

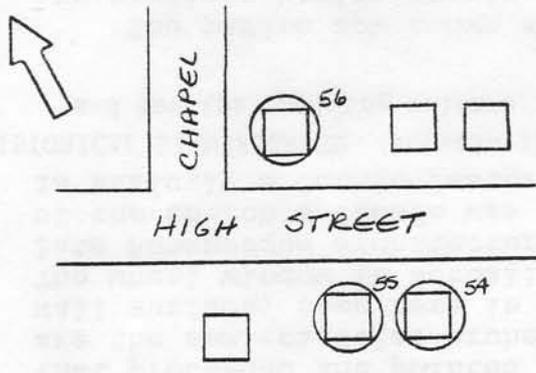
FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
A	56

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Location in cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



Newburyport

Address 300 High Street

Historic Name Belleville Church

Original Church and Vestry

Present Church and Vestry

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Belleville Congregational Church
 Public

Original owner Belleville Congregational Society in Newburyport

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1867

Source Currier, "History of Nbpt."

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric matched horizontal boards - clapboards

Outbuildings Vestry

Major alterations (with dates) Church steeple on northwest side removed and tower capped.

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 39,590 sq. ft.

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 8-17-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Belleville Church is a good example of the Romanesque Revival popular during the 1850's and 1860's. This style was the revival of the round arched medieval style that preceded the pointed arched Gothic. Hallmarks of the style are the semi-circular arches used for the windows and the broad smooth wall surface, seen here in only the front portion of the building. The wheel window is actually a Gothic feature but has precedents in the late Romanesque architecture of Italy. The tower on the Western side of the church's facade was originally topped with a spire. Though this is strictly a Gothic feature it was used frequently in the Romanesque (cont)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The parish now known as the Belleville Congregational Society had its earliest beginnings in 1761, when a small group of people were organized. They held their early meetings in St. Anne's Chapel in Newbury. The congregation had diminished at the end of the eighteenth century. An early meeting house, built on Noble Street, blew down in a storm after being neglected.

In the meantime the town of Newburyport had been incorporated and the parish became known as the Fourth parish in Newbury. There was an effort to revive the congregation at that time. A new meeting house was erected in 1807. The church was incorporated the next year and Rev. James Miltimore was installed as pastor in 1808.

The present church is the third on the site replacing one burned in 1867 which had replaced the earlier meetinghouse that had been destroyed by lightning in 1818.

In 1851 the parish with some additional territory was annexed to Newburyport and the name of the church was changed to the Belleville Congregational Church and Society of Newburyport.

The present church was built in 1867. It was remodeled between 1950 and 1952. The vestry was probably built at about the same time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newbury, Mass., 1635-1902, Boston, 1902.
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 56
Property Name: Belleville Church	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below. ^{300 High Street}

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Revival. The vestry is classical in style and was probably built about 1860. It has many features of a Greek temples including the temple front with pediment supported by a giant Doric order. The order has a base however, indicating that it is not strictly a Greek design and was undoubtedly built during the decline of the style.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom