

1118

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name First Baptist Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street & number 134 North Main Street [ ] not for publication

city Geneva [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Ontario code 069 zip code 14456

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [ X ] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. in my opinion, the property [ X ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ X ] locally. ( [ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*M. Carter, SHPO*  
Signature of certifying official/Title :

*8/15/02*  
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
  - entered in the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
  - determined eligible for the National Register [ ] see continuation sheet
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain)

*Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper date of action *10/10/02*



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Geneva, Ontario County, NY

Section 7 Page 1

---

Description

The First Baptist Church, built in 1893-94, is an imposing Romanesque Revival style edifice in the northeast quadrant of the city of Geneva. Surrounded by late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings, the church is one of the visual focal points of this once-upscale residential enclave along North Main Street. Many of the adjacent houses have suffered alterations during the mid- to late twentieth century; further research is needed to assess their integrity to determine National Register eligibility either as individual listings or as an historic district.

The church occupies nearly all of its steeply pitched, one-half-acre lot on the southwest corner of the intersection of North Main and Lewis Streets; narrow, terraced lawns, articulated by concrete sidewalks, surround the front (east) and south elevations. Constructed of brick and accentuated by limestone trim, the church is a large, roughly square building with a large, two-story rear (west) wing. The square main block is accentuated by a profusion of towers, turrets, and cross gables, all of which convey an overall sense of asymmetry. The front (east) façade of the main block features a gable-roofed center pavilion flanked by two massive square towers, the ground floors of which contain main entrances with deeply recessed paneled doors surmounted by round-arched, stone-trimmed arches. Both towers feature a variety of round-arched windows (some are tall and narrow and others are large and wide); roughly hewn limestone beltcourses; machicolated brick cornices; and corbelled brickwork. The three-story northeast corner tower is surmounted by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The southeast corner tower, once surmounted by a soaring spire, is now truncated above the fourth story. The center pavilion is dominated by a massive rose window accentuated by limestone trim and corbelled brickwork; rectangular memorial stained-glass windows are arranged below the rose window.

The south elevation of the building consists of the side of the roughly square main block and the side of the rear wing. Like the east (front) and north (side) elevations of the main block, the south side features a center pavilion flanked by massive corner towers; a massive rose window, as well as numerous small and large, round-arched, stone-trimmed windows and rectangular memorial stained glass windows; and, at the base of the southwest corner tower, a secondary entrance. The side elevation of the rear wing features a steeply pitched hipped roof, a polygonal tower and a round, engaged tower. Dentils and machicolated cornices accentuate the roofline.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**First Baptist Church  
Geneva, Ontario County, NY**

Section 7 Page 2

---

The interior of the church retains a remarkably high degree of integrity of design, materials and craftsmanship. The sanctuary, housed in the main block of the building, features an Akron plan with tiers of curved oak pews overlooking the altar area. The altar area includes a raised dais accentuated by handsome oak woodwork, oak liturgical furniture, and paneled wainscoting. An elegant balcony encircles the sanctuary. Massive, movable oak doors separate the sanctuary from a large classroom area.

The rear wing contains a variety of offices, meeting rooms and classrooms, many of which feature hardwood floors, massive oak doors, and a broad array of intact woodwork such as baseboards, wainscoting, chair rails and door and window trim.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or grave
- D a cemetery
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1893-94

Significant Dates:

1893-94

Significant Person:

NA

Cultural Affiliation:

NA

Architect/Builder:

H. M. Hubbard, Utica, NY

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brumberg, G. David. *The Making of an Upstate Community, Geneva, New York*. Geneva, NY: The Geneva Bicentennial Commission. 1976.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: First Baptist Society of Geneva, church archives

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Geneva, Ontario County, NY

Section 8 Page 1

---

---

### Significance

The First Baptist Church, built in 1893-94, is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of late nineteenth century religious architecture in Geneva, Ontario County. Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, it is distinguished by asymmetrical form and massing; bold corner towers; massive, round-arched door and window openings; a variety of memorial stained-glass windows; and, on the interior, original room configurations and a wealth of handsome woodwork.

The religious needs of the earliest settlers in the wilderness of Ontario County during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were sporadically and irregularly tended to by missionaries and itinerant preachers sent from well-established congregations in New England. By 1825, after the completion of the Erie Canal, settlements west of the old Pre-Emption Line grew at astronomical rates; the efforts of missionaries to formalize religious institutions grew proportionally. Reverend (later Elder) E.W. Martin, a Baptist missionary in Geneva and Waterloo between 1825 and 1832, oversaw the establishment of the Geneva Baptist Society in August 1825. Membership quickly increased from 29 to 38 heads of families. At first, services were held in one of the city's schoolhouses; by 1826, the congregation was officially recognized by the regional Baptist Council under the name of the First Baptist Church and E.W. Martin was installed as the first official pastor. The Local records are scarce, but it appears that the congregation may have erected their own church by June 1830.

The congregation flourished during the second third of the nineteenth century, particularly during the era of spiritual fervorism that swept across Central New York; during this period, the region was aptly dubbed the "Burned-Over District." Between 1832 and 1833, church records indicated that 99 baptisms were performed. At around this time, the congregation erected a new house of worship on Milton Street. This building was apparently used until around 1864, when the congregation moved into rented quarters for three years while the Milton Street church was expanded and remodeled. By 1864, membership numbered 86; by 1874, the number had increased to 187. (Much of this increase reflects the growth and prosperity of the city during the third quarter of the century.) In 1876, the Rev. David Moore took charge of the Baptist Church; under his tutelage, the congregation flourished. Rev. Moore was succeeded by Revs. Donald Grant, Walter Barss and B.G. Boardman.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**First Baptist Church  
Geneva, Ontario County, NY**

Section 8 Page 2

---

---

In 1891, during Rev. Boardman's tenure, the Ladies Improvement Society started a fund for the construction of a grand new edifice at the corner of North Main and Lewis Streets in one of Geneva's premier residential districts just north of the historic commercial/civic core of the city. The congregation was clearly financially fit: the cornerstone was laid on July 21, 1893 and the magnificent Romanesque Revival style edifice was completed the following year. Characteristic features of the type and period embodied in the church include asymmetrical form and massing; brick construction with roughly hewn limestone details; soaring corner towers; a profusion of turrets and prominent cross gables; and corbelled and machicolated brickwork.

Other than the loss of the original steeple from the four-story southeast (front) corner tower in 1991, the church remains virtually as it was at the time of its erection.

---

10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References: **18/337660/47482000**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the legal lot lines as delineated on the attached county tax map.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary coincides with the full extent of land historically and currently associated with the nominated resource.

---

11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization Division for Historic Preservation

date March 2002

street & number Peebles Island, Box 189

telephone (518) 237-8643 x 3262

city or town Waterford

state NY zip code 12188

Research documentation provided by **Mr. Vern Marshall, Geneva Historical Society**

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

---



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Baptist Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Ontario

DATE RECEIVED: 8/27/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/23/02  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/09/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/11/02  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001118

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10/10/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



NO  
PARKING  
8 AM - 6 PM  
EXCEPT FOR  
BUS, TAXI, AND  
DELIVERIES

100

018 014 MNMC --- 20\*04\*01 ELITE PHOTO

First Baptist Church

Geneva, Ontario Co.

Photo & Neg: N Todd, 2001

OPRHP

View: Front (east) facade



ENTRY

017 016 NNNC --- 20'04"01 ELITE PHOTO

First Baptist Church  
Geneva, Ontario Co.

Photo & Neg: N. Todd, 2001  
OPRHP

View: South elevation



015 016 0110 C --- 20" 04" 01 ELITE PHOTO

First Baptist Church

Geneva, Ontario Co.

Photo & Neg: N Todd, 2001

OPRHP

View: Detail, south elevation



First Baptist Church

Geneva, Ontario Co

Photo & Neg: OPRHP, N Todd, 2001

View: Interior



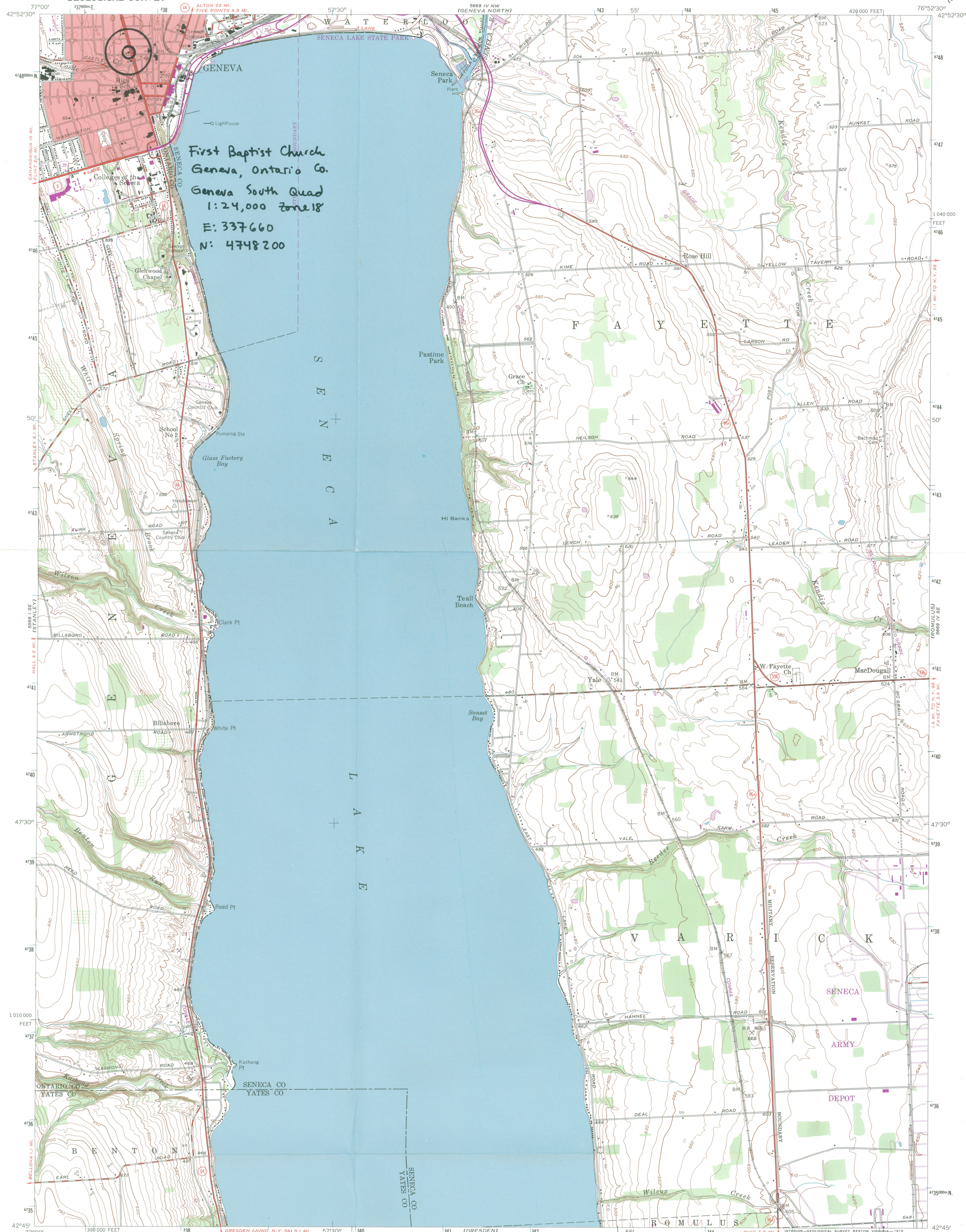
First Baptist Church

Geneva, Ontario Co.

Photo & neg: N Todd 2001

OPRHP

View: Interior



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USLS, and TVA

Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, from aerial photographs taken 1938

Topography by plane-table surveys 1953

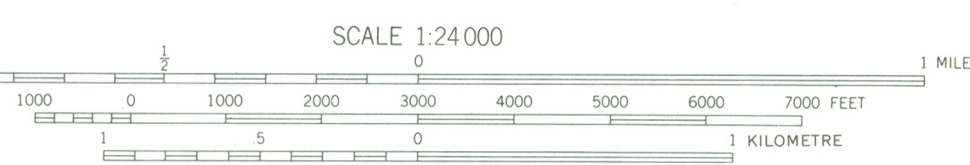
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, central zone

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

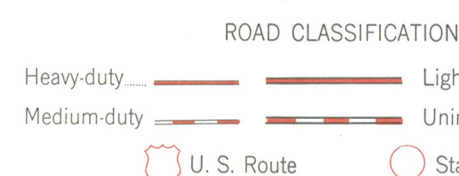
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



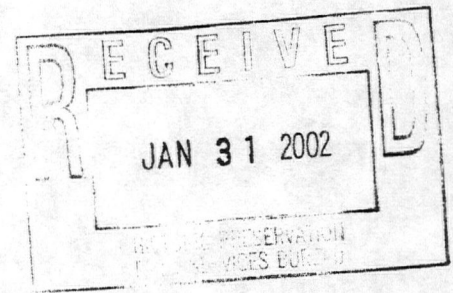
GENEVA SOUTH, N. Y.

N 4245-W 7652.5/7.5

1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 5669 IV SW-SERIES V821



Ms. Nancy Todd, Director  
Historic Preservation Field Services  
Peebles Island  
PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188



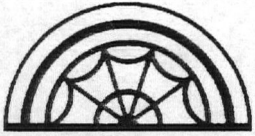
Dear Ms Todd;

As Moderator and Chief Executive Officer of the First Baptist Church of Geneva New York, I write to inform you that on behalf of the church I endorse the pending application to have our building placed on the Historic Preservation list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David F. Belding".

David Belding, Moderator of First Baptist Church  
239 Washington St  
Geneva, NY 14456  
Telephone: 315-781-2891  
e-mail: belding@hws.edu



**Geneva  
Historical  
Society**

543 South Main St.  
Geneva, NY 14456

(315) 789-5151  
Fax: (315) 789-0314  
genevhst@flare.net

*Prouty-Chew House  
& Museum*

*Balmanno Cottage*

*Rose Hill Mansion*

*John Johnston Farm*

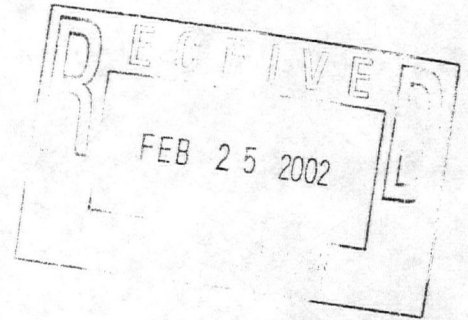
General Operating  
Support From:



State of the Arts



NYSCA



February 19, 2002

Nancy Todd  
Historic Preservation Field Service Bureau  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island  
PO Box 189  
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Todd,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Geneva Historical Society, I support the nomination of the First Baptist Church for listing on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

This building is an excellent example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century church architecture. The corner stone was laid in July of 1893 and about a year later on June 7, 1894, the church was dedicated. The architect for the project was H. M. Hubbard of Utica, N.Y. The masonry contractor was W. G. Dove of Geneva, father of the artist Arthur G. Dove. The building has a stately presence on Geneva's North Main Street. The church has outstanding examples of stained glass windows.

I would encourage the State Review Board to act positively on this nomination of the First Baptist Church.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Charles C. W. Bauder  
Executive Director

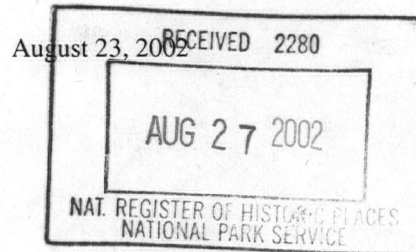


**New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

Bernadette Castro  
Commissioner

Ms. Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005



Re: Transmittal of National Register  
Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit eight new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

Garrison Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY  
Taylor, Emma Flower, Mansion, Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY  
Senator Street Historic District, Brooklyn, Kings Co., NY  
Stanton Street Shul, New York, New York Co., NY  
Genesee Park Historic District, Geneva, Ontario Co., NY  
First Baptist Church, Geneva, Ontario Co., NY  
Sterling District No. 5 Schoolhouse, Sterling, Cayuga Co., NY  
Vosburg Turning Mill Complex, Woodstock, Ulster Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham  
National Register  
Program Coordinator

enclosures