



First Magyar Ref. Church New York NY

Reformed

344 East 69th St. New York, New York 10021

www.ny69ref.com

212-734-5252

Pastor: Rev. Zsolt Papp
Hungarian Church Services: Sun. 11:00 AM
Hungarian Congregation: xxxxx

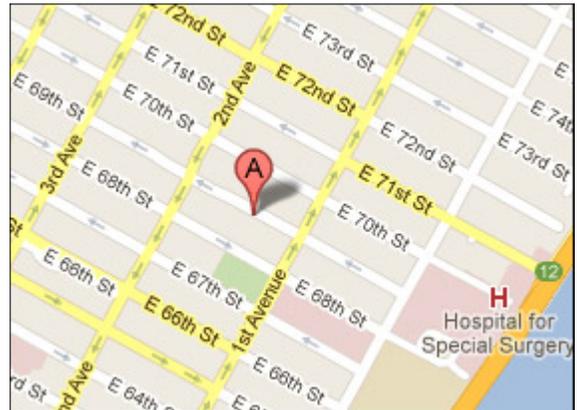
Church History

After the failure of the 1848 revolt against Habsburg rule, Hungarian refugees began settling in New York. The community grew again in the 1880s when immigrants began coming to America for better economic opportunities. Most settled along Second Avenue, either between 1st and 10th streets or 55th and 72nd.

In 1895 The Rev. Bertalan Demeter established the First Hungarian Congregation, holding services in the Hope Chapel on 4th Street. Three years afterwards, in 1889, a new pastor, Zoltan Kuthy, led the congregation into joining the Hungarian Reformed churches that had already been established elsewhere in the U.S. The church grew, and bought a house on East 7th Street for services.

In 1914 the church sold its house and bought the three lots on East 69th Street. Two of the existing houses were demolished to clear a site for the church; the one that remained was renovated for use as a parsonage. Emery Roth, a Hungarian immigrant himself was retained to design the new building. Roth's design reflects many Hungarian church building traditions, in keeping with the practice of many immigrant communities of the time.

The new building was consecrated in early 1916, using the bell from the old church. Since then there have been few changes other than the remodeling of the parsonage. The columbarium was added to the nave in the 1950s, and the basement was remodeled at some point. New York's Hungarian community reached its zenith of almost 125,000 in the middle of the 20th century, the largest of any city in the nation. The area around the church had a strong Hungarian presence, with many bookstores and restaurants catering to its tastes



Map: <http://g.co/maps/a8zcf>