

First Congregational Church
630 Ohio Street
D. 1902-03

Owner: First Congregational Church
630 Ohio Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

Description:

Photo #7, Bldg. #68

The First Congregational Church is a large neo-Gothic church building located at the northwest corner of Ohio Street and Spectator Court, near downtown Terre Haute. Built in 1902-1903, it is constructed of buff-colored brick with limestone trim and opalescent glass windows. Some alterations and additions were made to the church in 1962, but these were sympathetically executed and do not detract from the building's overall plan.

In plan, the church originally resembled a cross, with the nave running north/south and the transept running east/west. The slate-covered roof was of a high-pitched gable design, except at the crossing where it became pyramidal. The gable ends of both the nave and the transept features monumental pointed arch window openings with stone hood molds, and the windows, themselves, featured wooden tracery with pointed arch and quatrefoil motifs. Limestone trim was also used in the building's window hood molds and sills, water table, weatherings, and gable coping. These elements survive intact.

On the southeast corner of the nave is the church's square bell tower, which also contains the main entrance. This tower features a single buttress at its southeast corner, and on its upper levels features an arcade of three, tall, slender, pointed arch windows on each facade. These windows are bisected by a stone belt course which runs around the perimeter of the tower; limestone is also used to form a more delicate string course above these windows and to form a base for the tower's crenellated parapet. The original spire which rose from this tower has been removed.

In a 1962 remodeling, an addition was made to the southwest side of the nave. Constructed of similar buff brick, this addition features pointed arched windows, a stone water table, and a polygonal south facade. Another small addition was attached to the east side. Designed by local architect and church member, Juliet Peddle, the scale and design of these additions is such that they remain sympathetic to the original structure.

Significance:

The First Congregational Church is significant as a good local example of neo-Gothic religious architecture. Built in 1903, at the peak of the downtown's preeminence as the center of Terre Haute's cultural, commercial, and institutional life, the building is a representative example of a small-scale downtown church. It continues to serve as the home of one of Terre Haute's pioneer church organizations, founded in December, 1834.

The present church building is the third structure built by the Third Congregational Church. Their first building, erected in 1837, was destroyed by a tornado in 1853. A replacement structure built on the same site a year later continued in use until the turn of the century, when it was judged to be too small for the expanding congregation. The present church, constructed a short distance from the site of the first two structures, was begun in August, 1902, and completed in June, 1903. Designed by the Elgin, Illinois, architectural firm of Trumbull and Jones, who specialized in the construction of churches, public libraries, and

First Congregational Church
630 Ohio Street

Building #68 Continued

meeting halls, the building is particularly notable for its square tower, limestone capped buttresses, its lancet windows, and its stone water table and coping.

Geographical Data:

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464810/4368330

Boundary: Map #1806-21, Block #477, Parcel #030

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Downtown Terre Haute Multiple Resource Area
State Indiana

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--------|---|
| 1. | St. Joseph's Church and School District | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Keener | <u>Determined Eligible</u>
<i>Power ha Doyle 6/30/83</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Carr's Hall | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | Star Building | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Indiana Theatre | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Keener | <u>Determined Eligible</u>
<i>Power ha Doyle 6/30/83</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Hippodrome Theatre | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | House at 823 Ohio Street | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Building at 510-516 Ohio Street | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | First Congregational Church | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Wabash Avenue-East Historic District | Entered in the National Register | Keener | <u>Melona Byers 6/30/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | First National Bank | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Keener | <u>Determined Eligible</u>
<i>Power ha Doyle 6/30/83</i> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

owner objection withdrawn
Entered in the National Register 5/7/92 - *Melona Byers*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

First Congregational Church (Downtown Terre
Haute MRA)
Vigo County
INDIANA

Working No. MAY 18 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/16/83 7/2/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/30/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1. Historic Resources of Downtown
Terre Haute
2. Terre Haute, Indiana
3. Department of Redevelopment
4. February, 1981
5. Department of Redevelopment
6. Building # 68
7. Photo # 7 of 52

12

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000189