

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CHI.213
Historic Name:	Universalist Church
Common Name:	Paul's Shoe Store - Peter Pan Cafe
Address:	13 Center St
City/Town:	Chicopee
Village/Neighborhood:	Chicopee Center
Local No:	198
Year Constructed:	1836
Architect(s):	Mechanic Association
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Church; Commercial Block; Dance Hall; Restaurant; Speciality store
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Economics; Religion
Area(s):	CHI.AF: Exchange Street - Market Square Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

PP. CHIC CENT
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CHI. 213

In Area no.	Form no.
	198 213

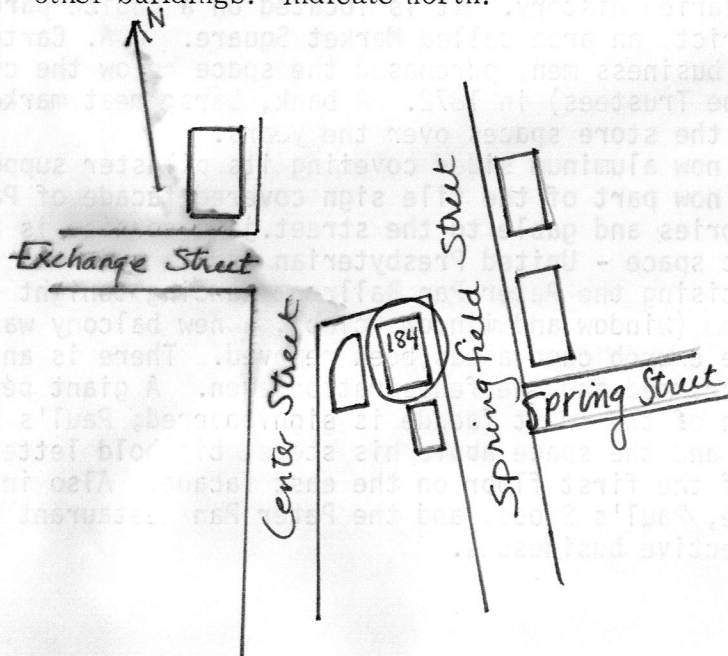


1. Town Chicopee
Address 13 Center Street #184
Name Universalist Church
Present use Paul's shoe store, Peter Pan Cafe, Ballroom and Restaurant
Present owner Market Square Realty Co.

3. Description:

Date 1836
Source Louis H. Everts History
Style Greek Revival
Architect Mechanic Assoc. builders
Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding
Outbuildings (describe) -
Other features pedimented cornice, frieze

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Altered store front Date 1947
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 67'
Approximate distance of building from street 10'

6. Recorded by Deborah Shea
Organization Chicopee Planning Department
Date 5/5/78

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(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Universalist Society
- Original use Church
- Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Carter - Spaulding 1890-1910
Gaylord-Kendall Co. 1905-1916, Peter Pan Cafe & Restaurant
1934-present, Paul's Shoes 1953-present, other various
businesses
8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☒
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☐	Social/ humanitarian	☐
Commerce	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐
Communication	☐	Political	☐		
Community development	☒				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Universalist Society was organized Feb. 27, 1835 and constituted with 39 members in 1840. The Church, the first in Chicopee Center, was constructed by a Mechanics' Association. It was subsequently purchased by the society. The society was short lived, dissolving in 1886. The Church was purchased by the United Presbyterian Society in 1897. With completion of their Church on Newbury Street in 1925, the Market Square structure was once again vacant.

The structure has enjoyed a rich and varied history. It is located on a choice parcel of land in the center of the business district, an area called Market Square. J.A. Carter and Justin Spaulding, both prominent local business men, purchased the space below the church floor (already occupied by stores run by the Trustees) in 1872. A bank, bars, meat market, crockery and glassware store have occupied the store spaces over the years.

The venacular Greek Revival Church is now aluminum sided covering its pilaster supported entablature. Its once central entrance is now part of the tile sign covered facade of Paul's Shoes (1947). The large structure is 3 stories and gable to the street. The cornice is boxed and pedimented, the words contained in that space - United Presbyterian Church are now covered by aluminum and a new symbol advertising the Peter Pan Ballroom dancing tonight appears. The church space is now a ballroom (widow and widowers club), a new balcony was constructed in 1946 for the orchestra. The church cupola has been removed. There is an aluminum frieze. The windows are plainly trimmed and the fenestration even. A giant peter pan advertises the ballroom and cafe. Much of the front facade is sign covered; Paul's Shoe Center sign covers the base of the windows and the space above his store, big bold letters. Another shoe sign covers a major portion of the first floor on the east facade. Also interspersed are beer signs. The Peter Pan cafe, Paul's Shoes, and the Peter Pan Restaurant have created entrances convenient to their respective businesses.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Alfred Copeland, History of Hampden County Vol. III, Holyoke 1902
 Everts, Louis H., History of the Connecticut Valley, Philadelphia 1905
 Thaddeus Szetela, Chicopee, Chicopee
 1905, 1916, 1936 City Directories
 1841 Map of Chicopee
 Chicopee Illustrated 1896
 Russ H. Gilbert collection of photographs 1917-1922