

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Central Congregational Church

Other Name/Site Number: THC Survey File: Phase IV-East Dallas DAL/DA 96

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 1530 N Carroll

City/Town: Dallas

Not for Publication: N/A

State: TX County: Dallas Code: 113 Zip Code: 75204

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings sites structures objects
1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of East and South Dallas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State of Federal Agency or Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Religion

Sub: Religious Structure

Current: Religion

Sub: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

Other Description

Late Gothic Revival

Materials: foundation concrete
walls brick
roof unknown
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 x See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1920

Significant Dates: 1920

Significance Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 x See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References

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 Buildings 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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone/Easting/Northing Zone/Easting/Northing

A	B
C	D

Verbal Boundary Description

Addition: A.F. Kirkpatrick Block: 2/768 Lot: 22 & 23

Boundary Justification

Property includes area historically associated with structure.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Daniel Hardy/Project Director
Terri Myers/Historian

Organization: Daniel Hardy,
Preservation Consultant

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande St.
City or Town: Austin

Date: July 1991
Telephone: 512-478-8014
State: TX Zip: 78705

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Central Congregational Church

The Central Congregational Church at 1530 N. Carroll Avenue is a large 1-story brick institutional building with Gothic Revival-style details. Although the church itself has a rectangular plan, the attached Sunday School wing to the rear gives the building an L-shaped configuration. The exterior walls are of brick, with cast stone used as a decorative and contrasting material. The roof is gabled and has asphalt shingles. The southwest-facing facade is distinguished by a large second-floor stained-glass window set within a segmental arch. Located in a mixed residential and commercial area of East Dallas, in a neighborhood that includes several 1- and 2-story frame houses built as early as 1900, the church has a grassy lawn in front, and paved parking lots on all other sides. Both the church and the attached Sunday School wing are in good condition and have changed little since their original construction. The only noticeable non-historic change is the installation of the modern metal-and-glass doors on the main entrance. Otherwise, the church retains much of its historic integrity and character.

The Central Congregational Church stands on a relatively flat parcel of land at the southeast corner of N. Carroll Avenue and San Jacinto Street. A chain-link fence encircles the property, except at the front where a broad sidewalk leads to the primary entrance. The only plantings include hedges along the chain-link fence, shrubs placed sporadically along the base of the church, and a tree near the northwest corner of the lot. The church has load-bearing masonry walls of brick, and a concrete foundation. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The facade, which fronts southwest onto N. Carroll Avenue, displays the building's most ornate detailing. The entrance bay projects slightly from the main body of the church, and is framed on each side by paired buttresses which appear to be decorative and non-structural. Set within a broad, segmental, cast-stone arch, the entrance features modern metal-and-glass double doors -- obvious non-historic replacements. A large stained-glass window, framed within a segmental arch, is located above the entrance. This window includes a series of fixed stained-glass lights and intricate cast-stone traceries. A stepped parapet with cast-stone coping crowns the facade.

The 2-story Sunday School wing to the rear exhibits only modest amounts of Gothic Revival-style detailing, the most notable being decorative buttresses similar to those seen on the main building. Windows on this auxiliary building are double hung with wood sashes. A brick parapet wall obscures the roof, which is either flat or slightly inclined.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Central Congregational Church

Constructed for the congregation of Central Congregational Church, the institutional building at 1530 N. Carroll, is an outstanding local example of early 20th-century Gothic Revival architecture. Both the Sanctuary and attached, similarly detailed, Sunday School wing are well-maintained and remarkably unchanged from their original 1920 appearance. The church is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

The history of Central Congregational Church in Dallas dates to 1877 with the founding of the First Congregational Church at the corner of Main and Austin streets, in downtown Dallas. In 1902, members of the original congregation voted to organize a second church, Central Congregational Church, in response to the dramatic growth in East Dallas after the turn of the century. A new brick church building was constructed the following year at the corner of Commerce and Preston streets, near the southwest boundary of old East Dallas. This building was abandoned in 1917 because noise from a nearby fire station and streetcar lines interfered with worship. It was eventually razed in 1944. After holding services in several temporary locations, the congregation purchased a lot at the corner of N. Carroll and San Jacinto streets in 1917, in the midst of the growing suburban neighborhoods to the north and east of downtown Dallas. The church was completed in 1920 (Dallas Morning News (DMN), November 25, 1956) and Dr. Thomas H. Harper served as the first minister. During his pastorate (1920-1927), church membership increased. In 1941, the Junius Heights Congregational Church merged with Central and by 1944, Central Congregational Church was the only affiliated representative of the denomination in Dallas (DMN, September 23, 1944).

Again in response to Dallas' changing demographics, Central Congregational Church decided to relocate and subsequently sold its building to an African American congregation in 1956. The church moved to Royal Lane, in a prestigious North Dallas area. Contemporary accounts of the move cited rapidly developing residential areas in North Dallas as the reason for the congregation's move in that direction (Dallas Times Herald, November 25, 1956:A-9). The building was subsequently sold to the Salvation Army but it is

presently the Bethel Memorial Methodist Church (Willis, 1991; City directories var.).

Although the Gothic Revival style was a favorite architectural form used on ecclesiastical structures in East Dallas during the early 20th century, only a handful retain their integrity to such a notable degree as the Central Congregational Church. The building, which is grandly sited on a corner lot, is noteworthy because of the abundant use of cast stone on the front. The large stained-glass window set within a single segmental arch is the most distinctive architectural feature. Only a few, minor and easily reversible alterations detract from the church's historic integrity. The attached Sunday School wing to the rear is also an important architectural element on the property, and adds to the property's overall historic character.