B-5

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Independent Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Charles and Franklin Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore City

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Baltimore City	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐ Building XX Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐	Public ☐ Private XX Both ☐	Public Acquisition: In Process ☐ Being Considered ☐	Occupied XX Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress ☐	Yes: Restricted XX Unrestricted ☐ No: ☐

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Agricultural	☐	Government	☐	Park	☐	Transportation	☐	Comments	☐
Commercial	☐	Industrial	☐	Private Residence	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐		
Educational	☐	Military	☐	Religious	XX				
Entertainment	☐	Museum	☐	Scientific	☐				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Trustees of the First Unitarian Church

STREET AND NUMBER: Charles and Franklin Streets

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore City	Baltimore City	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Land Records Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Baltimore City	Maryland	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960 Federal XX State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(40)

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent [ ]	Good [X]	Fair [ ]	Deteriorated [ ]	Ruins [ ]	Unexposed [ ]
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered [X]	Unaltered [ ]		(Check One) Moved [ ]	Original Site [X]	

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

The First Unitarian Church designed by Maximilien Godefroy in 1817 represents a strong reaction to the traditional rectangular meeting house-with-steeple approach that had dominated Protestant religious architecture for over half a century. Godefroy designed a supremely rational building which is essentially a hemisphere set on a cube.

From Franklin Street the church is 78-feet wide. The main feature of this entrance front is a recessed entrance loggia entered by a colonnade 56' 9" wide composed of three matching arches supported by four Tuscan columns framed by flanking antae. The entablature below the tympanum of the pediment continues around all four sides of the building and marks the springing of the dome. The height of the engaged pediment on the entrance facade corresponds to the height of the parapet that surrounds the building above the entablature and masks much of the view of the dome from the street. The sculpture in the tympanum is made of unpainted terra cotta and represents the Angel of Truth against a background of clouds and rays of light. It was executed originally by Antonio Capellano. However in 1960 it had to be replaced by a copy because the original had deteriorated.

The interior of the entrance loggia has three entrance doors on axis with the triple arches. At either end of the loggia and at right angles to the entrance doors are matching doorways to the stairs that led originally to the balcony. The ceiling of the loggia is a well executed series of groin vaults supported by the columns and by the engaged pilasters centered between the entrance door.

The Charles Street elevation has three arched window bays which light the church auditorium and one bay which lights the stairwell to the balcony. The rear elevation of the church has a slight bow which reflects the original semi-circular chancel on the interior.

The original interior had a auditorium 53' 6" square with four deeply soffited arches carried on balcony-height engaged pilasters. These arches carried the immense semi-circular coffered dome also 53' 6" in diameter and 26' 9" high. This dome, still in place, has trompe-l'oeil painting to represent coffering rosettes and laurel leaf plaster work around the oculus. Beyond the supporting arches on the entrance front was the choir loft and balcony above the entrance vestibule. The arches on either side of the auditorium contained the window bays and the arch opposite the entrance served as the proscenium for the chancel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (1)

First Unitarian Church
First Independent Church

The 1893 remodeling of the church interior literally lined the Godefroy interior with a new one. The present interior is executed in a very correct Roman Corinthian mode in white plaster and is the work of Baltimore architect Joseph Evans Sperry. Under the original dome is hung a coffered barrel vault the full width of the nave. The deep side arches of the former interior have been masked by arched partitions creating side aisles. The original balcony over the loggia has been sealed off and a new organ loft built in front of it. The curved chancel has been masked by a flat rear chancel wall with an elliptical stained glass transom by the Tiffany Glass Decorating Compnay, installed in 1904. Below it is a mosaic of the Last Supper by the same firm, installed in 1897. The marble altar and two chairs and a sofa which form part of the present chancel furnishings were designed by Godefroy and used in the original interior arrangement.

In an article published in the September 1961 issue of the Maryland Historical Magazine, Robert L. Alexander researched the design sources Godefroy used in designing this church.

"The entrance with three arches on four columns almost exactly duplicated that on the Abbey c. 1780 at Royaumont not far from Paris. The triple arch entry motif, moreover, appeared with some frequency in France from about 1770 to 1815. Godefroy used two recent publications for certain details providing specific connections with advanced European taste. In 1798 two French architects, Ch. Percier and P. F. L. Fontaine published their drawings of Italian Renaissance buildings and from this source Godefroy devised the shape of the pulpit and the form and details of the five (entrance) doors. The moldings of the interior cornice he said were derived from the Palazzo Mattei and indeed the whole interior space seems to be a magnification of the square vaulted bay from this palace. From another and much more popular source, The Principals of Architecture, by Peter Nicholson, he selected the pattern for the exterior columns and cornices following the plates almost line for line."

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Pre-Columbian ☐	16th Century ☐	18th Century ☐	20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐	17th Century ☐	19th Century XX	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1817

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal		Education	☐	Political	☐	Urban Planning	☐
Prehistoric	☐	Engineering	☐	Religion/Philosophy	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐
Historic	☐	Industry	☐	Science	☐		
Agriculture	☐	Invention	☐	Sculpture	☐		
Art	☐	Architecture	XX	Social/Humanitarian	☐		
Commerce	☐	Literature	☐	Theater	☐		
Communications	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐		
Conservation	☐	Music	☐				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The first Unitarian Church, in Baltimore, Maryland, was designed by Maximilien Godefroy in 1817 and completed in 1818. This Neo-Classical church reflects the early-19th century interest in basic shapes and volumes. It is essentially a hemisphere set on a cube. Godefroy was strongly influenced by the drawings of Italian Renaissance buildings published by the French architects Percier and Fontaine in 1798. On the exterior, the triple arched entrance loggia, stucco finish (originally scored to resemble ashlar), and the terra cotta sculpture in the pediment give the church a strongly Tuscan flavor unusual in American architecture at that time. The dramatic domed interior space, which measures 80' from the floor of the auditorium to the top of the dome, proved to have serious acoustical defects. So serious were these defects in 1893 the entire original interior of the church was masked by a new interior with a wide barrel vault and side aisles constructed underneath the dome.

Though in many ways this church is the most ambitious of Maximilien Godefroy's American buildings and certainly the most spatially dramatic, it proved nevertheless, to be a functional failure. The need to construct an entire new interior shell in 1893 has created an architectural non-sequitur. Even though the original interior remains hidden behind the later alterations, these alterations, and the reasons that prompted them, cannot be overlooked. They make the First Unitarian Church more of an architectural curiousity and less of a masterpiece.

HISTORY

On February 10, 1817, several prominent Baltimore citizens met at 21 Hanover Street to organize a religious society "modeled upon the simple principles of the gospels." This became the nucleus of the First Independent Church of Baltimore. It was decided to build a church on the corner of Charles Street and Franklin Street, one block away from the still unfinished Roman Catholic Cathedral by Benjamin Henry Latrobe.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church
First Independent Church

8. Significance (1)

The architect chosen for the job was Maximilien Godefroy (c. 1765-1845), the French emigre' architect who had already completed Saint Mary's Seminary Chapel and designed the Battle Monument.

The corner stone for the church was laid in June 1817, and the dedication took place in October, 1818. It was immediately apparent that the boldly simple design of a sphere in a cube was an acoustical failure. Finally in 1893 the present barrel vault was rebuilt within the original domed space which still remains in place behind the changes.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rebecca Funk, A Heritage to Hold In Fee, 1817-1917, First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (Baltimore, 1962);

Richard Howland and Eleanor Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore, (Baltimore, 1953);

Robert L. Alexander, "Architecture and Aristocracy, the Cosmopolitan Style of Latrobe and Godefroy", Maryland Historical Magazine (September 1961).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39 °	17 '	43 "	76 °	36 '	58 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Brown Morton III

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 8/10/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 - 19th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE:

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

B-5

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES D RTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: corner of Charles and Franklin Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Baltimore	

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 ' Series Baltimore East, Md. Quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24 000

DATE: 1953, revised 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

DATE OF PHOTO:

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

First Unitarian Church
Baltimore, Maryland
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
Baltimore East, Md. Quadrangle
1953, revised 1966

B-5

First Unitarian Church, Baltimore, Maryland

NPS Photo 1971

MHT B-5

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:	
Maryland	
COUNTY:	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Independent Christian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2-12 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Board of Trustees, First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (Universalist & Unitarian)

STREET AND NUMBER: 2-12 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Courthouse, St. Paul & Fayette Sts.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: January 1964 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	Dist. of Columbia	11

STATE:	COUNTY:	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
Maryland	Baltimore City	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

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

The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore is located on the northwest corner of Charles and Franklin Streets; its main entrance is on the southern, or Franklin Street, side.

The church is essentially a domed cube 108 feet long (north-south) and 78 feet wide (east-west). The dome is 55 feet in diameter. The walls are of brick and stone masonry covered with stucco.

Ornamenting the church's facade is a shallow, pedimented portico carried by an arcade formed of three arches on Tuscan columns. The pediment is decorated with a terra-cotta figure representing The Angel of Truth appearing from clouds and a sunburst. The figure holds a scroll containing a Greek inscription which in translation says: "To the only God." The original sculpture was the work of Antonia Capellano. The sculpture now in the pediment (June, 1971) is a copy of the Capellano piece made in 1959-60 by Baltimore sculptor Henry Berge. The head of the original is preserved in the church's Heritage Room.

The porch formed beneath the portico is vaulted, and it contains five doors of bronzed wood. Tuscan pilasters stand between the doors. The entablature of the portico continues, unbroken, entirely around the building. Thus, on the side and rear walls, the entablature assumes the nature of a cornice and gives the building the illusion of being of two stories: a main, or ground, story and an attic. A secondary cornice and large rectangular recesses form the only decorations on the attic planes.

Below the attic, each side (i.e., east and west) wall of the "main story" contains three tall stained glass windows in arched niches. The windows on the west side are blind. Each side also contains, located between the group of three windows and the southern corner, a recessed arched niche of the same proportions as the windows.

In plan, the auditorium of the church is a square with 53-foot sides. Originally the underside of the dome that crowns the church was visible from the pews beneath. Because of accoustical deficiencies, however, a corrective barrel vault was installed in 1893 by the well-known Baltimore architect J. E. Sperry. The vault, coffered and decorated with elaborate rosettes, now totally obscures the original dome.

The interior space is divided (north-south) into a nave and two side aisles by arcades that echo the arched windows of the exterior. The nave, or central aisle leads north to a raised, 15-foot-deep chancel which has an arched, coffered

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1817-1818

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [x] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [x] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although it was not the first American church to adopt a litany which was Unitarian in nature--Boston's King's Chapel claims that distinction--Baltimore's First Unitarian Church played a highly significant role in the development of Unitarianism in the United States, for it was there that American Unitarianism was given its first formal definition.

That definition came in a sermon delivered on May 5, 1819, by the Reverend Dr. William Ellery Channing, of Boston, on the occasion of the ordination of the Baltimore congregation's first minister, Jared Sparks. In his landmark sermon--known to historians as "The Baltimore Sermon"--Dr. Channing proclaimed the principles which gave early Unitarian thought in this country cohesiveness and a basis from which to grow and evolve. Among the essential principles he espoused were these: the Bible is a book written for men, and it can be understood by the exercise of reason; Jesus Christ is distinct from the one God; God is infinitely good, kind and benevolent; and, all virtue has its foundations in man's own morality, conscience and sense of duty.

The Baltimore church was in its infancy when Dr. Channing delivered his sermon. It had been founded only in 1817 by a group of prominent Baltimoreans (many of them of New England extraction) who had been inspired to their action by three sermons preached in October, 1816, by James Freeman, the Boston minister who had converted that city's Episcopal King's Chapel to Unitarianism in 1784.

Mr. Freeman delivered his three Baltimore addresses in a dance hall. His Baltimore followers were determined that a far more suitable and impressive edifice would house the church which they established as a result of those addresses. To accomplish their purposes they commissioned the French emigré Maximilian Godefroy (c.1765-c.1845). Godefroy had designed Baltimore's St. Mary's Seminary Chapel (1806), one of the first Gothic Revival churches in the country, and the highly eclectic Battle Monument, which honors the memory of the men who defended Baltimore at the Battle of North Point

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITE ATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

State 1969

Maryland Historical Trust
94 College Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Code: 24

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

Local 1969

Commission for Historic & Architectural Preservation
402 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21201 Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

ceiling. Over the altar is a mosaic of the Last Supper, designed in 1879 by Frederick Wilson, of New York City, and manufactured by the Tiffany Glass Decorating Company. Above it is an arched stained-glass window, also made by Tiffany.

An organ loft is against the opposite (south) wall. It is supported by columns similar to those that carry the entrance portico.

The present altar is the original pulpit--designed, as were most of the other original furnishings, by Maximilian Godefroy, architect of the building. It is of Verd Antique and Carrara marble. Its cast lead and bronze ornaments were executed by Capellano.

An iron fence of Baltimore manufacture delineates a shallow entrance court between the portico and the sidewalk along Franklin Street. The cupola that originally rose from the center of the dome was destroyed during a storm in 1941. Otherwise, the exterior of the church retains its original appearance.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Researchers:

William Morgan, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Romaine Somerville, Catherine Black, Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	17'	43"	76°	36'	58.1"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust
DATE: June 21, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

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 Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date JUN 21 1971

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

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNI STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

in 1814. During his earliest years in Baltimore, he was employed as instructor of civil and military architecture and fine arts at St. Mary's. According to Richard Hubbard Howland and Eleanor Patterson Spencer, his position at that institution marks him as the first professional teacher of architecture in Baltimore, perhaps in the United States.

As did the work of his contemporary and friend, B. H. Latrobe, Godefroy's Unitarian Church represented a departure from the late Georgian and early Neo-Classical styles of architecture familiar to Baltimoreans of the first decades of the 19th century. Instead of dealing with surfaces and applied ornament, Godefroy concerned himself with mass and the interplay of geometric forms--the cube and the hemisphere in the case of the First Unitarian Church, which is considered his most important building. His spatial concepts have been likened by Robert L. Alexander to those of the French visionary architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, and his style--especially as exemplified by the First Unitarian Church--has been cited by Howland and Spencer as contributing, with the works of Latrobe, Robert Mills and Robert Cary Long, Sr., to a ". . . Baltimore architecture during the first third of the nineteenth century [which] has a definite and individual look that emphasizes the geometric aspects of solids and voids, rather than decoration."[1]

The only non-architectural decoration on the exterior is a reproduction of a terra cotta sculpture of The Angel of Truth originally executed by Antonio Capellano, sculptor to Spanish kings Charles IV and Joseph Napoleon. The sculpture dominates the pediment of the entrance portico.

The interior of the church is ornamented with a large mosaic portraying the Last Supper. Manufactured by The Tiffany Glass Decorating Company, of New York, it contains 64,640 pieces of Favrile glass. It was installed in 1897. The nearly semi-circular window above the altar and the six stained-glass side windows were also products of the Tiffany studios. Together they represent an artistic style and taste far different from, yet compatible with, those prevalent during Godefroy's time.

[1]Richard H. Howland and Eleanor P. Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore A Pictorial History, (Baltimore: 1953), 43-44.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

The congregation of First Unitarian has included many prominent Baltimoreans. Among them were: Henry Payson (1762-1845), financier, member of the city council and judge of the Orphans' Court; John W. McCulloh, cashier of the Maryland branch of the Bank of the United States and one of the principals in the Supreme Court case McCulloh vs. Maryland; Tobias Watkins, M. D., Surgeon General of the United States Navy; Charles Joseph Bonaparte, great-nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy, and Attorney General of the United States from 1906 to 1908; Enoch Pratt (1808-1896), philanthropist; and Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860), painter and founder of the Baltimore Gas Lighting Company.

Since its earliest years the First Unitarian Church has taken the concerns of the Baltimore community as its own. Some examples of its early (but since defunct) programs of social service include: sponsorship of The Boys' Guild, begun in 1888 as an institution to provide training for underprivileged boys; operation of The Industrial School for Girls (begun in 1874) and Channing House (begun in 1905), a settlement house located in a crowded working area of the city.

In 1855 the First Unitarian Church announced its intentions to remain in the inner city and refurbished its building. It has since joined with other nearby downtown churches to form an inner city ministerium that is still (June, 1971) in existence.

#9. REFERENCES continued

Researchers continued:

Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, April 1970.

James F. Waesche, Baltimore, Maryland. (Editor & writer)

Sources:

Alexander, Robert L. "Architecture and Aristocracy: The Cosmopolitan Style of Latrobe and Godefroy." Maryland Historical Magazine. LVI (September 1961), 229-243.

Craven, Wayne. Sculpture in America. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1968.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church

#9. REFERENCES continued

Davidson, Carolina V. "Comments on the Text [of Godefroy's resume of his life and work]." Maryland Historical Magazine. XXIX (September 1934), 200-212.

Dictionary of American Biography. 20 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929-1935, II, IV, VII, XV, WVII.

Funk, Rebecca, et. al. A Heritage to Hold in Fee 1817-1917 First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (Universalist and Unitarian). Baltimore: Garramond Press, 1962.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America: Being an Account of Important Trends in American Architecture and American Life prior to the War Between the States. (reprint). New York: Dover, 1944.

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History of Baltimore, Maryland, from Its Founding as a Town to the Current Year 1729-1898 . . . . [Baltimore]: S. B. Nelson, 1898.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. [Baltimore]: Penguin Books, Inc., 1958.

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Godefroy, Maximilian. [Resume of his life and his work]. Maryland Historical Magazine. XXIX (September 1934), 175-199. Maryland Historical Society.

Quinn, Dorothy MacKay. "Maximilian Godefroy and Eliza Godefroy." Maryland Historical Magazine. LII (March 1957), 1-34. Maryland Historical Society.

Scharf, J. Thomas. The Chronicles of Baltimore . . . . Baltimore: Turnbull Brothers, 1874.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: . . . . Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

First Unitarian Church

#9. REFERENCES continued

Toker, Franklin. "James O'Donnell: An Irish Georgian in America." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. XXIX (May 1970), 132-140.

Waesche, James F. "City's Contribution to Unitarianism." The Sun (Baltimore), February 5, 1967.

Young, William (ed.). Dictionary of American Artists, Sculptors and Engravers From the Beginning to the Turn of the Twentieth Century. (reprint) New York: Arno Press 1968.

B-5
BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale 1:24 000
photorevised 1966
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
lat. 39° 17' 43.0"
long. 76° 36' 58.1"
17'30"
Radio Tower (WITH)
Polytechnic Institute
Gompers Vocational Sch
GREENMOUNT CEMETERY
Womans Hospital
Mt Royal Sta
University of Baltimore
St Josephs Hospital
St Katharines Convent
Patrick Henry Sch
Robert Lee Sch
State Penitentiary and City Jail
Library
Calvert Sta
Dunbar Jr-Sr High Sch
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Pratt Library
Reading Clinic and Sch
Municipal Office Bldg
Vocational Sch
John Rodgers Sch
St Elizabeth Sch
Church Home Hospital
Courthouse
Spot Tower
U of Md Sch of Medicine
TV Tower (WMAR)
U S Customs
Weglein Sch
Camden Station
Holy Rosary Sch
Basin
Parterson Sch
Armory
Radio Towers
Federal Hill Park
Southern High Sch
Feils Point
30 FEET NOV 1941
Locust Pt
NORTHWEST
Genera Hospital
South Baltimore
Johnson Sch
Riverside Park
Riverside Yard
Swann Park
WESTERN MARYLAND
Port Covington Yard
Latrobe Park
Locust Pt Marine Terminal
Whetstone Pt
Winans Cove
MIDDLE BRANCH
520 000 FEET
4352
4350
4348
4347

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT B-5

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Independent Christian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2-12 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Baltimore Department of Planning - Filip Sibley

DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from the southeast

West elevation

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Independent Christian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2-12 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Baltimore East quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24 000

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

B-5

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
B-5	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Independent Christian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 - 12 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland | CODE: | COUNTY: Baltimore City | CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐	Building ☒	Public ☐	Public Acquisition:	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐	Structure ☐	Private ☒	In Process ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☐
Object ☐		Both ☐	Being Considered ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☒
					No: ☐

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Agricultural	☐	Government	☐	Park	☐	Transportation	☐	Comments	☐
Commercial	☐	Industrial	☐	Private Residence	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐		
Educational	☐	Military		Religious	☒				
Entertainment	☐	Museum	☒	Scientific	☐				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: First Independent Christian Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 - 12 W. Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore, | STATE: Maryland | CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Liber: GR 732 Folio 254
Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .4

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: ~~Historic American Building Survey~~

DATE OF SURVEY: January, 1964 Federal ☒ State ☒ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: ~~Library of Congress~~

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Washington~~ | STATE: D. C. | CODE:

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent [X] Good [ ] Fair [ ] Deteriorated [ ] Ruins [ ] Unexposed [ ]	
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered [ ] Unaltered [X]	(Check One) Moved [ ] Original Site [X]

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"This church is a restrained rectangular structure, devoid of excess ornament, but with a well-proportioned Tuscan arcade and a vaulted porch from which five bronze doors open into the interior. The nearly square interior is crowned by a large dome fifty-five feet in diameter, once the distinguishing features of both the exterior and interior. Unfortunately the acoustics proved to be bad, with the result that in 1893 a plaster level-vault was inserted below the dome, thereby totally obscuring the original form of the interior.

The church has a simple classic look on the outside, largely because the brick and stone masonry is covered with stucco and the moldings are slim and restrained. On the pediment is a figure of the Angel of Truth surrounded by rays of light and holding a scroll inscribed in Greek letters: "To the Only God". This was also executed by Antonio Capellano. (From Howland & Spencer p. 43).

N.B. In recent years, this sculpture was broken and has been restored by Henry Berge, Baltimore sculptor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐	16th Century ☐	18th Century ☐	20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐	17th Century ☐	19th Century ☒	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1818

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal		Education	☐	Political	☐	Urban Planning	☐
Prehistoric	☐	Engineering	☐	Religion/Philosophy	☒	Other (Specify)	☐
Historic	☐	Industry	☐	Science	☐		
Agriculture	☐	Invention	☐	Sculpture	☐		
Art	☒	Landscape Architecture	☐	Social/Humanitarian	☐		
Commerce	☐	Literature	☐	Theater	☐		
Communications	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐		
Conservation	☐	Music	☐				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Historical:

The cornerstone of the First Unitarian Church was laid June 5, 1817, and, although still incomplete, the church was dedicated October 29, 1818. At the dedication Dr. William Ellery Channing of Boston delivered a sermon which is still considered the keystone of Unitarian principles. Reverend Jared Sparks, who was the minister until 1823, later became President of Harvard University. One of the early members of the church was Rembrandt Peale. (The church contains a small museum of historical material).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Architecture.19th and 20th Centuries. (Baltimore:Penguin Books, 1958), pp. 6-7

Howland & Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953), pp. 43, 66-67

Scharf, J. Thomas, The Chronicles of Baltimore (Baltimore: Turnbull Brothers, 1874), pp. 387-389

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Baltimore City and County, Maryland Baltimore: (pub.1881). pp.589-590.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	N39	17	43	W76	36	58.1
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Romaine S. Somerville, Executive Secretary
Catharine F. Black, Commission Member

ORGANIZATION: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER: 402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE:

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

MAGI # 04000513 08
Baltimore City
B-5

N.R. FIELD SHEET

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: First Unitarian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1 West Franklin Street (at corner of North Cahrles Street)

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Baltimore City	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐	Building ☒	Public ☐	Public Acquisition:	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐	Structure ☐	Private ☒	In Process ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☒
Object ☐		Both ☐	Being Considered ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☐
					No: ☐

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Agricultural	☐	Government	☐	Park	☐	Transportation	☐	Comments	☐
Commercial	☐	Industrial	☐	Private Residence	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐		
Educational	☐	Military	☐	Religious	☒				
Entertainment	☐	Museum	☐	Scientific	☐				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Congregation of 1st Unitarian Church (Howard Waterhouse, Minister)

STREET AND NUMBER: 1 West Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: city plot

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

STATE: COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐	
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered ☐ Unaltered ☒	(Check One) Moved ☐ Original Site ☒

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

The exterior of the First Unitarian Church is quite plain and has a solid, massive quality. The entrance is on the south (West Franklin Street) and is emphasized by three arches with a slightly projecting pedimented pavilion. The three arch motif is employed on the sides with three windows in arched niches forming the primary decoration. The front is plain except for the pediment with its red-brown (terra-cotta ?) angel, sun, and clouds on it; sunbursts in the same material are employed over the three main entrance doors. Below the are three entrance arches set on Tuscan columns. Behind this columnar screen is the entrance porch itself, set in antis, with two additional entrance doors, one on each side within the recess of the porch. The entrance doors are flanked by plain pilasters which repeat the rhythm of the porch columns. The porch is raised on a sandstone base with five marble steps. The ceiling of the porch is groin vaulted. The entablature of the pediment continues around the entire building.

The iron fence with the granite base and posts appears to be early Greek Revival.

The interior is an giant barrell vault running from entrance to altar (which is at the north) and is coffered and decorated with large, elaborate rosettes. The triple arch motif is followed out in the interior at the side, forming a nave arcade between the side aisles (at the wall) and the main body of the church. There is one main, central aisle leading to a raised chancel (about 15′ deep), also with coffered ceiling and having a mosaic of the Last Supper over the altar. There are three blind windows filled with stained glass behind the altar; the glass in the side windows is non-iconographic, being simple geometric designs. There is an organ loft at the rear supported by four columns similar to those on the exterior. The decoration is fairly rich and includes pilasters with Corinthian capitals between the arches. There are a few monuments on the walls. Slip pews are at least 19th C, if not 1817. Interior walls are presently putty color.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Pre-Columbian ☐	16th Century ☐	18th Century ☐	20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐	17th Century ☐	19th Century ☒	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1817

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	Education ☐	Political ☐	Urban Planning ☐
Prehistoric ☐	Engineering ☐	Religion/Philosophy ☒	Other *(Specify)* ☐
Historic ☐	Industry ☐	Science ☐	Architecture
Agriculture ☐	Invention ☐	Sculpture ☐	
Art ☐	Landscape Architecture ☐	Social/Humanitarian ☐	
Commerce ☐	Literature ☐	Theater ☐	
Communications ☐	Military ☐	Transportation ☐	
Conservation ☐	Music ☐		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)*

Designed by Maximilien Godefroy, the architect of St. Mary's Seminary Chapel (Gothic Revival) and of the Baltimore Battle Monument (Egypto-Roman), the First Unitarian Church shows the Frecnh-born and trained architect's ability in handling classical vaocabulary. This period in American architecture was characterized by the native, late Georgian, 'Federal'-Adamesque style, and by the introduction of neo-classic forms by European architect-immigrants, such as Latrobe, Hallet, Ramée, Godefory, etc., which helped pave the way for the Greek Revival. Although not based on any particular model, the First Unitarian Church is clearly based on late Roman forms. The building is (almost ?) square and the idea of the Roman Pantheon (used by Jefferson for the Library, the 'Rotunda', at the University of Virginia, 1817ff) with its spherical interior expressing pantheism and especially the idea of universality, was probably in the mind of Godefroy, however, regardless of the designer's intentions, the building is expressive of Unitarianism (as opposed to, e.g. rectangular, vaulted chapel at St, Mary's, or opposed to King's Chapel, Boston, an Anglican church taken over by the Unitarians). As with most Roman buildings, the emphasis was on the interior. Originally the interior of the First Unitarian Church was spherical like the Pantheon in Rome, however, the acoustics were poor, so the barrel vault renovation was instituted in 1880. The church was restored in 1954.

The First Unitarian Church, like King's Chapel, Boston, is both important in the history of American architecture and in the history of Unitarianism.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America 1944

Baltimore Sun, February 5, 1967

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William Morgan

ORGANIZATION
university of Delaware

DATE
June 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of Art History

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE
Delaware

CODE

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