

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford

SURVEY NUMBER: 74

COMMON NAME: First Congregational Church

HISTORIC NAME: First Congregational Church

LOCATION: S. Main Street

OWNER: First Congregational Church

ADDRESS: 2 Liberty St.
Rochester, NH

MAP & PARCEL #: 51/159 120-343

DATE: c. 1780/1867

SOURCE: Inspection

STYLE: Italianate

UTM: Z 19 /E 339800 /N 4796050

USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Church

PRESENT USE: Church

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

CONDITION: Exc. ___ Good ☒ Fair ___ Poor ___ Ruins ___

INTEGRITY: Original Site ___ Moved ☒
Date: 1842

Major Alterations & Date: Rebuilt/Enlarged
1867-8

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. ___ State ___ Local ☒

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

1. # Stories 2 # Bays ___ Approx. Dimensions 40' X 60' Window Sash 6/6
Roof Style: Gable ☒ Hip ___ Gambrel ___ Flat ___ Shed ___ Mansard ___ Jerkinhead ___
Monitor ___ Sawtooth ___ Other ___
Appendages: Porches ___ Towers ☒ Dormers ___ Bay Windows ___ Ells ___ Chimneys ___
Wings ___ Cupolas ___ Sheds ___ Garage ___ Other ☒ front partition
Entry Location: Center ☒ Sidehall ___ Other ___

2. FOUNDATION: Random Rubble ___ Cut Granite ☒ Brick ___ Concrete ___ Concrete Block ___
Other ___

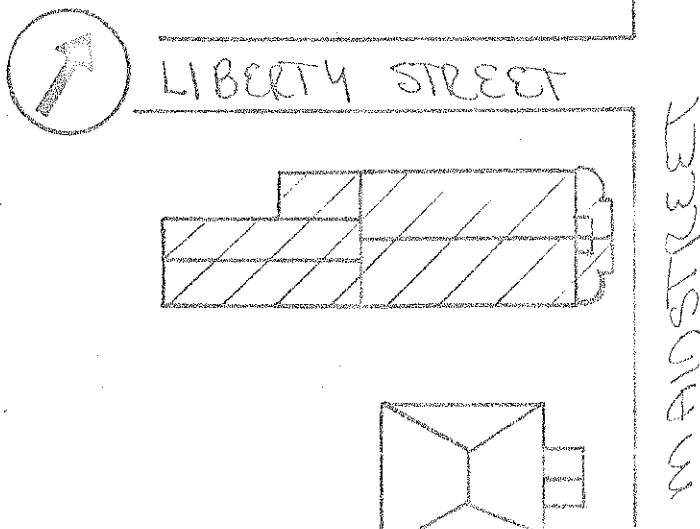
3. WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam ☒ Balloon Frame ☒ Other ___
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone ___ Brick ___ Concrete Block ___ Other ___
Metal: Iron ___ Steel ___ Other ___

4. WALL COVERING: Clapboard ___ Wood Shingle ___ Board & Batten ___ Shiplap ___
Aluminum ☒ Novelty ___ Stucco ___ Stone ___ Brick ___ Sheet Metal ___ Asphalt Shingles ___
Vinyl ___ Asphalt Sheeting ___ Composite Board ___ Other ___

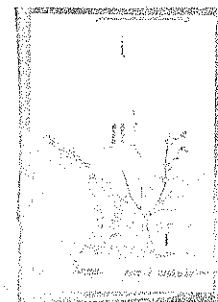
5. ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle ___ Asphalt Shingle ☒ Standing Seam Tin ___ Slate ___
Pressed Metal ___ Sheet Metal ___ Rolled Asphalt ___ Gravel ___ Other ___

6. ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View: Facade, looking West.

Negative File Number: RO/81/A8-7, 8

Photographer: Roger Brevort

Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The First Congregational Church displays an interesting blend of architectural elements. The original building consisted of the first 3 bays of the main block, the pedimented pavillion centered on the facade, and the base of the tower. The modillioned cornice along the eaves on the side elevations is an original Federal style feature.

The corners of the entry pavillion and tower are emphasized by notched pilasters, Greek Revival style features possibly added when the building was moved to this site in 1842.

The church was enlarged in 1867. At that time several additions were made. A fourth bay was added to the main block, and polygonal-shaped wings attached on either side of the entry pavillion. The entry was given an Italianate door topped by a semicircular fanlight and half-round cap. The fanlight contains elaborate on stained glass with "First Congregational Church" worked into the design. The stained glass dates to a later period. Above the doorway is a round-headed window

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Congregational Church was originally built in 1780 on the town common. The small Federal structure was moved to its present site in 1842 and enlarged to its present size and configuration in 1867. It has elements of the Italianate and Stick Styles as well as its original federal cornice. The addition of aluminum siding has considerably altered its historic appearance.

REFERENCES:

Rochester History Advisory Committee

MAP DATA: 1871--Church

1877--Church

1884--Church

1892--Church

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land _____ Woodland _____ Scattered Bldgs _____ Moderately Built Up _____
Densely Built Up _____ Residential _____ Commercial ☒ Industrial _____ Agricultural _____
Roadside Strip Development _____ Other _____

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/25/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

#74 Description

topped by a half round hood.

On the side elevations, the four windows have paired, round-headed sash set beneath peaked lintels.

The top of the tower has an octagonal spire sheathed with wood shingles of various shapes. The shapes produce a banded design.

The exterior walls of the main building are sheathed with aluminum siding. Fortunately, most of the exterior ornamentation was retained.

