

Resource #149  
**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
 ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
 NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Richard C. Youngken DATE: March 10, 1981  
42 Ridge St.  
 YOUR ADDRESS: Glens Falls, NY TELEPHONE: 518-761-3833  
 ORGANIZATION (if any): City of Glens Falls, Community Development Office

\*\*\*\*\*  
**IDENTIFICATION**

1. BUILDING NAME(S): First Presbyterian Church
2. COUNTY: Warren TOWN/CITY: Glens Falls VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. STREET LOCATION: 402-410 Glen Street
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private  non-profit
5. PRESENT OWNER: First Presbyterian Church ADDRESS: 12 W. Notre Dame St. Glens Falls, NY
6. USE: Original: institutional/church/school Present: institutional/church/school
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
 Interior accessible: Explain yes

**DESCRIPTION**

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
 e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: slate roof
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
 b. wood frame with light members   
 c. masonry load bearing walls   
 d. metal (explain) steel reinforced frame  
 e. other concrete foundation
10. CONDITION: a. excellent  b. good  c. fair  d. deteriorated
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site  b. moved  if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
 list major alterations and dates (if known):  
 recent date unknown: organ console & pipes installed in narthex gallery, small chapel in transept wing converted to reception room.

12. PHOTO:

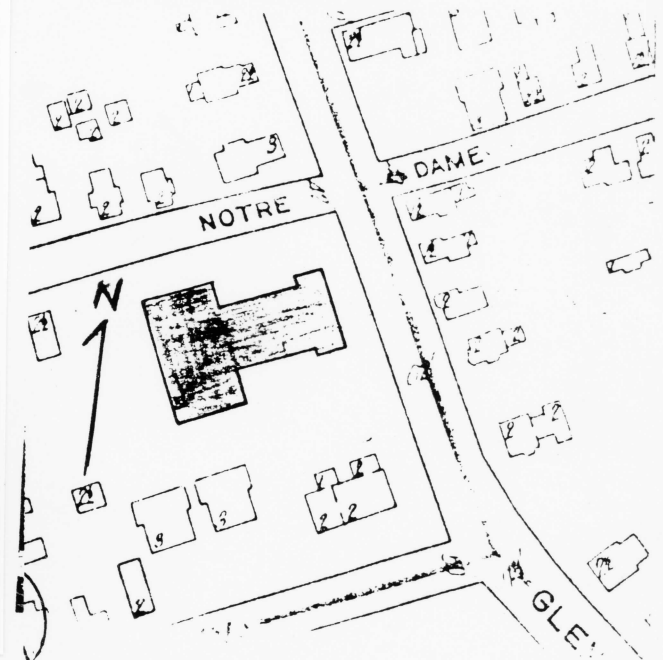
13. MAP:

**OTM LOCATION: GLENS FALLS QUAD.**  
**18/610370/4796170**



HP-1

**MA 18.23A EAST AND NORTH GLENS FALLS,  
 LOOKING SOUTHWEST**



**SCALE = 1" = 100'**

**SANBORN INSURANCE MAPS OF GLENS FALLS, NY 1891**

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known  b. zoning  c. roads   
 d. developers  e. deterioration   
 f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
 a. barn  b. carriage house  c. garage   
 d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
 g. shop  h. gardens   
 i. landscape features: landscaped lawns, concrete sidewalks,  
 j. other: fenced-in playground, parking lot
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
 a. open land  b. woodland   
 c. scattered buildings   
 d. densely built-up  e. commercial   
 f. industrial  g. residential   
 h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

see continuation sheet:

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

see continuation sheet:

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1927

ARCHITECT: Cram and Ferguson (Ralph Adams Cram)

BUILDER: Edward F. Miner Building Co., Worcester, Mass.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

see continuation sheet:

21. SOURCES:

see continuation sheet:

22. THEME:

architecture: Ecclesiastical

First Presbyterian Church  
402-410 Glen Street  
Glens Falls, NY

#17

The nominated property includes all that parcel delineated as lot no. 59-2-5, tax maps, city of Glens Falls, which totals less than one acre. The church is located in a residential setting.

#18

The First Presbyterian Church is a substantial, stone, Neo-Gothic style church with cruciform plan, covered by a steep-pitched slate roof. The walls are built of rock-faced granite block laid random ashlar, with limestone trim used for window and entrance moldings, water table, parapets, and buttress caps.

The principal (east) elevation consists of paired entrance doors recessed within a large molded Gothic arch. The entrance is flanked by paired stone towers decorated with carved crockets and finials. A large five-part Gothic-arched window with flamboyant stone tracery dominates the east wall of the nave; a large stained-glass rose window occupies the west end. The nave is divided into bays by stone buttresses separating pairs of tall Gothic arched windows. The transept exhibits the same materials and design features as the remainder of the church. A copper-clad fleche embellished with numerous metal gargoyles rises above the transept.

The interior of the church consists of a wood and glass paneled vestibule screen separating the entrance from the nave, where stone arcades support the high, vaulted timbered ceiling. Side aisles, varnished wood pews, a slate floor and carved wood and stone iconography are other characteristics of the interior. The rose, thistle, and orange leaf motifs are repeated throughout the church, representing the English, Scottish and Scots-Irish origins of Presbyterianism.

#20

The First Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as an imposing Neo-Gothic style stone church designed by noted architect Ralph Adams Cram in 1927. By the 1920's the Presbyterian community had become Glens Falls's most elite society: the Fifth House of Worship erected by this congregation was extremely ornate by Presbyterian standards, built to the design of the most notable American architect-associated with the Neo-Gothic idiom. One of two buildings designed by Ralph Adams Cram in the city of Glens Falls (see St. Mary's Academy), the First Presbyterian Church is a prominent visual landmark in the community, and the city's most elaborate example of ecclesiastical design.

Ralph Adams Cram (1863-1942) developed his fervor for Gothic ecclesiastical art and architecture in the Bohemian milieu of late nineteenth century Boston, where he established his architectural practice in 1891. A medieval scholar, Cram rejected the dominant Romanesque Revival style advocated at the time by H.H. Richardson

First Presbyterian Church  
402-410 Glen Street  
Glens Falls, NY

=

and achieved national stature as the leading proponent of Neo-Gothic architectural design. Under three partnerships, Cram's most notable commissions included designs for buildings at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point (1904-1910), St. Thomas Church (1906 with Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue) and the Cathedral of St. John Divine in New York City, and the National Cathedral, Washington D.C., for which Cram served as consulting architect. After a distinguished career, Cram retired to his Massachusetts estate in 1930. His influence largely established the Neo-Gothic as a major stylistic influence in Ecclesiastical and institutional design during the early twentieth century.

In its plan and decoration, the First Presbyterian Church embodies the Neo-Gothic stylistic precepts advocated by Ralph Adam Cram and reflects the local wealth and taste which secured the services of a nationally prominent architect for design in Glens Falls during the early twentieth century. The church remains as a striking visual reminder of this important era in the history of Glens Falls.

#21

Sources:

- Anonymous. The National Cyclopedia of American Biography. (Volume B). New York. James T. White & Co. 1927.
- Brown, William Howard. History of Warren County, New York. Board of Supervisors of Warren County 1963.
- Cram, Ralph Adams. Church Building. Boston Mass. Marshall Jones Company, 1924
- Glens Falls Post-Star. "New Presbyterian Church will be Gothic structure set off by Elms and Lawn." Glens Falls, N.Y. March 30, 1926.
- Holden, Austin Wells. History of the Town of Queensbury....Albany J. Munsell, 1874.
- Glens Falls Post Star. "Presbyterian contract let to E.F. Miner." Glens Falls, N.Y. May 6, 1926.
- Kidney, Walter C. The Architecture of Choice: Eclecticism in America 1880-1930. New York. George Braziller, 1974.
- Publications Committee, GRQHA. Bridging the Years, Glens Falls, N.Y., Glens Falls - Queensbury Historical Association, 1978.
- Richards, J.M. editor. Who's Who in Architecture from 1400 to the present.
- Sanborn Map Co. Insurance Maps of Glens Falls, New York, New York, N.Y. Sanborn Map Company, 1905, 1911 and as updated, 1969.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received 8-15-84  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 5

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Glens Falls City Multiple Resource Area  
State Warren County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |                                     |            |                              |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 31. First Presbyterian Church          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 32. Foster, Dr. Charles A., House      | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 33. Glens Falls Home for Aged<br>Women | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 34. Goodman, Stephen L., House         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 35. House at 216 Warren Street         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 36. Joubert and White Building         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 37. Krum, Hiram, House                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 38. Little, Russell M., House          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 39. McEchron, William, House           | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |
| 40. Ordway, Jones, House               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 9/29/84</u> |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Presbyterian Church (Glens Falls MRA)

Warren County

NEW YORK

Working No. AUG 15 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85  
Date Due: 9.13.84 / 9.29.84  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-29-84  
 RETURN  
Entered in the National Register  REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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      Areas 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

*(A R N ...)*  
NEW YORK

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM 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

---

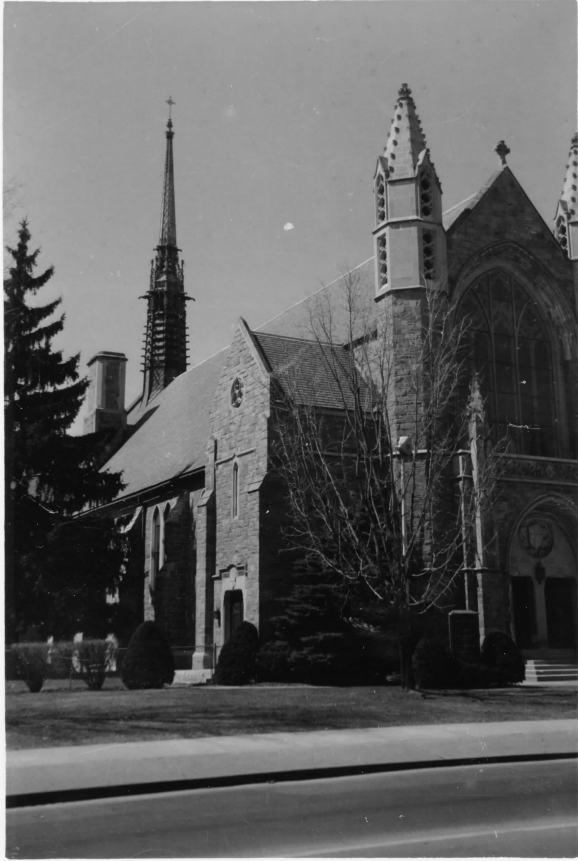
**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

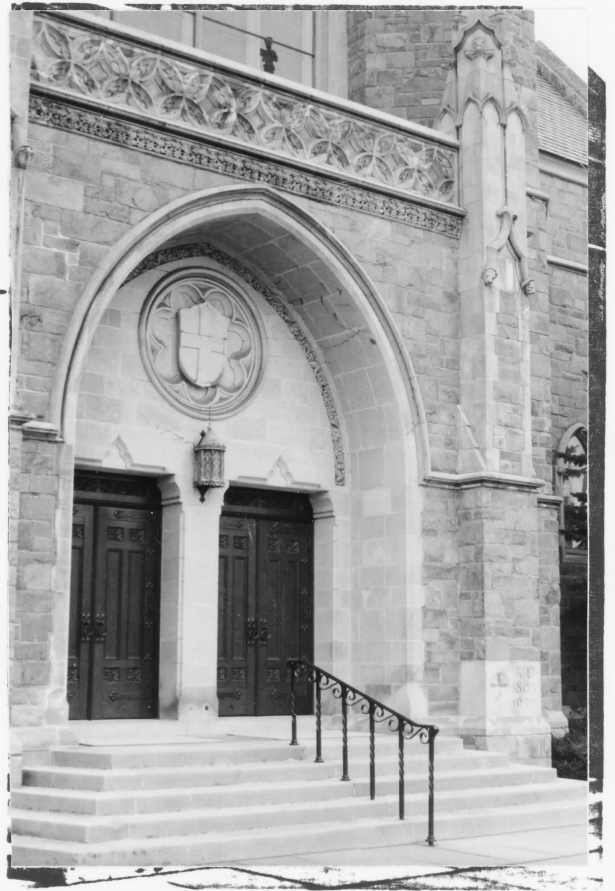
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Glens Falls MRA  
Warren Co. NY  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SOUTH (L.) AND EAST SIDES,  
LOOKING NW



MAIN ENTRANCE DETAIL



Glens Falls MRA  
Warren Co. NY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
402-410 GLEN ST.

18/610370/4796170