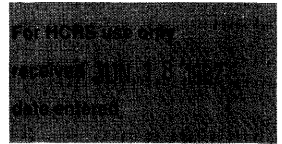


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn (NH01-86)  
and/or common First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn

**2. Location**

street & number 1322 19th Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Auburn N/A vicinity of First congressional district  
state Nebraska code 031 county Nemaha code 127

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name First United Presbyterian Church  
street & number 1322 19th Street  
city, town Auburn N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Nemaha County Courthouse  
street & number Courthouse Square  
city, town Auburn state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date On-going  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society  
city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First United Presbyterian Church in Auburn, Nebraska (1970 population 3,650), occupies a prominent location at the northeast junction of 19th and "N" Streets. Brick surfacing has been retained on both streets; immediately to the west is the Nemaha County Courthouse Square.

Constructed between 1906-07, the church is a modified rectangular building of brick construction with a foundation and exterior trim of limestone. The arrangement of parts -- covered by roof sections of varying shapes -- articulates the interior order.

Serving as salient parts are two square towers of analogous design: a three-story tower at the southwest containing the principal entrances and housing a belfry and foyer; and a two-story tower on the west containing an auxiliary entrance and housing a staircase that leads to the basement. Both towers are treated with arched openings with corresponding overhead stone bands, corner buttresses set at right angles, and continuous crenelated parapets.

Gabled walls on the south and west are treated identically: in the center of each is a pointed-arch Saracenic window with roughly-textured brick and stone trim; beneath the large fenestral opening is a tripartite arrangement of rectangular windows flanked on either side by a two-tiered buttress and a lancet window; in the gable peak is a blind arched opening with brick and stone trim; and visually defining the gable are return cornices and two rows of rough bricks along the rakes.

A one-story apsidal projection is on the east gabled wall, and at the north is a hip-roofed section measuring approximately 47' x 35' that makes exclusive use of rectangular openings. A one-story, hip-roofed section abuts the north wall of the shorter tower, and a flat-roofed shelter that protects steps leading to the basement is at the southeast.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1906-07 Builder/Architect Eisenbrant, Pattenger and Colby

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The 1906 First United Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as a notable late Gothic Revival building in the community of Auburn, Nebraska. Further significance is rendered through the church's seating arrangement -- and auditorium-type configuration that originated in the 1860's as the "Akron plan."

Synodical Missionary George L. Little organized the First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn in 1887 under the name, The Calvert Presbyterian Church. A frame church building was erected ca. 1882 and was later sold to a local Lutheran congregation for removal from its site at 19th and "N" Streets. The second and present church edifice, designed by the Sioux City, Iowa, firm of Eisenbrant, Pattenger, and Colby -- a firm about which little is known.

The "Akron plan" was developed shortly after the Civil War by Lewis Miller, founder and first president of the internationally noted Chautauqua Association. Miller's concept for the plan came from the idea of a natural amphitheater, and originally it was intended to meet the needs of Sunday schools alone:

The first such arrangement consisted of a large room in the form of a semi-circle arranged something like an opera house, having but one gallery, with the space above and below divided into compartments or alcoves by partitions from floor to ceiling. All of these dividing partitions radiated from the center of the platform, with doors or portiers at the opening or face of the subdivisions. When these doors are opened the occupants are practically all together in a semi-circle -- the best form for an audience -- all thus being able to see and hear perfectly, and to sing and read together (Thirty-Second Annual Report).

Naturally, the plan was modified to meet the needs of different congregations, and as was the case with numerous other churches, the Presbyterians of Auburn adapted the Akron plan for more general usage, i.e., Sunday School rooms off the church auditorium instead of school rooms off a central Sunday School space.

Nebraska architectural historian Keith Sawyers has written the following: "The Auburn Presbyterian Church is a good example of the Akron plan and exhibits the characteristic exterior features, the most prominent of which are a prominent block exhibiting gabled walls containing wide pointed windows and two square towers marking the auditorium and Sunday School entrances. . . . For the most part, the building remains remarkably close to its original condition and is one of the finest examples of this type to be found in the state (Auburn and Southeastern Nebraska, pp. 66-67).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Auburn, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	15	2	5	18	6	1	10	4	14	7	14	2	13	10
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3 and 4, Block 22, Reed and Gilmore Addition, City of Auburn, Nemaha County, Nebraska, including all of the historically associated real estate.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dan Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date December, 1980

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-3850

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Martin D. Knott 6/10/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

**For HCRS use only**

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

John Albion Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/15/82  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Extension of the Methodist  
Episcopal Church, South: also, Eighth Quadrennial Report, place  
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