

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BATAVIA

and/or common (SAME)

2. Location

street & number 8 N. Batavia Avenue (Illinois Route 31) not for publication

city, town Batavia vicinity of

state Illinois 60510 code 012 county Kane code 089

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name William M. Mace, Jr., Pastor/United Methodist Church of Batavia

street & number 8 N. Batavia Avenue (Illinois Route 31)

city, town Batavia vicinity of state Illinois 60510

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Kane County Government Center

street & number 719 South Batavia Avenue

city, town Geneva state Illinois 60134

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Structures in Kane County
title (Illinois Historic Structures Survey) has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date October 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation/Div. of Historic Sites

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

SUMMARY

Solon S. Beman's United Methodist Church of Batavia is characterized by a grand scale, intricate massing, dynamic contrasts, complicated three dimensionality, a richness of texture and opulent detail. The massing emphasizes heavy horizontality contrasted by an emphatically upright tower. The structure emulates historical Romanesque forms and includes a deeply recessed arched entry way with a band of light color stone molding following the curve of the arch.

DESCRIPTION

The heavily textured exterior is composed primarily of field boulders, wide varied in color. Most of the stone came from I.S. Stephen's Mill Creek Farm, just south of Batavia. Mr. Stephens was the building's contractor. The project superintendent, T.M. Hunter is credited with the selection and arrangement of the stone. Lintels, sills and string courses are cut from limestone in a precise manner in contrast to the random pattern of the field boulders.

The church building is approximately 106 feet long by 60 feet wide overall but contains a virtually square nave (55 feet by 54 feet 2 inches). The deeply recessed double entry doors open to a narthex containing three grand stairs. Two stairs are perpendicular to the entry direction and curve up seven risers to the nave level. Two massive 3'-8" diameter columns with elaborately detailed capitals provide a pivot for these two stairs and support the fifty-two foot high tower.

The tower is capped with a pyramidal roof and, like the hipped roof covering the nave, curves over the semi-circular arches of the wall openings as if the roof had been pushed down on the structure. The curved stair enclosures on the north and south sides of the tower each contain a grouping of four diamond pattern stained glass windows. Near the top of the tower are Palladian archways which reflect a similar grouping of windows on the north and south walls of the nave.

The nave contains thirteen rows of pews in three sections on oak strip flooring. The floor is raked, dropping 1'-3" from the back of the nave to the sanctuary. The pews are made of select red oak and the ends were elaborately designed to reflect the semi-circular Romanesque arch. The pews are curved to reflect the curved thrust of the sanctuary into the nave. The sanctuary is recessed 22'-8" deep with a barrel vault ceiling off the east side of the square nave. Originally, a pipe organ filled the easternmost 8 foot recess of the sanctuary but has been removed and is stored in the basement since coming into disuse.

(CONTINUED)

8. 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 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/			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			

Specific dates Built 1887 **Builder/Architect** SOLON SPENCER BEMAN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
SUMMARY

The United Methodist Church of Batavia was designed by prominent Chicago architect Solon S. Beman and built in 1887. The structure is representative of Beman's forceful and impressively massive Romanesque Revival architecture. H.H. Richardson being the first important exponent of this style.

SIGNIFICANCE

Beman is best known for his work as commissioned by George M. Pullman in 1879 for designing the complete industrial town of Pullman 14 miles south of the heart of Chicago. Beman was only 26 years old when commissioned by Pullman. Other Beman designed structures include Chicago's 1889 Grand Central Station (demolished) and the 1884 Studebaker Building at 410 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Beman's introduction to church architecture took place in New York working for Richard Upjohn, architect for that city's Trinity Church and some 150 churches in the United States.

The United Methodist Church building was a gift to the congregation by two prominent Batavians, Captain Don Carlos Newton (a wealthy industrialist) and the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, once minister of the congregation. Captain Newton had brought back from a trip to southern France a photograph and plans of a church he had seen. The plans of this French Romanesque church were passed on to Solon Beman to aid in the planning of the United Methodist Church of Batavia.

Typical of the churches of southern France, the nave consisted of barrel vault ceilings. Towers were generally square with pyramidal roofs and often detached. The exterior fascades were divided by string courses or horizontal mouldings into stories relieved by single, coupled or grouped windows. These features of the ninth thru twelfth century French Romanesque church were integrated into the design of Beman. Particularly impressive is the deeply recessed arched entry opening with a band of stone moldings following the curve of the arch.

(CONTINUED)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BATAVIA (ILLINOIS)

Continuation sheet

Item number 7 & 8

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7. DESCRIPTION (Cont'd.)

With a flat ceiling at a height of 24 feet, barrel vaults enter from all four walls. Select Georgia pine beadboard wainscoting matches the ceiling which springs upward from a height of 13 feet 6 inches over white plaster walls.

A small addition has been constructed at the southeast corner and rear of the building, providing housing for the heating plant and an exit to satisfy modern building code requirements. Other than this 8 foot by 18 foot frame and stone addition the structure is virtually unmodified except for the electric lights which replaced the original gas lights. Copper piping for the gas lights still exist and can be seen on the walls of the nave, capped and left exposed. The basement rooms have been finished in recent years to put them into active use.

The integrity of total design, from overall concept to the intricate details of the stained glass windows, pews and selection of materials can be seen at the United Methodist Church of Batavia. This total integration of design, which is still evident today, lends credibility to the competence of architect Solon S. Beman.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd.)

While Beman's work involves the prolific use of stone, this structure is particularly unique in its use of varying colored field boulders. The openings and string courses were highlighted with a cut limestone in contrast to the massive and varied boulders.

Beman's work, and in particular the United Methodist Church of Batavia, was a response to client needs and expression. In Batavia, Beman's church represented the influence of the early "Chicago School" which was then advocating the Romanesque style.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

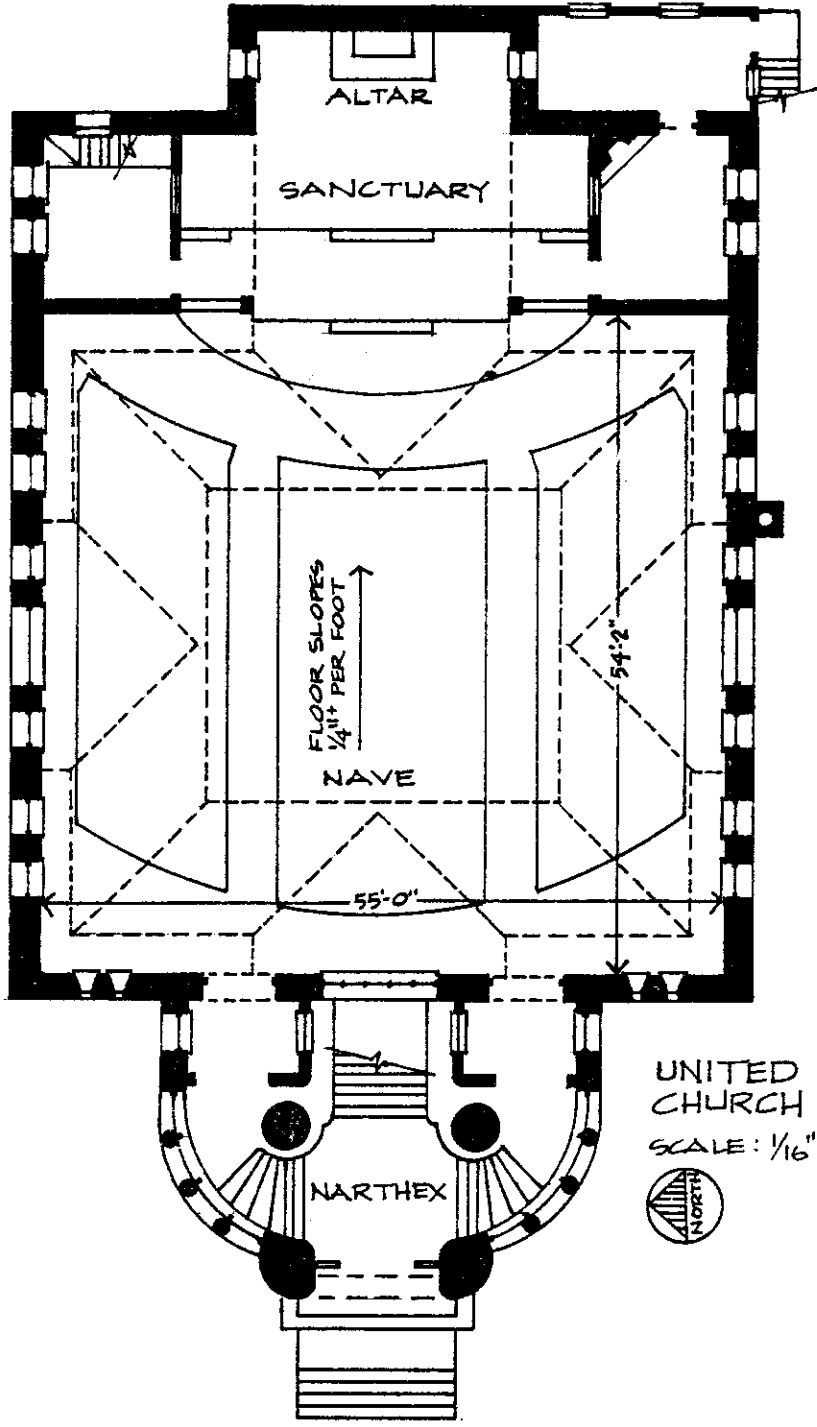
as recorded in the Batavia Herald, February 20, 1936.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BATAVIA (ILLINOIS)
Continuation sheet Item number 7.



UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BATAVIA
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"
NORTH



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 1 1983

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places during the week beginning July 24, 1983 and ending July 30, 1983. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

CALIFORNIA, Butte County, Oroville, Oroville Commercial District (Old), Montgomery, Myers and Huntoon Sts. and Miners Alley (07/28/83)

CALIFORNIA, Orange County, Santa Ana, Southern Counties Gas Co., 207 W. 2nd St. (07/28/83)

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, New Britain, Burritt Hotel, 67 W. Main St. (07/28/83)

CONNECTICUT, Litchfield County, Roxbury, Roxbury Center, CT 67, Weller's Bridge Rd., South and Church Sts. (07/28/83)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, New Haven, Plymouth Congregational Church, 1469 Chapel St. (07/28/83)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Unionville, Tunxis Hose Firehouse, Lovely St. and Farmington Ave. (07/28/83)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Waterbury, Bank Street Historic District, 207-231 Bank St. (07/28/83)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Meridian Mansions, 2400 16th St. NW (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Camp Point, Thomas, F.D., House, 321 N. Ohio St. (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Brown County, Dewitt, Benjamin, House, (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Kenilworth, Hiram, Baldwin, House, 205 Essex Rd. (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Kane County, Batavia, United Methodist Church of Batavia, 8 N. Batavia Ave. (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Livingston County, Dwight, Pioneer Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St. (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Livingston County, Fairbury, Beach, Thomas A., House, 402 E. Hickory St. (07/28/83)

ILLINOIS, Madison County, Troy, Carney, John, House, 306 E. Market St. (07/28/83)

KENTUCKY, Cumberland County, Marrowbone, Marrowbone Historic District, KY 90 (07/28/83)

LOUISIANA, Iberia Parish, New Iberia, East Main Street Historic District, East Main, Lee, Ann and Phillip Sts. (07/28/83)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), Perkins Square Gazebo, George St. and Myrtle Ave. (07/28/83)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), St. Leo's Church, 221 S. Exeter St. (07/28/83)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), Taylor's Chapel, 6001 Hillen Rd., Mount Pleasant Park (07/28/83)

MICHIGAN, Genesee County, Flint, Industrial Mutual Association Auditorium, 815 E. 2nd Ave. (07/28/83)

MICHIGAN, Kent County, East Grand Rapids, Blodgett, John W., Estate (Brookby), 250 Plymouth Rd. SE (07/28/83)

MISSISSIPPI, Warren County, Vicksburg, Lockett Compound, 1116-1122 Crawford St. (07/28/83)