

1-14-74

PH 0077

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	JOHNSON
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 28 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, Iowa

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
*change to North Presbyterian Church see letter 8-31-77*

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
26 East Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Iowa      CODE: 14      COUNTY: Johnson      CODE: 103

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

STREET AND NUMBER:  
26 East Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Iowa City

STATE:  
Iowa

CODE:  
14

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Courthouse of Johnson County, Iowa City, Iowa

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Clinton Street at Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Iowa City

STATE:  
Iowa

CODE:  
14

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County

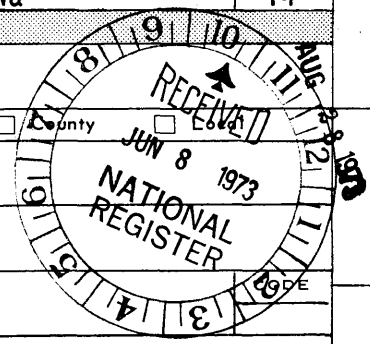
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

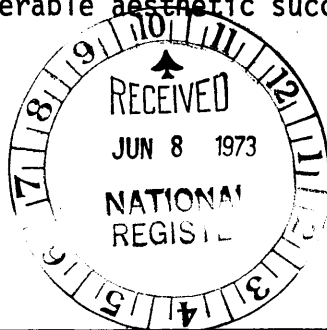
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Presbyterian Church is an early and unusual example of the Romanesque Revival, a style construction started in 1856, before the Romanesque had achieved wide popularity. The very free adaptation of the Romanesque idiom, eclectically borrowed from Italian and French examples, achieves considerable interest and dignity in the edifice, which attains the distinction of near uniqueness. It is a two-story red brick building with a plainly fenestrated low ground floor and a tall piano nobile which forms the nave of the church. It is lighted on both the lateral-east and west-sides by five tall, narrow, round-arched windows divided by brick tracery into two lancets and a rosette. On the east side, facing Dubuque Street, the windows are surmounted by molded brick archivolt supported by corbels. (On the west side, facing another lot, the archivolt is omitted). A corbelled cornice supports wide eaves and low-pitched roof. On the south (main) facade two windows similar to those on the west side flank a tower in which is set, on the ground floor, the principal door, with a flattened ogival arch an archivolt of adumbrated corbels, which is repeated in a blind arch the cornice. There are flat pilasters on either side the tower. Above the door is a large window of the same design as the western windows but flanked by lancets, forming tripartite palladian feature. The belfrey, replacing a spire destroyed by wind in 1877, is battlemented and contains twin round arched louvered lancets. The building as a whole is structurally in the tradition of seventeenth and eighteenth New England churches, and the plan and some of the details, including the design of the eaves, is emphatically classical. The adaptation of this basic American plan to the Romanesque Style is picturesque, attractive, and historically interesting, and the building as a whole is to be judged a considerable aesthetic success.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1856

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is an expression of the culture enjoyed by the Middle West between the pioneer period and the Civil War. As Professors Patten and Shank say, "It is a tangible and visible evidence of our history. Today, as the populations of our cities continue to grow, as more of the land already built upon must be cleared and built upon again for new uses and larger buildings, fewer old buildings will remain for our descendents as a historical record of our cultural and spiritual values. In order to pass these values on to our children we have created systems of secular and religious education. Equally effective for this same purpose--perhaps even more effective--is the opportunity to see and to use historic buildings."

As Professor Frank Seiberling, Director of the School of Art, U of I, says, "In a charming and discrete way this building combines elements of two styles, creating one of those provincial gems that occasionally mark the creativity of 19th century architects. I say without hesitation that this building is an adornment to the architecture of the community."

Therefore, it is a significant part of our National Heritage.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Van der Zee, Jacob One Hundred Years of Presbyterium in Iowa City, Iowa 1840-1940 Published 1940.

Andrews, Clarence 125th Anniversary (1840-1964) History First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa

Peterson, C. W. & Appell, D. W., Structural Engineers' Report

Patten, Lawton M., Professor of Architecture, Wesley I. Shank, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, Historical Architectural Evaluation of Church Building Latter 2 items found in Building Committee Report

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

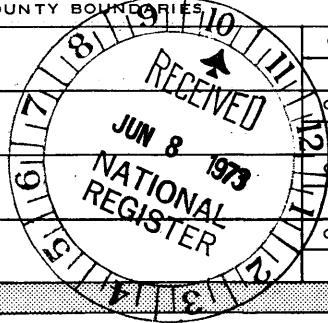
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		41 39 50	91 32 5 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM  
15/622010  
4613280

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Joseph E. Baker

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: April 6, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 30 South Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 6/5/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Velsor  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/28/73

ATTEST:  
for [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date 8/22/93

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Iowa	
COUNTY	
Johnson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 28 1973

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Peterson, C. W. and D. W. Appell, Structural Engineers' Report

Latter 2 items found in Building Committee Report

