Pilgrim United Church of Christ
First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls

130 Broad Boulevard

Cuyahoga Falls

Ohio

039

Summit

153

District  Building

Site    Structure

Public  Private  Both

Public Acquisition:

In Process  Being Considered

X Occupied  Unoccupied

Preservation work in progress

X Yes:  Restricted  Unrestricted  No

Agricultural  Government  Park

Commercial  Industrial  Private Residence

Educational  Military  Religious

Entertainment  Museum  Scientific

Transportation  Other (Specify)

Comments

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

130 Broad Boulevard

Cuyahoga Falls

Ohio

44221

039

Summit

72 South High Street

Akron

Ohio

039

Federal  State  County  Local

Depository for Survey Records:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

ENTRY DATE

11-3-76
This is a brick church built in the Greek Revival style and later remodeled according to post-Civil War taste with elements of the Romanesque and Gothic Revivals. The basic form is a rectangular block with four bays on the side elevations and three on the north facade. On the sides shallow brick piers and pilasters stand in relief. The three entrances are placed between brick piers. It seems certain that there was originally a recessed porch, because the interior wall of the narthex appears to be an exterior brick wall which was never plastered, and because of documentary evidence discussed in (8). The exterior brick of the church has been painted white.

In 1869 a two-story addition was made directly to the south of the church. It contained a study, a parlor and a Sunday school assembly room in which several classes met simultaneously. On the exterior, the three southernmost bays show the Romanesque Revival windows of this addition. At the same time the tower was altered so that the belfry acquired louvered Romanesque openings, triangular pediments and quoins. A three-part Romanesque window was inserted in the facade pediment.

The interior of the sanctuary retains the original woodwork casings with Greek "eared" architraves. In 1883 the gallery over the narthex was extended by two feet and the front rail faced with a carved Gothic pattern. At the same time the earlier clear glass windows were replaced with colored "art" glass, and the box pews by a semi-circular pew arrangement on a sloping floor, in imitation of the popular "Akron plan." Electric lights were first placed in the sanctuary in 1892. In 1934 the center pulpit was replaced by a divided chancel focussed on the communion table. Nevertheless, the interior retains the character of a mid to late nineteenth century sanctuary.

In 1927 a second addition was made to the southeast of the original structure, consisting of a gymnasium with a stage, a small library, a new office and storage space. A third addition was completed in 1958 to the south and west of the church, including four offices, a library, choir rehearsal rooms and twenty Church School rooms.
This is a well-preserved example of a church embodying the changes in architectural taste of the second half of the nineteenth century. More important, it is credited with being the oldest church in continuous use in Summit County, now that the famous Tallmadge church of 1825 no longer has a congregation, and excepting only the chapel of Western Reserve Academy (1835), formerly Western Reserve College, in Hudson.

Cuyahoga Falls, now virtually a part of metropolitan Akron, was a separate village on the Cuyahoga River, named because the river descends about 240 feet over a distance of only two miles. The power provided by this fall caused innumerable industries to spring up by the middle of the century. When Summit County was created in 1840 from portions of three other counties, Cuyahoga Falls was a rival for the location of the county seat which went to Akron.

The Congregational Church stands on the proposed site of the county buildings. The church was organized in 1834 by ministers from nearby Middlebury and Tallmadge. It met for several months in a schoolhouse and then in a public Lyceum, and was supplied by pastors from Western Reserve College. In 1845 plans for the present building were commenced, the building was completed in 1846 and dedicated in 1847.

In an existing letter dated August 4, 1845, one of the members describes the beginning of construction, as well as the need to proceed in installments because of limited means. He states that the church "is to be a brick building about 50 by 70 feet with a front similar to the Episcopal Church at Columbus." That church (the first Trinity Episcopal, now gone) and another patterned after it, Rosse Hall at Kenyon College in Gambier, contained a recessed porch with two columns. They were designed by Charles Romanoff Przraminsky, a Polish teacher of languages at Kenyon in 1834-1835.

The Cuyahoga Falls church was enlarged and "improved" in 1869 and considerably remodeled in 1883. After the gymnasium was added in 1927, the church served as a community social center. The merger as the United Church of Christ took place in 1957.
William H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 485-486.
Letter, E. N. Sill to Wm. F. Sill, dated Aug. 4, 1845 (Pilgrim Church).
Rev. T. B. Fairchild, A History of the Town of Cuyahoga Falls
(Address delivered July 4, 1876), 26-27.
Richard G. Salomon, "The Old Halls of Kenyon College," The American
Archives, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Cuyahoga Falls.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY
OR
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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
STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist
ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard
CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland
STATE: Ohio

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [x]

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
1. NAME
   COMMON: Pilgrim United Church of Christ
   AND/OR HISTORIC: First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 130 Broad Boulevard
   CITY OR TOWN: Cuyahoga Falls
   STATE: Ohio

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Hudson Quadrangle
   SCALE: 1:24,000
   DATE: 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
1. NAME
COMMON: Pilgrim United Church of Christ
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 130 Broad Boulevard
CITY OR TOWN: Cuyahoga Falls
STATE: Ohio
CODE 039
COUNTY: Summit
CODE 153

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Johannesen
DATE OF PHOTO: February 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
North facade and west elevation, looking southeast.
1958 addition on right.

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4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
East elevation and north facade, looking southwest.
1927 addition on left.
November 20, 1975

Mr. George D. Alley, Minister
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
130 Broad Boulevard
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Dear Mr. Alley:

I am pleased to inform you that the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 130 Broad Boulevard, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas H. Smith
Director, Ohio Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer

TS:jp
Enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Cuyahoga Falls
Eric Johannesen, Western Reserve Historical Society
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls
County: Summit

[ ] Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

[ ] Multiple Property Nomination form

[ ] Photograph(s)

[ ] Photograph(s) (copies)

[ ] USGS map(s)

[ ] USGS map(s) (copies)

[ ] Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

[ ] Correspondence

[ ] Other

CES: 9/01