

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.461
Historic Name:	West Concord Union Church
Common Name:	
Address:	1317 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	257
Year Constructed:	1909
Architect(s):	Haynes, Alberto F.; Mullen, James
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne
Use(s):	Church
Significance:	Architecture; Religion
Area(s):	CON.F: Derby Addition CON.DD: Main Streetscape V
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Glass; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard; Wood Shingle



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Pl W. CONCORD
USGS - map
SECT - A

AREA

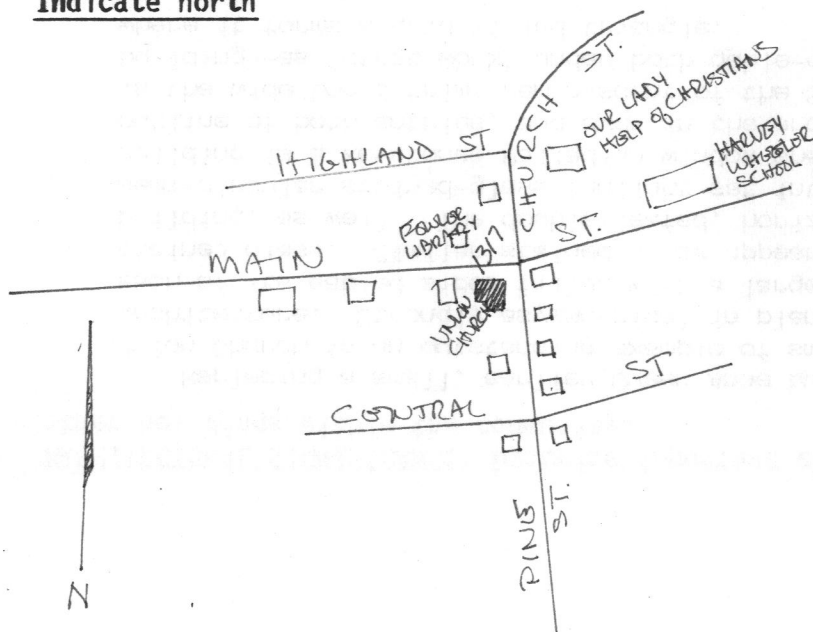
FDD
1

FORM NO.

257
H61



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



Town West Concord

Address 1317 Main St.

Historic Name West Concord Union Church

Use: Present church—United Church of Christ

Original church of W. Concord Union Religious Society

DESCRIPTION

Date 1909; some frame and foundations from 1893

Source Church records, newspapers

Style Queen Anne

Architect A.F. Haynes; Jas. Mullen, builder

Exterior Wall Fabric Wood clapboard, decorative shingle, and flushboard

Outbuildings None; rectory at 1329 Main St.

Major Alterations (with dates)

1893 building rotated, moved back from street, and new church built, 1909; Addition on 1893 foundations 1960; roof

Condition Excellent

Moved See above Date

Acreage Less than one acre

Setting Corner site on main street;

mixed residential/institutional

neighborhood of 1890's—early 20th-century.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date 5/1/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Replacing a small, earlier Queen Anne building, the 1909 sanctuary and tower of the Union Church is an outstanding example of small-scale, late Queen Anne church architecture. Strongly asymmetrical in plan, it fronts on both Main and Pine Streets, each of its gabled sides filled with a large composite window of opaque and translucent stained glass. Similar stained glass appears in smaller windows throughout the main building, as well. The double-leafed, horizontal-paneled doors are each topped by a semi-circular stained-glass fanlight set into a flush-boarded rectangle. One theme of the building is a keystone Palladian window shape, which appears in both main windows, the outline of both entries, and even in the arches of the belfry. Another prominent feature is the wide board trim, reminiscent of the Stick Style, that appears throughout the building—as "strap-work" under both gable-end windows, and, in the southeast gable, where it forms a grid-filled triangle.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The founding of the Union Church is an excellent illustration of the gradual coalescing of the various parts of West Concord into one community during the 1890's, and of the powerful influence that the staff of the Mass. Reformatory had on the community. In the early 1890's, the West Concord Religious Society, which had been holding services in Warner Hall on Commonwealth Ave., joined with the Westvale Congregational Church, which had been meeting in one of the Damon buildings in "factory village", to form a new congregation, and to build the church. The first pastor was Walter W. Campbell, who led the congregation until 1908. Most instrumental in its formation was the Rev. William Batt, chaplain at the Mass. Reformatory, and all the other original incorporators were, (or had been,) reformatory officers or instructors.

The result of their efforts was the original church of 1893, a small Shingle Style/Queen Anne structure, of which only the frame and foundation remain. After the church's dedication in 1894, store proprietor Loring Fowler offered to raise half the money for a church bell if the Concord Junction Reading Club would raise the rest. The project was successful, and in 1895 the present bell, built by the McShane Foundry of Baltimore, was installed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Richardson, Laurence. Concord Chronicle: 1865-1899. Concord, 1967.

The Concord Enterprise, 1893-1895.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1903, 1909.

Interview with Rev. Jean Curtis, 4/88.

Leighton, Margaret West Concord Union Church: The Story of Our Renovation. Concord: 1988.

50th Anniversary: West Concord Union Church: 1891-1941. Concord: 1941.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

West Concord

Form No:

F, 461

Property Name:

Union Church

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The bell tower is covered with clapboard and flushboard at first-story level, and with rectangular shingles above, and is topped by a steep pyramidal roof, with four smaller pyramids at the corners.

