

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001991

Date Listed: 1/30/92

First Congregational Church
Property Name

Waukesha
County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

2/24/92
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

The church is significant for its combination of styles, including from its initial construction, but the period of significance assigned in the nomination is not early enough to include all significant features. The period of significance is revised to be 1867--1928.

This information was verified by Jim Draeger of the WI SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name First Congregational Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 100 East Broadway N/A not for publication
city, town Waukesha N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Waukesha code 133 zip code 53186

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
None

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature]

1/26/92

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

Beth Baland

1/30/92

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure
RELIGION/church school

RELIGION/religious structure
RELIGION/church school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic
Tudor Revival
Modern Movement

foundation Limestone
walls Brick
Stucco
roof Asbestos
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First Congregational Church sits on a large, flat, polygonally shaped corner lot situated on a prominent downtown intersection that forms the southeast corner of the historic central business district of Waukesha. This intersection is partially formed by the juncture of the east-west running Wisconsin Avenue and the northernmost portion of the north-south running East Avenue (formerly known as East Division Street). The meeting of these two streets forms a three-way intersection (the eastern end of Wisconsin Avenue terminates at N. East Avenue at the front door of the church) which is then divided diagonally by the eastern portion of the northwest-southeast running thoroughfare known as Broadway, creating a five-way intersection. The placement of the church at the heart of this intersection makes it the natural focal point of the east end of Wisconsin Avenue and also positions the church at a prominent point along the axis of both East Avenue and Broadway. As a result, the church enjoys a position of great visibility in the downtown area and its tall slender steeple has been a prominent city landmark since it was first built.

The earliest portion of the present First Congregational Church of Waukesha was built in 1867. This building was of frame construction and was designed in a vernacular version of the Greek Revival style from plans made available to the parish by the Congregational Union. The design consisted of a gable-roofed rectilinear nave whose principal facade faced west and fronted on East Avenue. This west-facing facade was then bisected by a centrally placed 80-foot-tall steeple and both steeple and nave were sided in clapboard. The resulting church had a definite "New England" meeting-house appearance to it and this structure--although considerably altered--continues to form the core of the present-day church building.

Waukesha was still a village in the year the church was built but it was on the brink of changes which would transform it into one of the Midwest's best known summer resorts in the next few years. In 1868 a visitor to Waukesha, Colonel Richard Dunbar, claimed that the water from one of Waukesha's numerous natural springs had cured him of long-standing health problems. The subsequent development and exploitation of these springs and the marketing of their restorative healing powers increased the year-round village population from 2500 in 1870 to 8740 by 1910 and laid the ground work for the present-day city.

During this period, Waukesha's First Congregational Church was also transformed and enlarged in ways that echoed the changes happening all around it. In 1898 the congregation decided to enlarge their existing building and hired the Milwaukee architectural firm of Crane and Barkhausen to design the alterations. The architects remodeled and enlarged the existing church by replacing the small gable-roofed oratory on the rear (or east-facing) elevation of the nave with a considerably larger hipped-roof version. They also added large gable-roofed transepts on both the north and the south-facing elevations of the nave and most of the windows and other decorative elements of the original design were replaced with elements designed in a late version of the Gothic Revival style.

X See continuation sheet

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The renovated church served its congregation in its new guise until 1922 when the congregation elected to give their building a more permanent look; one that was more appropriate to the home of Waukesha's oldest religious organization. It was decided to reside the clapboard-sided exterior of the existing building in brick and a one-story-tall addition that was also sided in brick and in false half-timber and stucco was built across the rear (or east-facing) elevation. In 1928 a second story was added to the 1922 addition, giving the church its present appearance. Once again, the changes made to the church echoed changes taking place in the surrounding community. By the turn-of-the-century the economic importance of the city's resorts had begun to decline and numerous manufacturing concerns were being developed which would replace them in the city's economy. The resulting transformation of Waukesha's economic base, coupled with the city's close proximity to the metropolitan area of the city of Milwaukee, increased Waukesha's population to 53,941 by 1988, making it the eighth-largest city in Wisconsin. This growth affected every Waukesha institution and also the buildings associated with them and the First Congregational Church was no exception.

Most of Waukesha's other historically and architecturally significant downtown churches are located on Wisconsin and N. East Avenues within two blocks of the First Congregational Church and these buildings are intermixed with surviving examples of some of Waukesha's finest nineteenth century houses.² The oldest of these churches is also Waukesha's oldest church; the limestone St. Matthias Episcopal Church (1851) located at 111 E. Main Street on the corner of Main Street and N. East Avenue. Waukesha's second oldest church building is the subject of this nomination and was constructed by the congregation of the First Congregational Church in 1867.

The 1867 Church Building

The 1867 church still forms the core of the building visible today although both the exterior and the interior have undergone major changes since this building was first constructed. Consequently, the following description of the church will describe the original building and then detail the changes made in chronological sequence. The original church was built for a cost of \$11,254 and was a freestanding building designed in a vernacular version of the Greek Revival style and adapted from the

² The four other churches and several of the houses along Wisconsin and East Avenues were placed on the National Register in October and December of 1983 as part of the Multiple Resources of Waukesha nomination. These buildings include: the First Baptist Church (1872), 247 Wisconsin Avenue; the Frank H. Putney house (1901), 233 Wisconsin Avenue; the Lain-Estberg house (1848), 229 Wisconsin Avenue; the First Methodist Church (1895-98), 121 Wisconsin Avenue; the Joseph J. Hadfield house (1883), 710-12 N. East Avenue (DOE); the Samuel D. James house (1871), 726 N. East Avenue (DOE); the St. Joseph's Church Complex (1888), 818 N. East Avenue; and the St. Matthias Episcopal Church (1851), 111 E. Main Street.

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plan known as "No. 2" in The Book of Plans of the Congregational Union.² This building was of frame construction and consisted of a 46-foot-wide by 66-foot-long rectilinear plan one-story nave of frame construction that rested on a foundation fashioned from Waukesha limestone. The exterior walls of the church were sided in clapboard and the nave was then sheltered by a simple, wood shingle-covered, steeply pitched gable roof whose ridgeline ran east-west and whose main gable ends also faced east and west. The principal facade of the nave faced west and fronted on N. East Avenue and it was bisected by a large frame steeple. The north and south-facing side elevations of the nave were both five-bays-wide and the rear (or east-facing) elevation was largely covered by a 25-foot-deep by 36-foot-wide one-story-tall, polygonal plan, hipped-roof ell that was used both as an oratory and as an office. Clapboard siding covered the exterior walls of this ell as well as those of the steeple and the nave and each wall was enframed by wide corner boards and by a denticulated frieze board located immediately below the eaves. A narrower wooden watertable then encircled the building just above the limestone foundation, completing the frame, and another and still narrower wooden beltcourse encircled the building immediately below the first floor window sills.³

The main (west-facing) facade of the 1867 design was symmetrical and three-bays-wide with the square plan steeple forming the oversized center bay. The steeple mass of the church projected outward from the main facade with the rear wall of the tower portion of the steeple being flush with the walls of the main facade. The intersections of the two side walls of the steeple mass with the walls of the main facade created two open corners on either side of the steeple which were partially filled with one-and-a-half-story-tall rectilinear plan six-foot-deep salients that were roofed over by continuations of the main roof of the nave. These salients occupied most of the first and third bays on this facade and gave the main facade a stepped-back appearance and the first floor of both salients contained a pair of entrance doors which opened into the nave. Each pair of doors was sheltered by an open, hip-roofed entrance porch attached to both the side wall of the steeple and to the salient and its roof was supported by a single column. A pair of flat-arched four-over-four-light windows were positioned in the half story directly above each pair of entrance doors and these also helped to light the interior of the nave.

² Boucher, Arnold R. "Building Projects of the First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin." Ca. 1959, Pg. 2. Typewritten ms. in the possession of the First Congregational Church written by the then minister of the church. Much of the information contained in this ms. came from the records of the Clerk of the Church.

³ The source of most of the information regarding the appearance of the original design of the church is a series of excellent contemporary photographs in the collection of the Waukesha County Historical Society, and Sanborn-Perris Map Company fire insurance maps of Waukesha dated 1890 and 1895.

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The 80-foot-tall steeple was divided into three sections: tower, lantern, and spire. The fifteen-foot-square tower portion rose up to a point just above the ridgeline of the roof of the nave and its walls were enframed with corner boards, fascia boards, and watertable in the manner previously described. In addition, the walls of the tower were further subdivided horizontally by being encircled by a second beltcourse positioned just above the tower's midpoint. Pairs of small rectilinear windows were then placed in the resulting panels on the north, west, and south-facing walls of this upper portion of the tower. A wide wooden cornice having a frieze decorated with large dentil blocks was then used to terminate the tower and also formed the base for the wood shingle-sided lantern above. Each of the four corners of this square-plan lantern were partially covered by a wooden corner buttress and each of the four identical elevations of the lantern were pierced with a pair of tall, semi-circular arched openings filled with wooden louvers which vented the bell chamber inside. The lantern was then terminated with a second wide wooden cornice identical in design to the one below but smaller in size. This second cornice formed the base of the tall four-sided tapering spire which crowned the steeple. The spire was originally covered in wooden shingles and had flared, belcast eaves at its base and the upward thrust was interrupted at midpoint by four small gablets before finally being terminated by a cross.

The sixty-foot-long north and south-facing walls of the nave were identical in design and were each five-bays-wide. Each bay contained a single tall flat-arched eight-light window glazed in clear glass and all ten windows lit the space inside, which originally consisted of a single large rectilinear room containing groups of oak pews placed in a wide central section flanked by less wide parallel side sections. These pews faced the altar which was placed in the center of the eastern (west-facing) wall of the nave and was set into a tall, deeply recessed niche surmounted by a half-dome. To the right of this niche was a panelled door surmounted by a solid semi-circular arched transom that opened into the ell at the rear of the church, and to the left was a large pipe organ having an elaborately carved wooden case.* The wooden pulpit was then positioned directly in front of the altar.

The gable roof that sheltered the nave was clearly expressed in the interior of the church by leaving the ceiling open up to the collar beams that held the principal rafters of the roof in place. A flat ceiling was then suspended on top of these beams, enclosing the space located above in the apex of the roof. A wide wooden cornice encircled the room where the walls met the ceiling and this juncture was further highlighted by the application of a wide band of stenciling on the slope of the ceiling just above the cornice and also at the point where the sloping ceiling

* Boucher, Arnold R. "Building Projects of the First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin." Ca. 1959, Pg. 3. Typewritten ms. in the possession of the First Congregational Church written by the then minister of the church. This organ was purchased by the church members in 1872.

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met the flat upper ceiling. Further emphasis was given to the shape of the ceiling by using five massive wooden rafters and their associated collar beams inside the nave to provide the visible structural support for the roof. These rafters sprang from carved wooden imposts corbelled out from the exterior walls and centered in the wall spaces between each of the windows.

The clapboard-sided exterior of the hip-roofed ell attached to the eastern end of the nave was treated in the same manner as the exterior of the nave itself. The south-facing elevation of this ell was two-bays-wide and had a side entrance door sheltered by a gable-roofed entrance hood supported by heavy brackets in the left-hand bay, and a flat-arched two-over-two light window in the right-hand bay.

The 1899 Alterations and Additions

By 1898, the size of the congregation and its programmatic needs had grown to the point where it became necessary to either enlarge the existing 1867 building or demolish it and build anew. The financial status of the congregation decided the matter in favor of the former alternative and the prominent Milwaukee architectural firm of Crane and Barkhausen was chosen to produce the plans. Shortly thereafter, an article in a Waukesha paper displayed the architect's rendering of the remodelled church and gave a concise description of the changes that were to take place.

Under these plans the auditorium will be materially enlarged and improved. It is proposed to erect extensions both at the north and south sides, the former to supply space for the organ and the choir and the latter to give additional seating capacity. The auditorium will be of octagonal form and the rows of seats will face towards the north.

Instead of two entrances at the south, a single entrance will be provided in the center, ingress to the auditorium being gained at the right or left therefrom. At the left of the tower on entering there will be a dressing room.

The rear portion of the edifice will be entirely rebuilt and on a much larger scale than at present. A high basement will be supplied, and on the first floor will be the pastor's study, Sunday School rooms, and space for social assemblages, etc., etc.

The architecture of the new portions are made to conform to the main structure with a skill that will insure a fine architectural appearance.²

Both this description and the accompanying rendering closely approximate the changes that were actually made to the original building, the only major differences being that the rendering shows the spire without its four original gablets and the

² The Waukesha Dispatch. June 30, 1898.

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narrative describes the new interior as being "octagonal" in form. In actuality, the spire was left in its original state and the original rectilinear plan of the interior was altered to create a cruciform, rather than an octagonal plan. The major changes made to the form of the exterior of the church consisted of centering new 15-foot-deep by 30-foot-wide gable-roofed one-story-tall ells on both the north and the south elevations of the nave, demolishing the original rear ell, and adding an entirely new hip-roofed rectilinear plan one-story-tall ell to the eastern end of the building that was over 25 feet wider and 10 feet longer than the ell it replaced. Otherwise, the exterior continued to be sided in clapboards and most of the other changes to the exterior resulted from the extensive "Gothicizing" of the original 1867 Greek Revival-inspired or astylistic design elements.

To implement this "Gothicizing", all the original window and door openings on the main facade and on the steeple tower were changed to ones having a pointed arch shape in 1899, and new openings on this facade were treated in the same manner. Openings which pierced the walls of the north and south elevations of the nave also utilized the pointed arch shape as well, including those openings used in the new north and south-facing ells added to these elevations in 1899. These ells were positioned on the centers of their respective elevations and covered the middle three of the five window openings that originally pierced each elevation. As a result, new windows were installed in the walls of the nave and also in the walls of the ells in order to admit light into the interior.

No windows were placed on the north elevation of the north-facing ell because the space contained in this ell faced the congregation and was designed to act as a chancel and accommodated the church's altar, pulpit, choir and organ. A window identical in design to those that flanked the center window on the south-facing ell was placed in the westernmost bay on the north-facing principal elevation of the nave and an identical window was placed in the same position on the south-facing elevation opposite. Also replaced during the course of the 1899 alterations was the window that had originally filled the fifth or easternmost bay on the south-facing elevation of the nave. That window was replaced by a new side entrance whose overall design was almost identical to the new main entrance.

The last major change made to the exterior of the original church during the course of the 1899 alterations was the demolition of the original rear ell and its replacement by a much larger hip-roofed version which was almost as wide as the total width of the newly remodeled church. The south-facing elevation of this ell began immediately to the right of the side entrance porch and was three-bays-wide. Each bay contained a tall double hung flat-arched window filled with a combination of geometrically patterned clear and stained glass lights held in place by lead muntins, and these lit the Sunday School room inside.

The reopening celebration following the remodeling was extensively chronicled in both the Waukesha papers of the day. A front page article in the Waukesha Freeman provided an excellent description of the changes:

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The main audience room has been enlarged by an addition to the north for the accommodation of the pulpit, organ, and choir, the pews being faced in that direction. A similar addition to the south preserves the balance of the room and gives additional space. The large Sunday school room to the rear, with its fine class room, and the dining room and kitchen in the basement are entirely new. Sliding doors, made of oak panels, divide the main audience room and the Sunday school room, which may, by the raising of the doors, be thrown together.

The auditorium is a beautiful room, large enough for many worshippers, stately in appearance, with delicately tinted walls and stained glass windows. The woodwork in the room is of olive green and the walls are also of green, of a lighter tint, with touches of tan and gilt and terra cotta and other colors, all very harmoniously blended and producing a most satisfying result. The organ is of oak with green and gilt pipes: the steam radiators are in olive and green.

A number of memorial windows have been placed in the church, a group of them being noticeable on the Broadway side. Of these, the central one, showing a human figure with flowing drapery leaning upon an anchor, bears the following inscription. "In loving recognition of the 25 years faithful pastorate of Rev. C. W. Camp D. D. and in memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth C. Camp." (This is the window in the center of the south-facing ell)

The room will be lighted at night by twelve two-light brass chandeliers of tasteful design and some sidelights in the pulpit recess.

The Sunday school room and, the class room and the pastor's study are all pleasant, handsomely furnished rooms admirably suited to their several purposes. The Sunday School room (fireplace) has a grate and (a) handsome oak mantel. All of the rooms on the main floor are carpeted alike, the color being brown and the pattern a scroll. Six hundred yards were required. Two or three of the ante-rooms will have the floor covered with matting. The pews for the main room are of quarter sawed oak: the Sunday School room is supplied with chairs for seating. The pulpit furniture is handsome and appropriate.

The basement has a large fine room with half windows and two sides, which will be used as a dining room, and the kitchen adjoining has a sink and cupboards, and will have a range, so that all the needs of the social side of the church may be conveniently met.

An innovation which will be greatly enjoyed by the organist and choir is the introduction of a water motor to run the organ. It works to perfection.

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Externally also the church is marvelously improved, as may be seen from the accompanying picture. The outside paint is of a grayish tan with trimmings in a darker tint. The doors are of heavy oak.⁶

Besides the changes detailed above, the balcony housing the choir loft which had originally been placed across the west end of the nave was removed, and six new arched openings pierced the walls of the original nave and served to both define and give access to the space contained within the new ells. The openings of both the north and the south-facing ells each contained three separate pointed arch openings which imitated the three window groups placed on the south-facing elevation of the exterior wall of the south-facing ell. The centermost opening in each ell was spanned by a broad four-centered Tudor arch and was flanked by two smaller, shorter pointed arch openings. Each of the two pairs of spandrels between these arches were then supported by a clustered pier made up of four columns resting on a single pedestal. In addition, both the nave and the Sunday School room were encircled with wainscoting made of vertical tongue-and-groove boards.

The 1922 Alterations and Additions

The 1899 alterations cost the congregation \$8,808 and were sufficient to meet the needs of the church until 1921. In that year the church building committee placed a proposal before the congregation to both enlarge the church and to resurface the original clapboard siding of the building in "elastica", a stucco-like material, all for a cost of about \$13,000.⁷ After some debate, the congregation decided instead to expend between \$16,000 and \$17,000, which allowed the church to add still more space to the building and permitted resurfacing in brick rather than stucco. In the first week of October the building committee let contracts for the work to Frank S. Smith for the carpentry; C. J. Trakel, Sr. for the masonry; and A. Christiansen for the brick-work.⁸ This work was prosecuted vigorously and a dedication ceremony was held on March 20, 1922.⁹ The bulk of the work consisted of the construction of an 85-foot-long by 20-foot-wide one-story-tall addition across the entire eastern end of the church (the 1899 rear ell). Both ends of this hipped roof addition projected beyond the width of the older building with the northern end being rectilinear in plan while the southern end had an octagonal plan and contained an office space for the minister. This addition was built upon a tall, raised basement story that was

⁶ The Waukesha Freeman. May 4, 1899. Pg. 1. Besides this newspaper article and one published on Page 1 of the May 5, 1899 Waukesha Dispatch, most of the information regarding the appearance of the church following this remodeling came from a series of excellent contemporary photographs in the collection of the Waukesha County Historical Society, and from the Sandorn-Perris Map Company fire insurance map of Waukesha dated 1911.

⁷ The Waukesha Freeman. September 22, 1921.

⁸ Ibid. October 6, 1921.

⁹ Ibid. March 23, 1922. Pg. 1.

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sided in Waukesha limestone, just as the original church had been, and the first story was sided partially in stucco and false half-timber work, and partially in brick.

The purpose of this new addition was to provide five new class rooms for the church school, rooms for primary and beginners' classes, and a minister's study; all of which were located on the first floor. At the same time, the creation of these rooms added substantially to the square footage of the basement story below, permitting the enlargement of both the existing dining room and kitchen and creating space for a women's rest room as well.¹⁰

The most obvious change to the church at this time was the resurfacing of all the original clapboard-covered exterior surfaces in brick. This work was expertly done and almost all the windows from the 1899 remodeling were retained as were most of the other decorative features dating from this time. Two changes that were made to the exterior of the church during the course of this resurfacing involved alterations to the main entrance. The first alteration involved the enclosing of most of the open 1899 main entrance porch. The resulting vestibule was sided in brick and the earlier front doors were repositioned on the west-facing front elevation of the vestibule. The elaborate wooden supporting structure of the old porch roof was retained but the two columns which had previously supported it were removed and heavy wooden brackets were put in their place. The second alteration was to the two side vestibules that flanked the base of the steeple tower and involved replacing their flat roofs and crenellated parapets with more typical hip roofs. The only parts of the exterior not affected by this resurfacing were the lantern and spire portions of the steeple. Both these features still retained their original 1867 appearance and continue to do so today. Otherwise, the resurfacing of the church was responsible for giving the building a more permanent and solid appearance, much as the members of the congregation had desired, and the use of stucco and half-timber work on portions of the exterior even added a Tudor Revival note to the whole.

The 1928 Alterations and Additions

The last alterations to the exterior of the First Congregational church were made in 1928. This work consisted largely of the addition of a half story above portions of the 1922 east-facing rear addition in order to provide the church with more Sunday School rooms.¹¹ Several of these rooms were placed in a large dormer that covers the northern third of the 1922 addition and projects out beyond the face of the wall below. The complex roof of this dormer has parallel gables (whose gable ends face

¹⁰ This information is included in the program printed by the church for the dedication banquet of March 20, 1922. A copy of this program is in the possession of the church.

¹¹ The Waukesha Freeman. October 4, 1928. Pg. 6.

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east) across its southern half, and these are attached to the shed-roofed northern half. Three separate flat-arched lattice windows having lead comes are placed on the dormer wall below the parallel gable roofs and all the walls of this dormer are sided in stucco and false half-timber work. A second dormer was placed to the left (south) of the first dormer on the main east-facing slope of the roof of the 1899 rear addition at this time. This large, gable-roofed dormer has four small square windows having multiple lights held in place with lead comes and the gable end above them is also filled with stucco and false half-timber work.

Interior changes were also made to the nave at this time and included the addition of a new oak rostrum, a solid oak choir rail, and an arcaded oak pulpit.

Post-1928 Alterations

By the end of 1928, the appearance of the exterior of the church had evolved into the building visible today. The form of the 1867 church was still visible under the layers of additions and alterations but only the lantern and spire of the steeple still retained their original 1867 appearance. In 1941 the entire roof was reroofed in asbestos shingles, and stucco and false half-timber work which had been placed in the upper gable ends of the two side ells in 1922 was replaced with brick.¹² In 1946, the interior of the nave was completely repainted and received yellow walls, a rose-colored ceiling, and gray woodwork accented by turquoise blue highlights.¹³ Further changes were made to the interior of the nave in 1955. The triple-arched 1897 opening of the north-facing ell located on the north wall of the nave was replaced by a single large four-centered arch which spanned almost the entire width of the opening. The chancel of the church, which occupied the interior space of this ell, was then completely refurbished. A new pulpit, lectern and communion table were purchased; the choir seating was rearranged into two groups facing each other on either side of the dais; the console of the organ (which had been purchased in 1920) was moved back and repainted; and the pews in the nave were refinished in order to harmonize with the lighter wood used in the chancel. These changes gave the nave its present-day appearance.

The only significant change made to the church since 1955 happened in 1960 when the trustees of the church decided to build a modern addition attached to it in order to house the educational activities of the church. This new addition was designed to house six large departmental rooms, a crib room, nursery, Sunday School office, and an all-purpose room. The addition (known as the educational unit) was designed by the architectural firm of Lefebvre-Wiggins and Associates in a vernacular version of the Modern Movement. Construction began on January 8, 1961 and work was completed

¹² Boucher, Arnold R. "Building Projects of the First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin." Ca. 1959, Pg. 3. Typewritten ms. in the possession of the First Congregational Church written by the then minister of the church.

¹³ The Milwaukee Journal. February 10, 1948.

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by June 11 of the same year. The resulting brick-veneered addition is rectilinear in plan, has a flat roof hidden by a shallow parapet, is one-story in height over a full basement, and is attached to the church building at the north end of the 1922 addition.¹⁴ This addition is considered to be non-contributing because it fails to pass the 50 year test established by the NPS and because of the ordinary quality of its design. Both the new addition and the attached 1867 church have benefited from excellent maintenance programs and are currently in excellent condition.

The Congregational church building today is an unusual resource type in that its present appearance clearly displays major elements that are associated with each stage of its evolution. The general shape of its Greek Revival-inspired vernacular "center steeple" original design is still intact beneath the later additions and the tall, thin steeple that is a characteristic of both center steeple designs and of New England Congregational Churches built in the eighteenth century is also still intact as well. Gothic elements dating from the 1899 remodeling still exist, both on the exterior and in the interior. The principal legacies of this remodeling, though, are the distinctive pointed arch window and door openings and the cruciform plan that resulted from the addition of the north and south ells. The 1922 and 1928 remodelings served to give the church still another, somewhat "Tudoresque" identity that the building still retains today. This new identity provided this originally clapboard-sided building with a greater feeling of solidity and of permanence and it also gave the church a more up-to-date Period Revival style flavor that was more in keeping with the times. All of these steps in the design evolution of the First Congregational Church are still very much in evidence, a situation that is enhanced by the fact that the church today is almost exactly as it was following the last, 1928, remodeling. This intact state is also greatly enhanced by the excellent condition of the church.

¹⁴ Zellmer, Lloyd. "Celebrating its 150th Anniversary--First Congregational Church". The First Congregational Church of Waukesha, unpub., 1988. A brochure printed by the church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and written by a church member.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) X A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u> Architecture </u>	<u> 1922-1928¹⁵ </u>	<u> 1867¹⁶ </u>
_____	_____	<u> 1899¹⁷ </u>
_____	_____	<u> 1922, 1928¹⁸ </u>
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u> N/A </u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
<u> N/A </u>	<u> Unknown </u>
_____	<u> Crane and Barkhausen¹⁹ </u>

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The First Congregational Church of Waukesha is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) criterion C. More specifically, the church is being nominated because of its associations with the area of Architecture; a theme which is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research was undertaken to assess the NRHP potential of the First Congregational Church utilizing the results of the Waukesha Intensive Survey is survey and also the Congregational subsection of the Religion study unit of the CRMP and the Greek Revival, High Victorian Gothic, and Tudor Revival subsections of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP. The results of this research is detailed below and confirms that the First Congregational Church of Waukesha is of local significance under NR criterion C. The congregation that built the Waukesha Congregational Church was the first permanent congregation of this denomination established in Wisconsin and is the oldest such congregation in the state. This congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1988 and was founded in the city of Waukesha (or Prairie Village as it was then known) on January 20, 1838, making it not only the first permanent organization of its denomination in Wisconsin but also the first organized religious body of any denomination in either the city or county of Waukesha.²⁰ This congregation built its first permanent church (non-extant) in 1840. The present building (the second) was erected in 1867 and has continuously housed this historically significant congregation for the past 122 years. This church began its existence in 1867 as a frame construction, clapboard-sided vernacular example of the

¹⁵ The period of significance consists of those years in which the last remodeling of the present building took place.

¹⁶ Waukesha Freeman. December 12, 1867, Pg. 3.

¹⁷ The Waukesha Dispatch. June 30, 1898, Pg. 1.

¹⁸ The Waukesha Freeman. September 22, 1921; October 4, 1928. Pg. 6.

¹⁹ The Waukesha Dispatch. June 30, 1898, Pg. 1.

²⁰ Butterfield, Consul W. (Ed.). The History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Western Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois, 1880. Pg. 642.

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Greek Revival design, was remodeled into a somewhat larger and more elaborate High Victorian Gothic building in 1899, and was again altered in 1922 and 1928 when the clapboard exterior was resided in brick and a Tudor Revival-inspired addition was added to the rear, resulting in the church's present appearance. Each stage in the design evolution of the church resulted in a building that was of local architectural significance in its time and each stage also reflected national trends in the development of ecclesiastical design during the sixty year period between 1867 and 1928. These stages are all still clearly visible on the exterior and interior of the building today. Thus, the present building is significant for embodying distinctive characteristics associated with several architectural styles that are also associated with major developments in ecclesiastical architectural design. This significance is heightened by the highly intact and well maintained condition of the building.

Historic Context

A general history of the city of Waukesha and an overview of its religious institutions is contained in both the final report of the Waukesha Intensive Survey²¹ and in the text of the Historic Resources of Waukesha Multiple Resource Nomination form.²² Consequently, the following narrative deals primarily with the history of the Waukesha Congregational Church and its congregation.

Historical Significance-Religion

The Congregational subsection of the Religion study unit in the CRMP states that "... the earliest Congregational schools and missions in Wisconsin were founded in conjunction with early work among the Indians, or for the benefit of children at fur trading or military posts, especially at Fort Howard (Green Bay) and Fort Winnebago (Portage)."²³ These pioneering efforts represented the first Wisconsin fruits of the missionary work advanced by the American Home Missionary Society, an organization supported by "... several Protestant denominations, including the Congregationalists and Presbyterians who combined their western missionary efforts when their Plan of Union was adopted in 1801."²⁴ This Plan of Union represented an attempt by these two similar Protestant denominations to pool their resources in order to more effectively spread the gospel in the newly created western

²¹ Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendorff. Spring City's Past: A Thematic History of Waukesha and the Final Report of Waukesha's Intensive Resources Survey. Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendorff, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1982.

²² Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendorff. Historic Resources of Waukesha Multiple Resource Nomination form. September, 1982. On file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Division office in Madison, Wisconsin.

²³ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 3, 6-3 (Religion).

²⁴ Ibid.

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territories. "Under the Plan, congregations [or incipient congregations] were allowed to select a spiritual leader from either the Presbyterian or Congregational churches. ... the successful exchange and equal acceptance of ministers and members between the two denominations was an inspiration to churchmen as they moved west."²⁵ The advance guard of the Plan in unsettled areas was the American Home Missionary Society which was essentially an evangelization program aimed at both the indigenous population and newly arrived settlers. The means employed by this Society to bring religious education to the Indian populations were similar to those used to bring qualified religious instruction to settlers without normal access to it and were used to assist in the creation of both Congregational and Presbyterian church organizations in newly settled areas.

A typical instance of this interdenominational activity is embodied in the story of the founding of the Waukesha Congregational church as told by Willard S. Griswold, a church member and past president of the Waukesha County Historical Society, on the occasion of the church's centennial celebration in 1938.

On January 20, 1838, this church was organized. Waukesha, then known as Prairieville, consisted of 12 houses of which 8 were dwellings scattered along or not far from the river, a school-house a few rods south-west of the intersection of North and Madison Streets, under the hill, and a hotel, store and inn near the court house. Three of the dwellings were frame in whole or in part and all the other houses were built of poplar or tamarack logs. The present business section was a jungle of hazel bush, underbrush and poplar saplings. The only trees were a cluster at the corner of Grand and Wisconsin Avenues. In the adjacent country-side were located about 20 families.

In 1837 religious services were first held in Nathaniel Walton's home, a log house just east of the Industrial School grounds. Here was formed the first Sunday School Later in the same year services were held in the home of Robert and Martha Love, a log house with a frame addition 4 rods east of Bethesda Spring which was on their property. ... The preaching was by various itinerant ministers. After a while some decided to form a Congregational church and after several warm discussions carried through a number of meetings a Confession of Faith and a Covenant were agreed upon. The minutes of the first meeting written a century ago in ink which is quite unfaded today reads as follows: "A meeting was called at Prairieville on the 20th day of January, 1838, for the purpose of forming a Congregational Church, the Rev. Mr. Crawford, of Milwaukee, (then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee) acting as Moderator, when the following [18] persons, after being examined as to their views and Christian experiences, and presenting proper testimonials of church membership, were pronounced a church

²⁵ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit. Vol. 3, 6-1.

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The church unanimously adopted Articles of Faith and Covenant and resolved to be known as The First Evangelical Congregational Church of Prairieville. ... The organization was perfected on February 20th (1838) when Asa Clark and Ezra Mendell were by ballot elected Deacons and Robert Love, Clerk."²⁶

The first ministers to the newly formed church were occasional visitors from area Presbyterian churches and the new congregation did not receive its own minister until May 1, 1839 when Rev. Cyrus Nichols, another Presbyterian, took over as pastor. Rev. Nichols conducted his services in the log school house mentioned above and continued in this way until the spring of 1840 when he was replaced by the Rev. Otis F. Curtis (1804-1879) on May 2, 1840. The absence of a proper house of worship was immediately addressed by Rev. Curtis.

Some time in the summer of 1840, Rev. Mr. Curtis announced, at a Sunday service, that they would meet next Sunday at the new Congregational Church. No such edifice had yet been reared, but during the week preparations were made. On Saturday the frame was raised, and on Sunday, said Mr. Curtis, "I stood in the frame behind a work-bench and preached, the people sitting on the sleepers, with their feet in the grass."

As the work of building the house of worship went on, the people met there Sunday after Sunday. The green boughs that had been laid upon the joists for shade were replaced by a roof; the sleepers were floored over, and temporary seats arranged. There was an interruption of service only for one Sunday, to give time for the paints to dry.

This building, the first Congregational Church edifice in the Territory of Wisconsin, stood on the corner of Wisconsin and Maple (then called Church) avenues, and with subsequent additions (chiefly in 1858) served the uses of the congregation for a quarter of a century; it was then used for a while as a schoolroom, and finally removed from its site and transformed into a dwelling."²⁷

The new church cost about \$1500 and was rectilinear in plan and about 26 feet by 60 feet in dimension and it had 40 pews or "slips" as they were then called. In the same year (1840) Rev. Curtis and the members of the church "... were active in securing the co-operation of other churches in the formation of an ecclesiastical

²⁶ Griswold, Willard S. "The Centennial Directory and Historical Souvenir." First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Waukesha, Wisconsin, February, 1938, Pgs. 3-4. Griswold was the church historian at the time of the congregation's centennial celebration and supplied an historical sketch of the church's history for inclusion in this memorial brochure.

²⁷ Butterfield, Consul W. (Ed.). The History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Western Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois, 1880. Pg. 643.

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union. This resulted in the 'Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin,' which was organized at Troy, Wis., in October, 1840."²⁸

The Presbytery of Wisconsin, formed in Milwaukee in 1839, was the first formal measure of church structure for the Congregational as well as Presbyterian churches in Wisconsin. It embraced the first Presbyterian Church (Milwaukee) and First Congregational Church (Waukesha). Later that year, the Presbytery voted to call for delegates "to confer and agree upon a plan of union and co-operation between Presbyterians and Congregationalists in the Territory." The formal Plan of Union for Wisconsin was consummated in 1840, and it remained the sole organization for both churches until 1857.²⁹

Membership in the church grew rapidly after 1840 under the leadership of Rev. Curtis and this growth was partially due to the congregation's well-publicized stands against slavery. Waukesha became well-known in the 1840s for the antislavery sentiments of its citizens. Indeed, "In much the same manner as Walworth County became a center for temperance reforms, and Southport a gathering place for all manner of social reform projects, Waukesha, west of Milwaukee, developed into a focal point for the antislavery reform movement in the Territory."³⁰ This development was due in large part to the activities of members of the Waukesha Congregational Church, many of whom were highly vocal in their stands against slavery and became local and state leaders in the struggle against it. While such stands may seem all but inevitable today, taking sides against slavery at that time was a different matter entirely.

In the 1840's the institution of slavery was firmly entrenched in American life and thought, recognized by the Constitution, protected by State and National law and upheld by the dominate sentiment of the North as well as the South. It required rare courage openly to attack slavery. Rev. William F. Clarke of this church (1857-1859) once said, "Ministers, Churches, the great benevolent societies were weak in the knees and cringed, but the Waukesha Congregational Church was always true to the cause of the downtrodden slave." Among its members are names which will always be remembered in the movement against slavery in this locality--Rev. Otis F. Curtis, Lyman Goodnow, Deacons Ezra Mendell and Allen Clinton, Daniel and Winthrop Chandler, Vernon and Orson Tichenor and C. [Chauncey] C. Olin. Some of them were active agents in the Underground Railroad and more than one fugitive slave found

²⁸ Ibid. Pg. 642.

²⁹ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 3, 6-3 (Religion).

³⁰ Smith, Alice E. The History of Wisconsin (vol. 1): From Exploration to Statehood. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1973, Pg. 636.

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barns and cornfields secure waiting-stations on their journey from the South to Canada and freedom. On March 1, 1845, resolutions were passed [by the Congregational Church] condemning slavery. ... They were published in the New York Evangelist and received country-wide notice.³¹

By publishing these resolutions, the members of the Waukesha Congregational Church chose to make public the beliefs that already governed their actions in private life. The final report of The Waukesha Intensive Survey contains a history of the role played by the citizens and institutions of Waukesha in the abolition movement in Wisconsin and gives special attention to the two best-known incidents in that history; the pursuit and subsequent escape of runaway slaves Caroline Quarrells in 1842 and Joshua Glover in 1854.³² Several of the members of the Waukesha Congregational Church listed previously played prominent roles in these dangerous, but ultimately successful efforts to aid escaping slaves. Members of the church served the abolition cause in less hazardous ways as well. The first newspaper to be published in Waukesha was the antislavery American Freeman which was moved from Milwaukee to Waukesha by its editor, Charles C. Sholes, in September of 1844 largely because of Waukesha's reputation as an "abolition hole", the opprobrium given it and other antislavery communities by proslavery forces. Sholes edited the paper until 1846. Sholes was succeeded as editor by Ichabod Coddling (1810-?), a prominent antislavery lecturer and writer from Illinois who edited the paper for a year before being ordained as the minister in the Congregational church. In July of 1847 Coddling was asked to become the pastor of the Waukesha Congregational Church, a position he filled until 1848. In the meantime, Coddling's position as editor of the American Freeman was filled by the new owner, Waukesha businessman and Congregational Church member Chauncey C. Olin. In 1847, Olin moved the paper back to Milwaukee and shared the editor's position for a short period with the soon-to-be-famous abolitionist Sherman Booth before selling the paper to Booth and Coddling.

The high visibility of the Waukesha Congregational Church on antislavery issues succeeded in bringing many new members into the church. In 1858 the need for a larger house of worship led to the preparation of plans for a new church, but budgetary considerations forced the congregation to remodel the existing church instead.

The need for larger quarters continued to be felt in the years that followed, but the intervention of the Civil War prevented any further action being taken until late in 1864. By this time the war against slavery was almost won and the members of the church resolved to build their church anew. This resulted in the sale of

³¹ Griswold, Willard S. "The Centennial Directory and Historical Souvenir." First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Waukesha, Wisconsin, February, 1938, Pgs. 5-6.

³² Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendoff. Spring City's Past: A Thematic History of Waukesha and the Final Report of Waukesha's Intensive Resources Survey. Pgs. 45-47.

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original church and the construction of a new building, the building which forms the core of the present church.

The congregation of 1867 still contained many of the earliest members of the church and for them especially, the erection of the new meeting house was a matter of considerable satisfaction. The congregation now had a large and suitably plain meeting house appropriate to the its status in Waukesha and this building was utilized in its original form until the need for a larger one resurfaced in the 1890s.

After much debate the congregation took a conservative approach, as it had in 1858, and decided to remodel its existing church in a more up-to-date style rather than to build a new building. The congregation chose the Milwaukee architectural firm of Crane and Barkhausen for this High Victorian Gothic style rebuilding and the newly remodeled church was reopened with fanfare in 1899. The published accounts were lavish in their praise of this newest incarnation of the church and these accounts also mentioned the importance that attached to the church because of its history.

The local Congregational church is the oldest of its denomination in the state and was one of the very first protestant churches established in the territory of Wisconsin. It was the first church organization in Waukesha. It has therefore special claims to the interest of the public, and the dedicatory services will doubtless attract a large audience and wide attention.³³

The remodeled church stayed largely unchanged until the beginning of the 1920s when the needs of a growing congregation made a new enlargement of the church a necessity. Thus, in 1922 a new addition was added to the rear of the church and the occasion was also used to reside the original clapboard exterior of the church in brick, giving the church an appearance of permanence that was more in keeping with its age and with those of other downtown churches. This 1922 addition was itself enlarged in 1928, giving the church the appearance it has today.

In 1938 the Waukesha Congregational Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Notice of the event was featured in local papers and in publications of the Wisconsin Congregational Conference as well.

Waukesha is the second Congregational church in the state to have a Hundredth Anniversary, and it is the first to have lived a hundred years as a Congregational church! Green Bay celebrated its centennial in 1936, but our church there started as a Presbyterian church, became Congregational later. In the first small organization in the state which Congregationalists and Presbyterians shared, in

³³ The Waukesha Freeman. May 4, 1899, Pg. 1.

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January, 1839, the one Congregational church represented was that of Prairieville, now Waukesha, and the church had been in existence a year.³⁴

By 1960 the steady growth of the church and its programs necessitated the building of a new addition to house the educational programs of the church and this addition was constructed in 1961.

Further recognition of the historic importance of the Waukesha Congregational Church came on November 3, 1973 when the State Historical Society of Wisconsin designated the church as a Wisconsin Registered Landmark. In a public ceremony held on October 12, 1975, a marker identifying the church was placed beside the main doors of the East Avenue entrance of the church. The text of this marker reads as follows:

Wisconsin Registered Landmark No. 123

First Congregational Church

Organized on January 20, 1838, this was the first church in Waukesha County and the first Congregational Church in Wisconsin. This edifice, altered many times, was erected in 1867. An educational unit was added in 1961.

More recent milestones in the church's history include the 1987 celebration of the 120th anniversary (1867-1987) of the construction of the present meeting house and the 1988 celebration of the 150th anniversary (1838-1988) of the founding of the congregation. The next milestone will occur in 1992 when the 125th anniversary of the meeting house will be held.

The 1867 church was to a large extent built by the same members who founded the congregation and it is now the only built legacy of that pioneering body of men and women that survives. In addition, this church symbolized for those who built it the victory over slavery which had just been won and it memorialized both the larger sacrifices of the nation and the more immediate sacrifices of the Waukesha Congregation.

ARCHITECTURE

The First Congregational church is located on a prominent downtown intersection which forms the southeast corner of the historic central business district of the city of Waukesha. This intersection is partially formed by the juncture of Wisconsin Avenue and East Avenue and most of Waukesha's other historically and architecturally significant downtown churches are also located on Wisconsin or on

³⁴ "Waukesha's Centennial." Wisconsin Congregational Church Life 43(1):6. A bi-monthly publication of the Wisconsin Congregational Conference which was headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin at the time of the publication of this article.

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N. East Avenues within two blocks of this intersection and they are intermixed with surviving examples of some of Waukesha's finest nineteenth century houses. A number of these churches and residences were placed on the NRHP in 1983 as a result of research activities stemming from the City of Waukesha Intensive Survey conducted in 1982 (See footnote No. 1). This nomination is one of a second group that is being written as a result of this survey and which also includes the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church (1891) at 413 Wisconsin Avenue.

Planning for what would eventually be the present Waukesha Congregational church building began prior to the Civil War. In 1858, the members of the Waukesha congregation were feeling the need for a more spacious house of worship and a building committee was formed to prepare plans for a new church. Shortly thereafter, prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix prepared designs for a new church to be made "... of Waukesha limestone, the main auditorium room 44 feet by 68 feet, with transept in the rear containing lecture room, vestry, and minister's study, and tower and steeple on north-east corner 130 feet high."³⁵ Unfortunately, the financial resources of the congregation proved unequal to the task of building a new church, so the congregation decided to remodel and repair their existing building instead. This project was completed in February of 1859 and the church was rededicated at that time.

The remodeled church was only a temporary measure, however, and as the Civil War neared its end the congregation once again laid plans for a new building.

In December 1864, the Society decided to purchase the lot and house known as the Turner lot on East Division Street, Village of Waukesha. East Avenue was then East Division Street and this lot is the site of our present (1959) Church. In October of 1865, the Trustees were authorized to "sell the meeting house and lot on which the same stands", and in Feb. 1866 it was decided to apply the proceeds of such sale to the erection of a new house of worship. ... In March 1866, the trustees reported the sale of the old site for \$1000 and pledges for the new church to the amount of \$4500.

In May 1866, the Building Committee reported an estimate of the cost of the new church edifice 46 x 66 ft.--a wooden structure--for \$6500; a wooden frame and brick walls for \$7500 and a stone building for \$8500. All year work of raising money went on, and by March 1867, the Society selected plan No. 2 in the Book of Plans of the Congregational Union with an estimated cost of \$8500. So the church was built--not of stone, but of wood--at a cost of \$11,254.³⁶

³⁵ City Directory of Waukesha. Waukesha, Wisconsin, 1858. This description of the proposed church bears a considerable resemblance to Mix's realized design for Waukesha's First Baptist Church (1871) located at 247 Wisconsin Avenue (NRHP-1983).

³⁶ Boucher, Arnold R. "Building Projects of the First Congregational Church of Waukesha, Wisconsin." Ca. 1959, Pg. 2. Typewritten ms. in the possession of the First Congregational Church written by the then minister of the church.

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A copy of the Book of Plans of the Congregational Union could not be obtained for this nomination but it is probable that it was a pattern book that consisted of a group of representative church plans that the Union (which was based in New York) had prepared for use by congregations located in states where architectural services were difficult to find. The plan chosen by the Waukesha congregation was a typical example of the "center steeple" form that has been identified by Gottfried and Jennings in their work American Vernacular Design: 1870-1940.³⁷ This particular example, if perhaps somewhat larger than the average in size, still features almost all the hallmarks that these authors attribute to the form.

The steeple dominates the facade of the center steeple church. The entire organization builds towards the steeple, including the gable roof, which helps pull the facade skyward. ... Fenestration is symmetrical. Ornamentation is light; most walls and tower portions are framed by cornerboards and fascia. In steeple design the tower is about half the height of the entire structure, which leaves the lantern and spire in equal proportions to the tower. ... When the tower projects from the facade, it often serves as a vestibule.³⁷

In addition, the original Waukesha church was very much in the tradition of the New England meeting house designs that had developed in New England in the eighteenth century and that were closely associated with the early history of the Congregational Church in the United States. These churches owed much to the London church designs of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) and many also displayed classical details of the kind found on Greek Revival design churches.

The new church served its congregation unchanged until the late 1890s but by 1897 the growth of the congregation during the intervening years made it necessary to contemplate either the enlargement of the existing church or the construction of a new one. After debating the possibility of building a new structure, the members of the congregation decided to remodel the existing one and hired the Milwaukee architectural firm of Crane and Barkhausen to redesign it in the late Gothic Revival style. The principals in this firm, Charles D. Crane (1850-1928)³⁸ and Carl C. Barkhausen (1860-1934),³⁹ had both been born in Wisconsin, Crane in Burlington, and Barkhausen in Thiensville, and they both were working in the office of prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix when they decided to form their own office in 1888. Most of the identified work of this firm is in Milwaukee and includes such buildings as the High Victorian Gothic style Highland Avenue Methodist Church (1891) located at 2024 W. Highland Avenue (NRHP-Jan. 16, 1986). The firm's redesign of the Waukesha Congregational Church was an expert remodeling of a building whose appearance had become outdated by the end-of-the-century and their new design met

³⁷ Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design: 1870-1940. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1985, Pg. 250.

³⁸ Milwaukee Sentinel. April 9, 1928. Obituary of Charles D. Crane.

³⁹ Milwaukee Journal. December 13, 1934. Obituary of Carl C. Barkhausen.

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with critical approval even before construction began. An architect's rendering of the new church that appeared in the June 30, 1898 edition of the Waukesha Dispatch was accompanied by the comment that "... when the present plans are conformed to, the Congregational Society will have a church house that will be a source of pride to themselves as well as a credit to the city." Similar praise was voiced when the \$10,000 remodeling was completed in the following year. Under the headline "Fine New House of Worship." the Waukesha Freeman stated that:

The rebuilding of the Congregational Church is completed. Workman have been busy this week putting on the last bit of paint to the exterior, laying the carpet, placing the pews. By the coming Sunday everything about the building and its furnishings will be complete and the fine handsome edifice, which has the appearance of being completely new, will be ready for dedication.

The edifice which is so soon to be resumed as a church home by the Congregational society is very different from that vacated by the society a few months ago. So many additions have been made and the plan of the interior arrangement has been so thoroughly changed that few traces of the old structure remain.*^u

These comments offer a somewhat overenthusiastic assessment of the changes made, especially in regard to the exterior. Historic photos (Attachments A and B) show that the design of the original church was still clearly identifiable despite the construction of new transepts on the north and south elevations, a considerably enlarged addition on the rear of the church, and the conversion of all the existing windows from the flat-arcned to the pointed-arch style.

The result of this remodeling was to create a larger, more up-to-date building and the architects achieved this by utilizing the High Victorian Gothic style as a means of unifying the different needs of the congregation. The choice of this style was a logical one, since by 1899, the general public's association of the various manifestations of the Gothic Revival style with ecclesiastical buildings was well established. In addition, the use of the Gothic style also gave the architects greater freedom in making alterations to the existing church. Adding architecturally appropriate extensions to the exterior of the existing Greek Revival style-influenced building would have been extremely difficult, but such extensions and additions are frequently found on Gothic style buildings. Thus, choosing the new style allowed the architects to create a balanced, harmonious overall composition while still keeping within the congregation's remodeling budget.

The newly remodeled church remained essentially unchanged until after the close of WWI. By that time, however, the continued growth of the congregation once again forced it to consider the advisability of expanding and improving the existing church. The first improvement that took place as a result of this discussion was

*^u The Waukesha Freeman. May 4, 1899, Pg. 1.

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the installation of a new organ in September of 1920 at a cost of \$8355.00. The successful subscription drive for this undertaking convinced the congregation to commence expanding the building in order to meet the need for increased Sunday School activities and adult meetings. Another concern was the desire to give the church a more permanent (and presumably a more maintenance-free) exterior surface. The work was contracted out to local firms and notice of the onset of construction was reported in the local newspapers.

The original plans specified the use of elastica over the siding, but it was found that brick instead of elastica could be utilized at an extra cost of but \$500, and a change was made. The brick is more certain to prove satisfactory in the long run and will give the edifice a more substantial appearance.

When the plans are carried out the Congregational church will be one of the best equipped in Waukesha.^{*1}

The original clapboard siding of the church was left mostly in place and the walls were simply veneered over with a dark brown brick.

The affect of this remodeling was largely cosmetic in-so-far-as its impact on the sanctuary and steeple of the existing church was concerned. Almost all of the most important Gothic Revival style elements survived the remodeling as did the still largely original steeple. The main change was to the rear of the church, across whose width a large new one-story Tudor Revival-inspired addition was built. The addition was faced with stucco and false half-timber work and also with the same brick that was used to reside the church; a device that helped to unify the appearance of the two different parts of the building. This, in turn, gave the Congregational church a Late Gothic Revival appearance that is suggestive of an older Gothic style English church to which a later Tudor period addition was added. Such a conceit may well have been intentional. Many of the architects of the most sophisticated Late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical buildings of the 1920s produced designs that were intended to emulate historic examples that had evolved over time. These designs reflected a more sophisticated understanding of the Period Revival styles and they may well have had an influence on the unknown designer of the 1922 remodeling of the Congregational church. However it evolved, this remodeling and a subsequent one in 1928 that further enlarged the rear addition, gave the church a Tudor Revival style-influenced Late Gothic Revival appearance that it still retains today.

The architectural evolution of the First Congregational church resulted in a building that is unique in Waukesha. This church is architecturally significant as

^{*1} The Waukesha Freeman. October 6, 1921. It is not known if this remodeling plan involved the participation of an architect, but none has yet been associated with this work.

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an individual building whose current appearance illustrates a progression in which each of the several distinct styles and periods that shaped it is still visible. This distinctive design evolution reflects both the history of the individual building and also the evolution of the resource type as well. The major trends in ecclesiastical architectural design over the course of the sixty year period between 1867 and 1928 are visible in the evolution of this building, beginning with the Greek Revival-inspired original design and continuing through the High Victorian Gothic and Late Gothic Revival modifications that were to follow. The most important of these trends was the growth of what, by 1899, was an overwhelming public association of the Gothic idiom with ecclesiastical design. This association continued well into the beginning of the Twentieth century, by which time the idiom had been greatly influenced by the more scholarly approach that was a feature of the Period Revival styles. This nationwide trend can be clearly traced in the evolutionary history of the design of the First Congregational church and it is still visible on both the exterior and interior of this building today.

That a building can still retain architectural significance after undergoing as many changes as the First Congregational church has sustained is confirmed by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects; Standard No. 4 of which states that:

Changes which have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.*2

This significance is not lessened by the modern educational unit wing that was attached to the north elevation of the church in 1961. This non-contributing Modern Movement style addition is visually separated from the main block of the historic church and it does not obscure or dominate any of its significant architectural features. Additions of this type and period have also been added to Waukesha's other architecturally significant churches as well, all of which have been placed on the National Register in recent years.

ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The extent of possible archeological resources on this site is unknown at the present time. An earlier house and outbuildings are known to have been present on this site when the congregation purchased it, but these were subsequently removed to allow for the construction of the 1867 church. In addition, it is also known that there was also once a wood frame, one-story, rectilinear plan, 80-foot-long by 25-foot-wide horse shed located just to the northeast of the church along the north lot

*2 Federal Register. "Part IV: Department of the Interior." Thursday, September 29, 1983. Pg. 44737.

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line of the church property. This building is shown on the Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Waukesha from 1890 until 1922 although by that time it had been reduced in size and measured only 40-feet-long by 25-feet-wide and by 1929 the shed was gone. It is unlikely, however, that any traces of these buildings survived the excavation of the foundations of the present church and the educational unit, or the subsequent black-topping of the portion of the site behind these buildings for the present-day parking lot.

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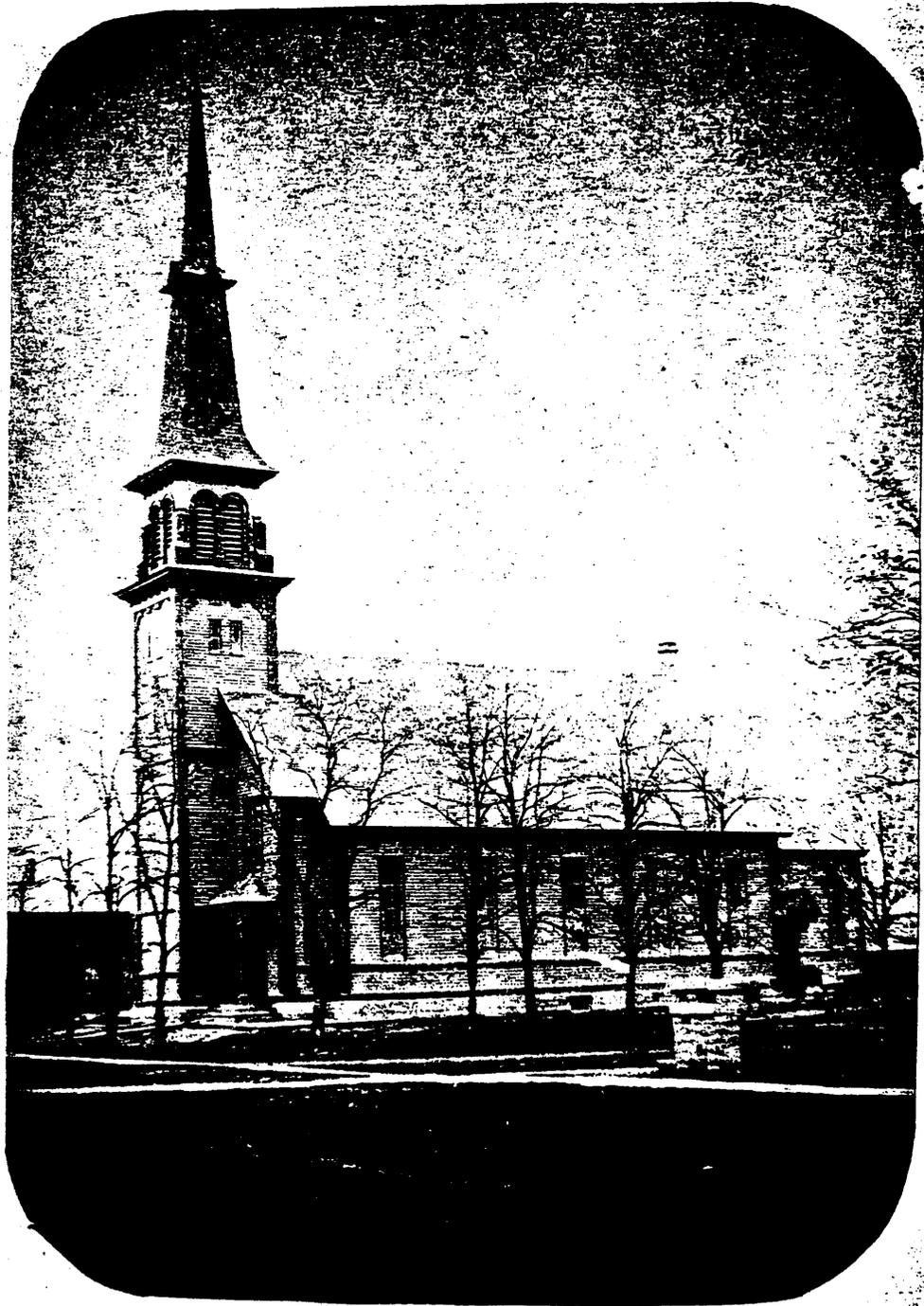
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Verbal Boundary Description Continued

on the northerly curblin of East Broadway; then Northwest 131.4' along said curblin to the junction with the East curblin of East Avenue, then North 161.56' along said curblin to the point of beginning. Vol. 457 deeds, pg. 557; Vol. 658 deeds, pg. 568; Vol. 874, pg. 161; and Vol. 1115, pg. 441.



First Congregational Church
Wauzeka, Waushara County, WI

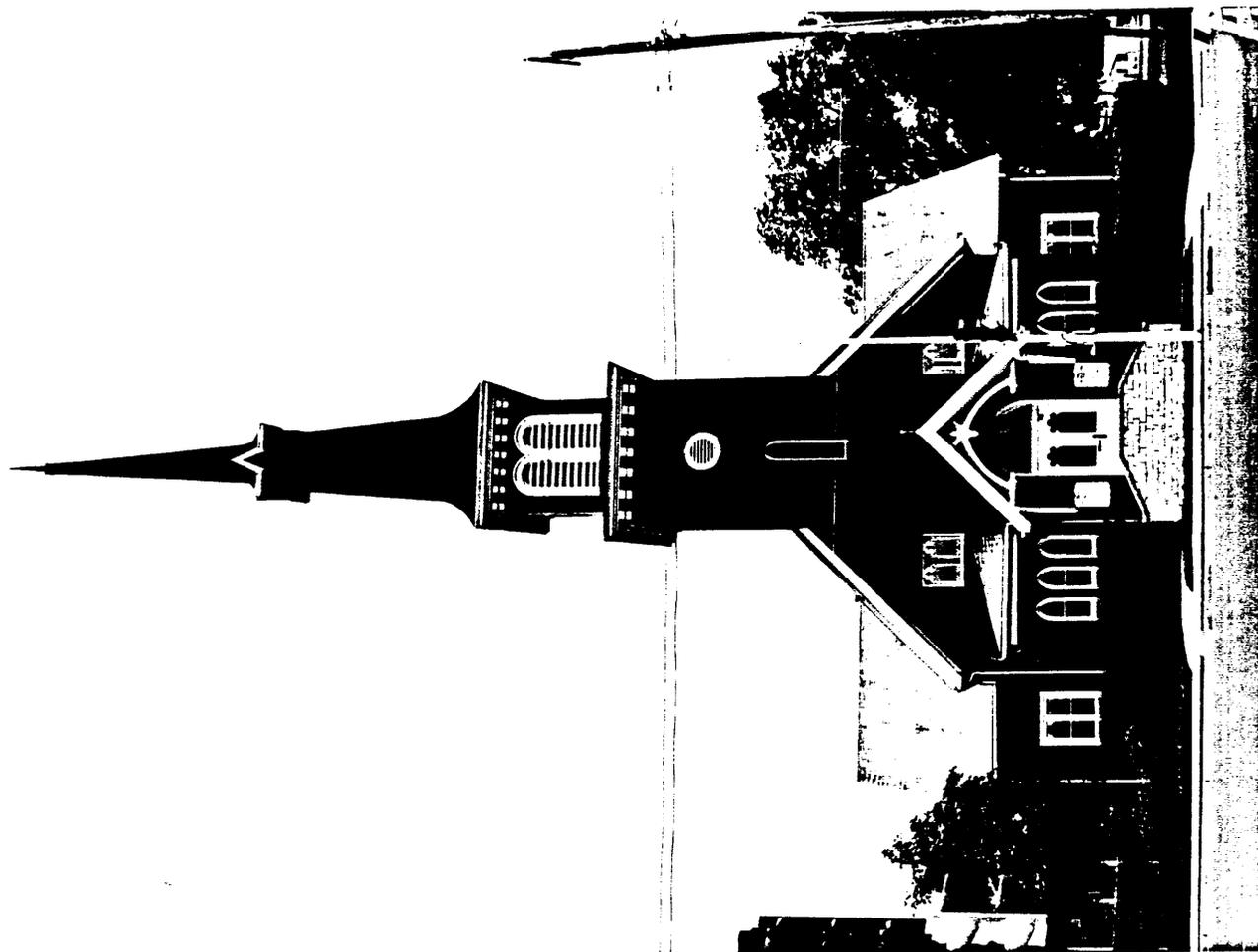


First Congregational Church
Watkesta, Watkesta County, U
Attachment A

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Waukesha, WI

View facing east



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Waukesha, WI

View facing north



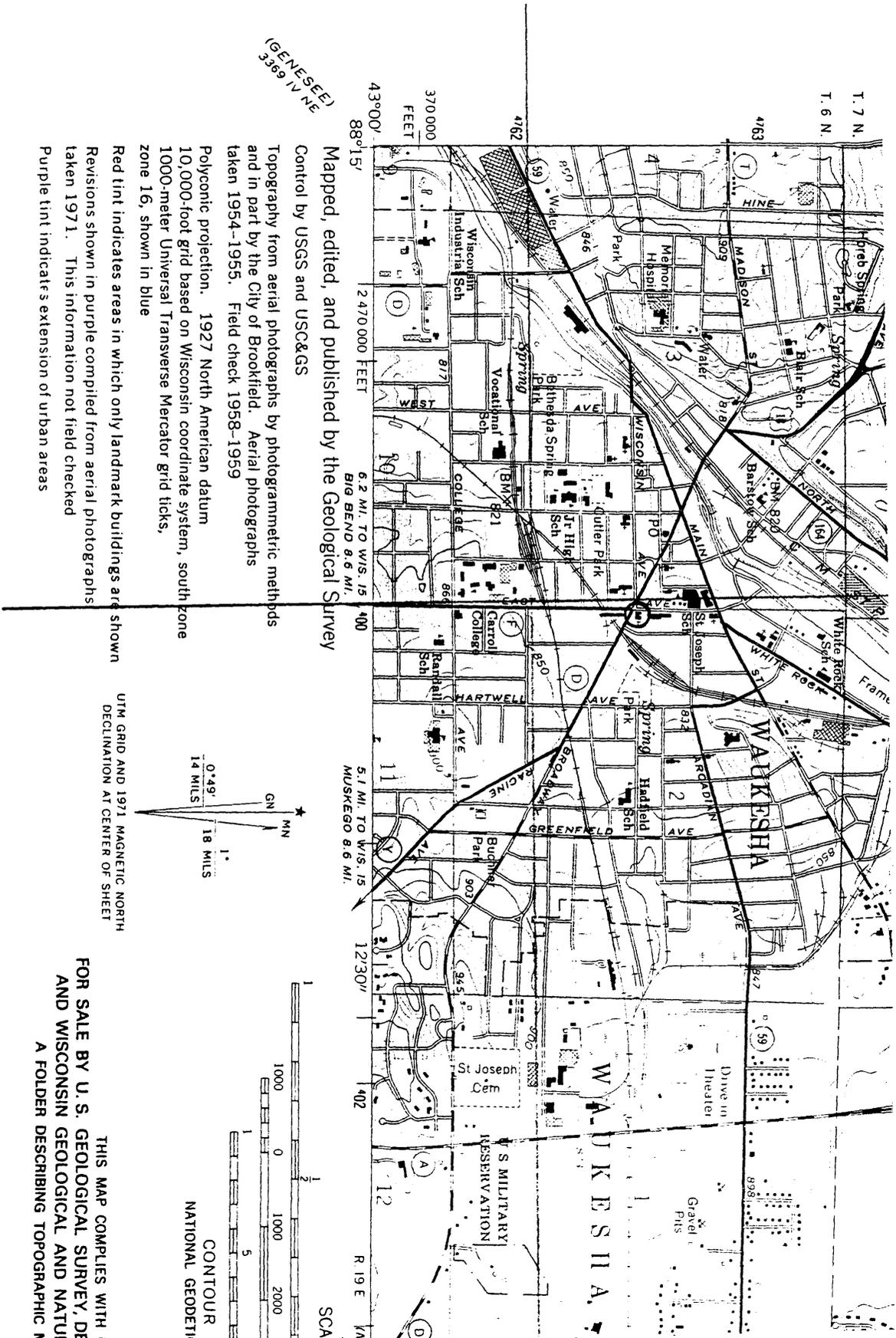


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Waukesha, WI

View facing east, southeast





(GENESEE)
3569 IV NE

T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.

43°00'
88°15'

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and in part by the City of Brookfield. Aerial photographs taken 1954-1955. Field check 1958-1959

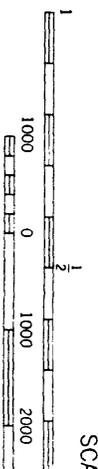
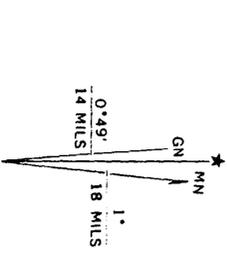
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

6.2 MI. TO WIS. 15
BIG BEND 8.6 MI.

5.1 MI. TO WIS. 15
MUSKEGO 8.6 MI.



CONTOUR I
NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLETES WITH I
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DE
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATU
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC A