NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION Submit all attached materials on paper and in electronic form (cd, email, flash drive) Electronic files must be Word or Word compatible
1. Address of Historic Resource (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)
Street address: 4017-21 Chestnut Street
Postal code: 19104
2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE
Historic Name:New Tabernacle Baptist Church
Current/Common Name: Christ Community Church of Philadelphia
3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE
4. PROPERTY INFORMATION Condition: □ excellent ⊠ good □ fair □ poor□ ruins Occupancy: ⊠ occupied □ vacant □ under construction □ unknown Current use: Religious/Church
5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION See attached.
6. DESCRIPTION See attached.
7. SIGNIFICANCE
Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.
Period of Significance (from year to year): from <u>1896</u> to <u>2004</u>
Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1896-7
Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Frank R. Watson, architect Builder contractor and/or artisan: George W. Stewart, contractor
Original owner: Berean Baptist Church, New Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chestnut Street Baptist Church Other significant persons: Rev. George E. Rees
Other significant persons.

 CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION: The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply): (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or, (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or, (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or, (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or, (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or, (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or, (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or, (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or, (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or histor; or
8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES See attached.
9. NOMINATOR Organization University City Historical Society Date 20 October 2019 Name with Title Arielle Harris, architectural historian Email info@uchs.net Street Address P. O. Box 31927 Telephone City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19104 Nominator is not the property owner.
PHC USE ONLY Date of Receipt: 21 October 2019 Date of Receipt: Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 4 November 2019 Date of Notice Issuance: 5 November 2019 Date: 4 November 2019 Date of Notice Issuance: 5 November 2019 Property Owner at Time of Notice: Name: West Park Church of Deliverance Association Inc Address: P.O. Box 42775 City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19101
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: Date of Final Action:
Date of Final Action:

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION



Figure 1. Aerial image of 4017-21 Chestnut Street; while one parcel, each "piece of ground" indicated in the deed is delineated separately on Philadelphia's Atlas interface. [atlas.phila.gov]

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the Church edifice or meeting house thereon erected, SITUATE on the North side of Chestnut Street at the distance of 240 feet Westward from the West side of 40th Street in the 27th Ward of the City of Philadelphia.

CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Chestnut Street 60 feet and extending of that width in length or depth Northwardly at right angles with the said Chestnut Street 133 feet 6 inches, bounded on the North and East by ground hereinafter described and conveyed on the South by the said Chestnut Street and on the West by lot marked No. 7 in the plan of Hamilton Village lots.

ALSO ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground situate on the North side of Chestnut Street West of 40th Street in the said Ward and City adjoining the above mentioned lot and said Church Edifice on the East 40 feet front on Chestnut Street and in length or depth Northward 130 feet more or less to the premises next hereinafter described together with the stone messuage or dwelling house thereon erected.

BEING known as 4017-21 Chestnut Street

BEING the same premises which The Chestnut Street Baptist Church of Philadelphia, a Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation by Deed dated 5/4/2004 and recorded 5/27/2004 in Philadelphia County as Document No. 50936033 conveyed unto West Park Church of Deliverance Association, in fee.¹

¹ City of Philadelphia, Department of Records. Document No. 52961954. 3 September 2015. PhilaDOX: <u>http://pdx-app01/recorder/eagleweb/docSearch.jsp</u>. Accessed 4 November 2019.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Christ Community Church, historically known as New Tabernacle Baptist Church, is situated on the north side of Chestnut Street between 40th and 41st Streets in the University City neighborhood of West Philadelphia. It is located one-and-a-half blocks southwest of the Market-Frankford Line. Chestnut Street is an eastbound thoroughfare running three-and-a-half miles long in West Philadelphia, from Cobbs Creek Park to the Schuylkill River, and continues across the Chestnut Street bridge for approximately two miles to the Delaware River.



Figure 2. Oblique aerial image of 4017-21 Chestnut Street, currently in use as Christ Community Church. [Pictometry, 2018]

Surrounding buildings in the area include late nineteenth-century attached and semi-detached rowhouses, early twentieth century apartment buildings, nineteenth-century churches, and twentieth-century commercial and civic structures. Its proximity to the University of Pennsylvania is not to be understated. While 4017-21 Chestnut Street is on the western fringe of campus, Penn owns several properties along 40th and Chestnut Streets, many students live in off-campus housing in the neighborhood, and the campus is within walking distance.



Figure 3. Map of the University of Pennsylvania campus. The location of New Tabernacle Baptist Church is indicated by the red star. [Penn Facilities & Real Estate]

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District includes this building as a contributing resource. Its inventory describes 4017-21 Chestnut Street as follows (emphasis added):

Massive, elaborately ornamented Gothic Revival church with a strong urban character. The wide gable-roofed sanctuary is framed by three arched entranceways framed by triple colonettes. The walls are treated with rock-faced gneiss with limestone trim, large central pointed-arch window with stained glass; the roof is sheathed with slate, and the walls of the transepts visible from the street are capped with a corbel table motif in stamped copper. The large, impressive sanctuary interior is intact and features elaborate plaster ceiling ornament and carved oak furnishings. An outstanding example of its style.²

Cruciform in plan, New Tabernacle Baptist Church occupies the majority of its approximately 60' x 130' lot. The primary elevation of New Tabernacle Baptist Church faces south onto Chestnut Street. It is defined by a large gable flanked by two, 87-foot tall octagonal towers. The towers were originally capped with turrets, but these had been removed by the early 1960s. A set of full-width curved steps, flanked by stone bannisters, leads to the entry. Atop each bannister is an ornamental cast-iron lightpost. A tripartite Indiana limestone portal with gabled openings contain pointed-arch archivolts over carved wooden doors and tympanums. The archivolts are supported by pink marble colonettes with foliated capitals; the central opening has three per side while the two flanking openings have two per side. The three openings are divided by half-height limestone façade buttresses, and full-height stone façade buttresses extend above the left and right openings. The gable over the middle opening is lined with crockets and the majority of

² National Register of Historic Places, West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, National Register #97001669.

gabled and arched features (arches, buttresses) are topped with foliated finials. The gable contains a large pointed arch stained glass window recessed in a limestone archivolt and foliated capitals.

The gable contains a large pointed arch stained glass window recessed in a limestone archivolt supported by foliated columns. The leaded stained glass is supported by tracery in circular and trefoil, quatrefoil, teardrop, and other curved patterns. Above the stained glass tracery is a corbel course and triple lancet stained glass window.



Figure 4. South (principal) elevation of New Tabernacle Baptist Church, now in use as Christ Community Church [Arielle Harris, September 2019]

The towers are divided into four sections by string and corbel courses. The bottom two sections contain staggered lancet windows and the top two sections contain lanceted and pointed-arch windows with tracery on all eight sides of the octagon. The top two sections also contain more elaborate corbeling, columns, and cornice stone work.



Figure 5. Detail of cornerstone at eastern tower. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]



Figure 6 Detail of west stair rail and ornamental lightpost [Arielle Harris, September 2019]



Figure 7. Detail of central door at south elevation. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]



Figure 8. Detail of secondary door and columns at south elevation. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]

While the east and west elevations are partially obscured at street level due to adjacent buildings, they were accessible via vacant lots to the rear. Extending north from the two towers, these elevations are identical:

A two-story, four bay nave is punctuated by lancet stained glass windows and divided by full-height stone buttresses. A bay window extends from the first story, replacing two lancet windows at the first floor. The transept features three pairs of lancet stained-glass windows at the first story, and an arrangement of three large lancet windows with tracery at the second story depicting the story of Jesus and the Samaritan. The fabricator of the stained glass is unknown, having not been reported in neither the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide* nor the architect's specifications or any local newspapers. The transept is capped with a lanceted corbel table.



Figure 9. Oblique view of west elevation, looking southeast [Arielle Harris, September 2019]



Figure 10. Detail of stained glass windows at east transept. The middle lancet depicts the story of Jesus and the Samaritan and angels in the left and right lancets. The west transept contains identical stained glass. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]

Past the transept, in what would translate as the chancel in a Catholic church, originally housed parts of the baptistry and organ within the auditorium, and partially contained classrooms and meeting rooms. On the east and west elevations, this is clad in stone and unfenestrated.

At the north elevation, these wings feature quoining and pairs of lanceted stained glass windows; at the basement level these have been filled with glass block. The north elevation is otherwise defined by a brick gable and one story rounded projection. A chimney extends out of the gable on the west side. The gable contains a single oculus window. From an oblique aerial view of the property, a pinnacle extends above the intersection of the transept and the nave.



Figure 11. North elevation. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]



Figure 12. Oblique view looking south at New Tabernacle Baptist Church, providing a clearer view of the north elevation. [Pictometry]

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former New Tabernacle Baptist Church, currently known as Christ Community Church of Philadelphia, is historically significant and merits designation under Criteria for Designation (a), (d), (e), (h), and (j), pursuant to Section 14-1004(1) of the Philadelphia Code. It is already a contributing structure to the West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

(a): Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past;

(j): Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

The New Tabernacle Baptist Church exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the West Philadelphia Baptist community, as well as the power dynamics of Baptist congregations in late nineteenth-early twentieth century Philadelphia. The site on which 4017-21 Chestnut Street sits was the former location of Berean Baptist Church, constructed in 1859-1860. In the late nineteenth century, Berean Baptist Church consolidated with Tabernacle Baptist Church, a congregation located in Rittenhouse Square. Tabernacle Baptist Church had a tumultuous 47-year history, stemming from inconsistent leadership, debt, fluctuating membership, and what was at the time believed to be an undesirable location at 18th and Chestnut Streets. By the early 1890s, Tabernacle Baptist Church was in discussions with First Baptist Church and Eden Baptist Church, both located nearby, to consolidate their congregations.

On the other hand, Berean Baptist Church had been growing consistently since its founding in then-semirural West Philadelphia. Baptist activity grew in West Philadelphia to some degree due to the influence of Berean, with members creating missions and additional churches as well as merging with other West Philadelphia Baptist congregations. When Berean Baptist Church called upon Rev. George E. Rees, then pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church, to lead their church, Rees appeared to jump at the opportunity to merge the two congregations, disregarding the prior arrangements with First Baptist Church and Eden Baptist Church. Tabernacle and Berean agreed that the Tabernacle church building would be sold and a new church would be erected on the Berean parcel. Perhaps Rev. Rees also saw it as a strategic move to relocate the consolidated church to a more fashionable location due to West Philadelphia's status as an emergent streetcar suburb and enclave for the middle class and nouveau riche. In 1910, New Tabernacle Baptist Church consolidated with Epiphany Baptist Church (formerly known as the First Baptist Church of West Philadelphia); the merged congregation, renamed the Chestnut Street Baptist Church, remained at 4017-21 Chestnut Street until 2005.

History of the Baptists in Philadelphia

Baptists immigrating from Wales and England first settled in the Delaware Valley in the late seventeenth century. The oldest Baptist Church in the region is the Pennepek, or Lower Dublin Baptist Church; organized in January 1687. Pennepek was the mother church of mid-Atlantic congregations founded throughout the eighteenth century, including Philadelphia's First Baptist Church.³ This congregation first

³ Horatio Gates Jones, "Historical Sketch of the Lower Dublin (Or Pennepek) Baptist Church," Philadelphia: 1869, Web, http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/penn.pennepek.lower.dublin.history.html

gathered in what was known as the "Barbadoes Lot," located around Second and Chestnut Street in December 1698. The Philadelphia Baptist Association was founded in 1707 by five congregations "as an annual meeting for mutual support in doctrine and practice."⁴ This organization aided in the expansion of Baptist congregations around the country and later just Pennsylvania, and contributed to the origins of institutions of higher education including Brown and Temple Universities. First Baptist Church officially separated from Pennepek in 1746.⁵

In 1762, the Philadelphia Baptist Association contained 29 member churches with 1,318 members; by 1776, the organization contained 42 member churches with 3,103 members; by 1812, Pennsylvania alone contained 63 churches and 4,365 members. Between 1790 and 1890, the number of Baptists in the United States grew from approximately 65,000 to over 3,700,000 – which, according to the *American Church History Series*, is population growth four times larger than the rate of growth for the United States as a whole.⁶

These early Baptist congregations did not grant African-Americans – whether enslaved or free – the same rights and responsibilities as white congregants. As a result, thirteen African-American congregants of First Baptist Church formed the First African Baptist Church in 1809, and this church was welcomed as a member of the Philadelphia Baptist Association that year.⁷ Monumental Baptist Church, the second oldest African-American Baptist congregation in the city and the first in West Philadelphia, was founded in 1826. In 1829, the congregation settled at 41st and Oak (now Ludlow) Streets; their 1882 edifice was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 2016.⁸

Philadelphia was a hub of Baptist activity through the nineteenth century, being home to a number of national Baptist organizations and hosting a number of Baptist conventions and meetings. These organizations and meetings included the American Baptist Historical Society, Triennial Conventions, the American Baptist Publication Society, and the National Baptist Education Convention. Furthermore, Baptists organized a number of philanthropic institutions throughout Philadelphia, including hospitals, orphanages, and retirement homes.⁹

The *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* argues that in the early nineteenth century, "Baptists were continually torn between the popular tendency to centralize, and the inherent instinct to retain power in the local church by avoiding ecclesiastical hierarchies."¹⁰ The history of New Tabernacle Baptist Church, which follows below, exemplifies this argument, having been formed from a union of two Baptist congregations.

⁴ Gerald L. Priest, "The Philadelphia Baptist Association and the Question of Authority," *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal*, Vol 12. Issue 1, (Fall 2007), 51.

⁵ A. H. Newman, D.D., L.L.D., *The American Church History Series*, *Volume II: A History of Baptist Churches in the United States* (New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1894), 208.

⁶ A. H. Newman, D.D., L.L.D., *The American Church History Series*, *Volume II: A History of Baptist Churches in the United States* (New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1894), 504.

⁷ Oscar Beisert, "Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places: First African Baptist Church," 2016.

 ⁸ Oscar Beisert, "Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places: First African Baptist Church," 2016.
 ⁹ http://philadelphiabaptist.org/history/

¹⁰ "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.," Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States, Volume 5, 61

History of New Tabernacle Baptist Church

New Tabernacle Baptist Church was formed through the merging of two congregations: Tabernacle Baptist Church, located in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, and Berean Baptist Church, located at 40th and Chestnut Streets in West Philadelphia. The story of their consolidation, and the histories of the Tabernacle and Berean churches, are highlighted in the congregation's 1897 *Membership Directory of New Tabernacle Baptist Church* (Membership Directory), printed the same year consolidation took effect. This nomination reveals the Membership Directory to be a subjective primary source that embellishes and/or omits parts of the story of New Tabernacle Baptist Church altogether, based on reporting in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other news outlets.

Tabernacle Baptist Church¹¹

The history of Tabernacle Baptist Church is outlined in the inaugural Membership Directory for the New Tabernacle Baptist Church. Its story prior to consolidation with Berean Baptist Church is one of ups and downs, with inconsistent leadership and unruly financial affairs of the congregation contributing to the overall decline in morale and membership of the congregation.

Tabernacle Baptist Church was founded on February 14, 1848 as the first Baptist congregation west of Broad Street. The congregation initially met in a Methodist meetinghouse on 17th and Chestnut Streets, first renting space and eventually purchasing the building altogether. The first pastor was Rev. Charles Tucker, of Jersey Shore, Pa., who served from April 1849 until his death in 1851.

Under the five-year leadership of the following pastor, Rev. Minor G. Clark, D. D., of Springfield, Mass, a lot was purchased at 18th and Chestnut Street, where their church, designed by William W. Boyington, was built.¹² While the congregation grew from 96 to 316, a handsome debt of \$36,000 was accrued during the construction of the church; only \$10,000 of this debt was paid off when Rev. Clark left Tabernacle Baptist Church in 1856.

¹¹ Unless otherwise cited, this section is paraphrased from the *Membership Directory of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church: Together with the Histories of the Tabernacle and Berean Churches Prior to Consolidation* (Philadelphia: Avil Printing Company, 1897), pages 3-7.

¹² Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database, Tabernacle Baptist Church.



Figure 13 (left). Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chestnut Street. [Free Library of Philadelphia Digital Collections] The Free Library caption reads "View showing the church built 1853 after the designs of William Boyington on the 1800 block of Chestnut Street. Church contains a tower and spire. A few pedestrians walk on the sidewalk in front of the building that is surrounded by a wrought iron fence. Trees adorn the church grounds. The church, razed in 1900, was the only Baptist church situated west of Broad Street when completed."

Figure 14 (right): ca. 1854 print showing drawing of New Tabernacle Baptist Church [Jane Campbell Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania]

While the church "increased rapidly in numbers and in power, and \$12,000 was raised towards the payment of the debt" under the five-year tenure of Rev. William T. Brantly, he "abruptly resigned" in September 1861. The Civil War years saw two pastors, and a sharp decrease in membership and morale.

Under the tenure of Rev. D. C. Eddy, D. D., an organ was installed in the church, further adding to the debt. Under the leadership of Rev. George A. Peltz, D. D., of New York, from 1865-1871, "All departments of church work received a new impulse, the school increased in numbers and efficiency, the Young People's Association was strengthened and many converts were added to the church." Most importantly, the remaining \$15,000 in debt was paid off in full. Rev. Peltz resigned in 1871 to focus on Sunday school work, leaving Tabernacle Baptist Church without a pastor for a year-and-a-half.





Figure 15 (left): Interior of Tabernacle Baptist Church, likely from the Rev. Eddy era. [Jane Campbell Scrapbook Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania] Figure 16 (right): Interior of Tabernacle Baptist Church after the organ was installed [Membership Directory of New Tabernacle Baptist Church]

From 1872 until the consolidation of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Rev. George E. Rees, of Wales, served as pastor of the congregation. Under Rees' tenure, a chapel was built on a donated parcel on Lee Street, and improvements were made to the Chestnut Street church. The Membership Directory spares no language in highlighting that these improvements were paid off expeditiously. The Directory further recalls that "the church grew in power and numbers" under Rees' leadership; however, this is a highly suspect claim as later on they note that a "goodly number of our members" left to form a Pilgrim church at 23rd and Christian Streets.



Figure 17. Photograph of Rev. George E. Rees, D.D. [Membership Directory of New Tabernacle Baptist Church]

Berean Baptist Church¹³

Berean Baptist Church was founded in 1858 by a group interested in forming a new congregation from the First Baptist Church of West Philadelphia. The First Baptist Church of West Philadelphia was organized in the early 1840s by William Williams Keen, and others; Rev. Edgar M. Levy served as pastor.¹⁴ In early 1859, the first baptisms of the new congregation, since named Berean Baptist Church, were performed in Allibone's Woods, a section of land bounded by 42nd, 43rd, Locust, and Pine Streets.

¹³ Unless otherwise cited, this section is paraphrased from the *Membership Directory of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church: Together with the Histories of the Tabernacle and Berean Churches Prior to Consolidation*, Philadelphia: Avil Printing Company, 1897, pages 7-11.

¹⁴ William Cathcart, D. D., ed., *The Baptist Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2 (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), 641, 689.



Figure 18. Allibone's Woods, depicted by the red outline, as seen in R. L. Bines' Map of the Consolidated City of Philadelphia, 1855. Source: Greater Philadelphia Geohistory Network.

By the mid-nineteenth century, West Philadelphia was beginning its transformation from a wealthy, rural country retreat "without municipal control", to a middle-class streetcar suburb; by 1851, its population had reached 11,000.¹⁵ The following map from 1849, five years prior to Philadelphia's consolidation, shows the increasing density of the pink shaded area east of 41st Street, then known as Hamiltonville, compared to the remainder of West Philadelphia. The Woodlands Cemetery and Blockley Almshouse are visible on the southeast edge, and the Pennsylvania Hospital Building is to the northwest.

¹⁵ National Register of Historic Places, West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, National Register #97001669.



Figure 19. Portion of Map of Blockley Township, by Rea and Miller, 1849. The location of Berean Baptist Church, and later New Tabernacle Baptist Church, is still undeveloped land at this point, although development is encroaching on all sides approaching the parcel on Chestnut Street.

Shortly after this map was published, Hamilton Terrace, the Hamilton Family Estate, and Woodland Terrace were developed.¹⁶ These three enclaves are among the earliest examples of residential speculation in West Philadelphia, intended for an upper-class clientele. The pioneering congregations to settle in West Philadelphia around this time, including Roman Catholic, Quaker, Episcopal, and Presbyterian denominations meetinghouses, would have catered to – or been started by – residents of these early developments.

Berean Baptist Church, and by default New Tabernacle Baptist Church, would not have been located at its Chestnut Street location if not for the generosity of Captain John P. Levy, brother of Rev. Edgar Levy.¹⁷

¹⁶ National Register of Historic Places, West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, National Register #97001669.

¹⁷ Captain John Levy's house was located at 40th and Pine Streets and was listed in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1973. However, the University of Pennsylvania, the owner of the property, was granted permission by the Historical Commission to demolish the structure and did so in 2015.

Captain Levy spent his career as a seaman and shipbuilder; he co-founded lucrative ship-building firm Reaney, Neafie & Levy in 1845.¹⁸ Captain Levy, who was baptized by his brother, purchased a lot of land on the 4000 block of Chestnut Street for the purpose of building Berean Baptist Church. Captain Levy personally funded the construction of the church, which opened in 1860, and an adjacent parsonage. Levy's total contributions to the congregation amounted to nearly \$35,000 at the time, and he donated the deed to Berean Baptist Church in October 1863.



Figure 20. Undated photograph of Berean Baptist Church [Membership Directory of New Tabernacle Baptist Church]

The church was designed in the Romanesque style by a "Mr. D. S. Gendell, architect," and Reaney, Nefie & Co. provided the cast-iron spire; the spire was reported by the *Public Ledger* as being "a novelty, and will doubtless attract much attention."¹⁹ The noted architect refers to David S. Gendell, who apprenticed with Thomas Ustick Walter, and then went into practice with his father, a carpenter/builder, at 5th and Chestnut Streets.²⁰

Having only been built four years after Tabernacle Baptist Church, the designs of the two churches provide insight into the architectural taste of Philadelphia's mid-nineteenth century Baptist congregations. While Tabernacle was designed in the Classical Revival style and Berean was in the Romanesque style,

¹⁸ William Cathcart, D. D., ed., *The Baptist Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2 (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), 690; "Neafie & Leavy, Philadelphia, PA," shipbuildinghistory.com, Web, September 18, 2019.

¹⁹ A New Church, The Philadelphia Public Ledger, May 5, 1859, p. 1.

²⁰ Sandra Tatman, "David Smith Gendell (1839-1925)," Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database.

they both featured central towers with massive spires that provide a dramatic focal point; Berean boasted a 160 foot tower and spire while Tabernacle boasted a 212 foot tall steeple.²¹ Similarly, First Baptist Church, West Philadelphia, whose edifice on 36th and Chestnut Streets was constructed from 1860-1863, was designed by Samuel Sloan in the Norman style and featured a gabled front and adjacent 170-foot tower.²² Interestingly, the Berean Baptist Church building is labeled in the 1862 Samuel Smedley *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, while First Baptist Church West Philadelphia and Monumental Baptist Church are not, despite their building footprints being present on the map and these congregations being older than Berean Baptist Church.²³ Taking into account that African-American institutions were likely omitted from such documents, it perhaps reveals the degree of prominence of Berean Baptist Church in comparison to First Baptist Church, West Philadelphia.



Figure 21. Extracts from 1862 Smedley Atlas of Philadelphia showing unlabeled locations of Monumental Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, West Philadelphia, and labeled location of Berean Baptist Church, a comparatively younger congregation at the time. [Greater Philadelphia Geohistory Network]

Rev. Edgar Levy served as pastor of Berean Baptist Church from 1868-1884. During this time, Baptist activity expanded in West Philadelphia with the founding of the Mantua Baptist Church by former Berean congregants. In 1890, Powelton Avenue Church merged with the Berean congregation. According to newspaper reports, Berean would only accept the consolidation if Powelton were to join Berean, and not vice-versa.²⁴ When the Powelton church met to discuss the merger, the Philadelphia Times noted that Berean "has a small congregation, but a handsome building, free of debt."²⁵

Consolidation, but with whom?

In 1893, discussions began regarding the consolidation of Tabernacle Baptist Church with the First Baptist Church, by this time located at Broad and Arch Streets, and with Beth Eden Baptist Church, at Broad and Spruce Streets. This dialogue was not uncommon among the Baptist community at the time.

²¹ J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia*, *1609-1884*, Vol. 3 (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1884), 1752.

 ²² "New Church in West Philadelphia," *The Philadelphia Public Ledger*, June 12, 1860, 1; "First Baptist Church, West Philadelphia," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 6, 1863, 8. A lithograph of First Baptist Church, West Philadelphia can be accessed digitally or at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, call number HSP Bc 13 W 519.
 ²³ Smedley map

²⁴ "They Favor the Union," *Philadelphia Times*, February 25, 1890, 3.

²⁵ "Baptist Churches Unite," *The Philadelphia Times*, March 4, 1890, 1.

Berean Baptist Church was already familiar with such a strategy, having just consolidated with Powelton Baptist Church. And, on April 23, 1893, Rev. Frank M. Goodman of the Spruce Street Baptist Church was recorded as stating in a sermon that "We must use business judgment in management of church affairs. A railroad will not run 'empties.' No more should a religious denomination. It would be to the interest of all concerned if in some districts consolidation of churches of the same faith could be effected and a great church be established there instead of having several struggling small ones. Money would be saved instead of wasted and efficiency increased."²⁶

According to newspaper reports, Tabernacle, First Baptist, and Beth Eden Baptist's congregations were losing membership for churches located in more desirable areas.²⁷ Furthermore, Beth Eden Baptist Church had suffered a fire in 1881 and was left without a building and a pastor. Beth Eden and First Baptist already had a symbiotic relationship, each hosting the other when their buildings were under renovation (or in the case of Beth Eden, burned). The congregations felt their locations were undesirable and out-of-place in Philadelphia's emerging central business district. As written in First Baptist Church's bicentennial history,

"Owing to the fact that both of these churches, as well as the Tabernacle Baptist Church, at Eighteenth and Chestnut Streets, were central in location, all three began to feel the disintegration which always, in time, attacks a central city church. The members move into the suburbs, business encroaches on the resident area around it, and so, by an inexorable law of city development, all three churches were waning from a gradual but steady loss of membership."²⁸

Nothing else on the consolidation subject was reported until 1894, when meetings among representatives of the three churches were described by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In November of that year, *The Philadelphia Times* reported on a meeting attended by 250 parishioners of the three churches. Earlier that year, a joint committee was established, a report created on the state of the congregations, and Articles of Agreement were drafted.²⁹ The committee, which was sharing the results of their findings with the congregations, remarked in their report that "Rev. Dr. Rees, who has been the prime mover, has exhibited the utmost degree of foresight, magnamity and self-forgetfulness."³⁰ Confusingly, however, the article reported on a potential "colony," or new church, led by Rev. Rees, to come out of this consolidation. The article elaborated that a sum of \$100,000 would be given to

"members of the Consolidated Church, not less than 75 in number, who may desire to form a new church...and shall be used only for the erection of buildings and the support of this new Baptist church. This new body shall be a colony from the Consolidated Church. Such a new church seems very desirable from a broad view of the best interests of the denomination at large."³¹

²⁶ "Are Churches Too Numerous? Rev. Frank M. Goodchild Introduces Another Pertinent Subject," *The Philadelphia Times*, April 24, 1893, 3.

²⁷ "Talking Consolidation – A Proposition to Unite the Tabernacle and First Baptist Churches," *The Philadelphia Times*, March 12, 1893, 4.

 ²⁸ William Williams Keen, M.D., L.L.D, ed., *The Bi-centennial Celebration of the Founding of the First Baptist Church of the City of Philadelphia, 1698-1898* (Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1899), 125.
 ²⁹ The report can be viewed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, call number UPA/Ph BX 6480.P5 F572.

³⁰ "Churches Plan Consolidation," *The Philadelphia Times*, November 29, 1894, 7.

³¹ "Churches Plan Consolidation," *The Philadelphia Times*, November 29, 1894, 7.

Many questions arise from this proposal: how would Rev. Rees be active in both the consolidated church and the colony church? What are his motives? How would creating a colony church be different from maintaining either two or three existing Baptist congregations?

Ultimately, these questions would not have to be answered. Less than one month later, Berean Baptist Church called upon Rev. Rees to serve as their pastor. He quickly accepted this offer, throwing a wrench in the plans to consolidate with First Baptist and Beth Eden Baptist. As narrated in the 1897 Membership Directory,

"On December 19, 1894, a call was extended to Rev. George E. Rees, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Eighteenth and Chestnut Streets. The giving of this call opened the question of the consolidation of the Tabernacle and Berean churches, and after conferences covering several months had taken place, articles of agreement were adopted April 15, 1895, which brought about the union of the two churches under the name of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church of Philadelphia. This closed the history of the Berean Church."³²

The Membership Directory does not include any references to potentially consolidating with First Baptist or Beth Eden, even though those conversations occurred for over a year. However, local papers continued to report on the state of affairs between the three, now four, congregations. Excerpts include the following:

December 1894: "Rev. Dr. George E. Rees' acceptance of the call to the pastorate of the Berean Baptist Church, where he will preach his first sermon on the second Sunday in January, will open the way for the long-talked-of consolidation of the three congregations in the centre of the city"³³

January 1895: "The members of Tabernacle Church, who originally expected to join in the consolidation formed by the other two churches, has withdrawn with the idea of forming a consolidation with the Berean Church, Fortieth and Chestnut streets...The congregation passed a resolution to sell the property in view of the proposed consolidation with Berean"³⁴

August 1895: "In the gradual development of the consolidation scheme between the Berean and Tabernacle Baptist Churches...Such of the congregation of the Tabernacle as do not migrate to West Philadelphia when the arrangement between the churches is completed, will, it is expected, unite with the First Church, at Broad and Arch streets"³⁵

On September 2, 1895, formal applications were made in court to merge the two congregations.³⁶ Shortly after, New Tabernacle Baptist Church retained architect Frank Watson to design their new building to replace the existing 1859 structure at 40th and Chestnut. The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide (PRERBG) outlines the design process of the church's construction from beginning to end. The PRERBG records for New Tabernacle Baptist Church can be found in Appendix A.

³² Membership Directory of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church: Together with the Histories of the Tabernacle and Berean Churches Prior to Consolidation, Philadelphia: Avil Printing Company, 1897, 11.

³³ "Religious Notes," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 29, 1894, 2

³⁴ Consolidation at Last: First and Beth Eden Baptist Churches Will Unite," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 26, 1895, 6.

³⁵ "Religious News," The Philadelphia Inquirer, January 12, 1895, 3

³⁶ "Here and There," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 8, 1895, 1

The initial plans for the church were reported as follows, in October 1895:

The foundation walls of the new Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chestnut Street, west of Fortieth, it is thought, will be laid before the Winter sets in. Contractors are now bidding on the work. The building will probably be ready for occupancy next September. The church will be built in Gothic style. It will have a 90-foot front on Chestnut Street. Octagonal turrets will rise upwards of 80 feet at each corner, and in the centre will be a large tracery window. Triple doorways, deeply recessed, will lead into a hallway, 20 x 27 feet. A vestibule on the right and left leads to the lecture hall in the second story, capable of seating 700 persons. The hall will open into a corridor, 15 x 24 feet, which leads to the main building. On each side of the corridor will be rooms, with a seating capacity for 200 persons. The auditorium will be amphitheatrical, and capable of seating 1000 persons. The arch over the pulpit, an important feature, will be deeply recessed, and ornamented with columns with foliated capitals. The arch will be flanked on the right by the organ arch and on the left by baptistry arch. Frank R. Watson, architect, 518 Walnut Street, prepared the plans..."



Figure 22. Depiction of New Tabernacle Baptist Church as printed in the Philadelphia Inquirer the morning after the cornerstone was laid.

According to Frank Watson's specifications, the stone and brick from Berean Baptist Church was to be salvaged and reused in the construction of New Tabernacle Baptist Church, except for salmon brick. Watson also stated in his specifications that "All workmanship to be the best known in the trade, and all materials to be strictly first class."³⁷ In a later amendment to the specifications, the price of a chosen tile is changed so the overall price is lowered to \$0.50 from \$1.25 –a budget-saving move but one that also indicates to the modern historian and consumer the high quality of materials Watson intended to choose for the congregation. A full set of original drawings of the church can be found at the Historical Society

³⁷ Frank R. Watson, "Specifications for Workmanship and Materials to be employed in the Erection and Completion of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church, on the North Side of Chestnut Street, West of 40th." Historical Society of Pennsylavania.

of Pennsylvania, call number Bc 615/W 333 TB. A selection of the drawings can be found in Appendix B, and the architect's specifications can be found at Appendix C.



Figure 23. Original architectural drawing of New Tabernacle Baptist Church, signed by Frank Watson. [Historical Society of Pennsylvania]

Though the University City Historical Society could not access the inside of the building, it appears the plans were built as described: the amphitheatrical seating, organ, and baptistry woodwork survive today, as seen in images on Christ Community Church's website:



Figure 24. Interior of New Tabernacle Baptist Church auditorium, featuring a "deeply recessed" arch over the pulpit, amphitheatrical seating, foliated capitals, organ, and baptistry. [Christ Community Church website, https://www.cccphila.org

The cornerstone was laid on May 6, 1896 and was attended "not only by the members various congregations in West Philadelphia but by the pastors of numerous churches, both in the city and West Philadelphia."³⁸ The building opened on March 10, 1897 and was reported to have cost \$113,586, \$76,000 of which was paid by opening day.³⁹

³⁸ "The Corner-Stone Laid," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 7, 1896, 7.

³⁹ "New Tabernacle Church Opened," *The Philadelphia Times*, March 11, 1897, 3.



Figure 25. Photograph of New Tabneracle Baptist Church, soon before construction was completed (note unfinished stained glass windows in octagonal towers). [Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Frank Watson portfolio]

While the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that "many of the old members of Tabernacle Church remained" for consolidation, First Baptist Church recalled in an 1898 publication that "During this year we also had a large accession from the Tabernacle School, as their removal to West Philadelphia made it most inconvenient for many to go with them. Earnest Christian fellow-laborers are they !"⁴⁰ What is officially published in the Membership Directory, but not calculated as a statistic, are the members of the church in 1897. Indeed, rough calculations show that over 2/3 of the congregants were native to West Philadelphia. It comes down to a matter of convenience: congregants in Center City may not have wanted to travel to West Philadelphia to worship when congregations were abundant all around them – including the newly-merged First Baptist Church.

By the time New Tabernacle Baptist Church opened, institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania had moved to West Philadelphia, streetcar lines had opened, and speculators were setting their sights on undeveloped land around and further west from the church. However, "As speculative building practices evolved, so did the demographics of the inhabitants who were purchasing the houses. These less elaborate and more compact houses strictly appealed to the middle class. However, despite the mass of speculative

⁴⁰ "New Tabernacle Church Opened," *The Philadelphia Times*, March 11, 1897, 3; William Williams Keen, M.D., L.L.D, ed., *The Bi-centennial Celebration of the Founding of the First Baptist Church of the City of Philadelphia*, *1698-1898* (Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1899), 382-3.

middle class housing that was being erected, a number of Philadelphia's families of wealth continued to choose West Philadelphia as the location for their estates."⁴¹ This very well justifies why Rev. Rees wished to move to West Philadelphia, as opposed to remaining between the rivers – there remained a consistently growing and diverse population of potential congregants, unlike Center City's already established, and in some cases dwindling, congregations.

New Tabernacle Baptist Church and Chestnut Street Baptist Church in the 20th Century Rev. Rees retired in 1909.⁴² On January 29, 1910, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported,

"Historic churches of this city that have enjoyed a wide reputation will hold farewell services tomorrow and on Sunday, February 6, will combine and will be known as the Chestnut Street Baptist Church. The churches are the Epiphany and the New Tabernacle Baptist Churches."

Epiphany Baptist Church was formerly known as the First Baptist Church of West Philadelphia, mentioned previously in this nomination as having given rise to Berean Baptist Church. On their fiftieth anniversary in 1898, the congregation changed their name to Epiphany Baptist.⁴³ As such, in April, 1910, the title was officially transferred from New Tabernacle Baptist Church to Chestnut Street Baptist Church for "a consideration said to be nominal."⁴⁴ In this sense, for the Levy brothers at least, things came full circle as the two congregations they helped lead had come together.

Chestnut Street Baptist Church operated out of 4017-21 Chestnut Street until 2004. In the late twentieth century, the church was integral in resettling refugees from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam in the West Philadelphia community. The church hosted ESL classes, accepted donations of furniture and other goods for the refugees.⁴⁵ The church also hosted classical concerts of the University of Pennsylvania's university choir. In 2004, the congregation closed and sold the building to what is now Christ Community Church.

(d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen

New Tabernacle Baptist Church is a well-preserved example of the Gothic Revival style. Gothic Revival was one of the most important architectural styles to emerge in the United States during the Victorian period, not only for religious structures, but also for residential, educational, and institutional uses.

⁴¹ National Register of Historic Places, West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, National Register #97001669.

⁴² The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 9, 1909, 6.

⁴³ Public Ledger Almanac (Philadelphia: Geo. W. Childs, 1894), 50.

⁴⁴ "Convey Church Title," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 23, 1910, 9.

⁴⁵ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 28, 1980; May 13, 1982l; July 1, 1984; October 19, 1980; August 25, 1980; July 11, 1980; January 9, 1980 November 26, 1979; March 7, 1979; October 19, 1978; October 11, 1978; June 29, 1978; May 5, 1978.

The Gothic Revival emerged as a call for the romantic and picturesque in a quickly industrializing era. Gothic architectural historian Phoebe Stanton wrote that "The wish to copy Gothic architecture and the thoughts about building which developed as a result were singularly expressive of the respect and nostalgia for the past which were characteristic of the nineteenth century."⁴⁶ Augustus Charles Pugin and his son Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin were among the first proselytizers of the Gothic revival, publishing *Specimens of Gothic Architecture* (1821), *Examples of Gothic Architecture* (1838), *Contrasts* (1836), and *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture* (1841). These works by the Pugins brought scale drawings to a mass audience as well as persuasive arguments for using the Gothic.⁴⁷ Furthermore, the Gothic style was seen as anti-industrial; Gothic enthusiasts such as John Ruskin argued against machine-made building materials, stating "There are two reasons, both weighty, against this practice: one, that all cast and machine work is bad, as work; the other, that it is dishonest."⁴⁸ To Ruskin and his contemporaries, Gothic architecture was solid: it revealed the true form of a structure without the veneers and inauthentic finishes that characterized Classical Revival architecture.

Nineteenth century religious institutions in particular were attracted to Gothic architecture because "they believed its formal, "churchly" style conveyed a sense of permanence and prestige. Even Protestant denominations that had once been deeply suspicious of Catholic forms and elaborate decoration embraced the movement, appropriating stylistic elements that had previously aroused passionate opposition."⁴⁹ While utilizing Gothic architecture once implied

Stanton observed that "Gothic revivalism arrived in North America in the form of the English Gothic revival, with its preference for the English medieval parish church as a model for ecclesiastical architecture."⁵⁰ In Philadelphia, this can be seen in the Church of Saint James the Less, constructed in 1846. The English parish style of Gothic Revival proved to be a good match for the bucolic suburban setting of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood.

⁴⁶ Phoebe Stanton, *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1968), xvii.

 ⁴⁷ Mark Gelernter, A History of American Architecture (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999), 144.
 ⁴⁸ John Ruskin, The Seven Lamps of Architecture (London: Smith, Elder & Co, 1849), 48.

 ⁴⁹ Thomas F. Rzeznik, *Church and Estate: Religion and Wealth in Industrial-Era Philadelphia* (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2013), 88.

⁵⁰ Phoebe Stanton, *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1968), xviii.



Figure 26. Saint James the Less, built in 1846 after Saint Michael's Church, Cambridgeshire. An example of the picturesque, parish revival that characterized early Gothic Revival. [Library of Congress]

Only one year later, John Notman designed Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. This took a more high Gothic revival style on a larger and more urban parcel.



Figure 27. Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 16th and Locust Streets, constructed 1847-1849.[Library of Congress]

West Philadelphia boasts and boasted many examples of Gothic Revival churches, many of which also lined Chestnut Street with New Tabernacle Baptist Church. These include/included:

- Asbury Methodist Episcopal 33rd and Chestnut. Constructed in 1883. Suffered a fire in 1997 and subsequently demolished.
- Woodland Presbyterian Church 42nd and Pine. Extant.
- St. Agatha, St. James Church 38th and Chestnut. Designed by Edwin Forrest Durang, 1881-1887. Extant.
- Tabernacle United Church 37th and Chestnut Street. Designed by Theophilus Chandler, 1883-1886. Extant.
- First United Presbyterian Church 52nd and Chester. Designed by Joseph M. Huston, 1909-1910. Extant.
- Christ Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church 43rd and Chestnut. Designed by Isaac Pursell, 1887, demolished in 2018 for a vacant lot.

With West Philadelphia an emerging neighborhood at the time these congregations were building churches, it makes sense that congregations would choose a style evoking permanence, stability, and age. While the neighborhoods of Spruce Hill, Manuta and Hamiltonville were only a few decades old, many of these churches had designs that looked like they were built centuries earlier.

New Tabernacle Baptist Church is distinctive in comparison to many of the above-listed West Philadelphia churches in that it falls in the middle of the 4100 block of Chestnut Street, rather than on a corner parcel. Its massing is neither overwhelming to the surrounding built environment nor overshadowed by neighboring structures. Yet, its façade is striking among the rowhomes, parking lots, a police station, and modern buildings that pepper this particular block of Chestnut Street, likely due in part to the employment of Gothic revival design features.

(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation;

Designed by architect Frank Rushmore Watson in 1896-7, New Tabernacle Baptist Church replaced the Berean Baptist Church building on the same site. Watson was a prolific ecclesiastical architect, practicing from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century.

A biography written by Sandra Tatman in the *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings* database reads as follows.

"Frank R. Watson was one of the most important of the several architects specializing in church design in Philadelphia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He was born in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, the son of Samuel and Anna B. Watson. After graduating from Central High School in 1877, Watson entered the office of Edwin F. Durang, an eminent architect concentrating on Catholic church projects during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Watson spent five years with Durang before establishing his own independent firm in 1882/3. While not limiting his practice to Catholic projects, Watson still became well known for his church designs. So successful was he that he opened a branch office in Atlantic City, NJ in 1898.

In 1901/02, when Samuel Huckel returned to Philadelphia, a partnership between the two was established under the name Watson & Huckel. Huckel's experience with Benjamin D. Price, another architect known for his church designs, as well as his experience with Edward Hazelhurst in the firm of Hazelhurst & Huckel stood the new partnership in good stead; and the office prospered until Huckel's death in 1917. Watson then continued practicing independently until 1922, when he was joined by the younger architects, George E. Edkins, and William Heyl Thompson. At the outset this firm was one of association, but soon the name became Watson, Edkins & Thompson. When Edkins moved to Oaklyn, NJ in 1936, Watson & Thompson continued in practice until Watson's death in 1940.

Watson joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1901, served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter in 1927, and was made a Fellow in 1930. He also held memberships in the Historical Society of Frankford, the Medieval Academy of America, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Union League. He was given an honorary doctor of Fine Arts degree from Muhlenberg College. He also served as a delegate to the Pan American Congress of Architects meetings in South America in 1923 and 1927 and as technical advisor to the Philadelphia Housing Association from 1929 to 1932. In 1929 he was made an honorary member in the Mexican Society of Architects. When the Architects Building Corporation was established to oversee the design and construction of that dedicated highrise, Watson was elected president of the corporation."⁵¹

The *Philadelphia Historical and Commercial Review of Leading Merchants and Manufacturers*, published as part of the *Pennsylvania Historical Review*, had high praise for Frank Watson, writing the following:

"Mr. Watson is a native of Philadelphia, and early in life applied himself with characteristic energy to the study of his profession, and brings to bear on his business a wide range of potential experience, coupled with an intimate knowledge of the requirements of the city. He has executed several important architectural commissions since he commenced the practice of his profession in 1881, designing and superintending the following buildings, viz.: The State Fencible Armory, Broad Street; St. Leo's Catholic Church, Tacony, Pa.; Temple Baptist Church, Twenty-second and Tioga streets, and several splendid stores and mansions in Philadelphia and vicinity. These buildings are much admired for their stability and elegance, while the elaboration of detail and the care bestowed on every department of his work reflect great credit on his skill and ability. Mr. Watson is all times prepared to give estimates and furnish plans and specification to the views of those intending to build, and can always be implicitly relied on to spare no time or pains to fill the expectations of patrons. Personally, he is held in the highest estimation in commercial circles for his unswerving honor and integrity, and is thoroughly conversant with the wants of Philadelphia and is fully competent to carry to successful completion all work pertaining to his profession."⁵²

The September 17, 1887 morning edition of *The Times – Philadelphia* provided "a list of the foremost architects" in which Watson was listed, along with Cope & Stewardson, Edwin Durang, Wilson Eyre Jr., G. W. and W. D. Hewitt, Willis Hale, Addison Hutton, and John Windrim, and others. The entry for Frank R. Watson reads "Mr. Watson is classed at the top in his profession, as a view at the following

⁵¹ Sandra Tatman, "Frank Rushmore Watson (1859-1940)", *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database*.

⁵² Pennsylvania Historical Review: City of Philadelphia Leading Merchants and Manufacturers (New York: Historical Publishing Company, 1886), 248.

handsome structures will verify: State Fencibles Armory, Temple Baptist Church and the National Security Bank."⁵³

Below are examples of churches designed by Watson in Philadelphia around the same time as New Tabernacle Baptist Church. They retain similar massing and form to New Tabernacle Baptist Church – a mostly parish-style form but with higher Gothic elements.



St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church Broad and Butler Streets 1896 *Historical Society of Pennsylvania*



Roman Catholic Church of St. Anthony de Padua Gray's Ferry Road and Fitzwater Street 1892 *Historical Society of Pennsylvania*



St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church, Parish House, and Rectory 9th and Lehigh 1889 *Historical Society of Pennsylvania*



St. Leo the Great Keystone Street, Tacony 1894 *Library of Congress*

⁵³ The Times—Philadelphia, Saturday Morning, September 17, 1887, page 10

With his various partnerships, Watson continued to explore church forms in the Gothic and Romanesque styles. These twentieth century churches, examples of which follow below, take on a grander scale than the parish-style forms of his nineteenth century houses of worship.



Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Frankford Watson & Huckel, 1907 *The Church News* (1916)



First African Baptist Church 16th and Christian Streets Watson & Huckel, 1904 *Temple Urban Archives*



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church 339 N 63rd Street Watson, Edkins and Thompson 1887 City of Philadelphia Department of Records



Cathedral Church of Christ Ridge Avenue, Roxborough Watkins, Edkins and Thompson, 1932 *The Church News* (1932)
Watson is an important figure in the Philadelphia architectural canon, especially for his ecclesiastical design spanning throughout the City of Philadelphia. While many of the above Watson designs had the flexibility of larger parcels and corner lots, New Tabernacle Baptist Church still retains many similar features, including tripartite portals, large stained glass windows, and towers. Therefore, New Tabernacle Baptist Church deserves to be recognized as part of the Watson canon under Criterion (e).

(*h*): Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City

The New Tabernacle Baptist Church has faced Chestnut Street, a westbound thoroughfare in West Philadelphia, for over 100 years. Furthermore, a church has occupied that same parcel since 1859 – for a grand total of 160 years. It is therefore a recognizable architectural feature on Chestnut Street for pedestrians, bikers, drivers, and bus passengers alike. The following maps and pictures show the evolution of Chestnut Street from sparsely built to a dense urban thoroughfare, all the while including either Berean Baptist Church or New Tabernacle Baptist Church on the 4000 block of Chestnut Street.



Figure 28. Samuel Smedley., Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 1862. This map was drawn only two years after Berean Baptist Church opened; Chestnut Street and this section of West Philadelphia generally was peppered with single-family country estates and a few churches.



Figure 29. J. B. Scott, Atlas of the 24th & 27th Wards, West Philadelphia, 1878. The parsonage built by John P. Levy is to the east of the church. It was demolished for subsequent speculative housing.



Figure 30. Looking east down Chestnut Street from 41st Street; the turrets of New Tabernacle Baptist Church visible in the background. Ca. 1906. [University of Pennsylvania Archives Digital Image Collection]



Figure 31: Chestnut Street between 40th and 41st Streets, April 1962. [University of Pennsylvania Archives Digital Image Collection]



Figure 32. New Tabernacle Baptist Church, looking west from 40th Street. Postcard produced by Mercantile Studio, 1907. [University of Pennsylvania Archives Digital Image Collection]



Figure 33. Looking west on Chestnut Street towards New Tabernacle Baptist Church. While some nineteenth century speculative housing has remained consistent on the street, others have been replaced by modern intrusions. However, 4017-21 Chestnut Street has consistently contained a church building since 1860. [Arielle Harris, September 2019]

Conclusion

New Tabernacle Baptist Church merits designation in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places under Criteria (a), (d), (e), (h), and (j).

The parcel on which New Tabernacle Baptist Church sits was formerly the location of Berean Baptist Church. When Berean Baptist Church merged with Tabernacle Baptist Church, the two congregations built a new building on the same parcel. Therefore, a church has continuously occupied this parcel along Chestnut Street since 1860, thereby satisfying Criterion (h) as a recognizable visual feature of the city.

New Tabernacle Baptist Church satisfies Criteria (d) and (e) as an important example of Gothic revival architecture, designed by noted church architect and native Philadelphian Frank Rushmore Watson. Watson likely chose the Gothic style not only because it was fashionable at the time, but also because it exemplified the picturesque qualities that were emerging in West Philadelphia through its speculative residential housing stock.

Finally, New Tabernacle Baptist Church satisfies Criteria (a) and (j) by exemplifying not only what became a common practice of merging Baptist congregations in nineteenth-century Philadelphia, but also the migration of Philadelphians to West Philadelphia in the mid-to late nineteenth century. It is remarkable that the New Tabernacle Baptist Church building has survived the West Philadelphia speculation of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, mid-century urban renewal, and ever-present university expansion on all four sides. As Chestnut Street Baptist Church, the congregation remained relevant to the constantly changing and diverse community of University City by committing to the cause of settling refugee populations and hosting university events. Therefore, it is all the more important that the history of this important structure be recognized by the City of Philadelphia and the building remain standing for future generations to enjoy.

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Appendix A. *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide* (PRERBG) entries about New Tabernacle Baptist Church

PRERBG p. 217 (4/24/1895): "The Berean and Tabernacle Baptist Church congregations have now consolidated under the name of The New Tabernacle Baptist Church, and will during the current year inaugurate measures for the erection of a new building upon the site of the Berean structure in West Philadelphia. A joint Building Committee will be appointed at an early day. The new congregation will, after the sale of their property, materially alter Pilgrim Church, at Twenty-third and Christian Streets, as it is an offshoot of the Tabernacle Church. At present no definite action can be taken on the above, or until some disposition is made of the old property, Chestnut Street above Eighteenth Street. Rev. Dr. George E. Rees will be the pastor of the joint congregation, with an assistant yet to be appointed."

PRERBG 8/28/2895: "Frank R. Watson, architect, 518 Walnut Street, has been retained to prepare plans for the new Berean Baptist Church at Fortieth and Chestnut Streets, West Philadelphia. This will be one of the largest and finest edifices in this city, when completed, and will possess many new and striking features both upon the interior and exterior. As all the details in regard to material, etc., have not been arranged, we shall defer a more extended notice until a later day."

PRERBG 9/11/1895: "The Board of Trustees of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church met on the 2d inst. in the old Tabernacle Church, Chestnut Street, above Eighteenth, and organized by electing Levi Knowles, president, and R. C. Mustin, Jr., secretary. The other Trustees are J. H. C. Whiting, H. G. Kepler, E. H. Hollis, Hiram Ilorter, Jr., C. W. Moody, W. H. Tumbleston, W. S. Righter, Joshua Smedley, Thomas H. Belcher, J. B. Jones and H. C. Tyler. This congregation has become attached to the Berean Baptist Church, Fortieth and Chestnut Streets, and will join in the erection of a new and handsome edifice after plans by the well known architect, Frank R. Watson. Plans will be noted in full when completed."

PRERBG 10/2/1895: "The plans in detail for the new Berean Baptist Church at Fortieth and Chestnut Streets, are nearing completion but at present a few material points have not been agreed upon by the Building Committee, hence we cannot give a description in full as to material, etc. In a former issue we outlined very nearly what would be the general principles introduced in construction of this large and elegant house for worship. The estimates will probably be asked upon its construction at an early day. In style, beauty and capacity it will be the equal of any in this country with rare exceptions."

PRERBG 10/23/1895: "The foundation walls of the new Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chestnut Street, west of Fortieth, it is thought, will be laid before the Winter sets in. Contractors are now bidding on the work. The building will probably be ready for occupancy next September. The church will be built in Gothic style. It will have a 90-foot front on Chestnut Street. Octagonal turrets will rise upwards of 80 feet at each corner, and in the centre will be a large tracery window. Triple doorways, deeply recessed, will lead into a hallway, 20 x 27 feet. A vestibule on the right and left leads to the lecture hall in the second story, capable of seating 700 persons. The hall will open into a corridor, 15 x 24 feet, which leads to the main building. On each side of the corridor will be rooms, with a seating capacity for 200 persons. The auditorium will be amphitheatrical, and capable of seating 1000 persons. The arch over the pulpit, an important feature, will be deeply recessed, and ornamented with columns with foliated capitals. The arch will be flanked on the right by the organ arch and on the left by baptistry arch. Frank R. Watson, architect, 518 Walnut Street, prepared the plans, which have been fully noted in a previous issue of this journal."

PRERBG 10/30/1895: "Contracts have not been awarded for the new Tabernacle or Berean Church, to be erected at Fortieth and Chestnut Streets, and estimates are still being made by general contractors. The building will have a front of 87 feet and a depth of 140 feet. Light gray stone, with Indiana limestone trimmings, will be used for the exterior, and the style is gothic. A feature is the main front, which will have three entrance doorways of highly ornamental design. They will be flanked by two octagonal stone towers, 87 feet high, and there will be a large tracery window in the front gable. The interior is to be finished in oak and the main auditorium will have a vaulted ceiling, with massive oak beams. The basement is to contain a kitchen and dining and entertainment rooms. Past the main floor there will be two lecture rooms in addition to the auditorium. Entrance to this part of the church will be gained through a corridor wainscoted with Macenae marble and having a groined ceiling. Two large stairways of marble and iron lead to the second floor, where the Sunday school and galleries are to be located. The seating capacity will be 1000."

PRERBG 11/6/1895: "The plans by Frank R. Watson, architect, 518 Walnut Street, for the new Tabernacle Baptist Church, on Chestnut, above Fortieth Street, are still being estimated on by general contractors. These drawings have been fully noted in previous issues of this journal. The walls are to be of dark Avondale stone or Port Deposit or Holmesburg granite. The columns jit entrance to be of Creole Georgia marble polished. The contract will likely be awarded at an early day."

PRERBG 11/20/1895: "Revised estimates are asked on the new Tabernacle Baptist Church, at Fortieth and Chestnut Streets. The drawings are somewhat modified, height reduced and plaster ribbing substituted for oak wood. Other minor details reduce the cost of construction materially. Mr. Frank R. Watson, architect, made all drawings and will supervise the work of building. Previously noted in full in this journal."

PRERBG 12/11/1895: "George W. Stewart, contractor, 230 Diamond Street, has been awarded the contract to erect the Tabernacle Baptist Church, 40th and Chestnut streets, for which plans were prepared by Frank R. Watson, architect, 518 Walnut Street and who will supervise the entire work of construction. The material for the exterior walls will be decided upon at an early day."

Appendix B. Selected drawings of New Tabernacle Baptist Church, stored at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The full set of 16 drawings can be found at call number Bc 615/W 333 TB.



South elevation, with signatures of church trustees in lower right corner.



East elevation



Detail of east transept windows.



Interior cross-section, looking north



Interior cross-section, looking south



Interior cross-section, looking west



Detail of interior stairs

Appendix C. Architect Frank Watson's Specifications for New Tabernacle Baptist Church, stored at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

FOR FRANK R. WATSON. ARCHITECT, 518 WALNUT STREET, 28. PHILADELPHIA, PA. THESE SPECIFICATIONS AND PLANS ACCOMPANYING THEM ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE ARCHI-TECT AND MUST BE RETURNED TO HIM AT THE COMPLETION OF BUILDING. ANY PARTY USING THEM FOR OTHER THAN THE BUILDING INDICATED WILL BE HELD LIABLE.

cations are mutually agreed to, and accepted by both parties to the contract:-----

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The following manges and a void the

lst..The height of the building is to be lowered two(2) ft. that is there is to be 2ft. taken out of the stone work, at such places as the Architect may direct.(1'-6' to be taken from Sunday School Basement 6' from S.School.)

2nd.Instead of the compound girders spanning the lecture rooms there are to be 8° iron columns 3/4 metal substituted with their necessary footings, foundations etc., supporting wooden girders with "flitch" plates.

3rd.Oak stairs, (same detail as those in main auditorium to church gallery, accepting main newels which are to cost \$ 50.00 each.) are to be substituted for the marble and iron stairs from lst., to 2nd., floors main stair hall.

4th. The tracery transoms over the doors from lecture rooms to main auditorium, (6 in all) are to be omitted, and plain transoms in one light substituted.

5th.The tile in the main corridor and stair halls shall cost(50 \$) fifty cents per foot instead of \$ 1.25

6th. It is optimal with the contractor to build the building of either of the following stones:--Georgia Marble front, light Avondak sides; Light Avondale front and sides; Port Deposit front and sides; Front and sides of the stone of which the Betz Building Philada is erected. The face stone in all cases to average 8° in bed. The Georgia Marble shall be trimmed with Georgia Marble and the other stones with Indiana Lime stone respectively.

The quality of these materials to be approved by the Architect. 9th. The tracery panels in the buttresses and doorway pediments 10th. The spires are to be constructed of frame, as directed by the Architect, covered with the same size as the roof, and to have the upper ormament and hip roles of 16 cz. cold rolled copper.

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"The destructor shall pay for all surveys paratts, and sity privileges. He shall the so make obverture of any discrepancy which apply exist between the browness and specifications, has shall suffer markets to ble androgen whose desirion shall be final.

The shall puch the work of their delay, and shall be in the work immediately open the same dime of the contract. . The old build their most on the y-united are to be form down and the stars and offick used to the construction of the new insidding if a other all estericies and is not to used in the new building exonys the roof sheathing, and the ald joint and studing, (should they be the proper sizes and quality) at the discoston of the invalues.

The minor of the tembers reat be in all even up to the new pit month of these substitutions, dimens will be about by the Armiters, which donot, fill these requirements. All old materials not used their be the property of the Contemator. The contractor is expected to complete the building of



tion and sempletion of the New Tabernacle Eaptist Church on north side of Chestnut St., W. of 40th., St. W. Philada.-----

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The contractor for the said work is to find and provide at his own proper cost and expense, all the workmanship, tools, material labor, Freight, cartage, and whatsoever else is necessary to fully complete the said work, advanding to the working and general drawings, these specifications, and the direction of the Architect, Frank R.Wetson.

He shall push the work without delay, and shall berin the work immediately upon the everding of the contract. The old buildings now on the premises are to be torn down and the stone and brick used in the construction of the new building T e other old materials shall not be used in the new building except the roof sheathing, and the old joist and studding, (should they be the proper sizes and quality) at the disection of the Architect.

The sizes of the timbers must be in all cases up to the requirements of these specifications, and none will be alordd by the Architect, which donot, fill these requirements. All old materials not used shall be the property of the Contractor. The contractor is expected to complete the building.ex

(No.3)



contractor to take them out of the out the future use of the church. Any portion of these specifications, or drawings, that do not N. N. J. comply with existing laws, or ordinances or the city, shall be made entire height, shall not be good at the expense of the contractor .----ing, but shall be built with a orks "TEERING OUT." r brickfoundations, see Brick The old church and parsonage are to be entirely torn out, and les for the old material cleaned and stacked for usein the new building. (as far as permitted in these specifications.) The old material not usedand all dirt and rubbish, shall be parted away from the Dykerhoff Henneimer, or Alisons premises. (See General Conditions.) "EXCAVATIONS." in Creele Georgia Seprotate estimate to be The cellars, basements, and trenches for all foundations, and etd are to be expanded to depths shown on the drawings. Where depths of all outside steps, retaining wall, and pier foundations are not shown on the drawings, they shall be due not less than 3 ft., be ABANIELD low the graded surface of the ground, at the respective points. TER. (Bidders will sive price for excevations below the depths er, agmlphia. DOVA N bondad, an shown on the drawings, should additional be required.) ES, Etc. line, and road we All dirt to be carted away from the premises, as well as all RE. s will be SSOLD WEL THE PIERCO PUBLIC DE rubbish, when the building is completed .--- (See General Conditions.) orick, lass in equal purts of **FARTIES** whall be basked wh "STONE WORK." The footings throughout are to be made of concrete, sizes shown Une wall, and on the drawings, and composed of 4 parts broken stone size of eng coal, 1 part of either Saylor's Giant or Atlas Portland Gement, and 2 perts of either bar send or washed gravel, all thoroughly manipulated and rarmed in trenshes. tings to grade to be of De De



inside of towers. The window and door jambs and arches are all to be of the face soone, except, where otherwise marked on the drawings. The contractor shall give the carver the use of the scaffolding. The carving will not be included in this contract. Bidders will sive prize for stone work per perch and concrete per yard, for additional foundations below depths shown on We drawings, should any be required. (See General Conditions.) ----Wick, All stanshion oguTaSTONE iers where indicated, shall be of hard The steps of the main soncourse shall be or granite, also the platforms, and deer sills of the main entrance. All fine harmer dressed. (The "Platza" shall be payed,) of hard brick. The rear we is The remainder of the aut stone work throughout the building shall be of No.1 Indiana Line Stone finished in fine drove work. This shell include all water tables, window sills, door sills, mable copings. Authorses. Pinials, string yourses. and every i em of out stone inimmines.except columns in main entrance which shall be of Greeke Georgia manble polished 11 be topped out with stretchers backedThe area walls and shimneys shall be capped with 3" flag, neat-Ly dressed. The area steps, and basement window and door sills. where below grade, may be made of the old brown stone. This must not be used above grade. Should this be insufficient for this purpose, the Indiana stone shall be used. The carving will not be included in this contract. The boiler pit and coal bin wells to be sapped with 2' flag, named. AThe cap stones to the stanshion and solumn piers are to be granite, dressed top and bottom, and sizes marked on the drawings.

the necessary holes drilled in them for stay bolts

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brick, and laid in equal parts of the above hamed cement and sand. The action of the baptistry is to be arbhed with 9° brick arches, laid in cement and sand as above named.

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The boiler room shall be paved with brick. (See General Conditions.) Else) sprung to form, and spiked together.

The basement floor except corridor shall be laid on 3 x 4 V. Pine sleepers at 2ft. centres these shall be treated with crossice and laid on 1° of coal tar preparation and banked up on the sides with the same and filled in with bar sand. (The floors of corridors to be of pastent pavement.)

The flooring throughout the basement shall be No.1 nerrow Georgia heart flooring select nailed, not over 3° wide. The Ist. floor joist shall be 3 x 12 spruce at 16° centres, except where the spans run over 20ft. where they shall be at 12% inch centres, and in main auditorium floor where they shall be at 12% inch centres, and in main auditorium floor where they shall be 3 x 10 hemlock at 16° centres. All bays less than 20ft. to be bridged one row. All showe 20ft. to be bridged two rows, including those of the main auditorium floor with stout lattice bridging 2 x 3 well spiked to joist. The freders of the main auditorium shall be made up of 3 pieces of 3 x 12 hemlock spiked together. The platforms shall all be thoroughly ferred up, and perfectly stiff and strong. The flooring throughout this floor shall be N°.1 Georgia Heard, flooring not over 3° wide and secret neiled.

Where they The gallery joist shall be 3 x 10 hemlock at 16" sentres, and N. N. J. bridged one row . The gallery in the shorth shall have steps ferred up as per sectional drawings, and all perfectly stiff and Sectors to be Boil Virginia lining bended and exposed rafters tabe Vorks This girder shall be made up of 10 pieces of 1 x 12" boards. ies for (No.2 W.Pine) sprung to form, and spiked together. 4 outside and 3 ad There shall be a surb on the ends of these callery (duurch) joists, made up of 2 thicknesses 1 x 12 broken jointed. The flooring in these galleries and 2nd., floor shall be the same as the first. The other 1100 girders shall be made up of 4 pieces of 3 x 12 spruce bolted together at 2'-6" centres. The Sunday School gallery girders shall be of 4 pieces of 3 x 12 Y.Pine bolted together as above. The diere-story posts carrying S.S. roof shall be 10 x 10 Y. AFANTERD Pine planed and chamfered. ER. The robing room in the 2nd., floor shall have 3 x 10 hemlock Iphia. joists at 16" centres and bridged one row. tacks, and elevator bran-S. Efe. The towers at the upper staring shall have bell floors carried TEE. on 6 x 12 Y.Pine Limbers at 211. centres, and have trap left in sime FARTIES. All outside walls to be stripped throughout the building All interior stone and brick walls to be stripped. Inside steps to have Y.Pine treads and risers. The water closet partitions shall be of No.1 Virginia lining. The mouldings, plaster columns, cornices, and all ornamental work ribs, grahes, proins, etc., shall be properly ferredfor.



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tower to be of oak. in rooms in rear to be sume as those of S.S... All items of Mill Work required for the completion of the building, shall be furnished by the contractor. N. N. . The kitchen and store rooms are to be provided with dressers, shelving, and etc., as indicated on the drawings. Vork Platform fronts to be panelled as shown on the drawings, in lies for The screans at Eaptistry, and in chancel shall be of oak, and as per sectional drawings. (There will be no upholstering on the pulpit seats or backs.) All hard wood doors including sypress to be veneered. All wood carving on mill work shall be included in this con-The tower boliens in the Sobool gallery shall be encased The stairs are all to be horsed up on stont hemlock horses. and shall be as follows' wire lath, of an approved wake. APANTELL Main stairs (except the main flights, from 1st., story corridor to CER. lphia. 2nd., which will be iron and merble) to be as follows; -----ES. Ele. Main nevels as indicated on sections. Small nevels 5" square worked IRE. seps and drops. propertiens of hair. FARTIES. String dose and moulded, as per drawings. Balusters 3" set 3" apart and turned Hanrdrail 4 x 6 Treads 5/4 risers 4/4 oak. Spandrails NT panelled, panel to have gothic heads. All to be of oak. Stairs to mallery Main Auditorium: --- Newels string, and balustrade (tradery) to be as shown on sectional drawings, and all oak. Treads 5/4 risers 4/4.



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-The entire steep portion of the roof to be covered with No.1

Style, Taylor's Old Style.or Hall's Old Style Tin, painted one coat on the under side, and two on the upper side, and all properly cleated. N. N. J.

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ed. Where the roof joins the stone work or brick work in all cases it shall have 4 lb. lead aprons walled in all to be of sufficient width to thoroughly turn down and cover the counter flushing.

The elere-story window frames shall be under-panned with tin which shall extend entirely through the wall to the back of the window frames.

The cornices where marked on the drawings, including eaves mould in elere-story, the dental work on trancept cheeks, the eleretory window frames, including the tracery the ventilator on the roof, and the down sponts?Dexcept where cast iron-See Plumbing.) are to be of 16 oz. copper. The creating is to be terra cotta and as per trawings. The roofing must be a first class job in every respect, as the contractor will be held responsible for any leakage or damage therefrom for at least two(2) years.

There shall be a Hayes Skylight, or one equally as good on flat over Baptistry.Manufacturer to glaze the same with 1/4" ribbed, or hammered glass.-----

"PAINTING." The entire work usually printed, shall have 3 coats of the best lead and oil, and in such tints as directed. All exposed ison work shall be painted 3 coats in addition to the metallic paint. The window frames of the front and tower shall be sanded if painted. (Contractor shall give alternate estimate omitting the

inting of the front and tower frames which may be stone.) Th



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from entertainment room to Ribbler, die jours part of the part of

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The two other main entrance doors shall be hung on 3 pairs of 6 x 6 #081 bronze butts, (imitation 87 finish) and have essuitcheon plates # 1392 "Westminster" bronze metal (imitation 87 finish) and lock # 1718 1/2. Knob P. 002322 or one equally as good. These door s shall have top and bottom extension flush bolts,# 1884"Westminster" with bronze faces(imitation 87 finish.)

The doors between the front stair hall and main corridor are to be hung on Chicago Double acting butts, bronzed iron finish#31

The doors from main corridor to church, and those of And., westibule to Studay School, are to be hang on 3 pairs of 5 x 5 plain polished bronze butts, ball tips # 081 and have Blount door spring of bronzed iron finish. These doors and those between between stair hall and main corridor shall have heavy plain polished bronze pushes.#2276 $1/4(4 \times 24)$ and pulls #P. 1163 Plate 4 x 24 as the case may require and top and bottom extension flush bolts P. 1884 w with polished bronze metal faces on each door. No locks. The doors between lecture rooms and church are to be hung (3 hinges to the door) on $4 1/2 \times 4 1/2$ bronze polished butts,P. 071, ball tips, and to be provided with top and bottom extension flush bolts polished bronze faces. #P. 1879 and to have moril s

lock# 1222 1/2 or those equally as good, and polished bronze key

DOTTATED DECURA DADAR AL. AIT DE or those equally as rood, and knob, #P. 272 with polished bronzed esoutoheon plates # 1344 3/4. The ceiling ventilators areto have traps rigged with hinges, pulleys, cords, (See Carpenter Work.) The closets shall all be provided with the necessary coat hooks and etc., and trimmed the same as the other interior doors. The basement windows are to have play, iron wire stards on channel iron frames galv. iron wire to be not less than 1/8" diameter, and mesh lix 101/2 diamond. the surb by 1 extra heavy load Those on well windows to be hinged and to have pad-look and key. Everything requiring hardware to be neatly and substantially fitted up. These goods shall all be "Reading" or those equally as good -fou the boiler connection. "PATENT PAVE ENT." The supplies to the fixtures shall all be 5/8 lead extra heavy The basement corridors, where marked, shall be paved with either Filhert's, Krauss's, or Jenkin's pawlent pawement, with 4" bottom, and 1" top and guaranteed. The outside pavement will not be included in this contract. From the paptistry sha TILE & ETC." iron connected with the drain The 1st., story stair Halls, and corridors, where marked on the plans, to be paved with Mosaid tile to dost not less than \$ 1.00 per foot, and of a design approved by the Architect, to be micked The interior of the heptistry is to be lined with glazed tile

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The interior of the haptistry is to be lined with glazed tile of wall size, (not over $2 \ge 6$) and to have next ornemental bands top and buttom. The steps to this, both treads and risers, shall be of Goergia Marble(Greble) 1 1/4* blick, and rubbed on exposed surface. This shall be guaranteed to be water tight.------

for the use of the homer fie & Tron'sTATES a without the heaten.

Georgia Marble rubbed where exposed. Indian and Georgia Marble risers 1" thick. The string shall be of the Red Georgia Marble polished on exposed faces, and the skirting on the inside of the string to be 1" thick as well as the string slab. The newals shall also be of cast iron, and as per design. The half and quarter paces shall be of Creole Marble. The hand rail shall be oak and be 3 x 3 1/2 made fast to the iron hand rail. (See drawings.)----

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Whe main is to be brought to the surb by 1° extra heavy lead pipe.from a 3/4 ferrule and from thence to the toilet rooms and baptistrywith 2° galv. iron with a stop cock where the main enters the basement. There shall be a T. and stop cock in this main for the boiler connection.

The supplies to the fixtures shall all be 5/8 lead extra heavy except the baptistry which shall be supplied by 1 1/4 ralw. pipe. and have stop cock for the control of the baptistry. This main shall enter the baptistry by a nickel plated nozzle. The waste from the baptistry shall be 3° cast iron connected with the drain and properly trapped. The outlet to baptistry shall be nickel

plated. and shall be provided with overflow, which shall be searet as far as possible. All exposed plumbing at baptistry to be nickol plated. The baptistry shall also be provided with an approved water heater. (This must be approved by the Architect) and be connected up with the main to the baptistry, and left in condition to be connected up with the steam heating apparatus. The heater shall be complete in every respect and have all the necessary cocks for the use of the baptistry either with or without the heater.

en 20 x 36 carried on galv. iron brackets and pave pantent com-Eall all be of iron inside the building, and terra cotta from the pression bibbs, large size, for hot and cold water. This is to be supplied from the hot water heater, and 1 1/2 lead waste trapped he areas where indicated are to have bell traps, connected N. N. J. into drain with Benner trap. with the undin. The water closets shall be as per plan, and shall be an approved The work is all to be done strictly in accordance w Vorks pattern"Front wash out" closet, with oak seats and lids and nickel fittings, and copper lined tanks complete.oak finish. Closets all lies for set on countersunk slate slabs. Supplies from tank to closets to the drawings, shall be furnished by the contractor without be 1 1/4 lead all to be properly trapped and ventilated. including all piers or hangers, for additional cost to the shurch. The soil pipes shall be 4" standard enlarging to 5" as the Die support of the drains .---case may require, and carried through the roof. The wrinals shall be an approved porcelain lip syphon wrinal A-9 80 1 005 to Gas Co and have 5/8 lead 2 1/2 lbs. supplies, with nickel plated cocks. 18 follows: (approximat Mc. Cambridge make. These wrinals shall have slate drips properly connected with the drains by 1 1/4" lead wastes trapped with Benner traps. The wastes from the wring is also to be 1 1/4 lead ABANTELD trapped as above. These shall also have back and side slabs of ER. Corriging-- (Sugarant 13 slate oft. high by l'-6" wide. lphia. Statue to raising tors-1 Kal-Ing me The wash basins shall be countersuck marble top with back and ES, Etc. IRE. side slabs 10" high large oval plain ivory tint basin with chain rs will he and plug and all carried on nickel plated brackets. These shall have large size nickel plated X cocks of McCambridge make, for cold water only. The two robing rooms are to be provided with drips, (sizes shown on the drawings,) and lined with 4 lb. lead and trapped into drain with Benner trap. Waste to be 1 1/2 lead. The down spouts are all to be connected with the drains, and

	shall all be of iron inside the but		_
	building to the sewer, and sizes may	rked on the plan.	and the second
	The areas where indicated are	to have bell traps, connected	N. N. J
	with the drain.		
	The work is all to be done strictly in accordance with the		Vork
	rules and regulations of the Board of Health, and anything required		lies for
	by the said Board, and not mentioned in these specifications.or		5
	shown on the drawings, shall be furnished by the contractor without		-
	additional cost to the church, including all piers or hangers, for		
	the support of the drains		ET BA
	GAS FITTING	·. •	- 7
	The gas pipe shall be run according to Gas Co's rules, and out-		
	lets left where desired. They sha	11 be as follows: (approximately)	
	subject to change:		
	Cellar2	Dining room12	
	Kitchen3	Boiler room2	TAPANTE.
	All store rooms leach.	Corridors(Basement)3	KER
	Robing room1	Stairs to robing room-1	ielphia. IES, Et
	Toilet, roomsl each.	First floor	IIIE.
	Corridors8	Lecture rooms9	ere will a
	Main Auditorium25one in centre of ceiling if desired.		
	2nd., floor gallery Main auditorium4		INT
	S.S.Room each, to each bay under gallery.		WT
	2 in front wall under sallery.		. 917
	1 each corridor,		PA
	1 over each of these in the salle	ry.	s or

Robing room 2nd., story and pastor's room 1st. floor and all toilet rooms.passageways.and etc..to be provided with the necessary outlets.

This list is approximate only, and is subject to change. The mains shall be so run that the '-Basement, Main Auditorium. Central Chandeliers (Main Auditorium) 1st., floor rooms, and corridors, second story S.S. rooms, and gallery. Pulpit lights, shall all be separately controlled, and have cocks located in convenient places.-----

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The contractor is to provide and roquide as induced and estimate and end of the every description, necessary to properly execute, and erect the work and protect the same during construction.

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All structural shapes, such as beams, channels, angles, plates, and etc., to be of medium steel.

Cast bases under columns, are to be set perfectly true, and level, and all surfaces in contect with steel, shall be milled and finished perpendicular to axis.

Columns of rolled steel are to be made in lengths not over two stories in height, and spliced so as to develop full strength of columns.

Columns H are to have cast bases 12" high 27" square.ofl 1/4" metal.

Cols' HH to have steel angle, and plate bases 20" square.
Cols' J to have steel angle and plate bases 12" square.
Cols. K to have steel angle and plate bases 12" square.
Cols. M & MM to have cast bases 12" high 24" sq.1 1/4" metal.
Cols. N. & HN to have cast bases 12" high 30" sq. 1 1/2" metal.
Cols. N. & HN to have cast bases 12" high 30" sq. 1 1/2" metal.
Cols. N. & HN to have cast bases 12" high 30" sq. 1 1/2" metal.
Cols. N. & HN are to have each a steel bracket 36" along each side.
to be rivetted to under side of box girder N_NN when erected.
Cols. N. & NN and M & MM are to have brackets for girders J & K
Cols. H & HH are to have caps spread to carry girders under tower walls, and are to be rivetted to them. These columns to have holes
for 3/4" stone anchors, every 4ft., and to be anchored to the walls.
All columns resting on cast bases, to be firmly bolted to them

resting on them. Foot of columns to rest on dast bases bolted to foundation as in case of wrought steel cols. All cast cols, are to be bolted to each other, and to beams, girders, etc., where required. All ends to be faced to insure good bearing. GIRDERS BEAMS ETC.-----To be made of Medium steel. All beams and girders, where they rest on walls, are to be provided with suitable wall plates, and Spear anchors.

N. J.

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les for

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CER..

ES, Etc.

TREL 18 will be

PARTIES.

All angles and cover plates in girders, are to be in one length no splice being allowed. In all cases where cols. either of wood, or metal, rest on girders, the stiffenests on girder directly below col., are to be framed as to touch the upper flanges of girder and support it.

Where girders rest on cols. the stiffeners directly over the cols. are to touch, and support the lower flanges of girder.

All girders are to be provided with stiffeners at proper intervals. In all cases where joist head winto beams or girders.rivet on a $3^* \times 3^* \times 3/8^*$ shelf angle, as on girders marked R.J.K. and etd. All beams and girders to be punched in webs for good larging.unless otherwise mentioned.

Flanges of berms shall not be cut, punched, or drilled, except at or near ends, for connections, unless size of berm be increased to allow for less of flange, metal, caused by such outting, punching, or drilling. All connections to berms must be by the web. Gast iron separators between berms forming girders must fit accurately and be firmly bolted. All connections between rolled steel members to be by 3/4° or 7/8. rivets, and connections between rolled steel members, and cast iron cols, with bolts, ----- painted two coats before parts are assembled.

After iron and steel work is built in position, and just previous to the building of the walls and floors or other permanent covering, it is to be thoroughly painted with onde(1) good cost of red lead and linseed oil, well laid on. All bolts and nuts and etc., or any iron or steel surfaces from which the paint may have been removed in putting the work in place, are to be painted as above ---two costs.-----

"ROOF TRUSSES."

N & NN respectively.

Make four roof trusses marked M MM. N & NN rights and lefts. Wall ends of trusses to be provided with suitable wall plates and to be anohored to walls, each truss with two 1 1/4" diam. anchor bolts. The other ends of trusses to be rivetted to cols. M MM

Trusses are to be made of angles, each member of two angles rivetted longer legs back to back, every 12° and separated by 11/16 washers' All members to be connected to each other by 11/16° misset plates. All joints to develop full strength of members. All rivets for these trusses are to be 7/8 diam.

Suitable connections are to be provided for all secondary frame roof trusses, valleys, rafters and etc., as shown on general roof plan. On trusses MM & M top cord from A to C to have open holes at intervals for lagging to frame stude into for cheek walls, resting on A C.-----

"SUNDRY ITEMS."

Contractor for iron and steel work is to furnish and have on the graind all the necessary foundation bolts and washers and in TARTIES

APANTEED

N. J.

orks

es for

framed into two octagons; joints of octagon strongly spliced through	
web	
2 beams mark D10" I 25 lbs14'-4" long.	, Eeo'y
2 beams mark E10" I 25 lbs14'-2" *	
2 bears mark F 10" I 25 lbs,	
2 beams mark C15" I 50 lbs,17'-0" "	-
2 beams mark T 10' I 25 lbs,	NI
2 beams mark I 10" I 25 lbs	. N. J.
2 beens mark S 10" I 25 1bs12'-6" .	7.
2 Firders mark C2-12° I's 32 lbswith seps17'-8" "	orks
1 girder mark 62-2-12" I'S 32 1bswith seps16'-0" *	les for
2 berms mark #12*11'8 32 1bs8'-0* *	
2 girders mark Jz-3-12" I's 32 lbswith seps.18" wide7'-6"	
2 girders mark K3-10' I's 25 lbswith seps.18" wide7'-9"	The little
2 beams mark L10" I 25 lbs14-0" *	
1 berm mark 015" I 50 lbs25"-0" "	
2 girders mark P-312" I 32 lbswi h seps.24" wide-14'-6""	
2 beins mark Sz10' I 25 lbs12'-6' '	
2 beams mark S10' I 25 lbs12'-6' '	CUAFANIEID
4 girders marked E made up as follows	3
1 100 00 1 000	KER.
2 flanges each 5' x 3 1/2' x 1/2' L's	CIES, Fre.
1 cov.pl. 12 1/2" x 5/8"24'-0" "	IIIRE orders all be
	end PARTIES.
1 girder marked N- WN made up as follows:	
2 webs48" x 7/16"34'-0" "	ATENT

1 dow pl. 15" x 5/8"-----27'-6" " N, N. J. 3" x 3" x 3/8" shelf angle to carry joist. Vorks "CAST IRON COLUMNS." 4 cols, marked B----8" diam, 1 1/8" metal------13"-0" " Dies for 2 cols. marked C----6" diam. 3/4"---metal------11"-9" " 1 col. marked F----6" diam, 3/4" metal------12"-0" " 4 sols. marked B----8" diam. 3/42 metal------12'-6" " 2 cols, marked D----6" diam. 3/4" metal------14"-0" 4 cols. marked E_---6" diam. 3/4" metal------11'-0" " 2 cols, marked Dg---6" dism. 3/4" metal-----10"-0" " Cols. E & C have ornamental saps and ha ses(see sections.) "BUILT STEEL COLUMNS." {2--12" ['s 20 lbs.} 2 cols. mark H{2--13" x 3/8" pls.} -----56'-0" long in 2 sect's. TABANTELD 2 cols. mark HH--2--12" L's 20 lbs.latticed 56"-0" long, in 2 sects. CER ... Flphia. 2 cols. mark K---- 10" I 25 lbs.----- 12'-6" " ES, Ele. (1--12" x 5/16" plate 1 col. mark M₂ 4---3" x 3 1/2" x 5/16" L'3)-----21"-0" 1 col. mark M₂ 4---5" x 3" x 3/8" plate 1 col. mark M₂ 4---5" x 3" x 3/8" L's}-----31"-0" IRE. ers will be PARTIES. 1 col. mark MM, same section and length as M 2 1 col, mank MM, some section and length as M, 1 col. mark N_24---3 x 3 1/2" x 5/16" L's)----22--12" L's 25 lbs.-2-------21*-0* -27"-0" 1 col.mark N-12--15" x 1/2" plates 1 col. mark NN some section and length as N2