

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 14 1977

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 Presbyterian Church  
AND/OR COMMON  
First United Presbyterian Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
401 Iowa Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Muscatine  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Muscatine  
CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
First United Presbyterian Church  
STREET & NUMBER  
401 Iowa Ave.

CITY, TOWN  
Muscatine  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Muscatine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Muscatine  
STATE  
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nomination includes two structures, connected by an entrance pavilion, the Presbyterian Church and an accompanying Sunday school building.

The church is a rectangular structure of red brick, early Gothic Revival in style, which exhibits Tudor influence in its details. It is 5 bays long and 3 wide. The shallow, gable roof has a narrow wood cornice and is covered with composition shingle. The central tower of the front, which houses entry below and belfry above, is divided into 3 stages, the two upper stages joined by the corner buttresses, and topped by a crenellated parapet. Corner buttresses (on the tower as well as the basilica) and wall buttresses are marked by white stone weatherings. There are pinnacles at each corner of the sanctuary. White stone is used for the water table, and in the sills and rectangular lintels of the small windows in the raised basement. The entrance is reached by a long flight of steps, and the door is deeply recessed within a wide, four-centered arch with a tracery-window transom.

On the north side of the church is a red brick "Sunday School" building, which is joined to the sanctuary by a hall and wide, gable-ended entrance pavilion, so that the whole forms a U-shaped complex. The plan and massing of the Sunday School (1912) is classical, but its Gothic details repeat those of the basilica in a remarkably harmonious fashion. It is two stories high on a raised basement, with a hip roof and 3-bay gabled pavilion at the front. Window treatment here is largely rectangular (square at the basement level), with much stained glass, except for the three second-floor windows of the central pavilion which have four-centered arches. There is extensive use of white trim around windows, and white stone for the water table, the gable end of the pavilion, the wide cornice, and the labelled stringcourse which separates the two stories of the central pavilion. There are two brick chimneys on the extreme north end of the roof.

The entrance pavilion (between church and Sunday School buildings) helps to bring the two sections together, visually. The stone trim and shape of the gable end here repeats that of the pavilion on the Sunday School building, while the wide Tudor-style arch entry with tracery panel echoes that of the sanctuary entrance.

The basement level of the church proper, and all floors of the Sunday School building, are broken up into a variety of offices, classrooms, etc., best described by reference to the enclosed floor plans. No alterations have been made in these interior room arrangements, nor to the exterior of either of the structures.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856-9;

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church in Muscatine is a simple, well-proportioned example of mid-19th century Gothic Revival architecture. It is particularly noteworthy for the remarkable harmony of the entire complex, the two parts of which were built nearly 50 years apart.

The church, built in the latter 1850's, was the home of the first Iowa Presbytery, organized in 1840. The first Iowa Synod was created here in 1852, and may have encouraged the erection of this substantial structure as a proper symbol of these early organizational efforts in Iowa.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Allbee, Gustavus. History of the First Presbyterian Church, Muscatine, Iowa, 1839-1842.  
 Hubbard, Joseph Welton. History of the Presbyterian Church in Iowa, 1837-1900.  
 Cedar Rapids: Superior Press, 1907.  
 Richman, Irving B. History of Muscatine County, Vol. 1 (1911)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

UTM REFERENCES

4 5 8 7

A	1 5	6 6,3 1,6,0	4 6 8,7 3,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Estelle H. Klein, Clerk of Session

ORGANIZATION

First United Presbyterian Church

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

401 Iowa Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Muscatine

STATE

Iowa

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

1/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

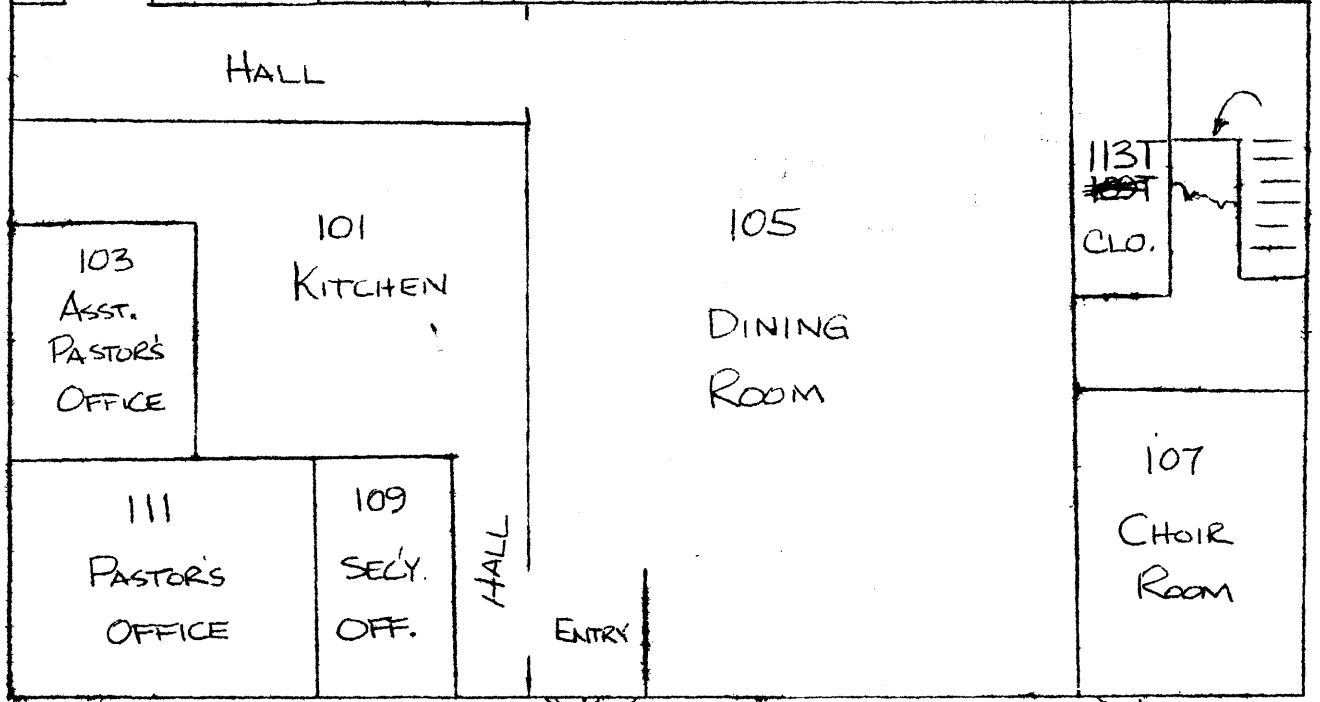
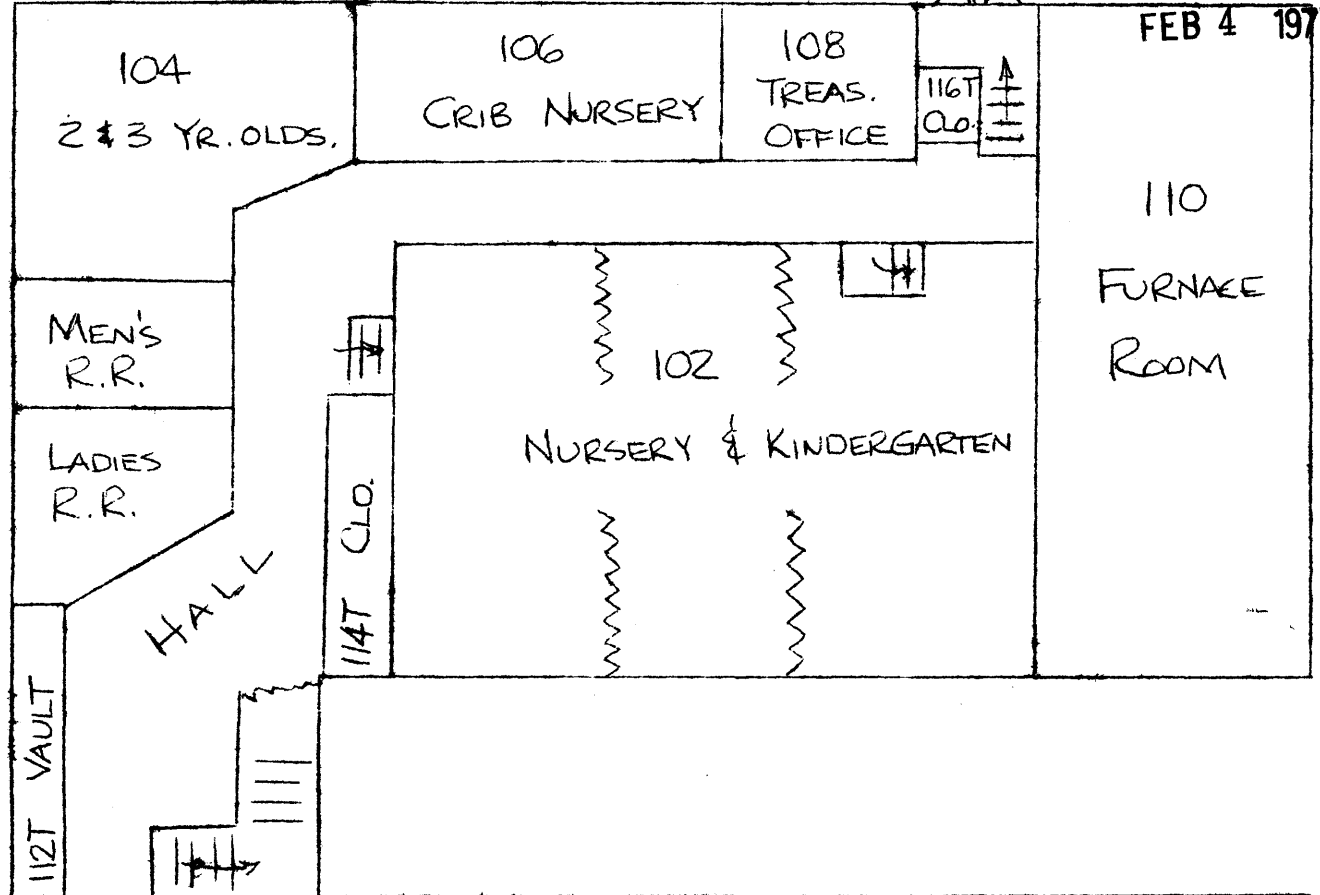
*W. S. Smith*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles E. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *9/14/77*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE *9.13.77*

← IOWA AVE.

AA

FEB 4 1977

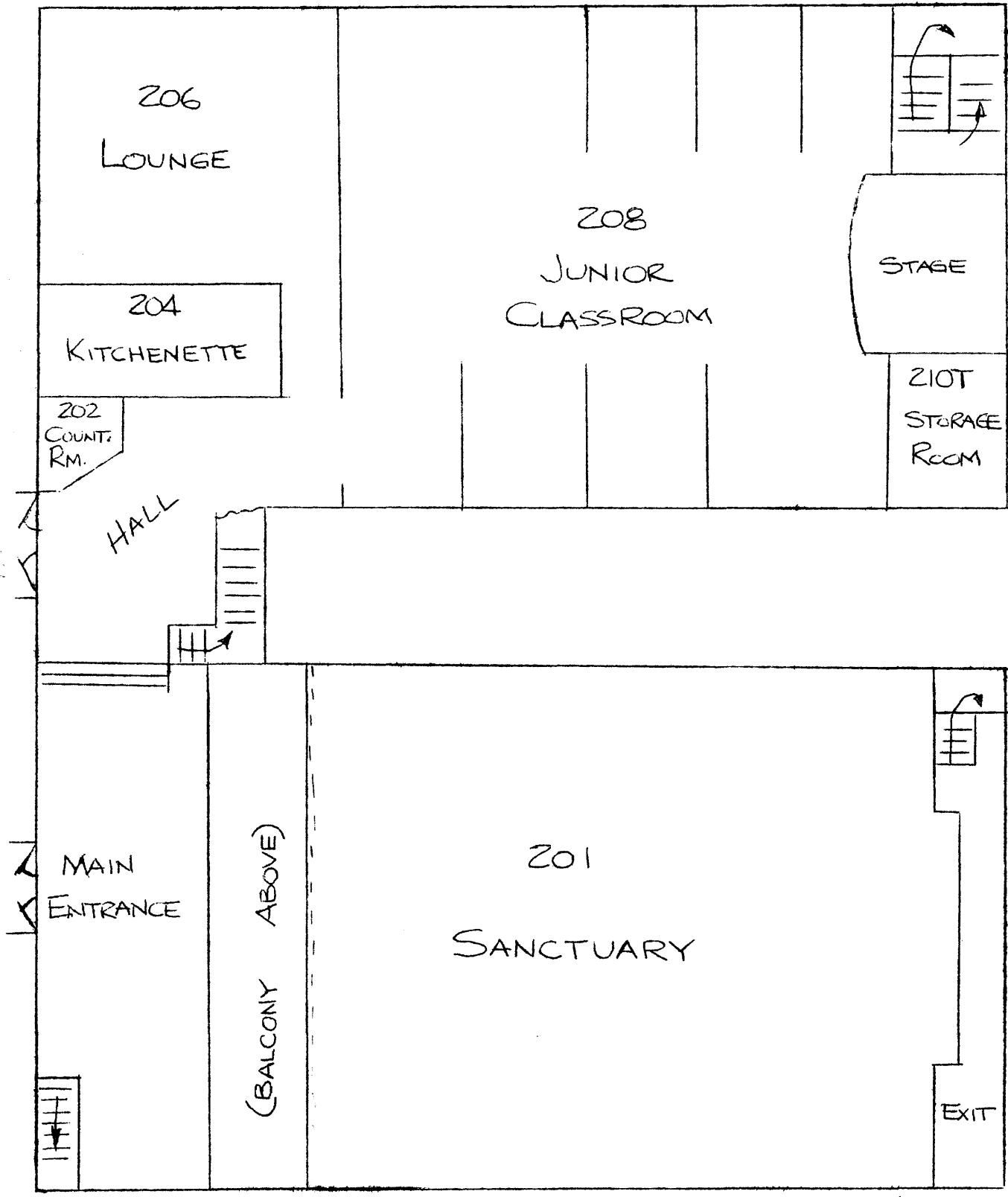


LOWER LEVEL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEB 4 1977

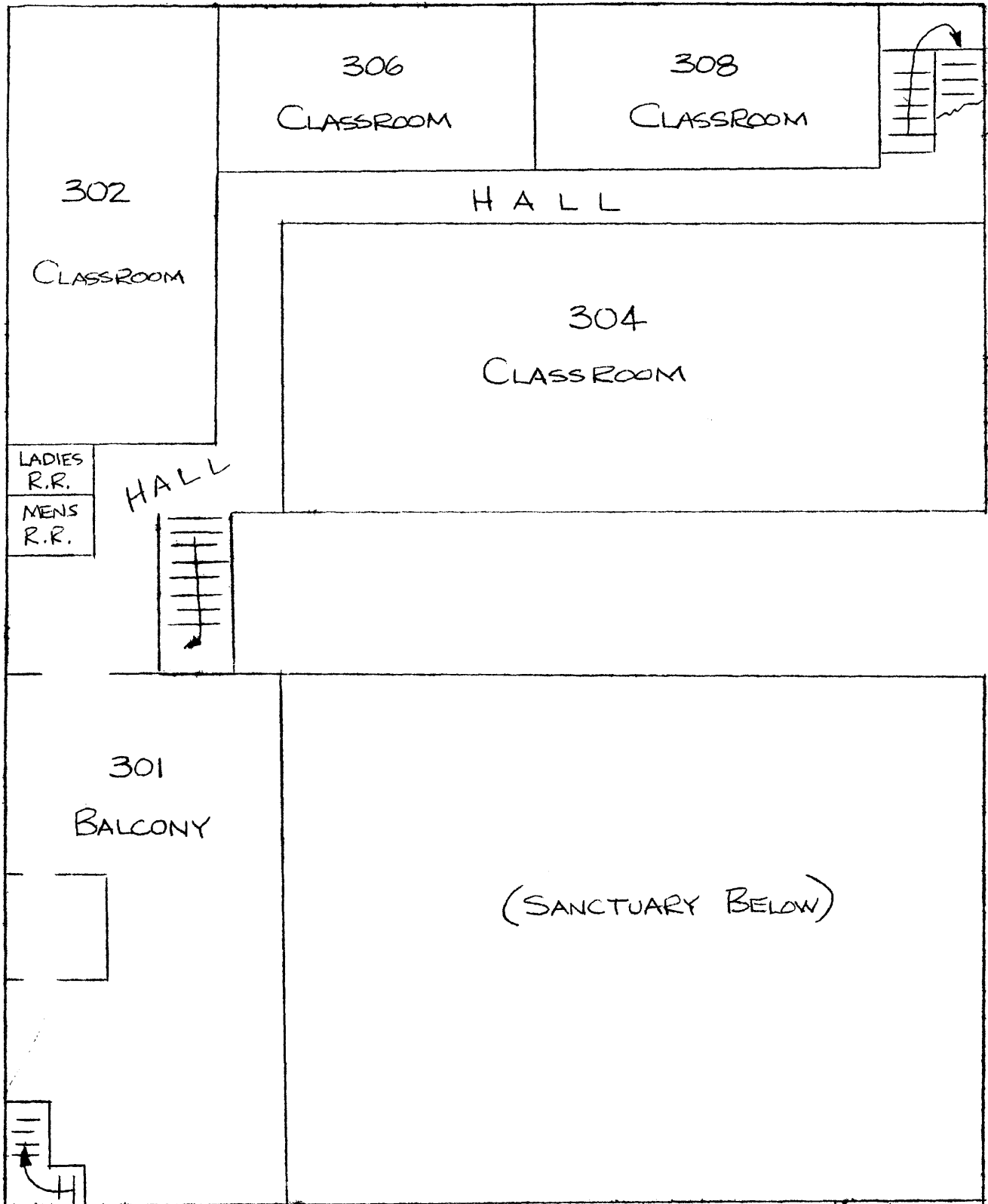
← IOWA AVE.



MAIN LEVEL  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

← IOWA AVE.

FEB 4 1977



UPPER LEVEL  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH