

United States Department of the Interior  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

PHS-16 (Rev. 1-79)

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

PHS-16 (Rev. 1-79)

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Memorial Washington Reformed Presbyterian Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number R. R. #3, West Highland Avenue Road  not for publication

city, town Elgin  vicinity of congressional district 13th

state Illinois code 012 county Kane code 089

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Memorial Washington Reformed Presbyterian Church

street & number % Donald E. Rosborough, Treasurer, Mrs. Patricia Clarrissemeaux, Pres.  
 R. R. #3, Box 65

city, town Elgin  vicinity of state Illinois 60120

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Courthouse

street & number Government Center

city, town Geneva state Illinois 60134

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" 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

The Memorial Washington Reformed Presbyterian Church is a rectangular structure twenty four feet, four inches by thirty eight feet, four inches. First set on wooden blocks, the present stone foundation was placed under the building in Civil War times. Exterior walls are of wood drop siding painted white. The east and west facades each contain three double sash windows with sixteen over sixteen lights, framed by green shutters. Pilasters divide the south facade into three bays. The center bay contains the main entrance, double doorway framed by pilasters and plain cornice lintel imitating the overall facade treatment on a smaller scale. Over the door is a wooden sun dial, hand carved by one of the builders, William Fraser. On either side of the entrance are windows covered with green shutters. The north facade contains no windows and is completely covered with drop siding. A pediment gable with plain cornice surmounts the south facade. The cornice continues along the east and west sides, ending in returns on the north.

The interior space is a single, one story room. A wood screen is just inside the double doors to protect worshipers from winter blasts. The floor is original: unfinished one by six inch boards. The walls are plastered. The pews are plain wooden seats with the backs capped with a smooth finished trim. They, along with the pulpit are original furnishings. A bronze memorial tablet, placed near the front entrance in 1924, is the only alteration to the original appearance of the building.

# 2. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention						

Specific dates 1844/45

Builder/Architect William and Daniel Fraser

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Memorial Washington Reformed Presbyterian Church is an excellent early example of classical revival architecture in Illinois. The choice of this style can be traced to the builders, William and Daniel Fraser, who modeled it after a church they had attended in their native Scotland. The building was constructed entirely by the Scotch and Scotch Irish settlers who made up the original congregation, many of whom are buried in the adjoining church cemetery.

In 1916, the descendants of the original settlers organized an association for the perpetual care of the church and cemetery. A business meeting and memorial service is held at the church annually in June.

The church retains its original appearance and features, and serves today as fine example of pioneer craftsmanship and as a memorial to the strong religious convictions of those early settlers.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered NOV 19 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Memorial Washington Reformed Presbyterian Church	Elgin vicinity Kane County
AVR 661 (Crash boat)	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Robert McClory  
Honorable Morgan F. Murphy  
Mr. A. D. Lewis, DOD  
Mr. Harold R. Kreiser,  
U. S. Navy

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.