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Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. Christ Church Evangelical records, 1900-1930. RG1118

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

info@14beacon.org

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | Congregational Library & Archives |
| Creator: | Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.) |
| Title: | Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. Christ Church Evangelical records, 1900-1930. |
| ID: | RG1118 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1900-1930 |
| Physical Description: | 0.46 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 folder) |
| Language of the Material: | English , German . |
| Abstract: | Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.) was organized in 1901. The edifice was built in 1903 at 120 Chestnut Street in Jamaica Plain, Boston, Massachusetts. The church, which was a merger of the former German Reformed Church of Bay Village and German Reformed mission of Jamaica Plain, was listed as a Christ Reformed Church and Christ Evangelical & Reformed Church before merging with the United Church of Christ in 1967. The last service was held the same year before the church was ultimately dissolved. This collection contains records from Christ Church Evangelical and a photograph from the German Reformed mission's circa 1900 worship site. Included are church meeting minutes written in German, as well as a ledger book, photographs, and treasurer's records. A copper-plated stamp depicts the Chestnut Street building, which burned down in the 1970s. |

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. Christ Church Evangelical records, 1900-1930, RG1118. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The modern neighborhoods of Bay Village and Jamaica Plain of Boston, Massachusetts sit on the ancestral land of the Massachusett and Pawtucket peoples. The future occupied sites of the Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.) and its preceding organizations were first colonized through Puritan settlements in the Boston area in the 18th century.

Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.) was founded through the merger of the German Reformed Church of Bay Village, Boston, Massachusetts and the former German Reformed mission of Jamaica Plain, Boston, Massachusetts. The German Reformed Church was organized as an Evangelical church by 1847 under Reverend Louis B. Schwartz. The first meeting house was located in the Bay Village neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, on Shawmut Street, until 1895. The church was not listed in Boston City Directories again until it appeared again in 1900 at a new location of Danforth Street of Jamaica Plain with Reverend John Wirz as pastor.

A separate German Reformed mission was maintained and worshipped in a store building on Roxbury Street in Jamaica Plain, Boston, Massachusetts, from 1897 until the organization of Christ Church Evangelical in 1901. A church building was erected in 1903 at 120 Chestnut Avenue in Jamaica Plain. The German Reformed Church at Danforth Street presumably joined the Jamaica Plain Christ Church in 1904. The church was first listed as Christ Reformed Church from 1940 to 1960 then Christ Evangelical & Reformed from 1960 to 1967. Christ Church Evangelical joined the United Church of Christ before its last service and dissolution in 1967. The Chestnut Avenue building burned down in the early 1970s.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records related to the organization of Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.) in 1901. Included within the records are the photographs, financial records, and meetings minutes of the church. The financial records, comprised of a ledger book and treasurer's records, provide a membership list through the documentation of individual donations. Meeting minutes in German provide insight into the church's organization and priorities. Photographs in the collection depict the store on Roxbury Street used by the German Reformed mission prior to the construction of the church building in 1903 as well as the interior and exterior of the Chestnut Street building. A copper-plated stamp provides an additional representation of the façade of the Chestnut Street building.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U. S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by two surviving members of Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.), Edward Klotter and Louise Wyman, in June 1978. Additional materials were donated by Louise Redonnet in July 1981; no accession number.

Processing Information

Processed by G McFarland, March 2023, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church records and registers.
- Church buildings.
- Church finance.
- Photographs.
- Christ Church Evangelical (Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.)

Bibliography

Hartmann, Edward G. "Some Data on the German Reformed Churches of City of Boston." Unpublished manuscript, 1987, typescript.

"Native American Heritage Month." Douglas D. Schumann Library & Learning Commons. Wentworth Institute of Technology, November 1, 2022. <https://library.wit.edu/guides/native-american-heritage/welcome>.

Native Land Digital. Native Land Digital, October 8, 2021. <https://native-land.ca/>.

Taylor, Richard H. Congregations of the German Reformed Church in the United States. Easton, PA: Richard H. Taylor, 2020.

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Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Photograph of temporary worship site in store on Roxbury St., circa 1900., 1900 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | folder 1 | |
| Ledger book, 1901-1912 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | box 1 | volume 1 |
| Meeting minutes, 1907-1917 <u>Language of the Material:</u> German, English. | box 1 | volume 2 |
| Meeting minutes, 1917-1930 | box 1 | volume 3 |

Language of the Material: German.

| | | |
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| Treasurer's records, 1921-1925 | box 1 | volume 4 |
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Language of the Material: English.

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| Photographs of interior and exterior of church building, undated | box 1 | volume 5 |
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Language of the Material: English.

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| Copper-plated stamp, undated | box 1 | object 1 |
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