United States Department of the Interior Northge Concervation and Recreation Service

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## Rational Register of Historic Places Inventory—Reminetion Form

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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| good   | ruins  | altered   | moved  | date  |

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 pediman gable with plain cornice summounts 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 doub 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.

| Period       | Arcas of Significance—C |                             |                       |                 |
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| _X_ 18001899 | commerce                | _X_ explo; ation/settlement | philosophy            | theater         |
| 1900         | communications          | industry                    | politics/government   | transportation  |
|              |                         | Invention                   | , ,                   | other (apacity) |

Builder/Architect William and Daniel Fraser

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

1844/45

Specific dates

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.

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| "Lest  | We Forget, A                          | Historical Ske  | tch, 1841-1  | 935", publ   | lished i  | n 1935, 14 pp  | S.   |
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GEO Hamilton

## ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

ILLINOIS

Date Entered

NOV 1 9 1980

Name

Location

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



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