

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

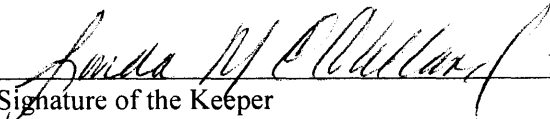
NRIS Reference Number: 08001068

Property Name: First Congregational Church

County: Riley State: Kansas

Multiple Name: NA

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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.

 November 13, 2008  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

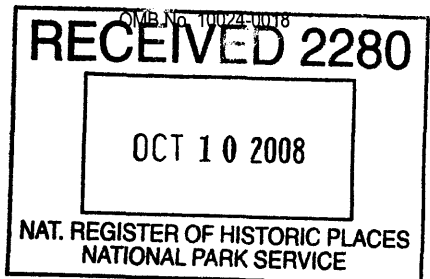
### Section 8. Significance

The Area of Significance for "Exploration and Settlement" is hereby dropped and "Community Planning and Development" added to better reflect church's continuing ties with Manhattan's growth and development commensurate with the church's architectural evolution.

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The staff of the Kansas Historical Society was notified of this amendment.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

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



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name First Congregational Church  
Other name/site number 161-3490-0159

2. Location

Street & number 700 Poyntz Avenue  not for publication  
City or town Manhattan  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Riley Code 161 Zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Patrick Zollner*

10/09/08

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- 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

*Sandra McEllland*

Date of Action

11/13/08

First Congregational Church  
Name of Property

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County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION / Religious Facility / Church

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / Religious Facility / Church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Gothic

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE : Limestone  
Walls: STONE : Limestone

Roof: ASPHALT

Other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

First Congregational Church  
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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

#### Period of Significance

1859-1913

#### Significant Dates

1859, 1879, 1904, 1913

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

First Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	7	1	0	1	4	0	4	3	3	9	5	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, PhD ; Caitlin Meives  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & number 529 Pierre Telephone 785-565-0086  
City or town Manhattan State KS Zip code 6652

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

Name Congregational Church, Attn. Reverend Kent Cormack  
Street & number 700 Poyntz Avenue Telephone 785-537-7006  
City or town Manhattan State KS Zip code 66502

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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First Congregational Church  
Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The First Congregational Church is located on a large corner lot at 700 Poyntz Avenue in the city of Manhattan, Kansas. The main façade and entrance face Poyntz Avenue while secondary entrances and the original portion of the building face Juliette Street. The church is located a few blocks west of downtown Manhattan in a mixed commercial and residential area. The area surrounding the church on Poyntz Avenue consists largely of commercial buildings while the area to the east on Juliette Street is largely residential in character, comprised of single-family houses.

Although the church was originally constructed in 1859 as a simple, gable-roofed rectangular block, it has grown considerably since then. The existing plan of the church reflects this evolution with various cross gables, ells, and additions. The plan consists of the original gable-roofed rectangular block; a gable-roofed ell that was added to the south elevation of the original block in 1879; a large cross-gable addition that was added in 1904 to the south elevation of the ell; and a large 1989 addition to the west elevation of the building that consists of one flat and two gable-roofed wings.

The existing two-story, Gothic Revival-style church is constructed of cottonwood limestone that varies in form and appearance on some portions of the building, based on the date of construction. With the exception of the first story of the original block, the limestone is laid in a regular coursed ashlar pattern. All roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. Architectural features include stained glass windows, pointed arch windows, and typical Gothic Revival window tracery. All windows are recessed with limestone sills and either rectangular limestone lintels or pointed arch limestone surrounds unless otherwise noted.

The 1904 addition functions as the visual focal point of the church and contains the Sanctuary. It possesses a cross-gable plan with a square, three-story tower located at the southeast corner. This portion of the church also possesses parapet gable ends. Each gable end is three bays wide and supported by buttresses at the corners. A belt course runs directly above the basement level on the south and east elevations. The main façade, facing south on Poyntz Avenue, contains three evenly spaced basement windows with limestone lintels set within the belt course. Centered within the façade, is a two-story recess topped by a pointed arch limestone voussoir. Stained glass windows are set within this recess on both the first and second stories. Limestone blocks are recessed in the space between the stories. At the bottom is a tri-partite stained glass window with a center single sash window and two flanking one-over-one sash. These windows possess a limestone lintel and sill. A similar configuration of windows, topped by pointed arch transoms containing flowing tracery, is present above. Single one-over-one sash stained glass windows are present on the first story at either end of the façade. They are topped by rectangular limestone lintels recessed within a pointed arch voussoir. A small rectangular vent is present in the parapet gable peak.

A three story, flat-roofed tower with stepped buttresses at its corners, is located on the southeast corner of the façade, at the juncture of the south and east elevations. A small set of stairs ascends to the centered entrance on the main façade of the tower. The entrance is slightly recessed beneath a pointed arch voussoir and consists of a pair of wooden doors with decorative glazing patterns. Three small pointed

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arch windows and wooden tracery top the doors. A pair of pointed arch windows with diamond shaped panes in the upper sash is present above the entrance. A large pointed arch vent is present in the third story. The tower possesses a parapet roofline, decorated in the center by cornice line dentils.

The east elevation of the tower contains three evenly spaced basement windows with limestone lintels set within the belt course and three small, recessed, pointed arch windows that rise diagonally across the elevation, as they light the interior stairway. A large pointed arch vent is present in the third story. Beyond the tower, the east elevation of the 1904 addition possesses the same fenestration as the south façade, with the exception of the basement windows. Two segmental arched windows are centered in the basement level below the belt course.

A two-story tower joins this elevation of the 1904 addition with the 1879 ell that extends from the north elevation of the addition. This tower possesses the same general form as the larger tower, with a parapet roofline and stepped buttresses at the corners. A secondary entrance with double doors is centered on the first floor of the tower. Tri-partite windows topped by pointed arch transoms and flowing tracery within a pointed arch voussoir are present in the second story.

The remaining portions of the east elevation consist of the 1879 ell and the original 1859 gable-front block. Originally constructed as a one-and-a-half story church, a second story was added to both of these sections in 1913, matching their rooflines to that of the 1904 addition. The east elevation of the 1879 ell possesses two evenly spaced, two-over-two sash on the first story. Smaller, two-over-two windows with segmental arched lintels are present directly above on the second story.

The east elevation of the church terminates with the gable front of the original 1859 structure. This three-bay wide portion of the building is flush with the 1879 ell and possesses a parapet gable end similar to those on the 1904 addition. The second story addition is clearly visible in the limestone pattern as it changes from an irregular coursed rubble formation to regular coursed ashlar. The 1859 structure rests on a limestone base, visible on the east and north elevations. Windows on the east and north elevation of the original section are double-hung, one-over-one sash with limestone sills and rectangular lintels. An enclosed, one-story projecting entrance vestibule, constructed of limestone, is centered on the east elevation of the 1859 portion. The vestibule possesses a single window on its south elevation and double doors topped by a rectangular lintel on the east. Flanking the vestibule on either side are single windows. A set of tri-partite windows is located directly above the vestibule. Wooden tracery, a pointed arch vent, and a pointed arch voussoir top these windows, echoing the fenestration on the 1904 addition.

The north elevation of the church presents the side of the original 1859 structure, which possesses two vertically aligned windows on both the first and second stories, as well as a secondary, solid wall of the 1989 addition.

Visible on the west elevation, from back to front, are four distinct parts of the church building—three wings of the 1989 addition and the west elevation of the 1904 addition. The first wing of the 1989 addition is a gable-roofed building that extends from the west elevation of the original building. The gable end faces west and bears cornice returns and vertically aligned fenestration on the first and second

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stories. The first floor possesses a single one-over-one sash window as well as a deeply recessed entrance supported by a rectangular lintel. Two windows are present on the second story.

The flat-roofed wing extends from the 1879 ell and ends shy of the neighboring wings in a flat limestone parapet wall that echoes the parapets on the towers. The wall is solid stone except for a decorative cross, recessed into the limestone and a projecting stringcourse above that meets the eaves on the gable-roofed wings of the 1989 addition. The third wing of the 1989 addition extends beyond the other two wings and possesses two, vertically aligned, one-over-one windows on both the first and second stories. The south elevation of this wing possesses the same fenestration below a cross gable peak. Recessed behind the gable peak to the right is a one bay wide, two-story entrance with a parapet roofline that mimics the form of the towers. The entrance contains a set of double doors with decorative glazing similar to that on the building's main entrance. Above the entrance are two levels of single sash stained glass windows flanked by narrow sidelights and topped by blind tracery that sits within a pointed arch voussoir.

Partially obscured by the 1989 addition, the west elevation of the 1904 addition represents the third gable end of the 1904 cross gable plan. Fenestration on this elevation is similar to the south and east elevations. In this case, the center stained glass windows on the first and second stories are separate rather than contained within one, two-story recess. Again, the center window on the first story consists of a tri-partite stained glass window with a center single sash window and two flanking one-over-one sash. Single one-over-one sash are present at either end of the first story. In contrast with the other elevations, these two windows are topped by simple rectangular lintels rather than pointed arch voussoirs. A pointed arch stained glass window, of the same form as those on the south and east elevations, is centered in the second story.

*Interior*

The interior of the church has been renewed a number of times, but the oldest portions of the structure, the original 1859 building and the 1879 addition, are intact. The east elevation, or Juliette Street entrances, is intact as are the interior wall finishes, the staircase leading to the second story addition, the exterior doors, the junior church rooms and the overall floor plan. There is an obvious distinction in finishes, wall surfaces, walking surfaces and woodwork between the 1989 addition on the south west side of the church and the earlier structures. On the second floor, access to the 1989 addition is by way of a closed doorway, making it invisible from the original structures.

From scattered references in the vertical files and notes of the church, it is likely that the original pews from the 1859 structure were rearranged and additional ones purchased in 1879 when the orientation of the pulpit moved from the west side of the building to the north side. After the 1904 sanctuary structure was built, the original pews were moved to the second story for use in the children's sanctuary located on the second floor of the 1879 addition. An extant fireplace was added to the south wall of the original 1859 building during the 1904 expansion, the chimney for which is intact and visible from the exterior of the building today.



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The 1904 sanctuary has been updated a number of times. The first sanctuary contained two rows of pews with a single aisle, a raised chancel and a single ambo (often incorrectly referred to as a pulpit). A choir loft was located on the chancel behind the ambo and the communion table. A small rail or kneeling wall separated the chancel from the nave. In the 1940s, the floor plan was re-arranged to provide for two additional aisles. The ambo was replaced by a pulpit and lectern arrangement and the choir was divided into two sections behind the communion table. The sanctuary was given a third facelift in the 1960s that concentrated almost wholly on the arrangement of the chancel. The kneeling wall was removed, the chancel was reduced in size and carpeted and four large rough-hewn piers that met in an arch were installed around the communion table, creating a modern cathedral-like space. Rough cedar was also installed across the back of the chancel surrounding the choir lofts. A rough-hewn cross was installed on the wall above this. The nave was not dramatically altered with the exception of the installation of carpeting and a sound system. A simple wrought iron rail was installed along the top of the balcony wall on the second story. The windows and walls remained the same with the exception of new paint.

The last renovation of the sanctuary was in 2001-2002 when the remnants of the 1960s remodel were removed, the chancel restored to its original size, the sanctuary was re-carpeted, new lighting was installed in the balcony along the floors for safety, new interior fire doors were installed for safety and new pews were purchased. The older pews were sold to help pay for this renovation and new pews purchased that looked very much like the original 1904 versions which had become too split and wobbly to be used safely. The floor plan from the 1940s renovation was retained with a center aisle and two side aisles. The balcony railing and all other woodwork that had been removed during the 1960s was restored or replaced (some elements had been saved in the basement of the church and were re-installed). The architect for this latest renovation/restoration effort was Bruce McMillan of Manhattan, Kansas. These renovation floor plans and drawings are available for view in his office at 600 Poyntz Avenue.

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First Congregational Church  
Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Congregational Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the settlement and development of Manhattan, Kansas and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a local example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Revival (Late Gothic Revival) architecture.

First Congregational Church was founded in 1856. The founding of the church and its first leaders are directly connected to eras and events of national significance: abolitionism, the American Home Missionary Society, Bleeding Kansas, the American Civil War and the Morrill Land Grant Act. It is also an outstanding example of Late Victorian Gothic Revival architecture, which was a high style in church construction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The founding clergyman responsible for the fundraising and construction of the original church building was the Reverend Charles E. Blood. Charles Blood was born in Mason, New Hampshire on March 1, 1810. A graduate of Illinois College, Blood completed his training at Lane Theological School in Cincinnati in 1839. He was ordained in an Illinois Presbytery in 1810. He married his wife Mary (nee Coffin) that same year. Before moving to Kansas Rev. Blood was a pastor in Collinsville and Framingham, Illinois.

Blood and his wife arrived in Juniata (first white settlement just to the north of present-day Manhattan) on November 4, 1854. His sponsor in the move was the American Home Missionary Society, a well-known abolitionist organization opposed to the spread of slavery to the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska. According to church history, Blood preached his first sermon on April 22, 1855 to a small group of settlers near the site of the present church, in a tent with worshippers sitting on boxes and kegs. He was a founding member of the Boston Town Association.<sup>1</sup> Mary Blood was also active in building the church and the fledgling city of Boston, taking the position of the town's first schoolteacher. In the same period, Blood was elected to the board of trustees of Bluemont Central College (later Kansas State University) and served as the secretary for the Manhattan Town Association, which superseded the Boston Town Association with the arrival of the Hartford Steamboat settlers on June 1, 1855.

In January of 1856, a small group of people gathered in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Armory Hunting and drew up a constitution and statement of faith for their newly organized Congregational church. The constitution provided specifically for "democratic rule, denounced human slavery and those who held slaves and forbade the use of alcoholic beverages, even for sacramental purposes."<sup>2</sup> On February 27, 1857, the church congregation elected three congregants to hold the property of the congregation in trust,

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<sup>1</sup> Andreas, *History of Kansas*, 1883 and *First Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State of Kansas for the Years 1877-78* (State Printing Office: Topeka Kansas).

<sup>2</sup> Charles M. Correll, *The Manhattan Congregational Church 1856-1956* (Centennial booklet, no publisher, undated)

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with Blood being one of them. Their task was to build a church on three city lots donated to the congregation by the newly created Manhattan Town Company and the Cincinnati Land Company. In addition to giving the new congregation land for the church, the Manhattan Town Company donated several town lots to the board, to be sold to new settlers in order for the church to accumulate enough funds for a building.

The Rev. Blood then wrote to the American Home Missionary Society for help with building a house of worship. He wrote "The town companies have not only given us three lots, each 60 x 150 feet, upon which to build our church, but also some forty lots of the same size—worth at last calculation \$2000.00 toward erecting a church." Church member Hunting secured \$1000.00 from eastern donors and Rev. Blood raised \$280.00 in St. Louis and \$990.00 in Illinois, including subscriptions from Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and Owen Lovejoy.<sup>3</sup>

The original plan for a church building by the new congregation was at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Poyntz where Manhattan City Park is today. However, that location was considered too far out in the country and the congregation began planning for a building at its current location on the northwest corner of Juliette (the equivalent of 7<sup>th</sup> street) and Poyntz Avenue. At Reverend Blood's suggestion, the first church building was located in the northeast corner of the lot (Lot 3, Ward 4) facing Juliette to allow for future expansion toward Poyntz Avenue. The plain rectangular single story limestone building was largely completed in May of 1859. The dedication of the building was set for the first Sunday in June. But on May 16, 1859, a tornado passed through town, taking the roof off the nearly finished structure. The cost of repairs was \$400.00 and Blood desperately wrote to Issac Goodnow that the plaster would be ruined if the roof was not repaired immediately. Their fundraising efforts paid off and the church, fully repaired, was dedicated on July 24, 1859. According to the dedication description, the church measured 27 by 44 feet, with a Gothic roof and arched ceiling with five walnut panels. The aisles were on the sides and the pews were of black walnut. There was also a short spire over the Juliette Street entrance.

Rev. Blood continued at First Congregational until 1862 when he resigned for reasons we cannot fully know today, but it seems that some members of the congregation did not care for his preaching style. In the Manhattan Express, the local newspaper, Rev. Blood was called the city's "first bonafide settler of Manhattan." (November 1860). When Rev. Blood left Manhattan, the Civil War was a year old. The church did not have to wait long for a new pastor as it was a beacon for abolitionists and was well known in New England. On May 26, 1862, the Rev. G. A. Beckwith, from Andover Seminary was installed as the new pastor. Beckwith remained at FCC for five years. During that time the church purchased an organ "harmonium" and Professor Platt from the college organized a choir.

The next pastor was Roswell Parker. Mr. Parker was one of the "Andover Band;" a group of seminarians who had come to Kansas in 1857 to save it from becoming a slave state. At the time Parker was installed, the church had 69 members. Over the next 14 years, the church added 165 new members. An expansion

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<sup>3</sup> Correll, 6.

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of the church was clearly needed. This physical expansion was started in 1878 and the dedication of a new southern wing was held on March 11, 1879. This wing enlarged the seating capacity of the church to about 200. To accommodate more seating, the pulpit was relocated from the west side of the building to the north side and the pews realigned accordingly. About this same time, the first church spire was enlarged into a full tower and a bell installed. However, the bell did not last long. It developed a large crack in 1890 and was buried upside down on the lawn facing Juliette. It originally held a tree but it died and the congregation forgot about the bell's existence altogether until its re-discovery in the 1990s. It now sits on a stationary stand at the southwest narthex entrance to the church.

The next major addition to the church was undertaken at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In December 1902, the church called Rev. O.B. Thurston to be pastor. Thurston was a dynamic preacher and the membership again outgrew the facility. On October 31, 1903, the church board of trustees resolved to build a new auditorium in the Gothic style. Smith and Correll, a local design/build partnership, put in a low bid of \$6924.00. The work went quickly and the new sanctuary was dedicated on November 20, 1904. The extant stained glass windows were not included in the 1903 bid and were installed by individuals and organizations at their own expense over a period of several years afterward.

The older portions of the church, the 1859 sanctuary and 1879 southern wing, served as classrooms and as a gathering place for church suppers (and still do today). In 1913, the original one story stone church sanctuary was modified again for a second story and the basement under the 1904 sanctuary was converted into more classrooms and a kitchen. In 1951, a flood that inundated downtown Manhattan did some damage to the church interior and the original 1859 sanctuary was replastered with funds provided by the women's fellowship. The church did not undergo any other extensive additions until 1989, when a new narthex, staircase, elevator, pastor's office and a new kitchen wing, just to the west of the original church, were added. This addition is faced with limestone, in a slightly different pattern from the original buildings and is well set back from the 1904 sanctuary facing Poyntz Avenue and does not obscure the visibility of either the 1859 church or the 1879 expansion.

Some of the more progressive ideals evident in the construction of First Congregational Church can be traced to its connections with the founding and development of Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State University. Rev. Blood was a founding member of the Bluemont Central College Association, which built the first college building to become Kansas State Agricultural College. Rev. Blood's wife, Mary, composed the hymn sung at the dedication to the new Bluemont Central College on May 10, 1859. A number of professors at the college, including the President of KSAC from 1879 to 1897 Dr. George T. Fairchild, were active in the church, serving on various boards and as moderators. Fairchild was in fact an ordained Congregational minister but never sought a pulpit. Fairchild was president of the college at the passage of the Hatch Act of 1887, which provided for the creation of the Agricultural Experiment Station.<sup>4</sup> Membership in the church from the college faculty remained strong throughout the

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<sup>4</sup> Julius T. Willard, *History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science* (Kansas State College Press: Manhattan, Kansas, 1940), 6.

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decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, a large portion of the church membership is still associated with the University, either as professors or students and the congregation continues to take an active role in areas of social welfare, just as Reverend Blood did, by providing a weekly evening meal for the less fortunate. Thus the social justice (abolition and civil rights) movement that began with Rev. Blood in 1859 has remained central to the mission of First Congregational Church.

*Architecture*

The First Congregational Church is significant under Criterion C as an example of the Gothic Revival style. The church embodies the distinctive characteristics of this style in the use of materials, decorative detailing, and general form.

During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, English born architect Richard Upjohn popularized the use of Gothic Revival style architecture in churches. The style was applied to large, landmark cathedrals such as Upjohn's Trinity Church in New York City as well as to smaller, local churches. Typical characteristics include asymmetry, verticality, pointed arch windows and doorways, window tracery, towers, buttresses, and steeply pitched gable roofs. Gothic Revival architecture reappeared in churches—as well as academic buildings—again during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is also referred to as Late Gothic Revival and Collegiate Gothic.

The 1904 portion of the church represents this resurgence of the style. Typical characteristics of the style that this portion of the church exhibits include pointed arch windows with decorative tracery, a two story tower, stepped buttresses at the corners of the building and tower, and parapet gable ends.

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National Park Service

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First Congregational Church  
Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas

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First Congregational Church  
Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located at 700 Poyntz Avenue in the city of Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas and is also known as: Lots 1, 2, & 3 in Ward 4.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the First Congregational Church.

**PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION**

Property Name: First Congregational Church  
Location: 700 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Riley Co., KS  
Photographer: Caitlin Meives  
Date: 15 July 2008

- Photo 1: Exterior, South elevation (front)
- Photo 2: Exterior, South elevation, tower entrance at southeast corner
- Photo 3: Exterior, East elevation, tower
- Photo 4: Exterior, East and North elevations
- Photo 5: Exterior, Entire East elevation
- Photo 6: Exterior, West elevation and parking lot
- Photo 7: Interior, Main sanctuary facing SE
- Photo 8: Interior, Main sanctuary, facing pulpit, looking N
- Photo 9: Interior, Sanctuary, stained glass window on east wall
- Photo 10: Interior, Sanctuary, ceiling and light fixtures
- Photo 11: Interior, Sanctuary, View of overage room (1859 sanctuary)

First Congregational  
Church  
Marquette, Riley Co,  
Kansas

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