

ORIGINAL

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Knox
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Central Congregational Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: Central Congregational Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Central Square

CITY OR TOWN: Galesburg

STATE: Illinois CODE: COUNTY: Knox CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Central Congregational Church

STREET AND NUMBER: Central Square

CITY OR TOWN: Galesburg STATE: Illinois CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Knox County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: S. Cherry Street

CITY OR TOWN: Galesburg STATE: Illinois CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Illinois Historic Sites Survey - Knox County

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: The Illinois Historic Structures Survey

STREET AND NUMBER: 901 S. Spring

CITY OR TOWN: Springfield STATE: Illinois CODE: 62704

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois  
COUNTY: Knox  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Central Congregational Church of Galesburg, located on the Public Square, is characteristic of the H. H. Richardson Romanesque influence.

The building was designed by C.E. Gottschalk of Gottschalk and Beadle, Architects, of Galesburg and construction commenced in 1897.

The design is well ordered in plan and composition which was characteristic of almost all of Richardson's work. Richardson's influence is also seen in the creative use of the stone details. The heavy stone work of the entrance portals and the small side windows with incised stone are indicative of Richardson.

The overall composition of the building is monumental and recalls to mind the Trinity Church in Boston.

The building is divided vertically into three traditional sections - doors, windows, and tower, characteristic of Romanesque Architecture. The main section of the building is flanked by a large, square bell tower capped with a pyramidal roof. Complementing the large tower structure are several cylindrical turrets. The polygonal apse is one of the many protruding appendages from the main building.

The triple, circular, arched entranceway engulfs the recessed doors, which is true to the style of Romanesque. The triangular gable above the circular arches is also repeated in the main roof. The large stained glass rose window dominates the wall above the entry. The rose window, in a reduced size, is also found in the bell tower. The highly ornate rose window is characteristic of Romanesque. The large trefoil arched stained windows on the north side of the Church complement the beauty of the rose window. Their width is almost the full depth of the west Sanctuary wall.

The Central Congregational Church dominates the City Square found at one end of the Central Business Area of Galesburg. All buildings of the past with architectural character have been demolished on two sides of the Square. Some smaller old buildings occupy a third side and a new Savings and Loan is located on the remaining half of the third side. The Church is located on the fourth side of the square in its original condition. Very few changes have been made since it was constructed, none of which are on the exterior.

The interior spaces on the First Floor consist of an Entrance Narthex, large Sanctuary with generous Balcony, Chancel, Administrative Offices, Choir Rooms, Fellowship Rooms, and Parlor and Lounge.

The Lower Level originally was Coat Rooms and mechanical spaces but in 1962 classrooms, high school lounge, and storage rooms were added as well as a Kitchen and Dining Area.

The Second Floor has large coat spaces and classrooms.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Cont.)

The Sanctuary is approximately 76' wide and 69' deep from the Chancel to the rear doors leading to the Narthex. Seating is in a semi-circular plan with a ramped floor. The plaster ceiling of the Sanctuary is dominated by a low broad-central dome; the top of this dome is 46' from the floor. The dome rests on panel vaults which are supported by arches.

Oak paneling is the finish material across the front of the Balcony and in the Chancel as well as the doors and trim and wainscots.

Total seating is 880 persons, 630 on the Ground Floor and 250 in the Balcony.

The building contractor was O. C. Housel and the building was completed in December 1898 with the first service in the new building being conducted on December 4, 1898.

The Church organ is called the Triumvirate Memorial Organ and was built in 1912 by M. P. Moeller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. The organ is considered one of the finest in the Middle West.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Central Congregational Church is built on land that was given for church purposes only by Knox College in 1833.

The "Old First Church" which is what it has become known as, was built in 1842. It was demolished in 1895 and the present Central Congregational Church was started in 1897.

The Church is used for civic events such as Galesburg Symphony, Community choral groups, etc. The Knox College commencement was always held in the Sanctuary until 1955.

Such well known personages as Evangelist Billy Sunday, Bennett Cerf, A. Stanley Jones, and others have spoken from the pulpit or speakers podium of this Church.

The Comprehensive Plan for Galesburg and Knox County, Illinois, completed in 1966, designates this site as a permanent church site. If this Church building were demolished the entire Public Square would lose part of its character as no other structure in this Public Square area has the architectural character or historic significance of this building.

For many years the Church was used by Knox College for college events until their Fine Arts Auditorium was built in 1955.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Historical Discourse - Commemorative of the Settlement of Galesburg,  
by Rev. Flavel Bascom

History of Knox County, by Knox County Historical Society

They Broke the Prairie, by Ernest Elmo Cawkins

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40	56	53	90	22	28
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 157'-9" x 157'-9" square

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Leslie H. Kenyon, Architect A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION: Kenyon and Associates, Architects DATE: November 19, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER: 735 N. Knoxville Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Peoria STATE: Illinois CODE: 61602

12. STATE LIAISON 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

KX-4-3

200726

1. Name of Site:

Common

Central Congregational Church

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number

Public Square

City or Town

Galesburg

County

Knox

Township

Section

Zip Code

Range

1/2 Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

( ) District

( ) Site

(X) Building

( ) Structure

Integrity (check one)

( ) Altered

( ) Moved

(X) Unaltered

( ) Original Site

4. Ownership:

(X) Private

( ) Public

Status (check one)

(X) Occupied

( ) Unoccupied

( ) Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

( ) Yes

(X) Restricted

( ) Unrestricted

( ) No

Present Use (check one or more)

( ) Agricultural

( ) Commercial

( ) Educational

( ) Entertainment

( ) Government

( ) Industrial

( ) Military

( ) Museum

( ) Park

( ) Private Residence

(X) Religious

( ) Scientific

( ) Transportation

( ) Other

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

RELIGION

6. Description:

Large Romanesque Church

(X) Excellent

( ) Ruins

( ) Good

( ) Unexposed

( ) Fair

( ) Deteriorated

Is there a program of preservation underway?

(X) Yes

( ) No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence           | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier          | (1780-1818)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early             | (1818-1850)              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late              | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People              | (give names & dates)     |

8. Specific Date:

1895

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |   |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Built on the site of Galesburg's 1st church property donated by Knox College in the 1830's for church purposes only

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title:

Date:

Organization:

Phone:

Street and Number:

City or Town:

County:

Zip Code

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

