

NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bldg. South Mall, Albany, New York. 12223. Information. 518 474-0456. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner.

July 15., 1974

Dr. William Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Judson Memorial Church, Campanile and Judson Hall New York, New York County

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH State Historic Preservation Officer

By:

F. L. RATH, JR. Deputy Commissioner

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE New York COUNTY New York FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Erected on the south side of Washington Square South, the Judson Memorial Church complex is particularly well sited for viewing the architecturally sophisticated design to its own best advantage and for viewing the structure as a visually key element in the southern back drop of Washington Square Park. Composed of three sections--church, campanile, and hall--the complex is built entirely of brick, adorned by terracotta.

The Church, advantageously located at the corner of Thompson Street and Washington Square South, is a rectangular structure covered by a gable roof which terminates on the north (front)elevation in a low, sharply defined pediment. The bold texture of the ground floor is generated by a sequence of horizontal banding in high relief, composed of two widths of terra cotta bands alter-mating with two courses of recessed yellow brick. Above, the brick wall surface is varied by a blind archade--a rhythm of five round-headed, recessed arches sharply defined by a wide pattern of brick moldings springing from the rich capitals of paneled pilasters.

Marble panels enframed by terra cotta moldings occupy the lower portion of all five spandrels. The central three spandrels contains stained glass windows. The pediment which crowns the north (front) elevation, clearly outlined by a bold richly detailed cornice, is cornamented by three circular motifs.

Reached by 5 half-round steps, the main entrance to the Church, situated between the rectangular church and the square companile is marked by a shallow arched portico supported by two engaged columns. A regular pattern of floral rosettes line the soffit.

Beneath, panelled wood doors are recessed in a richly decorated terra cotta door enframement. The Sanctuary occupies the full height of the structure except the ground floor. Two ranges of colossal Corinthian columns and the arches which spring from them differentiate between the side aisles and the nave. The ceiling of the nave is paneled while the ceiling over the aisles--the soffits of the arches--is adorned by a pattern of paterae.

The Campanile, rising to a height of ten stories, adjoins the arched entrance of the Church. Above the 4th floor, the structure is divided by ornamented belt courses. Tiers of double or triple round-headed arches--some blind, some acting as fenestration--mark each story. The uppermost story is an open loggia covered by a low-pitched, pyramidal roof above which rises a cross.

The rectangular Judson Hall, standing west of the Campanile, was originally a 5-story structure. Rich bands of terra cotta delineate the second, third, and fifth floors. Brick arches envelope the round-headed windows of the lower three stories. Two-story brick pilasters divide the wall surface of the third and fourth

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. Description (Continuation Sheet)

stories, while one-story pilasters separate the paired windows of the 5th floor. An ornamented cornice and balustrade crown the original five stories.

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A well-preserved example of the work of the New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White, the Judson Memorial Church complex is an exceptionally fine expression of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture as interpreted in late 19th century America. Strategically sited overlooking Washington Square, the Church, Companile, and Hall--sophisticated in design, superior in composition--provide a distinct vitality to the streetscape and a key visual element to the Park.

Born in Burma, Edward Judson (1844-1914) after his father's death was brought to the United States for an education. Interested in the need for readjustment of the relationship between church and community in an urban environment, Judson accepted the call of the Berean Baptist Church, organized in 1838 in Downing Street. In 1890 the Church moved into the Judson Memorial (the Hall) erected that year in memory of the Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson (1788-1850), father of Edward Judson. By 1895 Judson Church (1892) and Campanile were completed.

Designed by McKim, Mead, and White in the tradition of the old Madison Square Garden, the Judson Complex is today a rare example of the late 19th century revival of Italian Renaissance design promoted through the interest and skill of Stanford White. The careful massing of geometric elements has resulted in a superior composition. Studied individually, the finely proportioned elements are distinctive for the skillful manipulation of texture, and the judicious balance between bold, dramatic lines and finely articulated detail.

Judson Memorial Church today continues to house the activities of its Baptist congregation. The Campanile and Hall were purchased several decades ago by New York University which adapted the Hall for use as a dormitory.

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