

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Hampshire Colony Congregational Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

street & number 604 South Church Street  not for publication

city or town Princeton  vicinity

state Illinois county Bureau zip code 61356

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:     national     statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:     A     B x C     D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois Department of Natural Resources/SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

    entered in the National Register     determined eligible for the National Register

    determined not eligible for the National Register     removed from the National Register

    other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian:Richardsonian Romanesque

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete block

walls: Concrete block

roof: Asphalt shingles

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

**Summary Paragraph**

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church is located in Princeton, Illinois at the corner of Church and Columbus Streets. Princeton can be found on Interstate 80 in northwestern Illinois, fifty-five miles east of the Iowa border.

The Hampshire Colony church building is located in a shaded residential neighborhood of historic homes, just one block east of Main Street. The county courthouse and town square are two blocks to the south. This area is considered the historic core of Princeton.<sup>1</sup>

The church building was constructed in 1905-06 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture and featured square towers with battlements, a hipped roofline, rounded archways, tracery windows with stained glass, and a porte-cochere.<sup>2</sup> It was built of concrete blocks that were made on site.<sup>3</sup>

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**Narrative Description**

**The subject of this nomination, the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, was completed in 1906. A Fellowship and Education unit was added to the building during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1956. For the purposes of this application, the original 1906 building will be described first, and the 1956 addition following that.**

**1906 Church Building**

**Exterior Description**

Setting & General Characteristics

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church shares the west side of the 600 block of South Church Street with three other properties, which are large historic homes. The home at the opposite end of the block from the church was built by the first mayor of Princeton in 1849.<sup>4</sup> The church and its neighbors all have the same amount of set-back from the street, about fifty feet, giving the block a consistent look of lawn and building facades. Several mature trees add to the historic feel of the area.

The church itself sits in the northeast corner of a lot measuring 313 feet x 223 feet.<sup>5</sup> Diagonally from the church building, in the southwest corner of the property, is a black-topped parking lot that can hold thirty-five vehicles. The parking area is accessed from a driveway off of Church Street. The driveway follows the property line on its southern boundary.

Landscaping wraps around the church on the west, north, and east sides (the south side is mainly driveway and parking lot.) Seven mature trees dot the landscape to shade the church building and lawn. A grouping of three large trees and playground equipment can be found on the west side. Up close to the church building, on the north and east side, are several yew evergreens, while four spirea bushes in a small plot of grass provide the only landscaping on the south side. There are city sidewalks on the north and east sides.

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The church building measures 108'8" by 49'8" and is a modified rectangular shape. The roof is hipped in both the front and back sections of the church. The front section facing Church Street is lower than the back and is five-sided in construction. The back portion of the church, which contains the sanctuary, is larger and higher, and also has a hipped roof. There are side gables on the back section as well. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles that were new in 2007.<sup>6</sup>

The exterior of the Hampshire Colony Church is constructed of rock face concrete block. The blocks have two types of finishes - those below the water table are textured to resemble rough-cut stone, while the rest are smooth, flat blocks that look like finished stone. The textured blocks measure 24" w x 12" h x 4.5" d while the flat blocks are slightly smaller at 23.5" w x 9" h, but 11.5" in depth. <sup>6</sup> The lower third foundation area was constructed with the textured blocks with the remaining upper portion of the building showing flat blocks. A belt course of narrow stone block divides the textured block from the flat.

There are thirty-three stained glass windows located throughout the building. These windows are plain colored glass - there are no Biblical or secular scenes or figures on the panes. The windows include a variety of sizes and shapes: large and small fixed panes with tracery, double hung, and half-circle. An exterior transparent cover of Lexan was installed in 1977 to each stained glass window to protect them from the weather.<sup>7</sup> All of the stained glass windows are original to the church.

Windows at the basement level are of two different types. On the north and south side they are double hung and half of the unit is below ground level. There is a three-sided well around each window. The frames are wood. The six windows on the east side were originally all double, side-by-side fixed pane windows with wooden frames. A wood mullion separates the two panes of glass. Four of these are still in place. Two have been replaced with metal-framed sliding windows that open horizontally.

**Front (East) Elevation**

The building faces east toward Church Street. A look from this front elevation takes in most of the Richardsonian Romanesque features including rounded archways, square towers, castellated rooflines, and an overall heaviness of building materials.

Most prominent in the front is a five-sided bay. It contains seven stained glass windows of uniform size, two in the center and two on each of the adjacent east-facing walls, and one on the south wall. This section offers architectural interest, but is also lower than the remainder of the building and allows other features to be seen.

Two concrete steps from the street level and then a sidewalk leads visitors to the main entrance in the building's northeast corner. It is a small, square porch with open, rounded archways on the east and north sides. The roof is castellated. The entry features wooden double doors, and above these doors is a half-circle stained glass window with "First Congregational Church" inscribed on it.

Also visible from the front elevation are the two towers, one on the north side of the building and the other on the south side.

**North Elevation**

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On the north side of the church building is the bell and clock tower. This square tower is the tallest point of the church at seventy-five feet (and 13'4" square). Architectural features include castellation at the roofline and a clock face on each of the four sides; open, round top arches; and two stories of stained glass windows. The arched windows and stained glass windows are a single unit on the east and west sides, and doubles on the north side that faces Columbus Street.

The church bell, which dates from 1849, can be found on the level just below the clock.<sup>8</sup> The remainder of the tower contains stairs for access to the bell and clock.

The high-pitched, hipped roof with a lower cross gable is visible on this elevation, west of the tower. A 12 ft. tall, arched window is in the center of the gable; directly beneath the gable's peak is a small louvered window. A 10 ft. tall arched window is between the gable and the tower. An identical window is west of the gable, followed by two, smaller arched windows.

**West Elevation**

The west elevation is considered the back of the church and is the location of a 1956 addition. The addition is set directly against the original church and covers the entire west side.

**South Elevation**

Another square tower on the south side of the building balances the architecture. It is shorter than the bell and clock tower at fifty feet, but is the same 13'4" square; it also has the same architectural features of a castellated roofline, open, round top arches, followed underneath by stained glass windows at the main level. With an attached porch that has open, arched doorways on two sides, this tower offers a second entrance to the church. The door is original to the building and is a single unit with a round top. The tower also houses an elevator for handicap use.

The building façade west of the tower is nearly identical to the north elevation, with a hipped roof and lower cross gable. A tall brick chimney is located on the roof's slope, near the eave. The fenestration pattern is slightly different, as no arched windows are located west of the gable. There are two openings near the juncture of the church and the 1956 addition; a door topped with an infilled arch adjacent to a small rectangular window. The door is accessed by a staircase with a metal railing.

**Interior Description**

**General Characteristics**

The Hampshire Colony Church contains two levels, a main floor and a basement. The main level has three rooms. Nine rooms can be found in the basement. The interior walls of the church are finished with plaster and painted. Woodwork and windows throughout the building are original. The main level floors are carpeted and areas in the basement have either vinyl, carpet, or concrete. The church is heated by steam, and radiators are visible throughout the building.

The vestibule is located in the northeast corner of the interior and is finished with modern paneling and ceiling tiles. It contains several doorways so members may easily proceed to one of several spaces in the church. Two sets of double doors and one single door have clear, beveled glass porthole windows. The double doors lead

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into the sanctuary and the single door to the Lecture Room. Another door provides access to the bell tower.

The vestibule also has two, double-sash rectangular stained glass windows with lead comes set in a grid pattern. The glass colors of green and brown are somewhat subdued.

An original wood staircase leads down to the basement. All of the woodwork in this area is painted white. The west wall displays a plaque honoring the eighteen charter members who formed the 1831 Hampshire Colony in Northampton, Massachusetts. Another plaque acknowledges Minnie Colesberry for her donation of the 1911 tower clock.

The main feature of the church interior is the sanctuary with a seating capacity of 300 persons.<sup>9</sup> The ceiling has dark wood beams that divides it into a pattern of large sections. White acoustic tiles cover the ceiling.

The front of the sanctuary features an alcove where the altar area, choir loft, and organ pipes are located. It all sits on a raised platform. Within the large alcove is a smaller space that houses the organ pipes and choir loft. The organ pipes are set against the wall and have a background of original woodwork. A new pipe organ had been installed in the previous church building in 1899. It was removed in 1905 and re-stalled in the current church's sanctuary when construction was finished in 1906.<sup>10</sup> The pipes are still in use today with a 1953 organ console.<sup>11</sup> The console is positioned to the right on another smaller platform area. A piano sits next to the organ console. Directly in front of the organ pipes is the choir loft. A half wall separates the pipes and choir loft from the lower platform area.

In the southwest corner of the alcove is the pulpit. The pews are arranged diagonally in the sanctuary to face the pulpit. The floor slopes down to the altar platform in a similar way to a theater. Carpeting has been installed over the original hardwood floors.

Original stained glass windows highlight the north and south walls. The colors of the glass are vibrant and include red, orange, and green.

The north wall has a large 12-foot window flanked by two smaller 10-foot windows of the same style. The large windows consist of three arched panels crowned by three circular windows set in wood tracery. The larger center window features a cross. The panels have lead comes set in a grid pattern with a floral design at the rounded top. The smaller windows follow the same design, but have two panels rather than three and are crowned by a single circular window set in wood tracery.

The south wall has a large and a small window as described above. The woodwork around these five windows is original and unpainted.

Also within the sanctuary are half-circle stained glass windows above the various doorways. The colors are similar to the vestibule windows (subdued browns and greens). The glass is arranged in a fan pattern with lead comes. An organic flourish decorates the bottom center of each window.

Adjoining the sanctuary is the Lecture Room, an architecturally interesting space with a five-sided wall. Acoustic tiles cover the ceiling.

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This section of the building features stained glass windows measuring 8-feet in height. They are a smaller version of the sanctuary windows and contain the same rich colors. Two panels of lead comes in a grid pattern are topped by a circle window in wood tracery. Three of the five walls (these face east which is the front of the church) have side-by-side stained glass windows, the wall facing south contains one window, and the north-facing wall does not have any windows.

This Lecture Room can be used for additional seating of 100 persons if the sanctuary is filled.<sup>12</sup> Otherwise, it is used for study groups and small receptions. A kitchenette is located in the northeast corner of the room. On display in this area is the altar formerly used by Reverend Owen Lovejoy in the 1800s. A framed photo of Reverend Lovejoy hangs above the altar.

The basement area can be accessed from the vestibule or another stairway off the choir loft on the north side. The basement has nine rooms. At the east end is the Youth Room with games, foosball table and other recreational items. On the south side of the basement is an Activity Room that is used to store food items on shelving units. Long tables are set up in the middle of the room, and volunteers assemble lunch bags of food to hand out to children in need. Other rooms in the basement are used for storage, the heating system, and restrooms.

**1956 Addition**

**General Characteristics**

In 1956, a combination Fellowship Hall and Education Unit was added to the west side of the church. This addition reflects the architectural style and building materials of a Mid-Century structure. It has a hipped roof and asphalt shingles that were replaced in 2007.<sup>13</sup> The building was constructed using light brown face brick.

Blueprints for the addition show that four windows and an entrance on the west side of the 1906 church building were bricked in during the 1956 construction process.<sup>14</sup> The addition was then attached directly to the church.

The vertical window areas of the exterior walls are slightly recessed from roofline to ground level, giving the building a look of vertical panels. Windows throughout the addition are double hung with a fixed upper sash. Main level and basement windows on all sides are in line vertically. The lower ones are slightly smaller than the main level units. All frames are wooden.

**North (front elevation)**

The main entrance is located on Columbus Street and faces north. There are two concrete steps leading up to double doors. A transom of three horizontal, fixed panes of glass is above the doorway. Two windows, one on the main floor and the other at basement level, are located on the far right side.

**South and West elevations**

The west elevation has five main level windows and five basement windows while the south side of the addition contains three main level windows and three basement windows.

**East elevation**

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A two-level exterior stairway at the connecting point of the original church and the addition is located on the east side of the addition. The lower steps lead to the basement and the Fellowship Room.

The upper steps lead to the addition's first floor hallway. The exterior stairway continues up two more steps to another entry, this time into the original church building and the pastor's study. To create this entrance, a 1906 arched window was removed and a door installed in the window opening.<sup>15</sup> A wood panel fills in the extra space between the top of the door and the top of the original window. Additionally, just a couple of feet to the east of the pastor's door, an opening of four feet by two feet was cut into the church wall and a small air conditioning unit was placed in the bottom of the opening. A stationary pane of glass was installed above the air conditioner. The exterior of this rectangle is outlined with brick matching the addition. The same type of brick can be seen on either side of the pastor's study door.

**Interior**

The first floor contains twelve rooms that are arranged around a U-shaped hallway. Located in the center of the U is the church office and choir room. Across the hall from the center rooms and surrounding them on three sides are the classrooms. The classrooms are roughly the same dimensions with the exception of the former kindergarten room that is twice the size.

The unpainted woodwork throughout the first floor is a light maple. Windows are all original; floors are covered with industrial grade carpeting.

Access between the original church and the addition is through the addition hallway on the north side that continues on to the church. A doorway was cut into the church building during the 1956 project.<sup>16</sup>

In the basement there are five rooms: the kitchen, fellowship hall, restrooms, and stair hall. The kitchen has a vinyl floor, the fellowship hall is carpeted with industrial carpeting, and the remainder of the floors are concrete.

This addition is still used today for the same purposes of fellowship and education. The only change over the years has been re-purposing the kindergarten classroom on the first floor into a library. Also, the fellowship room in the basement received new flooring. In sum, room use may have changed some over the years and flooring updated, but the structural configuration has not been altered since 1956.

**Integrity**

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church has retained its integrity in its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. No significant alterations have been made to the property since it was constructed in 1906. The following projects took place during the church's 112 years:

Five years after the church was completed, a change was made to the north tower and a clock was added. Church member Minnie Colesberry passed away in 1909 and left money in her will to pay for a "town clock."<sup>17</sup> Local contractor Charles Omen, who had built the church in 1905-06, raised the bell tower on the northeast corner of the church to seventy-five feet, and a clock was installed. The extra height was



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necessary so the dials of the clock could be seen in all parts of the city. The project was completed in 1911. The building material used for this tower project was reinforced concrete, but the concrete was slip-covered with siding several decades ago. (A 1946 photo in the local newspaper shows the tower with siding.)<sup>18</sup> The earlier wooden siding was replaced with vinyl at some point. The ornamental detail above the clock has also been removed. The original mechanics for the clock were changed out to a more modern, electronic version.

It wasn't until 1933 that another building change was made. A workspace at the west end of the church was remodeled for another Sunday School room and basement stairs.<sup>19</sup> It was a minor alteration that provided another public room and allowed members access to the basement level from either end of the building. (The Sunday school room now serves as a transitional hallway between the original building and a 1956-57 addition.)

Extending out from the south porch entrance was a porte-cochere. It had a rounded archway and two columns supporting the south end. It was removed in the late 1940s when automobiles became too large to pass through the archway on their way to the rear parking area.<sup>20</sup> The church driveway from the street to the parking lot was very narrow because of the adjacent property, and automobiles could neither pass through nor go around the porte-cochere.

The main entry doors were replaced in the 1950s, but the original hardware is still in place.

After an addition to the church was built in 1956-57, some of the basement space was re-purposed. The original kitchen area became a youth room in 1960 and still serves that need.<sup>21</sup> The coal room became a restroom, and the kitchen and a portion of the unfinished space is now a meeting and activity area. The remainder of the original basement is used for storage.

In 1956, a combination Fellowship Hall and Education Unit was added to the west side of the church for much needed space.<sup>22</sup> It was constructed of light brown face brick and attached directly to the original church building. Overall, the addition is minimalist in architectural detail and is located at the back of the church. It cannot easily be seen from the front elevation and does not detract from the main 1906 structure.

In 1971, a sanctuary restoration project included new pews, lighting, and carpeting. Cracked plaster was repaired and painted, and new chancel furniture installed.<sup>23</sup> With the 1971 restoration, the main aisle is now slightly off center resulting in the south side of the room having a larger section of pews than the north side. Before that, the configuration was three sections of pews and two aisles. A small kitchenette was added to the northeast corner during this renovation.<sup>24</sup>

#### Conclusion

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church is a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Its identifying features are still in place - the arched windows, square towers, hipped roof with side gables, and general feel of massiveness. There have been some changes during the building's 112 year history, but they are not enough to alter its architectural integrity.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**

1906-1911

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Frederick Worst - architect

Charles Omen - builder

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. It is the only building in Princeton that was constructed in this style of architecture. The Hampshire Colony Church is also significant for its construction using concrete block. It is the only church in Princeton built with this material.

The period of significance is 1906-1911. This includes the year the church was dedicated (1906) until the bell tower was completed in 1911.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### **History of Princeton, Illinois to 1906**

The first settlers arrived in Princeton in 1831 as part of a religious group that had organized in the East before migrating to the new "West." The Hampshire Colony, as the group was known, were members of the Congregational faith. They formed their colony in Northampton, Massachusetts, and included persons from the neighboring communities of Belchertown, Amherst, Springfield, Conway, Warwick, and Putney, Vermont.<sup>1</sup>

Princeton was originally called Greenfield, but when the town was platted and laid out in 1832, officials decided to rename it. Legend states that the three town commissioners, John P. Blake, Roland Moseley, and John Musgrove, dropped their suggestions for a name into a hat and a neutral party drew the winner. Musgrove's choice of Princeton was selected; he was originally from Princeton, New Jersey.<sup>2</sup> The new community plan also included a public square, something the New England emigrants were accustomed to back home.<sup>3</sup>

Princeton was first situated in Putnam County. In 1837, voters choose to break away and create their own county. The new area was called Bureau County, and Princeton was named the county seat.<sup>4</sup> While the town became a center for government and professionals such as lawyers and doctors, the rich prairie lands surrounding Princeton made it essentially an agriculture-based community. Urban and rural endeavors working in tandem are still the mode of operation in Princeton today.<sup>5</sup>

Perhaps the greatest and most lasting influence on Princeton's history was the coming of the railroad. In 1854, the Central Military Tract laid rails through Princeton, opening up new opportunities for the small community of 2,200 residents.<sup>6</sup> Two years later the Central Military Tract Company merged with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy.<sup>7</sup> The road through Princeton remained the C. B. & Q. from 1856 until 1970.<sup>8</sup> Today Amtrak stops five times a day at Princeton's historic 1911 depot.

Because of the topography of the land, the railroad tracks were laid a mile from the heart of town. A second business district grew around the depot area that still exists today.<sup>9</sup> Princeton is unique in having these two separate commercial districts. The areas are known simply as the North End and the South End.<sup>10</sup>

Swedish and German immigrants began to settle in Princeton in the mid-1800s. They were hard working and many became successful business owners. Their contributions helped the community to continue to prosper and grow.<sup>11</sup>

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A number of Princeton's pioneers were college educated. They worked to establish an excellent school system and sound government along with prosperous businesses.<sup>12</sup> Princeton is home to Illinois' first township high school. A handsome five-story building opened to students in 1867. American poet William Cullen Bryant delivered the commencement address in 1871.<sup>13</sup>

Over the years, Princeton became recognized for its culture and fine architecture. Churches flourished, literary and musical groups were organized, and successful residents built large, stately homes.<sup>14</sup> The town was also known for hosting a variety of reformers, politicians, lecturers, and preachers. Among the noted visitors were: Abraham Lincoln, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, James Garfield, Susan B. Anthony, Mark Twain, and evangelist Billy Sunday.<sup>15</sup> In those early years, Princeton was often referred to as the "Boston of the Middle West" because its New England style of culture.<sup>16</sup>

**History of the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church**

Princeton, Illinois

The Hampshire Colony is largely responsible for establishing the city of Princeton, Illinois. Its members were New Englanders of the Congregational faith who organized their colony in Northampton, Massachusetts before immigrating to Illinois in 1831. Their goals were to Christianize the "West" as well as seek new economic opportunities. The Hampshire Colonists arrived in what is now Princeton in July 1831.<sup>1</sup> By 1832, the town was platted and officially named Princeton.<sup>2</sup>

The community's first public building was the original Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, constructed in 1835. It was located in the southwest corner of the present day 700 block of South Main Street, known as Courthouse Square. In addition to religious services, the two-story frame structure was used as a schoolhouse, town hall, and courthouse.<sup>3</sup>

The Hampshire Colony Church group is also credited with the establishment of Princeton's main cemetery in 1836. The first minister called to the Hampshire Colony Church was Reverend Lucian Farnham. He came in 1835 and served until 1838. In December 1836, his young son, also named Lucian, died and was buried on family land west of town. Over the next ten years, Rev. Farnham donated a total of four acres to the church so members would have a place to bury their deceased. At that time, the cemetery was known as the Congregational Burying Ground. Eventually the land was deeded to the City of Princeton and combined with purchases of additional acreage. The Congregational Burying Ground was then renamed Oakland Cemetery. Today Oakland is one of the largest cemeteries in Bureau County, covering more than 100 acres and containing over 14,000 burials.<sup>4</sup>

By 1845, the county was ready to build its own courthouse. (The architect and contractor of the new courthouse, Alvah Whitmarsh, was a member of the original Hampshire Colony from New England.)<sup>5</sup> The church was no longer needed for local government. Members elected to build a new, larger church at a different location.<sup>6</sup>

In 1848, this second Hampshire Colony Congregational Church was built at 604 South Church Street. It was constructed of brick in a traditional New England style.<sup>7</sup>

Ten years earlier, Owen Lovejoy had arrived in Princeton, in October 1838, and became the second minister at the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church.<sup>8</sup> He was known for his abolitionist views and preached his anti-slavery message from the pulpit. Lovejoy was

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also a conductor on the Underground Railroad. His home in Princeton became one of the most important stations in Illinois. Today it is a museum open to the public. The Homestead was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and received National Historic Landmark status in 1997.<sup>9</sup> It was during Reverend Lovejoy's seventeen years of service at the Hampshire Colony Church that the second church building was constructed.<sup>10</sup>

In 1881, the floor of the church basement was lowered to make rooms for a fellowship and devotional area. The removal of so much earth from the foundation caused a wall to crack. By the early 1900s, members became concerned about the safety of the structure. This second church building was demolished in April 1905.<sup>11</sup>

Fredrick Worst of the architectural firm Worst & Shepardson in Aurora, Illinois was hired to design a new building. His final plans showed a Richardsonian Romanesque look.<sup>12</sup> This style of architecture was much different for the congregation and the community. The 1848 church had had a classic New England look with a rectangular floor plan and a soaring spire.<sup>13</sup> In contrast, while still retaining a basic rectangular shape, the new structure featured an overall heaviness, square towers with battlements, a hipped roofline and cross gables, tracery windows with stained glass, and a porte-cochere.<sup>14</sup>

The building material was also unique - concrete blocks. Some of the blocks featured a plain surface while others had a distinct raised pattern. It created the Richardsonian Romanesque look of bulk and textures without the cost of stone.<sup>15</sup> Concrete blocks were a popular building material in 1906 that were both durable and affordable.<sup>16</sup> The Hampshire Colony Church records state that the blocks for their building were made on site.<sup>17</sup> It remains the only church in Princeton constructed from this type of material.

A local tradesman, Charles Omen, was awarded the contract to build.<sup>18</sup> There is also information that a local mason, John Kimberley, was involved. Kimberley was noted for concrete work and built a home for himself of similar concrete blocks on Main Street in 1910. His obituary lists the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church as one of his projects.<sup>19</sup>

On October 22, 1905, the corner stone for a third Hampshire Colony Congregational Church building was laid during a "fitting ceremony." The new church was built on the same site as the 1848 building, at 604 South Church Street.<sup>20</sup>

The cornerstone was actually a capstone for an entrance pillar. Set into the stone was a glass plate with the inscription: "First Congregational Church Organized 1831 Erected 1906."<sup>21</sup> The glass plate was apparently damaged and later replaced with a bronze plaque having the same inscription.

(It should be noted that the name, "First Congregational Church," though never officially adopted, had come into use by common consent around 1862. The original name of Hampshire Colony Congregational Church was resumed by a resolution passed at the annual meeting on January 7, 1932. Therefore, "First Congregational Church" was still in use when the 1906 church was built, and that name is seen in the stained glass window above the church's main doorway.)<sup>22</sup>

The clock and bell tower is located on the north side of the church. Originally the tower measured sixty feet high. But five years after the church was completed, a tower clock was added. Church member Minnie Colesberry passed away in 1909 and left money in her will to pay for a "town clock." Two years later, local contractor Charles Omen, who had built the church in 1905-06, raised the bell tower on the northeast corner of the church to seventy-five feet, and a clock was installed. The extra height was necessary so the

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dials of the clock could be seen in all parts of the city. A plaque in the church vestibule commemorates the tower clock and recognizes Minnie Colesberry for her donation.<sup>23</sup>

Located on the level just below the clock is the 1849 church bell. Reverend Owen Lovejoy, minister at the Hampshire Colony Church at that time, traveled to Troy, New York to personally make sure the tone of the bell was satisfactory. It was then shipped by boat to Hennepin, Illinois, fifteen miles from Princeton, and hauled by wagon the remainder of the way to the church.<sup>24</sup>

The "Lovejoy bell" was removed from the previous church before the building was razed in 1905. It was re-hung in the present building and remains in the bell tower today.<sup>25</sup> It is only rung for special occasions such as the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church in 2006.<sup>26</sup>

The completed church was dedicated on March 18, 1906, with 100 new members joining at that time. The large, imposing building measured nearly 5,450 square feet and cost around \$28,000.<sup>27</sup> Over the years, some structural additions and changes were made, but this 1906 building still retains its Richardsonian Romanesque look and serves the present congregation.<sup>28</sup>

Members took on a large project during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of their church building. A Fellowship and Educational Unit was added to the west side of the church. Edward L. Burch from Wilmette, Illinois was the architect for the addition, and C.H. Langman & Son of Rock Island, Illinois was the contractor. A total of 7,052 square feet was added to the building for a cost of \$91,000. This area was dedicated on April 7, 1957.<sup>29</sup>

**Richardsonian Romanesque Architecture**

Richardsonian Romanesque was named for architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886.) He was a Louisiana native who attended Harvard and later studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Richardson's style of architecture borrowed from the Romanesque period of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries in Europe. He then added his own elements to make it a distinct style. Richardsonian Romanesque was popular from 1870-1900.<sup>30</sup>

This style of architecture is eclectic in nature and characterized by the following traits: use of stone for building materials resulting in a heavy, massive look; contrasting textures of stone for a rugged, craggy feel; towers; rounded archways and window tops; and a hipped roof, frequently having cross gables as well.<sup>31</sup>

Because of its massiveness, Richardsonian Romanesque was usually employed for churches, university buildings, and public buildings like courthouses, libraries, and train stations. Richardson wanted to convey a sense of permanence with his architectural designs.<sup>32</sup> Perhaps that is what attracted members of the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church to Richardson's style. With their previous church building declared structurally unsafe and razed after just fifty-seven years, members may have been searching for something more lasting. They were willing to set aside long-standing New England traditions and build their 20<sup>th</sup> century church in a radically different style.

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church is a noteworthy example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Identifying features include its rounded arches at the entrances and windows and a hipped roof with side gables. Although the church is not constructed of stone, the concrete blocks effectively convey the overall feeling of massiveness in a Richardsonian Romanesque style building, while the textured blocks give the look and feel of rough quarried stone, another trait of this architectural style. Square towers like those of the Hampshire Colony Church are also commonly seen in Richardson's style.<sup>33</sup>

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**Concrete block**

Hampshire Colony Church members achieved the Richardsonian Romanesque look for their church building with concrete blocks that resembled stone. Unlike the concrete masonry units used in modern construction, these blocks could be molded in different designs. This type of material had been gaining in popularity nationwide when construction on the Princeton church began in 1905.<sup>34</sup>

Concrete is historically an ancient building material. Studies show that the Romans used it to build the Pantheon, the interior of the Coliseum, and their aqueducts.<sup>35</sup> When the Roman Empire fell, their expertise with concrete was lost for over a millennium. It wasn't until the Renaissance that a similar material to ancient concrete was developed. A few more centuries passed before concrete came into use again.<sup>36</sup>

Inventors began to experiment once again with concrete and concrete blocks in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A number of patents were awarded for concrete block making, but widespread production never took hold. One of the drawbacks was the use of wooden molds for the process. They tended to warp and rot because of the wet nature of cement.<sup>37</sup>

All that changed around 1900 when two main events occurred. First was the invention by Harmon S. Palmer of a commercially successful machine to make concrete blocks.<sup>38</sup> The second occurrence was the ability to make improved Portland cement.<sup>39</sup> An Englishman by the name of Joseph Aspdin developed what is known today as modern concrete and received a patent for his efforts in 1824. He named it Portland cement after a type of stone native to the Isle of Portland, located on the southern coast of England.<sup>40</sup> The process was improved over the years and by the 1870s and 1880s, Americans were also producing this material.<sup>41</sup>

Harmon used cast iron for his new block making machine which held up to the moisture of cement. The metal also released the formed block much easier than wooden molds. Harmon received a patent for his machine in 1900 and soon formed the Hollow Building Block Company.<sup>42</sup> In less than a decade, nearly 1000 companies were manufacturing concrete blocks.<sup>43</sup> Later inventors designed machines with different approaches to block making than what Harmon used. While Harmon's machine was called an upright and placed the mold at the side of the pressing box, others located the mold at the bottom of the box.<sup>44</sup>

Concrete blocks became a promising new building material. They were advertised as fireproof, weatherproof, and needing little care. These blocks were also lighter in weight and less expensive than stone.<sup>45</sup> Even Sears Roebuck listed concrete blocks in the building supplies section of their catalog.<sup>46</sup>

The relatively simple process of making concrete blocks added to their appeal. The fabricating machine was about the size of a present day table saw and could easily be moved from one job site to another. No electricity was required. Workers loaded a portion of cement into the machine's mold, tamped it down, and then removed the formed block.<sup>47</sup> Different face plates could be used in the block mold to imitate stone or other patterns such as ornamental wreaths and scrolls, floral patterns, and rope moldings.<sup>48</sup> The process was quick, and experienced men could produce a block in twenty to thirty seconds. The blocks then needed to be set aside and allowed to cure for several weeks.<sup>49</sup>

Eventually the public's taste changed, and concrete blocks fell out of favor by the 1930s. Large scale manufacturers had turned toward the use of cinder block with plain, smooth surfaces that was cheaper to manufacture.<sup>50</sup>

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It's uncertain which of the many types of machines was used to make the concrete blocks for the Hampshire Colony Church, but it is known that they were made on site using the process described above.<sup>51</sup>

**Conclusion**

The Hampshire Colony Congregational Church stands as the only example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture - religious, commercial, or residential - in the city of Princeton. It retains a high level of architectural integrity and is worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Comparable properties**

There are no other buildings in Princeton of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. There are two other churches that were built close to the same time and have similar architecture. The First Lutheran Church at 116 North Pleasant Street was dedicated in 1891.<sup>52</sup> It has a square tower with a castellated roof, but its other architectural details are more Gothic than Romanesque. The First Methodist Church at 316 South Church Street was built in 1910.<sup>53</sup> It also has a square tower, and its overall look is one of heaviness like the Hampshire Colony Church. However, the Methodist Church lacks any other architectural features of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

***Similar Church Buildings in the Community:***

None of Richardsonian Romanesque

***Similar architecture and era of construction:***



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First Lutheran Church (1891) - 116 North Pleasant Street; Princeton, Illinois



First United Methodist Church (1910) - 316 South Church Street; Princeton, Illinois

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.22915</u>	<u>-89.274693</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

City of Princeton – Lot 67

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries were determined when the lot was purchased in 1848 and remain the same today. In the Bureau County Assessor's office in the Bureau County Courthouse, the lot is listed as parcel 16-16-331-011 and Princeton- Lot 67.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Pamela J. Lange date March 6, 2018  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 815-872-8821  
street & number 647 Woodland Drive email Pj.lange@comcast.net  
city or town Princeton state Illinois zip code 61356

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

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<b>Name of Property:</b>	<u>Hampshire Colony Congregational Church</u>		
<b>City or Vicinity:</b>	<u>Princeton</u>		
<b>County:</b>	<u>Bureau</u>	<b>State:</b>	<u>Illinois</u>
<b>Photographer:</b>	<u>Pamela J. Lange</u>		
<b>Date Photographed:</b>	<u>May 9, 2017; August 9, 2017</u>		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0001

East side (front) of church, looking west

Photo 2 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0002

Front entrance on east side, looking southwest

Photo 3 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0003

North side of church, looking south

Photo 4 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0004

Bell tower on north side of church, looking southeast

Photo 5 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0005

South side of church, looking northeast

Photo 6 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0006

View of corner lot, looking southwest

Photo 7 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0007

Vestibule of church, main floor, looking southwest

Photo 8 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0008

Sanctuary from rear to front, main floor, looking southwest

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church

Bureau, Illinois

Name of Property

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Photo 9 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0009  
Sanctuary from front to rear, main floor, looking northeast

Photo 10 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0010  
Ceiling of sanctuary, main floor, looking west

Photo 11 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0011  
Lecture Room, main floor, looking southeast

Photo 12 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0012  
1933 stairway from main floor to basement, looking north

Photo 13 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0013  
Youth Room in basement, looking southeast

Photo 14 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0014  
Activity Room in basement, looking southwest

Photo 15 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0015  
North side (front) of addition, looking south

Photo 16 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0016  
South side of addition, connecting to original church, looking northwest

Photo 17 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0017  
Hallway and Sunday School rooms in addition, main floor, looking north

Photo 18 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0018  
Office in addition, main floor, looking east

Photo 19 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0019  
Fellowship Room in basement of addition, looking south

Photo 20 of 20

IL\_Bureau County\_Hampshire Colony Congregational Church\_0020  
Kitchen in basement of addition, looking northwest

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
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**List of Figures**

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

Figure 1:  
North side of church during construction, 1906, looking south  
Photographer: unknown



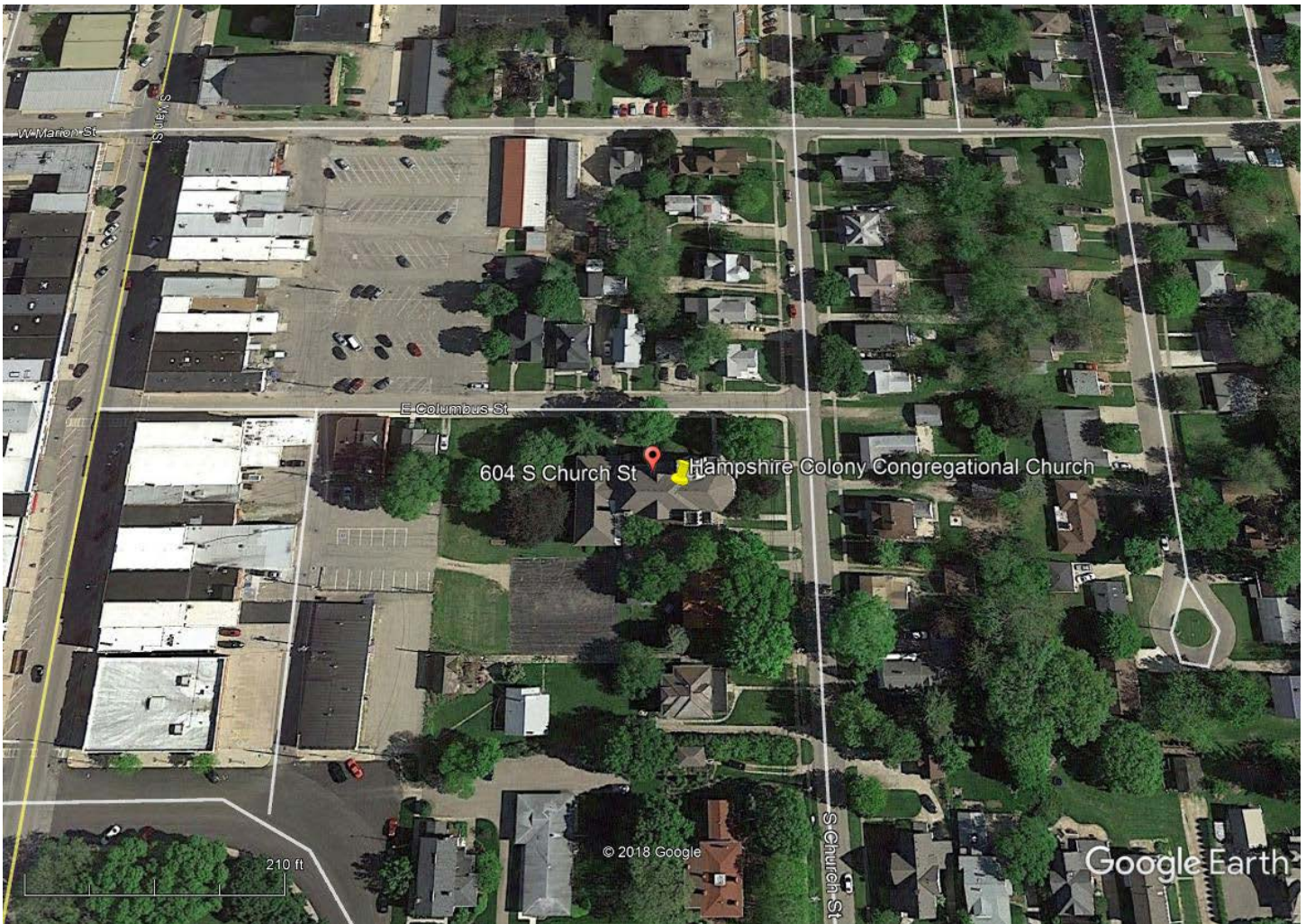
Figure 2: East side of completed church, c.1910, looking west  
Photographer: unknown





Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
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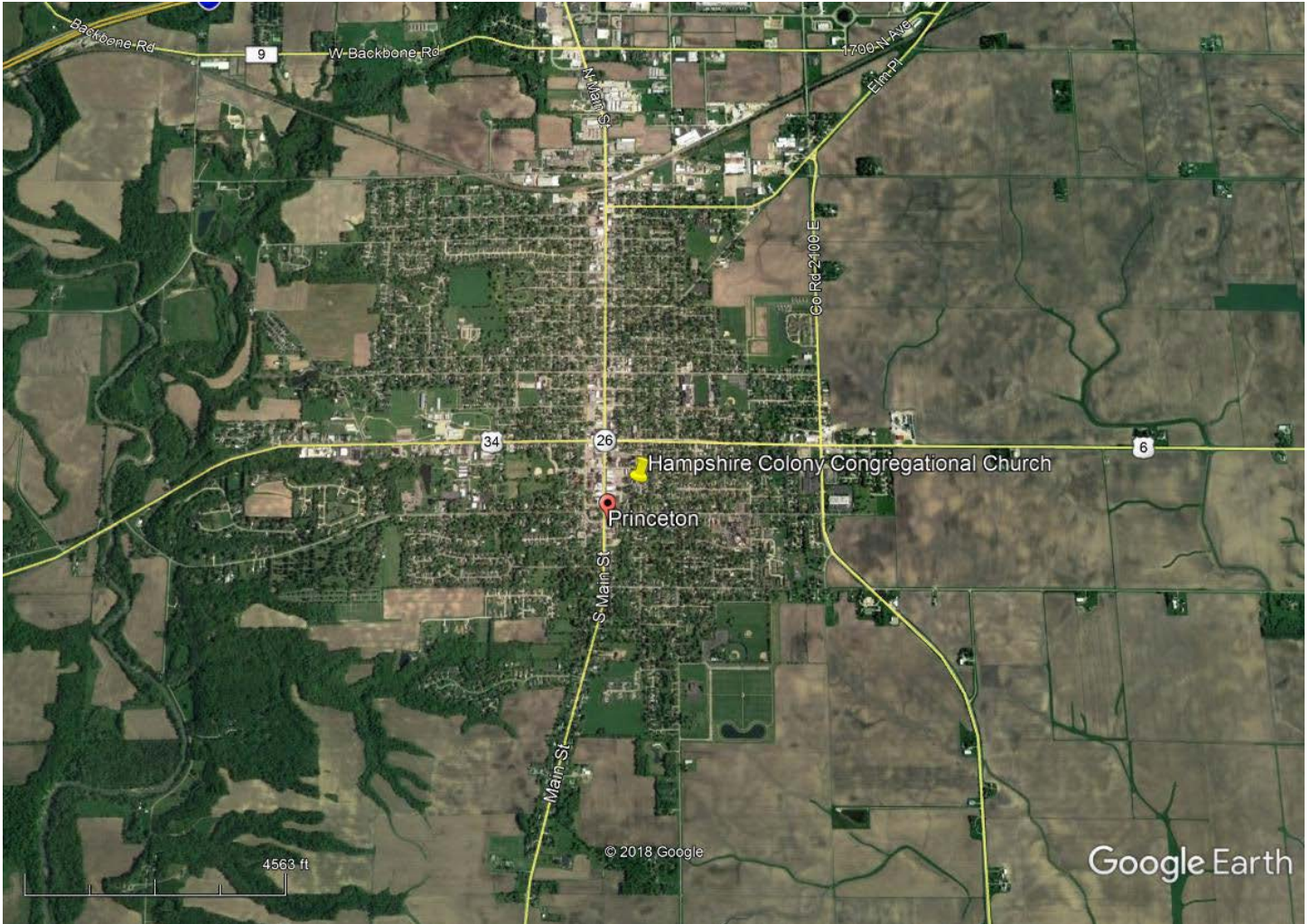
Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
604 South Church Street, Princeton  
Bureau County, Illinois

Lat:41.22915  
Long: -89.274693



Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State



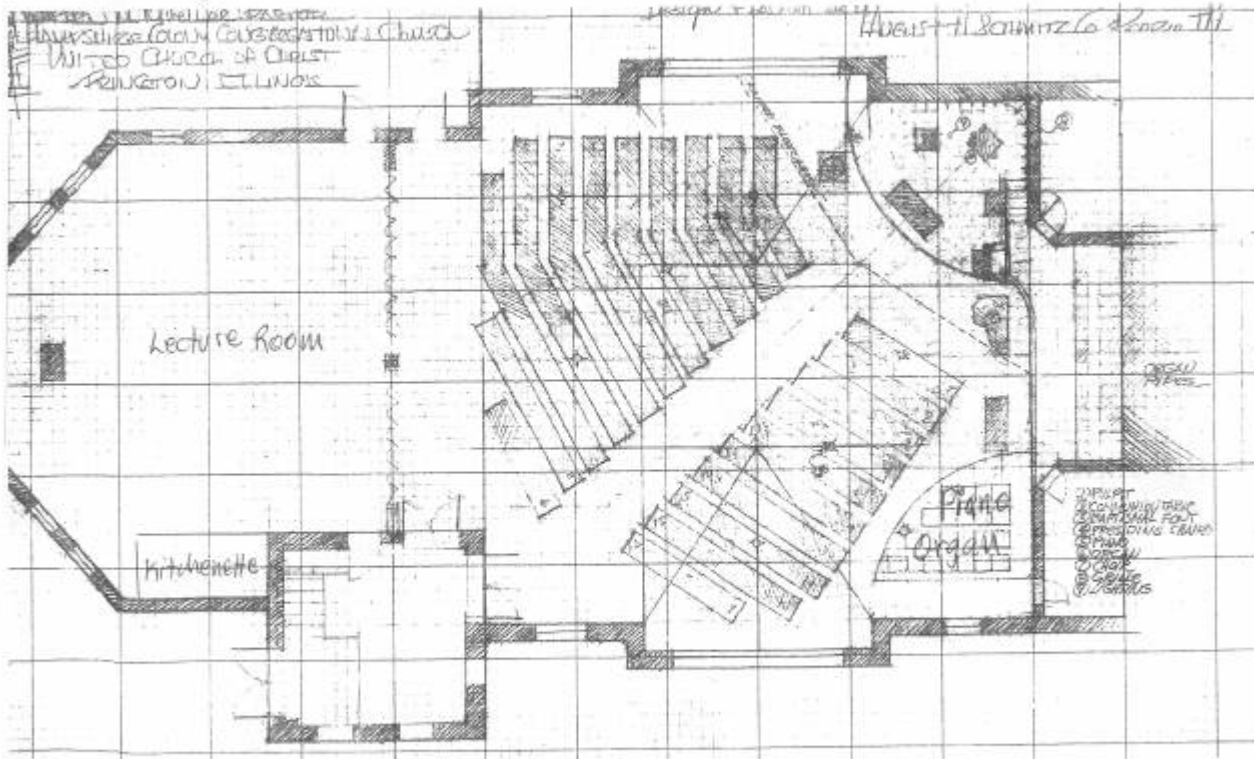
Local Location Map



Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County

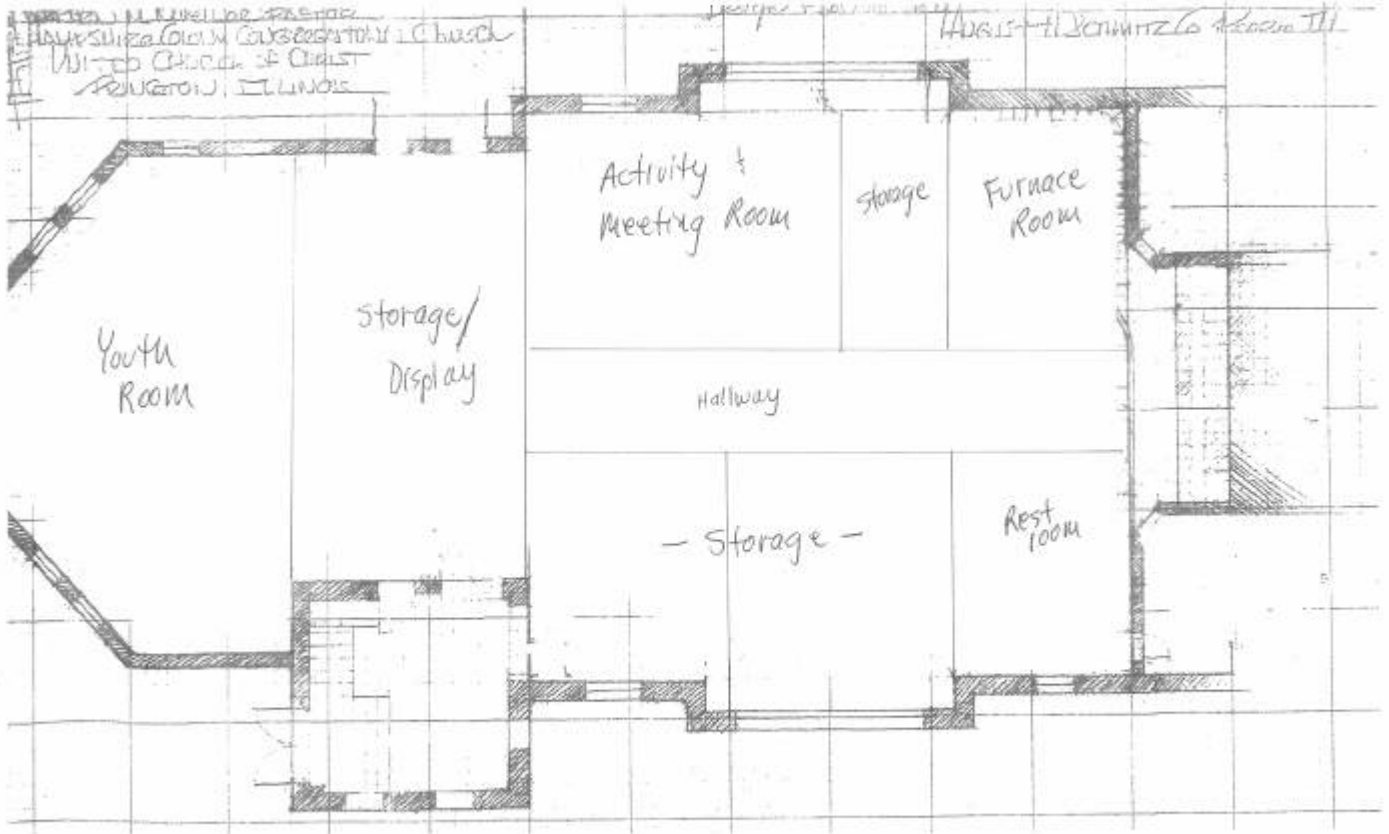


Main Floor  
2017

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County

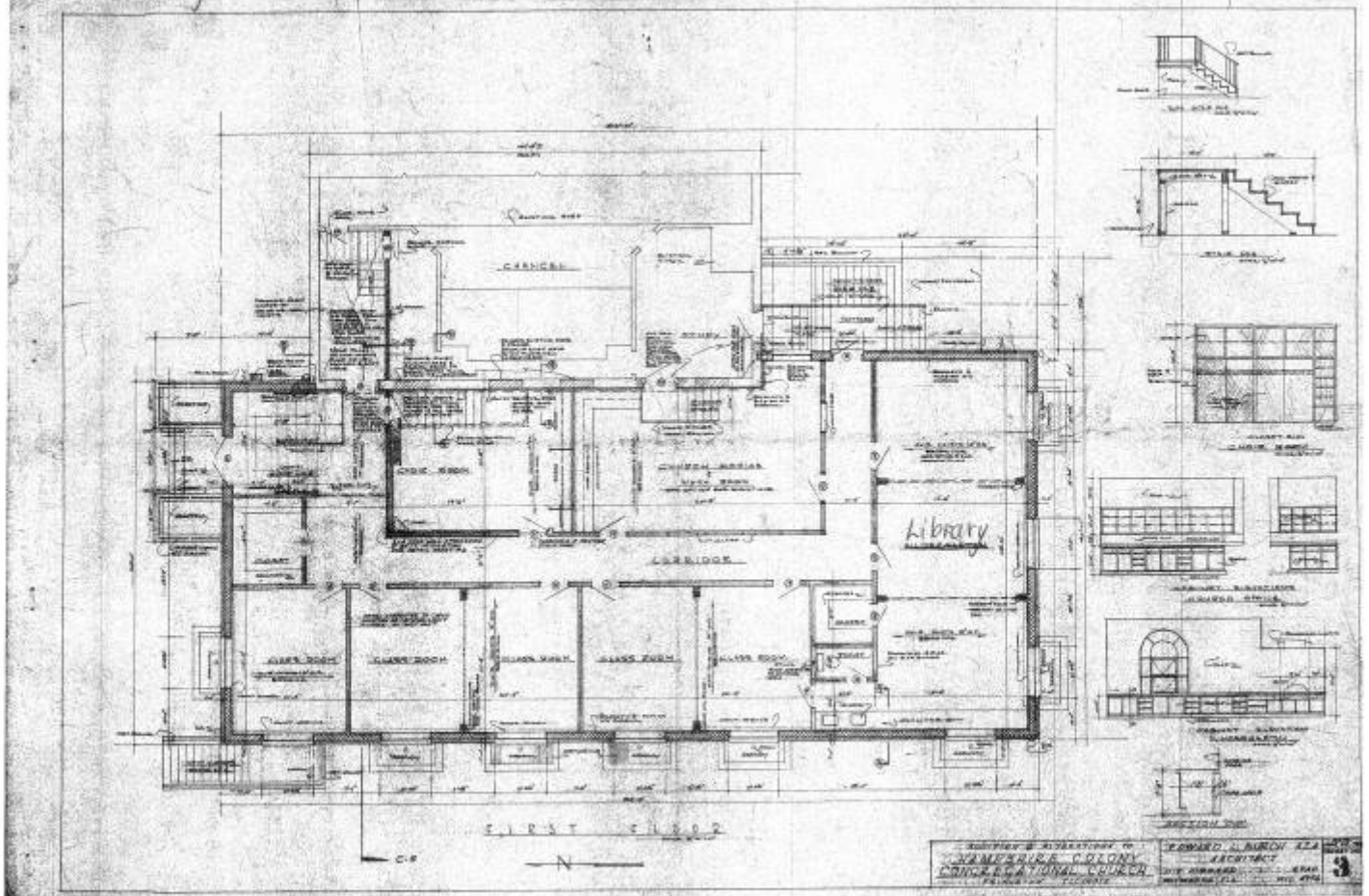


Basement  
2017

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County

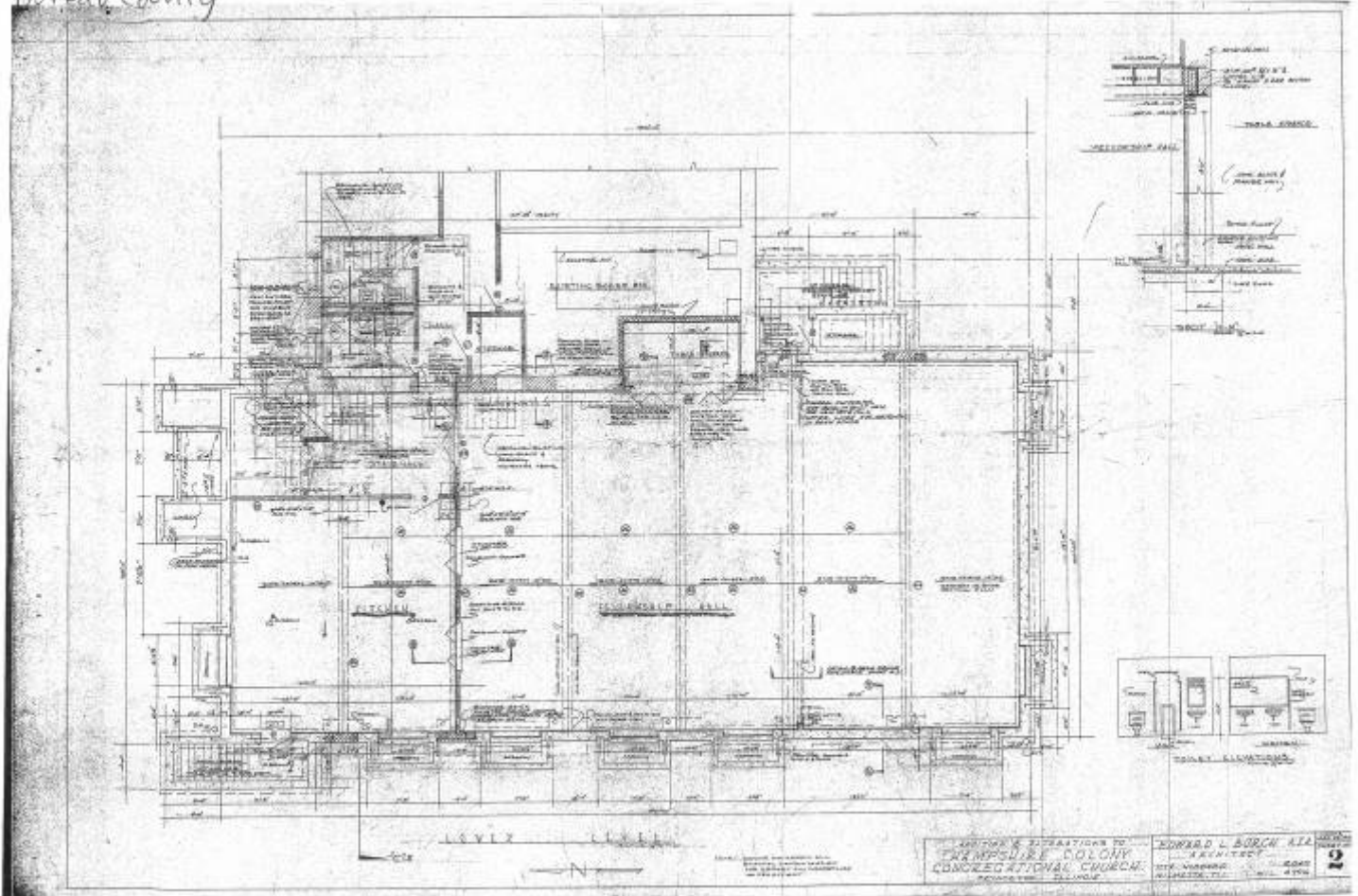


Main Floor - Addition  
2017

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County

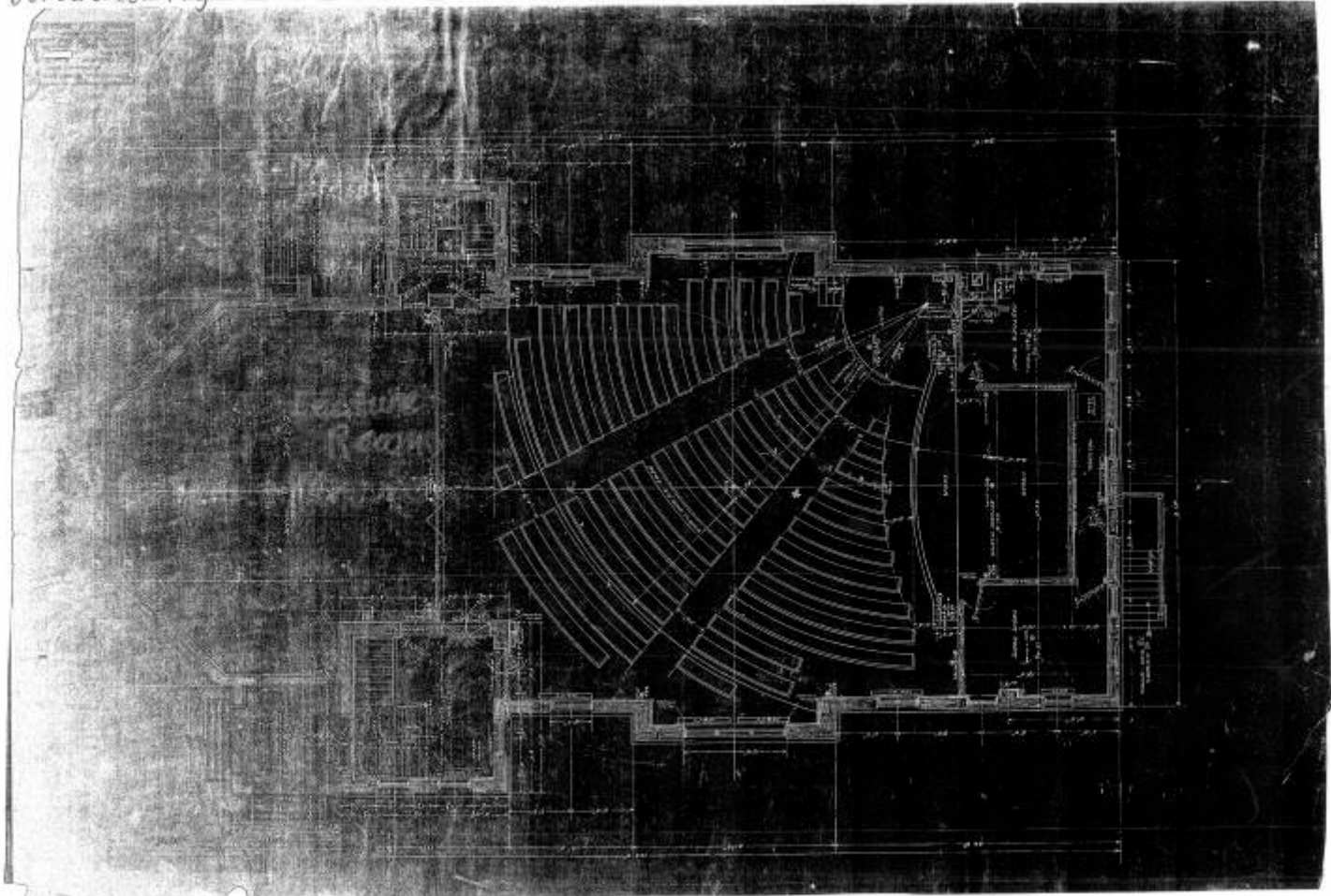


Basement - Addition  
2017

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau county

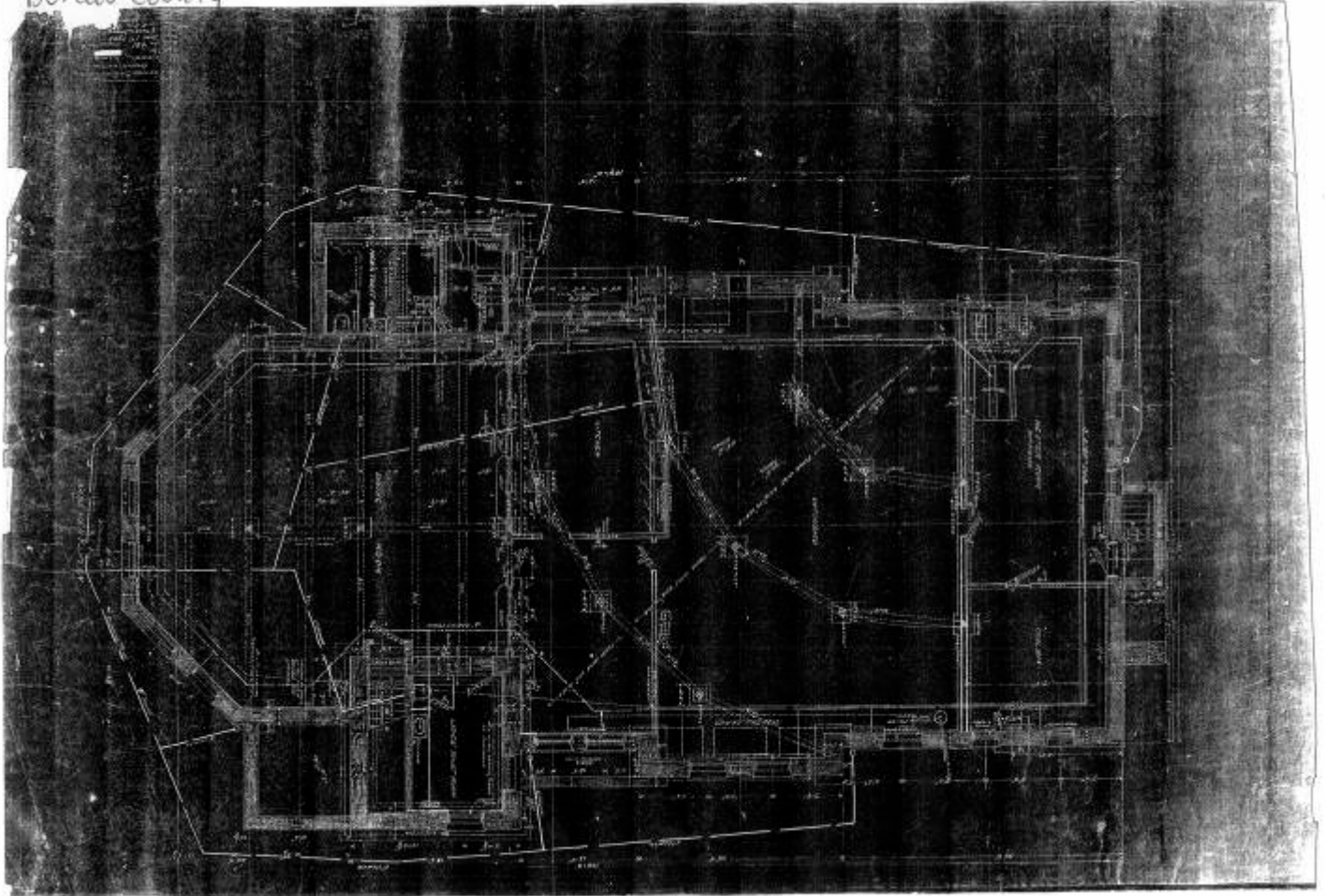


main floor  
1906

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
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*Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County*



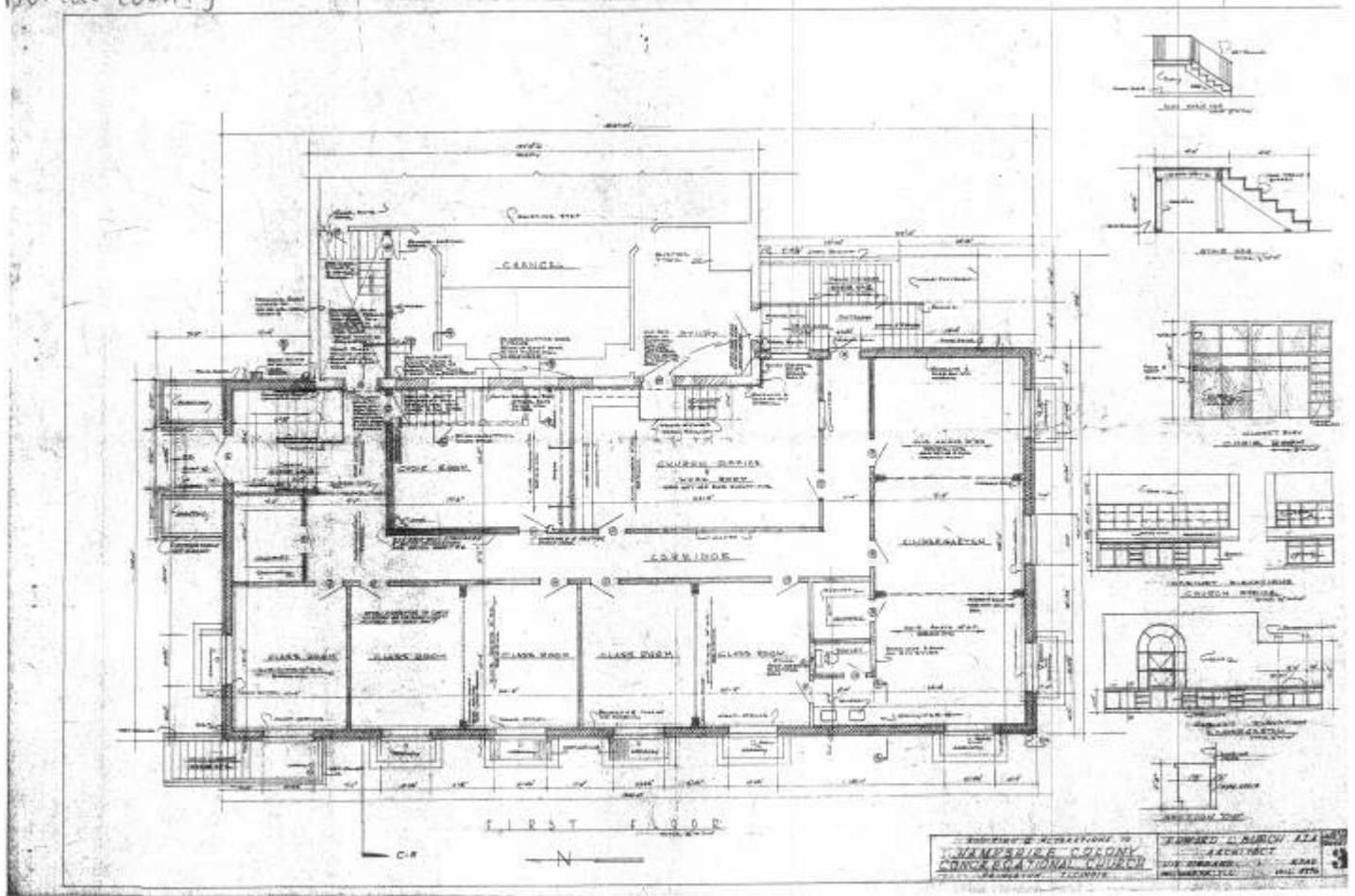
*Basement  
1906*



Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire colony Congregational Church  
Pruceston, Illinois  
Bureau county

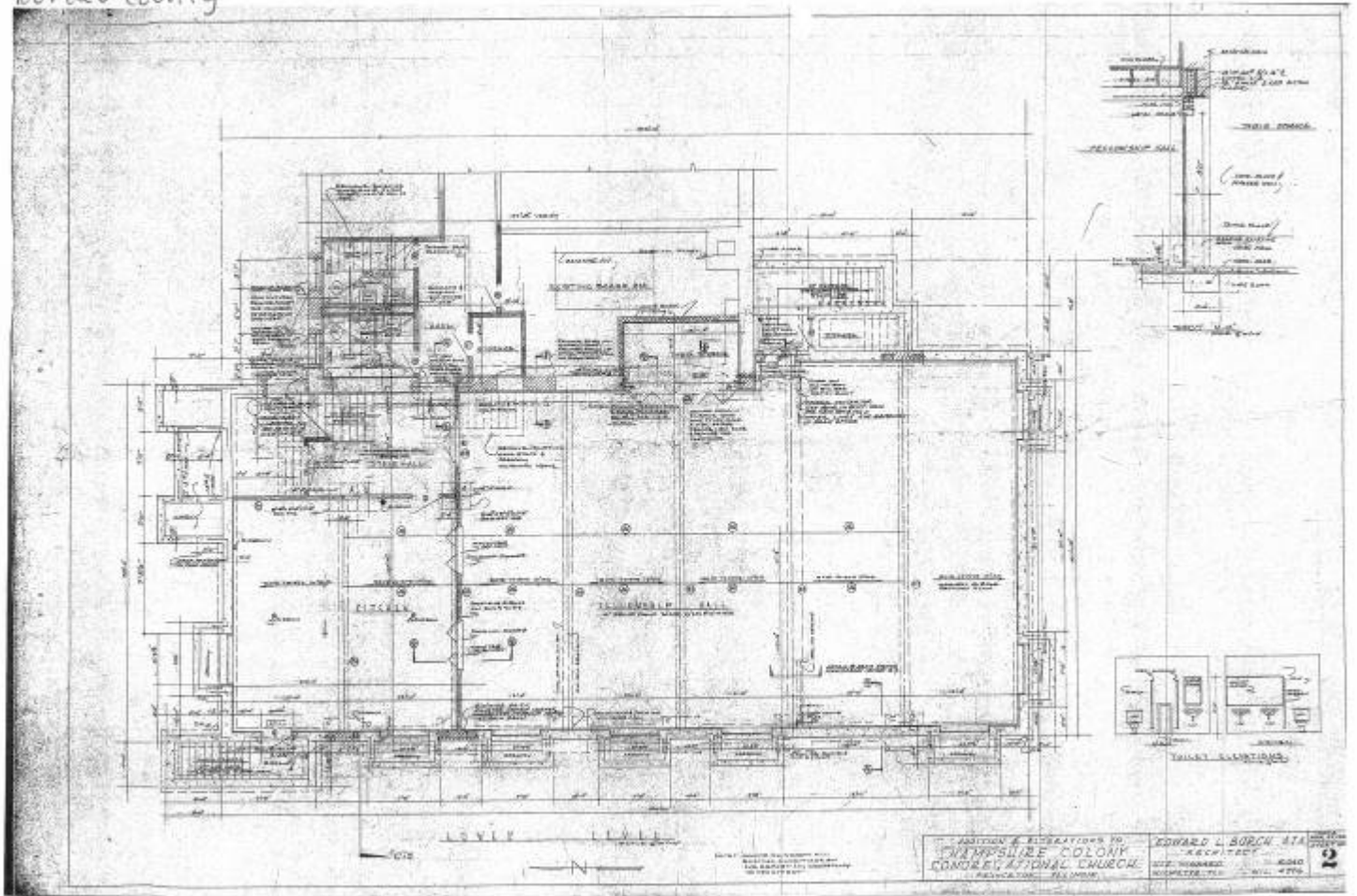


Main Floor - Addition  
1956

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Bureau, Illinois  
County and State

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church  
Princeton, Illinois  
Bureau County



Basement - Addition  
1956