and founder of Trinity College in Hartford in 1824.

3. The church building itself, designed by New York architect Henry Congdon, is a charming example of Gothic Revival architecture which was typical of early English country churches. The Victorian stained glass windows are particularly handsome.

4. Union Baptist Church is an important and integral part of the history of the City of Hartford as a whole. It is located just northeast of Hartford's second most ancient cemetery, Old North, which was laid out in 1807 and is the place of rest for numerous Hartford notables including Frederick Law Olmstead, this nation's first great landscape architect, and the Rev. Horace Bushnell, Hartford's leading citizen in the 19th century.

Union Baptist today is most definitely a religious property of prime historical importance in this city as well as a church of considerable architectural and artistic distinction.

Sincerely,


Marion Hepburn Grant

MHG:p

Union Baptist Church

1921 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06120

Minister
REV. A. ROGER WILLIAMS

8 JEROME AVE., BLOOMFIELD, CONN. 06002

242-9671

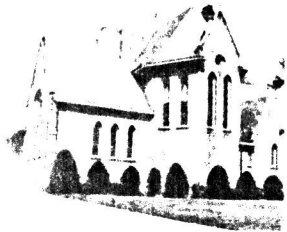
SAMUEL I. THOMAS
CHURCH SECRETARY AND CLERK

MRS. MARCELYN W. BROWN
MINISTER OF MUSIC

ROGER C. JONES
BENEVOLENT TREASURER

PHONE HOUSE 726-8731

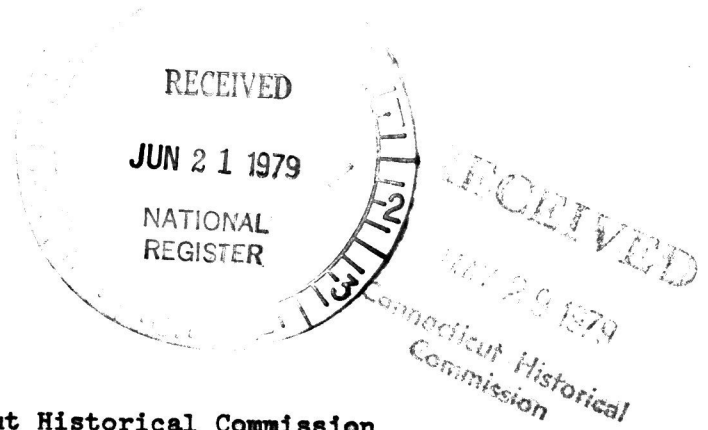
PHONE 247-0648



WENNETT COHENS, SR., CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DEACONS

JEFFORD W. GUNN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GEORGE P. THOMAS, CHURCH TREASURER



May 23, 1979

The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106


Dear Sir:

As Historian of Union Baptist Church, I am asking that our building be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

It is interesting to note that at the time of the construction of our present home by Episcopalians, the founders of Union Baptist Church were worshipping in a railroad box car on Spruce Street in downtown Hartford. Some time later the Congregation moved to Hope Chapel on Albany Avenue. Coincidentally, the builders of St. Thomas had held their services in this same Chapel nearly a decade earlier. Today Union occupies what was formerly an Episcopal Church while an Episcopal Church now occupies the structure that was the home of Union Baptist Church.

In the half century that we have been at 1921 Main Street the structure has been maintained in an excellent state of repair. Since it has been regarded and treated as an historic and valuable building it is altogether fitting that this be recognized by its addition to the National Register of Historical Places.

Yours truly,


George P. Thomas,
Church Historian

131 Wadhams Road
Bloomfield, Connecticut, 06002
May 24, 1979

The Director
The Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut, 06106

Dear Sir:

We are writing to request that the Union Baptist Church, located at 1921 Main Street in Hartford, be considered for placement on the National Register of Historical Places. Built in 1871 in memory of Thomas Brownell, Third Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, and Founder of Trinity College, the church was first known as Saint Thomas Episcopal Church.

Since becoming the property of the Union Baptist Church congregation, the building still stands an object of architectural and artistic distinction with historical importance, embodying distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.

The church is associated ^{with} events and activities that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our local and national history.

We would appreciate your consideration of our request.

Respectfully yours,

Alvin B. Wood

Alvin B. Wood

M. Beatrice Wood

M. Beatrice Wood

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

44 Durham Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06112
May 28, 1979

The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

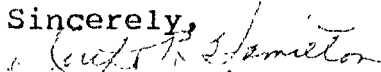
Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in support of the efforts being made by concerned individuals to place the Union Baptist Church on the National Register of Historical Places.

At a very young age I became a member of Union Baptist Church and participated in the many programs that Union developed to create a Christian fellowship among its membership as well as render service to the community.

Some of the memories that I can recall include the participation of the Rev. Dr. J. C. Jackson in the creation of the State's first Civil Rights Commission during the administration of Governor Raymond Baldwin; the youth programs at Union that led to visitations of other youth fellowships in the City; the close association between Union Baptist Church and the Hartford Seminary Foundation which led to student ministers working closely with the congregation in all areas of church life; and the annual exchange of pulpits between the white and black ministerial associations in Hartford to promote better race relations throughout the community.

It is my understanding the Church occupies the site of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church, built in 1871 and that the edifice meets the criteria for this recognition. I heartily recommend that approval be given to the request of the Union Baptist Church Proposal Committee.

Sincerely,

Ruth P. Hamilton
(Mrs. Ellis G.)

THE RIGHT REV. MORGAN PORTEUS
1335 ASYLUM AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

RECEIVED

JUN 6 1979

Connecticut Historical

May 29, 1979.

JUN 21 1979

copy

Mrs. Rachel F. Milton, Chairman,
Proposal Committee,
Union Baptist Church,
49 Ashford Street,
Hartford, Connecticut. 06120.

Dear Mrs. Milton,

It was a pleasure to meet you at St. Monica's festivities a couple of weeks ago. It was a privilege to be a part of that happy occasion.

Thank you for sending me a history of the former St. Thomas' Episcopal Church of Hartford. I appreciate that information and have considered it in light of the request that you have made of me.

Beyond any doubt this building now known as Union Baptist Church complies very easily with the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. I would like to support the request of Union Baptist Church to be placed on that Register. [The building is an attractive one and graced that part of North Main Street for a long time. It seems to fit. It belongs both to the past of that neighborhood and as well to the present, and I believe would make a splendid contribution in maintaining a sense of pride and achievement to the people in the community. It is my hope that your request will be looked upon favorably so that the history of that attractive and meaningful structure may continue far into the future.]

This comes to you and to the members of Union Baptist Church with all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Morgan Porteus
Bishop of Connecticut

MAY 30 1979

*Printed Material
being sent under separate
cover*

Church of the Good Shepherd

155 WYLLYS STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

"*Serving since 1869*"

Telephone 525-4289

RECEIVED
JUN 1 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

29 May 1979

Director,
Connecticut Historical Commission,
59 Prospect Street,
Hartford, CT 06106.

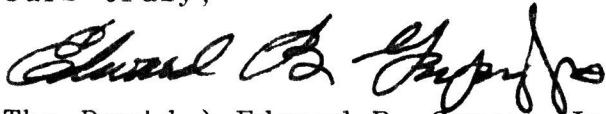
Dear Sir:

I write to express my support of the efforts to have Union Baptist Church, Hartford, placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

As you know, it was built in 1871 as a Memorial to The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brownell, III Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut and founder of Trinity College.

It is my understanding that the Church edifice is a classic example of the Episcopal ecclesiastical architecture of the 1870's.

Yours truly,



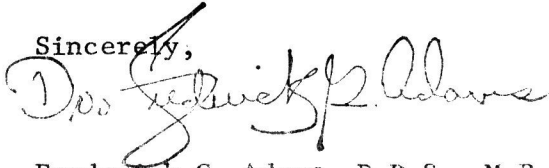
(The Rev'd.) Edward B. Geyer, Jr.
Rector

EBG/pcg

The NAACP regularly holds their monthly Board Meeting there. The Church was involved in administering low-income housing in the community, etc. There have been many times and ways that this church and its members have been instrumental in the good things that happened in this community.

We sincerely hope that every consideration will be given to the Union Baptist Church to be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. G. Adams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Frederick G. Adams, D.D.S., M.P.H.
President

William J. Brown
Executive Director

FGA:WJB:el



TRINITY COLLEGE • HARTFORD • CONNECTICUT • 06106

Office of the President

May 29, 1979

RECEIVED
MAY 30 1979
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in support of the application by the Union Baptist Church to be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The Union Baptist Church is an important institution in Hartford, especially in the black community. It has provided outstanding leaders to the City. The Church has a link to Trinity College, since its building was constructed in 1871 in memory of Thomas Church Brownell, the first president of Trinity College.

I hope you give the application from the Union Baptist Church the careful consideration it deserves.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theodore D. Lockwood".

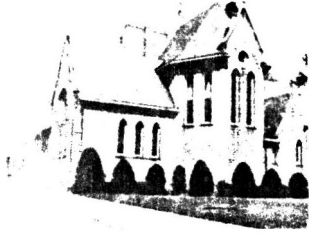
Theodore D. Lockwood
President

cc: Mrs. Rachael T. Milton, Chairman
The Union Baptist Church Proposal Committee
The Union Baptist Church
1921 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06120

Union Baptist Church

PHONE HOUSE 726-8731

PHONE 247-0648



BENNETT COHENS, SR., CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DEACONS

EDWARD W. GUNN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GEORGE P. THOMAS, CHURCH TREASURER

1921 MAIN STREET

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06120

Minister

REV. A. ROGER WILLIAMS

8 JEROME AVE., BLOOMFIELD, CONN. 06002

242-9871

SAMUEL I. THOMAS
CHURCH SECRETARY AND CLERK

MRS. MARCELYN W. BROWN
MINISTER OF MUSIC

ROGER C. JONES
BENEVOLENT TREASURER

May 30, 1979

RECEIVED
JUN 1 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

Mr. John Shanahan, Director
Historic Commission
National Register of Historical Places
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Mr. Shanahan:

We, of Union Baptist Church feel that it has made unique contributions to the life of Hartford and its environs.

Its leadership in civic, educational and ecclesiastical areas has inspired many and opened doors for others. □

Thank you for any consideration given our request.

Sincerely yours,

A. Roger Williams

ARW:sit

St. Monica's Episcopal Church

31 MATHER STREET

P. O. BOX 12225

HARTFORD, CONN. 06112

PHONES: 522-7761 OR 522-6819

THE REV. CYRIL C. BURKE

RECTOR

RECEIVED
MAY 30 1979
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 30, 1979

The Director of the Connecticut
Historical Commission

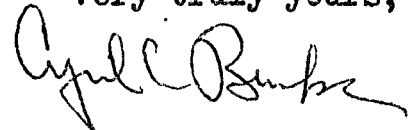
59 Prospect Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Sir:

I would like to advise you that I concur that Union Baptist Church, of 1921 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut be placed on the National Register of Historical Places, since it meets all the criteria for evaluation.

Very truly yours,



(Rev) Cyril C. Burke, Rector

CCB/vhh

Union Baptist Church

1921 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06120

Minister

REV. A. ROGER WILLIAMS

8 JEROME AVE., BLOOMFIELD, CONN. 06002

242-9671

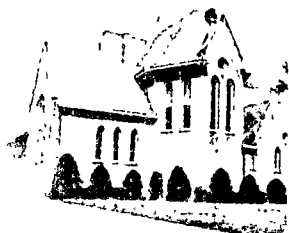
SAMUEL I. THOMAS
CHURCH SECRETARY AND CLERK

MRS. MARCELYN W. BROWN
MINISTER OF MUSIC

ROGER C. JONES
BENEVOLENT TREASURER

TELEPHONE HOUSE 720-8731

TELEPHONE 247-0648



BENNETT COHENS, SR., CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DEACONS

EDWARD W. GUNN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GEORGE P. THOMAS, CHURCH TREASURER

The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Sir:

We, the Deacons of Union Baptist Church, respectfully request that you recommend that our Church be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

As you know, the Church meets four criteria for evaluation. Of greater importance, are the contributions made by members to the life of the community.

As an institution Union Baptist Church continues to render valuable services to the Northend of Hartford. We are constantly seeking ways to increase the number and quality of these services.

Yours truly,

Bennett Cohens, Sr.
Chairman Board of Deacons
Union Baptist Church

THE CAPITOL REGION CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

30 HIGH ST.

(203) 527-2171

HARTFORD, CONN. 06103

June 1, 1979
RECEIVED

JUN 4 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

David D. Mellon, Exec. Dir.
Robert C. Casstevens,
Asst. Dir.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

John M. Carter
Robert E. Johnson
John Smith

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Robert C. Casstevens

TRANSPARENT PROGRAM

Ed P. Brown

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DIAC CARE

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Robert H. Lloyd
Thomas E. Orle

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

John A. Zorn

LEGAL CONSULTANT

William R. Seadquist, Jr.
e

ADVISORS

Robert E. Johnson, Jr.

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn, President

BOARD MEMBERS

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn, Jr.

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn, Welch, Jr.

BOARD CLERK

George S. Athanson

John A. Zorn

John A. Zorn

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John A. Zorn

Mr. Jack Shannahan
State Historic Preservation Officer
59 South Prospect St.
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Mr. Shannahan:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches to indicate our support for the petition of Union Baptist Church to receive the status entering it in the National Register of Historic Places.

The history of the Church, dating back to 1871, is compelling, and the good works of the current pastor and his congregation validate their effort for historic recognition.

We encourage your prompt and favorable response.

Sincerely,

David D. Mellon

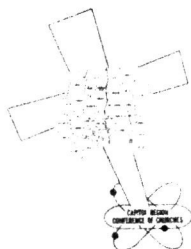
The Rev. Dr. David D. Mellon
Executive Director

DDM:mlw

cc: The Rev. Dr. A. Roger Williams, Pastor, Union Baptist Church

Ms. Rachel T. Milton

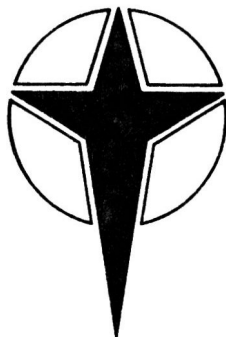
The Rev. Edward B. Geyer, President, Capitol Region Conference of Churches



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF CONNECTICUT

100 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105 TELEPHONE: 236-5421 AREA CODE 203

ORLANDO L. TIBBETTS, D.Min., D.D.
EXECUTIVE MINISTER



RECEIVED
JUN 4 1979
Connecticut Historical
Commission
June 1, 1979

Director
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to urge you to support the application of the Union Baptist Church of 1921 Main Street, Hartford, for recognition as a member of the National Registry of Historical Places.

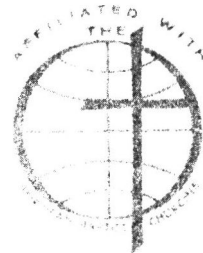
As the judicatory head of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, of which Union Baptist Church is a member, I wish to express my hope that the characteristics of architecture, which are expressed in the building, might be preserved as a monument to the past and a contribution to the future.

Hoping for favorable action by the Commission, I remain,

Sincerely,

Orlando L. Tibbetts
Orlando L. Tibbetts

OLT/jcf



Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis

AUXILIARY — A. E. A. O. N. M. S. OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA AND ITS JURISDICTION, INC.

RECEIVED

JUN 6 1979

Connecticut Historical Commission



Office of:

ANNE M. BOLDEN

IMPERIAL COMMANDRESS

112 Cottage Grove Road

Oasis of Bloomfield

Desert of Connecticut

9th day of month Bast
Osiris 5062

which corresponds to June 1st
19 79

- ANNE M. BOLDEN (95)**
Imperial Commandress
112 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002
Office 203-243-1793/243-1794
Res. 203-243-2287
- DOROTHY M. JENKINS-SCOTT (32)**
Deputy Imperial Commandress
19163 Woodingham Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48221
Phone: 313-341-7563
- IDEE W. DODSON (89)**
Imperial 1st Lieutenant Commandress
3330 N Prospect Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-424-3109
- KATIE EZELL ROSEMON (93)**
Imperial 2nd Lieutenant Commandress
1700 Polk Street
Gary, Indiana 46407
Phone: 219-882-5560
- PHYLLIS MCKOY (74)**
Imperial High Priestess
891 St. Marks Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11213
Phone: 212-778-1349
- DOROTHY SHELTON (62)**
Imperial Oriental Guide
24 Hamlin Rd.
Buffalo, New York 14208
Phone: 716-885-9224
- MARY H. PAMPLIN (41)**
Imperial Treasurer
2504 Otis Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Phone: 919-882-3092
- GRACE T. BROOKS (121)**
Imperial Recordress
529 E. Brackenridge
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
Office 219-422-8143
Res 219 424-2374
- GWENDOLYN THOMPSON (130)**
Imperial 1st Ceremonial Daughter
1953 West Congress
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209
Phone: 414-562-8666
- JEWEL R. LANG (35)**
Imperial 2nd Ceremonial Daughter
3463 Hudson Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207
Phone: 513-281-6391
- MARGARET P. WARREN (5)**
Imperial Inside Spy
550 W. 105th Street
Los Angeles, California 90044
Phone: 213-777-4801
- EVA RAY ALLEN**
Imperial Outside Spy
2995 Monaco Pkwy
Denver, Colorado 80207
Phone: 303-355-2648
- BESSIE F. BURTON (17)**
Imperial Internal Auditor (Chairman)
1125 S 60th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143
- ERNESTINE BUCK (135)**
Imperial Internal Auditor
Rt. 5, Box 30K, Harrell Ave.
Williamstown, New Jersey 08094
- VALZORA DRAPER (59)**
Imperial Internal Auditor
636 47th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94121
- SYLVIA X. ALLEN (43)**
Imperial Legal Advisor
P.O. Box 552
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302
- T ROOSEVELT BUTLER**
Imperial Advisor
1136 Washington Boulevard
Kansas City, Kansas 66102
- JACK STRONG**
Deputy Imperial Advisor
1440 Guffen Lane
Bossier City, Louisiana 71010

Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that Union Baptist Church meet the following criteria we are asking that Union Baptist be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
2. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.
4. It is a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction and historical importance.

This will be a well deserved recognition of one of the outstanding Institutions of our time.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Bolden

(Mrs.) Anne M. Bolden
Imperial Commandress
Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis

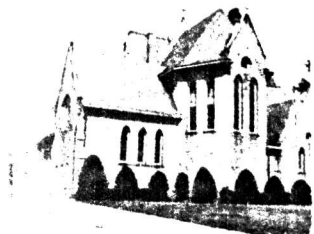
AMB/nc

"HOPE, FAITH, LOVE, CHARITY — ATTAINS SUCCESS"

Union Baptist Church

PARISH HOUSE 728-8731

OFFICE 247-0648



BENNETT COHENS, SR., CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DEACONS

CLIFFORD W. GUNN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GEORGE P. THOMAS, CHURCH TREASURER

1921 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06120

Minister
REV. A. ROGER WILLIAMS
8 JEROME AVE., BLOOMFIELD, CONN. 06002
242-9871

SAMUEL I. THOMAS
CHURCH SECRETARY AND CLERK

MRS. MARCELYN W. BROWN
MINISTER OF MUSIC

ROGER C. JONES
BENEVOLENT TREASURER

June 1, 1979

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1979

Connecticut Historical
Commission

Mr. John Shanonan, Director Distoric Commission
National Register of Historical Places
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Mr. Shanonan:

We, the Trustee Board of Union Missionary Baptist Church wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of Mrs. Rachel T. Milton, Mrs. Mary J. Lee and Mr. George P. Thomas in seeing that the present facilities of Union Missionary Baptist Church is permanently included in the history of the great city of Hartford, State of Connecticut and indeed this nation of ours.

It is only fitting that ~~each~~ such³ religious institution as Union Missionary Baptist Church be nominated, accepted and designated as a historical site, for she has produced, Doctors, Lawyers, Educators, Politicians and many other civil servants that have made their mark for the betterment of society. Their unselfish giving of their talents have impacted not only this nation of ours, but the world at large.

We are sure that upon examining the character of this institution your decision to act favorably on this proposal will be well founded and grately appreciated by the community.

Very truly yours,

Clifford Love, Chairman
Rev. A. Roger Williams, Pastor
Members:

John Honor
Hughey White
George Bethel
Douglas Midder
Lincoln Turner
Herbert Houston
Theodore West
Julia Manigo
James Howard, Sr.,

CL:sit

Members of the Review Board:

The criteria for evaluation of nomination of Union Baptist Church, formerly St Thomas Episcopal Church, as a potential entry in the National Historical Register has been thoroughly researched and authentically documented in all significant areas required by the National Register of Historic Places, and such credit for this splendid report (with pictures) is due Bruce Clouett, consultant, Conn Historical Commission. A religious property, deriving primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance, Union Baptist Church, from its early beginnings in a box car on Spruce Street, for many years has been and still is home to an active and influential congregation, that has been an important part, not only of Hartford's white and black community, but to this great nation, and is important in establishing far reaching principles of equal opportunity and images in many areas of achievement. We present the following happenings in human rights and achievements, led by members of Union Baptist Church, two of which are mentioned in the report.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Arthur Johnson, 1st Black Director, Human Relations Commission, City of Hfd.
Elsie Taylor Dutrieulle, 1st Black member, National Board, WYCA
Union Baptist Church Life Membership NAACP; meets monthly in church (free)

POLITICS

Mary Johnson Lee, 1st Black woman elected Prosser Library Board, Bloomfield
Alvin Wood, 1st black elected councilman, Bloomfield
Beatrice Wood, last woman (black or white) Deputy Mayor, Bloomfield

RELIGION

Dr Emmanuel S Branch, former Pastor, Yale: Award winner Amer Bapt Churches of U.S. for civic progress in Cleveland, Ohio
Rev A Roger Williams, Pastor, 1st Black Pres., Amer. Bapt. Churches of Conn.
Dr J.O. Roberts, Member, Hfd Theol. Sem.; Prof, School of Religion, Howard Uni
Dr Herbert O Edwards, Member, Harvard: Prof School of Religion, Duke University

COMMUNITY

Dr Cedric Rawlins, 1st Black appointed State Dental Commission, founding member Conn Medical Dental School, Univ of Conn; 1st Black Chr. Parole
Ruth Hamilton, A founder, incorporator, last Black woman Director, 1st Black Vice-President, 1st Black financial institution in New England and Conn.
John A Taylor, 1st and only Black President, Local 78, Wood, Wire and Lather' Union; helped build 1st phase Aetna Ins. Co., 2nd phase Travel Ins. Co, St. Frances, Hartford Hospitals; Beth Israel synagogu

EDUCATION

C Edythe Taylor, 1st Black Schoolteacher
Alvin Wood, last Black School Principal
Deloris Graham, last Black woman Assistant to Pres., University of Hartford
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Members of the Review Board:

The criteria for evaluation of nomination of Union Baptist Church, formerly St Thomas Episcopal Church, as a potential entry in the National Historical Register has been thoroughly researched and authentically documented in all significant areas required by the National Register of Historic Places, and much credit for this splendid report (with pictures) is due Bruce Clouett, consultant, Conn Historical Commission. A religious property, deriving primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance, Union Baptist Church, from its early beginnings in a box car on Spruce Street, for many years has been and still is home to an active and influential congregation, that has been an important part, not only of Hartford's white and black community, but to this great nation, and is important in establishing far reaching principles of equal opportunity and images in many areas of achievement. We present the following happenings in human rights and achievements, led by members of Union Baptist Church, two of which are mentioned in the report.

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Elsie Taylor Dutrieulle, 1st Black member, National Board, WYCA
Union Baptist Church Life Membership NAACP; meets monthly in church (free)

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Beatrice Wood, last woman (black or white) Deputy Mayor, Bloomfield

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Dr Emmanuel S Branch, former Pastor, Yale: Award winner Amer Bapt Churches of U.S. for civic progress in Cleveland, Ohio
Rev A Roger Williams, Pastor, 1st Black Pres., Amer. Bapt. Churches of Conn.
Dr J.O. Roberts, Member, Hfd Theol. Sem.; Prof, School of Religion, Howard Univ
Dr Herbert O Edwards, Member, Harvard: Prof School of Religion, Duke University

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Dr Gerrie Rawlins, 1st Black appointed State Dental Commission, founding member Conn Medical Dental School, Univ of Conn; 1st Black Chr. Parole Bd
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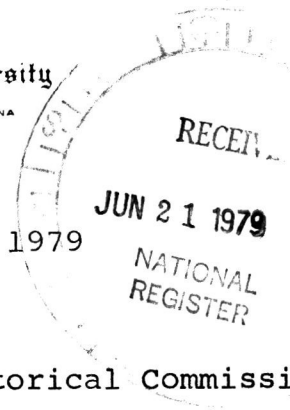
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Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

June 4, 1979



The Director of the Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Sir:

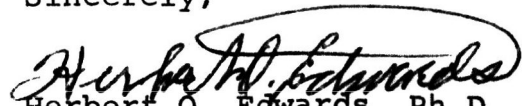
It has been rightly said that any people which becomes unmindful of its past, places a heavy burden on its present to try to assure a meaningful future. Only in recent years has the significance of the historical contribution of all groups to American culture, and especially the contributions of Black Americans, been treated with a measure of the seriousness that they deserve.

All too often, those landmarks, those monuments of human striving, are allowed to decay and to be ravaged by passing time and inattention. Anyone remotely familiar with our recent experiences in most of our larger urban areas, must view with serious concern the failure to take necessary steps to preserve and protect those aspects of our past which are often threatened by "progress."

In spite of our personal attachment to the historically rich past that belongs to the Union Baptist Church, we are equally concerned less a vital part of the cultural richness and diversity of our city may be lost unless we take steps now to preserve it.

Consequently, we join all of those who have participated in and learned from the rich heritage of Union Baptist Church in requesting that it be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,


Herbert O. Edwards, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Duke Divinity School
Durham, N.C. 27706

HOE/mc

MRS. WALTER H. GRAY
100 WESTERLY TERRACE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

RECEIVED

JUN 4 1979

Director of the Connecticut ~~Historical~~ ^{Commission} ~~Commission~~

Dear Sir:

I am glad to respond to the request of Mrs. Rachel T. Miltan, of the Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main St. Hartford, to endorse the proposal to have this church placed on the National Register of Historic Places

[Built to be an Episcopal Church, in 1871 it is a fine stone building, has been well maintained and stands as a beacon of hope in a sad neighborhood.

Let her be Episcopal

RECEIVED

JUN 11 1979

Connecticut Historical Commission

Director

Connecticut Historical Commission,
Hartford, Conn.

36 Lexington Road,
West Hartford, Conn.
June 5, 1979

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1979

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Dear Sir: By request of the Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main Street, Hartford, I write to you to ask that you would use your influence to place the church's building on the National Register of Historic Places.

As the author of a history of the Episcopal Church's Diocese of Connecticut, I am familiar with the history of the church building, which was and is a memorial to Bishop Thomas C. Bronnell, who presided over the Diocese from 1819 until his death in 1865. The bishop was a leader in the founding of Trinity College, Hartford.

The church is, I believe, a very remarkable example of Gothic Revival architecture, and one of the few such examples in this area. Hartford has

lost so many examples of nineteenth-century art and architecture, that it seems fitting to save this one. I am the more interested, because I have long been a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I frequently send to "Preservation News" clippings concerning preservation efforts in Hartford and vicinity.

I earnestly hope that you will consider placing historic St. Thomas' Church on the Register of Historic Places.

Yours sincerely,
Mildred R. Burr.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

GEORGE A. ATHANSON
MAYOR

RECEIVED

JUN 7 1979

PHONE 203/566-6610

Connecticut Historical
Commission

June 6, 1979

Director
The Connecticut Historical Commission
59 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT. 06106

Dear Director:

Over the years, the Union Baptist Church, located on Main Street in Hartford, has become a distinctive part of the City's heritage. It is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history and also with the lives of persons outstanding in our past.

The Union Baptist Church occupies the site of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, built in 1871 in memory of Thomas Brownell, Third Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, and founder of Trinity College. Its construction and design embody notable characteristics of architecture in the late 1800's.

The Union Baptist Church appears to meet the evaluative criteria for designation as an historical site. Since the church is both architecturally distinctive and historically important, I am requesting that it be placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

As the Commission meets early in June to act upon applications, I hope that I will be notified of your decision in the near future.

Respectfully yours,

George A. Athanson
GEORGE A. ATHANSON
MAYOR

GAA:sek

Members of the Review Board:

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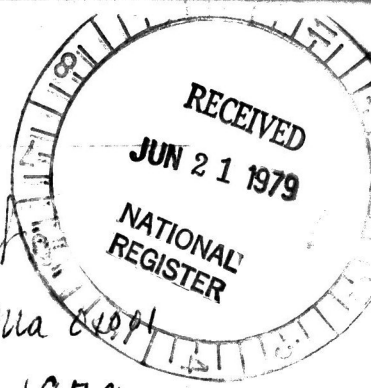
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Donald Taylor White Chr Proposal Com., Union Baptist Church



39 Reed St
Newtown, Ma 01891

RECEIVED

JUN 22 1979

June 9, 1979

Director
Conn Historical Commission
59 Prospect St
Hartford, Conn. 06106

Connecticut Historical
Commission

Dear Sir

Your interest and support
are needed to have Union Baptist
Church placed on the National Register
of Historical Places.

As a native of Hartford Conn; I
was educated at the North End and
Hartford Public High Schools.

My family lived in the
North End and were active members
of the Church from it's location
on Wooster Street, later at Mather

Stand there at its present location.
Union Baptist provided strong leadership for its young people, emphasizing the importance of strong family life, education, and culture.

Money was limited, so that recreation and other educational activities were stressed, urging all, especially the young, to take advantage of every opportunity.

As children we visited Cold North Cemetery near the Church, reading the tombstones of the old settlers. Follow up assignments were given by going to the Library and finding out about the families buried there, and

information about the times
and customs in which they lived
on the ^{the} establishment of Union Church
National Register of Historical Places
will enhance the image of the
North End, recognizing the contribution
that has been made to the
development of the Community.

Many young blacks, inspired
and supported by the Church leader-
ship have gone on to college,
obtaining higher degrees. They have
become leaders in education, medicine,
dentistry, law, social work, nursing,
business and other professions.

These individuals have served
as models for young blacks
and the total Community.

We ask your support for
this effort.

Cordially
Lillian M. Richards

6721
Office of the
**STATE
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICER**
for Connecticut

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET - HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106 - TEL: (203) 566-3005

July 18, 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
440 G Street
Washington, DC 20243

Subject: Union Baptist Church (St. Thomas's Church) including Parsonage,
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed is a photocopy of a letter dated May 29, 1979, regarding the
Union Baptist Church of Hartford, Connecticut, which should be included with
the nomination recently forwarded to your office.

Sincerely,



John Herzan
National Register Nominations Coordinator

JH:nbk

Enclosure

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE RECD	JUL 20 1979

DATE ACTION TAKEN	_____
INITIALS	_____

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1979

Congregation moved gradually to other areas of the City, the Parish was merged with Christ Church, also on Main Street, to become Christ Church Cathedral.

The building was sold to a Baptist congregation and has since then been a strong guiding force to the Black Community of Hartford under continued good leadership.

The Rev. John C. Jackson, Pastor about thirty years ago suggested to Governor Raymond E. Baldwin that the Church could be of help to minority groups.

MRS. WALTER H. GRAY
100 WESTERLY TERRACE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

Following his suggestion the Governor appointed an Interracial Commission, I believe it was the first in the County. Dr. Jackson was a member of this Commission, my late husband The Right Rev. Walter H. Gray, at the time Suffragen Bishop of Connecticut was the Chairman. I believe that the Church is deserving of the honor of being placed on the National Register.

Faithfully yours
Virginia S. Gray
(Mrs. Walter H.)

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CONNECTICUT

Date Entered AUG 15 1979

Name

Location

Union Baptist Church
(St. Thomas's Church)

Hartford
Hartford County

Also Notified

Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff

Honorable Lowell P. Weicker
Honorable William R. Cotter

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. John W. Shannahan
Director
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

NR Byers/bjr 8/20/79