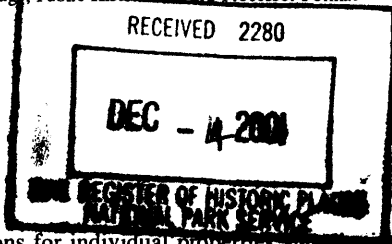


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1461

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" on the appropriate line 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
other names/site number St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center

2. Location

street & number 211 North Sycamore N/A not for publication
city or town Monticello N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jones code 105 zip code 52310

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (X 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 (X meets _ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (_ nationally _ statewide X locally). (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
David J. Seike, DSHPO, October 30, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA 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 certifying 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)

Edson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 1.17.02

St. Luke's Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Late Gothic Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Stone

roof Asbestos
other Wood
Glass

Narrative Description

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

St. Luke's Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" on all the lines 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1950

Significant Dates

1950

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Cram & Ferguson, Architects

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository _____

St. Luke's Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 6 4 9 4 7 0 | 4 6 7 7 8 7 5 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | --- | ----- | ----- |

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 William C. Page, Public Historian

organization Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center date May 20, 2001

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center

street & number 211 Sycamore telephone 319-465-3034

city or town Monticello state IA zip code 52310

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a 2-story, stone clad church building completed in 1950 from architectural designs by Cram & Ferguson, Architects, of Boston, Massachusetts. The church is situated on two building lots. The integrity of this building is fine, having only a few alterations from the time of its original construction.

EXTERIOR

Roughly speaking, the footprint of this church is "I"-shaped. The cross-member at the top of the I measures approximately 40' x 17'. It houses the sanctuary's chancel in the middle, the pastor's office & choir rooms on the south end, and the organ room on the north end. The vertical stroke of the I forms the sanctuary's nave. The bottom cross-member forms the building's educational wing and possesses two stories. The footprint of the educational wing measures approximately 62' x 34'.

The building is constructed of two kinds of load-bearing masonry--a structural wall of cement block with an inch of airspace between it and a facing wall of limestone. The limestone is of the Bedford type and was quarried at Bloomington, Indiana. As reported in Monticello at the time of the building's construction:

Each of the stones is 4 inches wide, but they vary in size from 2-1/4 to 5 and 7-3/4 inches. Each is laid exactly level and never more than two of the same sizes are laid next to each other. In doing so, they make an interlocking device known as the regular broken ashler [*sic*]. (*Monticello Express* 1949b)

The limestone is rough cut with a natural finish. Its colors are brownish, reddish, and light and dark gray. The walls of the sanctuary are said to be 17 inches thick. The Indiana limestone was shipped to Monticello on the railroad in three open coal cars. According to one local source:

All had to be unloaded by hand. Some of these stones were very heavy and had to be lowered to a truck with ropes. They laying of the stone soon got under way after the corner stone ceremony which was held on Sunday, July 31, 1949. (*St. Luke's Methodist Church, 1858-1984*)

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CFN-259-1116

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

The south facade of the building serves as its primary facade. The building's main entrance, located left of center on the south facade, is signaled by a bell-cote. The second floor of the educational wing has been modified somewhat since its construction. As built originally, it featured half-timber work punctuating the stone wall. The half-timbering rotted and was replaced with stone in 1980. One window on the second floor was closed, and one window on the first floor was replaced with a door. (See Continuation Sheet 7-13.) The replacement stone was carefully matched in color, texture, and shape to the original limestone. The removal of the half-timbering is not a major impairment to the integrity of the building's design according to the architectural firm that designed it. A drawing of the building, published in 1949 and signed by Cram & Ferguson, Architects, lacks the clear depiction of this half-timbering. (See Continuation Sheet 7-10.)

Except for the stained glass windows, which are fixed, the building's fenestration consists of casement-style, metal windows. Most of these windows feature three horizontal panes.

The sanctuary is covered with a gable roof. The pastor's office and choir room and the organ room are covered with gable roofs intersecting the main roof at right angles and at a lower level. The educational wing is covered with a mixed roof system of gambrel and gable facings. The entire roof system is clad with asbestos shingles. Some of these are broken or missing and need to be replaced.

A few modifications were made to the architect's original plans when the church was first built. As designed, the building featured a bell-cote tower above its main entrance, crowned with a fleche. The fleche was excluded from the construction of the building. The intention was to build the fleche at a later time, but this never occurred. A few minor changes to the original design were also made on the interior.

INTERIOR

St. Luke's is divided into four areas on the interior: the sanctuary, the first floor of the educational wing, the second floor of the educational wing, and the basement. The wall finishes are plaster throughout the building. The pews and other woodwork are of oak and retain their original, natural finishes.

The sanctuary is the largest room of the church. It is formed by a nave and a chancel and measures approximately 53' x 21' from the west end of the nave to the east end of the chancel. The congregation faces to the east and sits in rows of pews divided by a central aisle and flanked by side aisles. The chancel is situated at the east end of the sanctuary. It is raised slightly above the sanctuary and is flanked on both sides by choir stalls. A lectern is situated on the south side of the

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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CFN-259-1116

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

chancel and a pulpit on the north side. The pipe organ console is located on the north side of the chancel. Three lancet-shaped, stained glass windows are situated above the altar, which is situated at the far east end of the chancel. Each side of the sanctuary features three lancet-shaped, stained glass windows. These windows depict various Christian motifs. They were designed by the Charles J. Connick Studio of Boston, Massachusetts, a leading American maker of stained glass windows in Late Gothic Revival styling during the Twentieth Century. A balcony is located at the rear of the sanctuary. It is accessed from the second floor of the educational wing. The roof of the sanctuary is supported by load-bearing beams and braces of pine. The original seating capacity of the sanctuary was 114. When the building was converted into a cultural center, several rear pews were removed, reducing that capacity. The open floor space in this area is now used for various other activities.

The pastor's office and choir room is located to the south of the chancel. The room is accessed through a vestibule, which opens into the sanctuary and to the outside of the building. Today, this room is used as an office.

The organ room is located to the north of the chancel. It houses the pipes for the organ.

The first floor of the educational wing houses classrooms, a parlor, an assembly room, the narthex, the main entrance vestibule, stairwells, a central hall, and a rest room. The second floor houses a central hall, a balcony to the sanctuary, additional classrooms, a social hall, and a raised stage. The classrooms now serve as exhibit halls. The stage on the second floor was converted many years ago into a separate room by closing off the opening between it and the social hall.

The basement was originally only partially excavated for a boiler room. In the late 1950s, the Church Men's Club took on the project of expanding this area into a full basement. They excavated five or six feet of hard clay and rock and constructed a social hall, kitchen, and classrooms in the basement. The kitchen had previously been located on the second floor of the educational wing.

As with the exterior, a few modifications were made to the architect's plans when the church was built. The pastor's office and choir room, for example, were originally designed with access only through a vestibule. As built, a door was provided directly between the chancel and the pastor's office and choir room. The original architects' plans called for two windows behind the altar. There were three windows in that area as built.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

PIPE ORGAN

St. Luke's Church possesses a pipe organ placed in the church at the time of the building's construction in 1950, but originally built and installed in an earlier church building on this site. This is a small instrument, built from a design by the Weraching Organ Company of Salem, Ohio. It was dedicated at the church, free of debt, on December 7, 1913.

The console of this instrument is located by the north wall of the chancel. The console is constructed of oak and retains its original natural finish. A few of the pipes are situated above the console, but the balance of them are situated in the organ room to the north of the chancel. The organ's blower is located beneath them in the basement.

This pipe organ was originally powered by hand-pumping. An electrically powered motor has since been installed to fill the organ's windchest. The instrument was dismantled and stored, when the new building was constructed. According to one local history:

The organ that was in the old church was moved into this new building. The contractor rebuilt the frame that holds the pipes and installed it on the left side of the choir loft. The old frame work was rebuilt and fitted into this space under the pipes. The organ was completely rebuilt by John A. Mehrle of Dubuque. It is still a very fine sounding instrument. (*St. Luke's Methodist Church, 1858-1984*)

SITE

The present edifice is the third church built on this site by local Methodists. The first was constructed in 1863. It was replaced in 1899 with another building. The present church was constructed in 1949-1950.

This building is situated on Lots 360 and 361 in the Railroad Addition of Monticello, Iowa. Lot 362 is also included in the boundary of this property because it is historically associated with the church, but this lot is presently unimproved. Each of these lots measures 50' x 122'. This property is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sycamore and East 2nd Street. The church stands on the north side of Sycamore Street and faces south. The immediate topography of the church is level. The property is situated in a transitional zone between commercial and residential development in Monticello. Commercial structures and downtown Monticello are located to the south, and residential structures are located to the north. The feeling of this area is generally residential.

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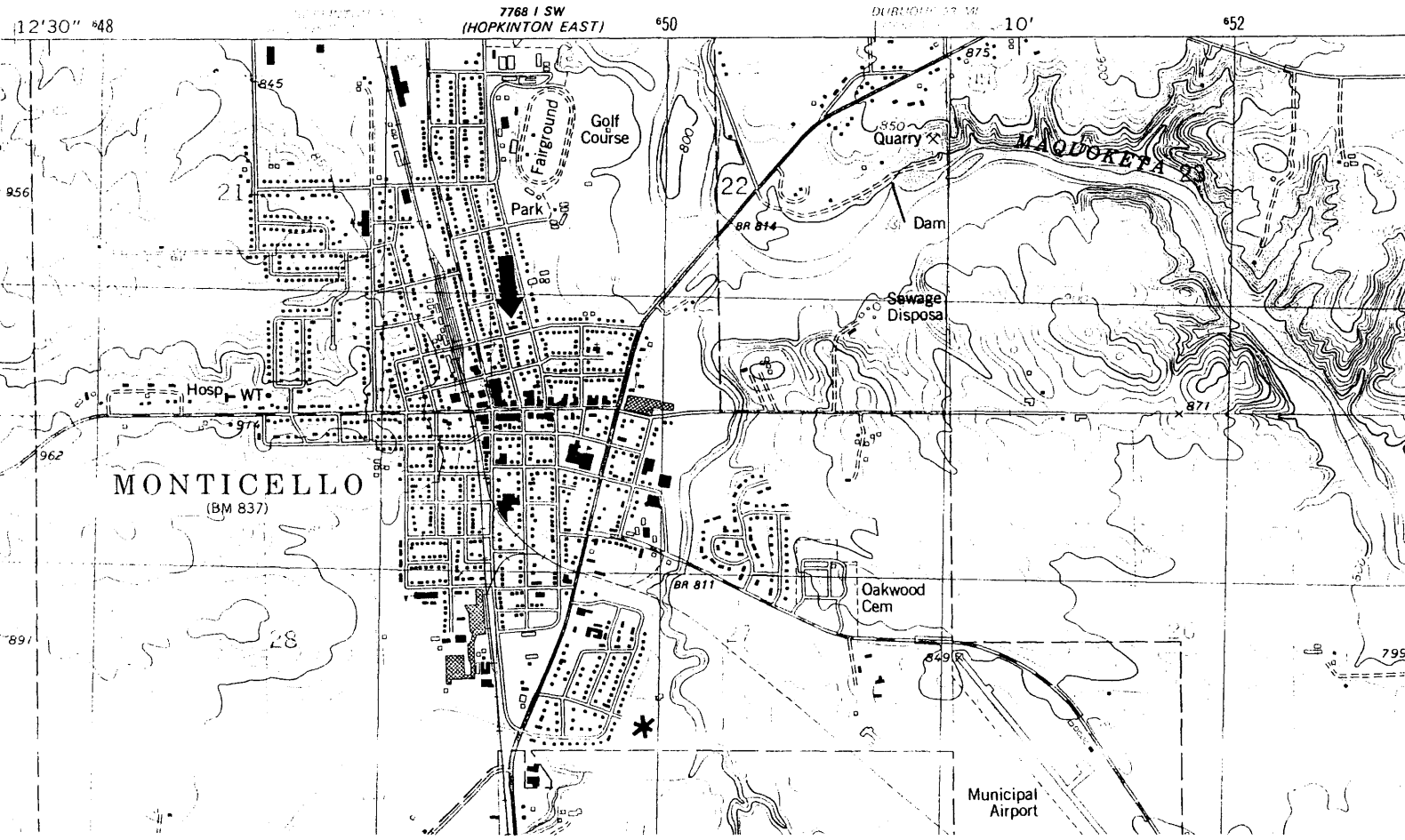
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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Monticello Quadrangle, 1984.

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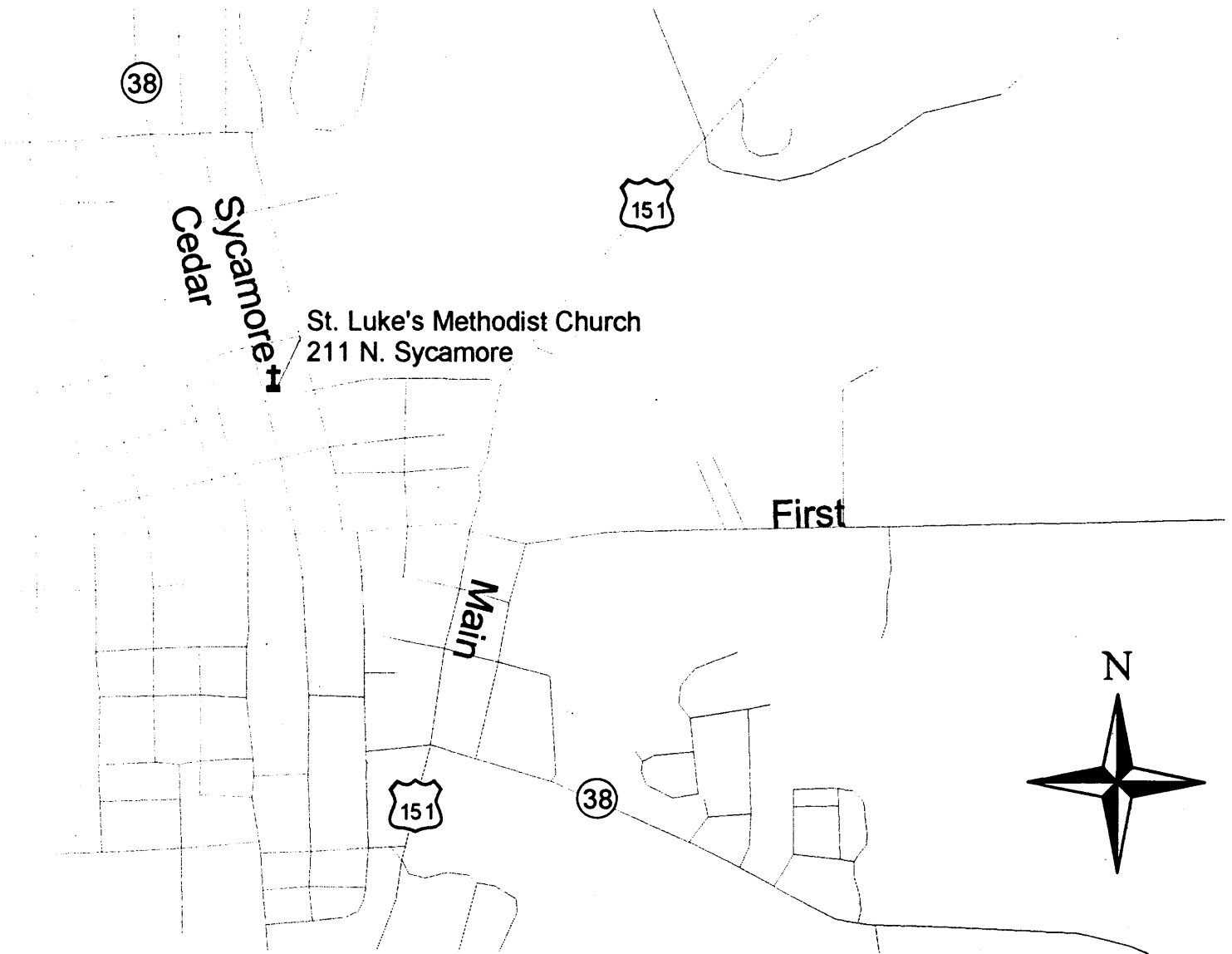
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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area, 2001.

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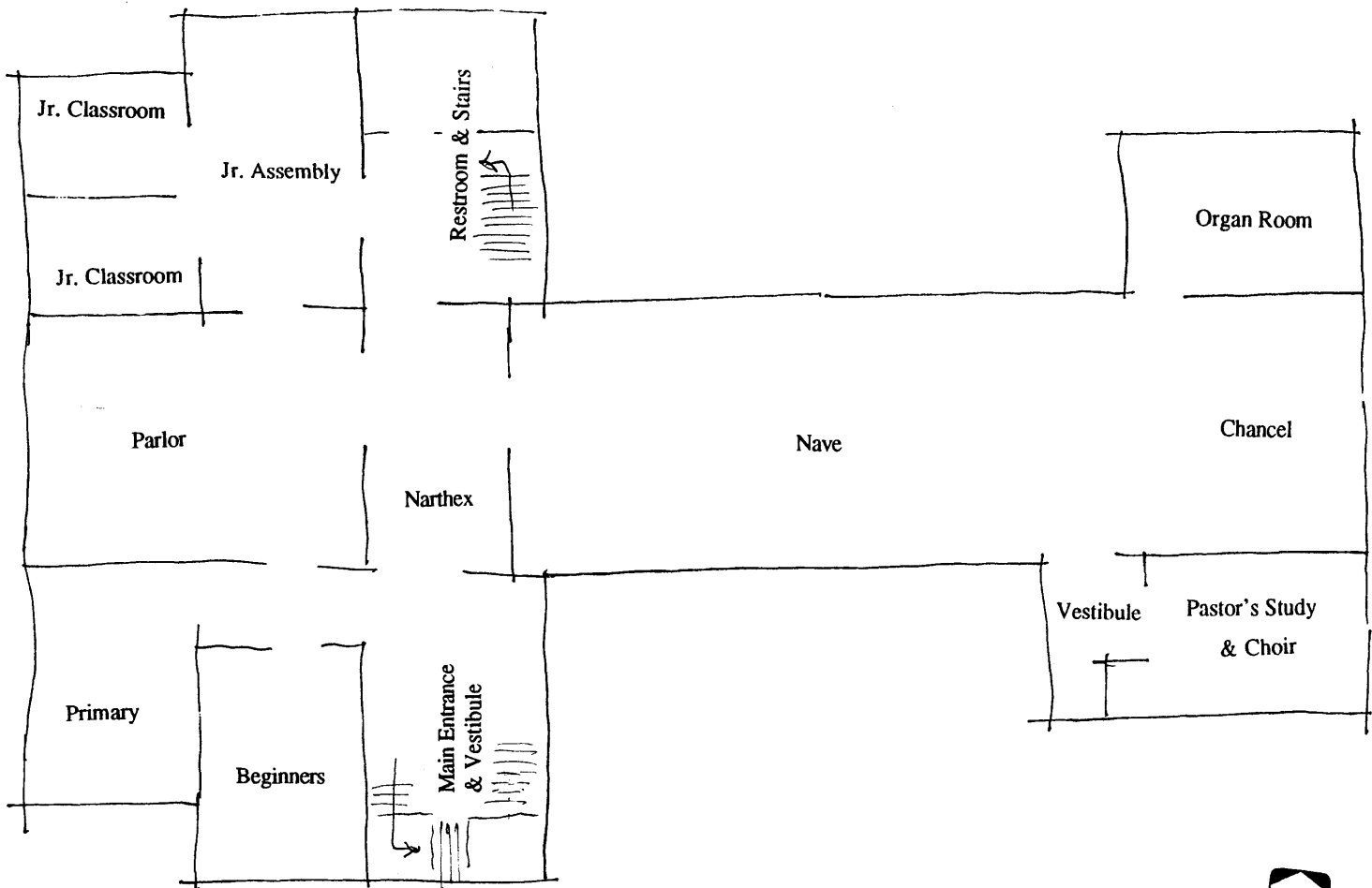
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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN SKETCH



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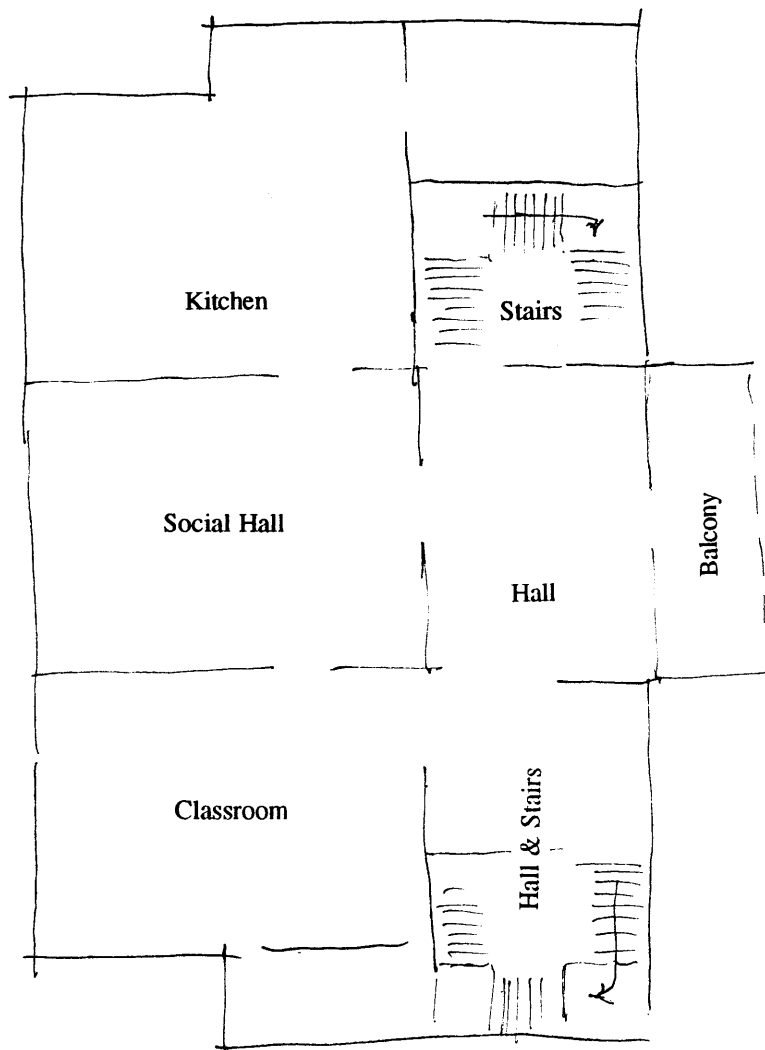
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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN SKETCH



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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

ARCHITECTS' DRAWING OF ELEVATION

1949



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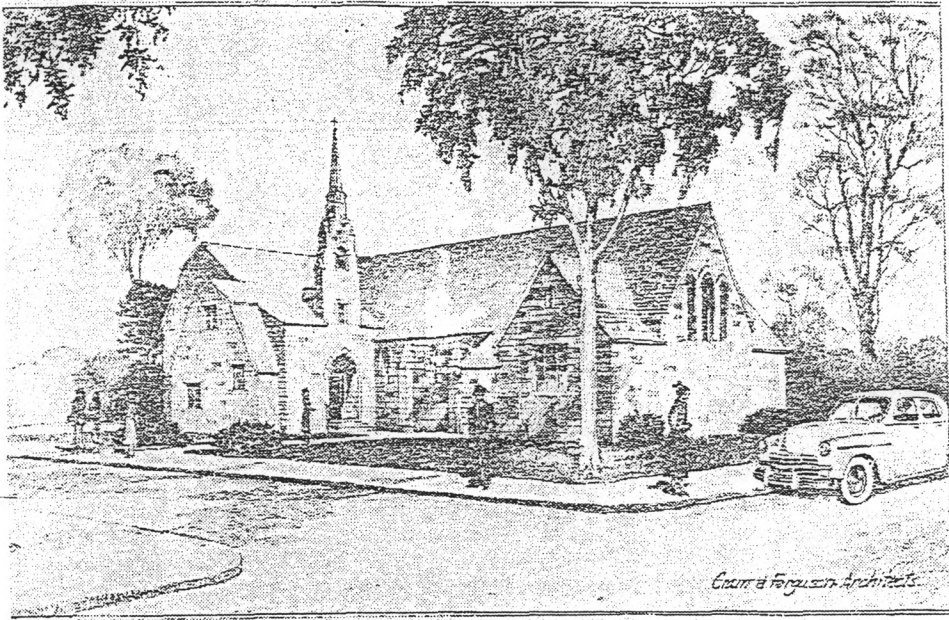
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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

ARCHITECTS' DRAWING

1949

Drawing of New Methodist Church



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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC VIEW CIRCA 1950

LOOKING NORTHWEST



Photo by Dr. Lyman C. Perkins.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC VIEW CIRCA 1950

LOOKING NORTHEAST

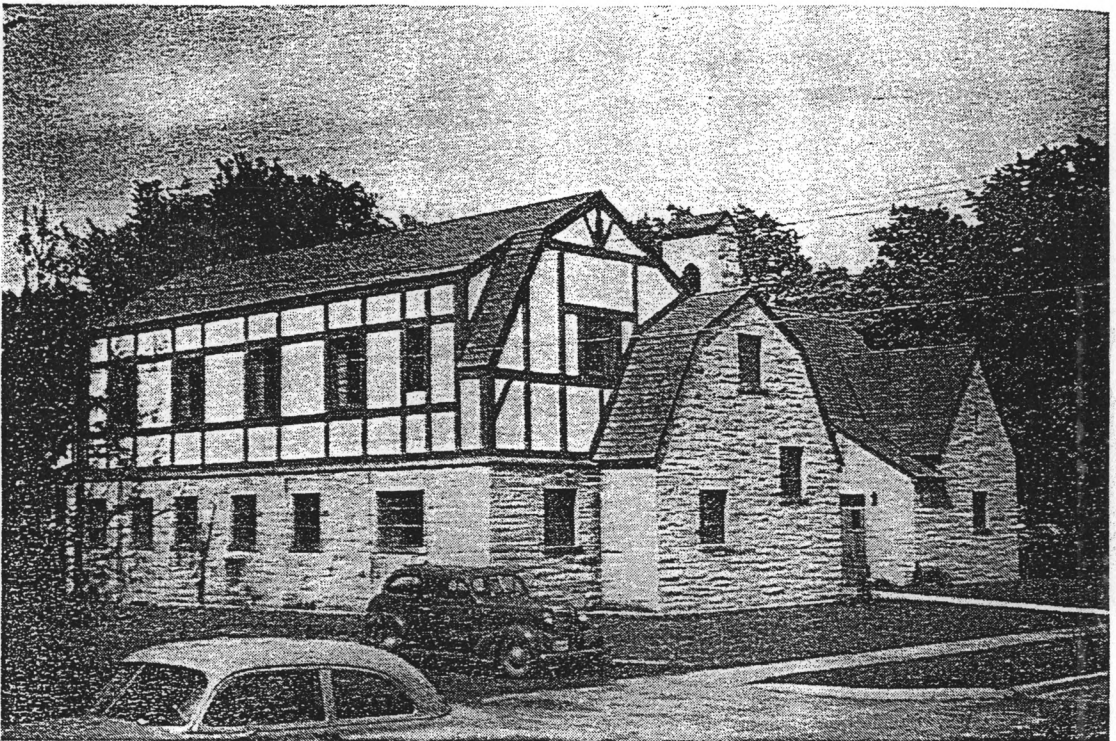


Photo by Dr. Lyman C. Perkins.

Source: *St. Luke's Methodist Church, 1858-1984.*

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built and first occupied in 1950, St. Luke's Methodist Church is locally significant, under National Register Criterion C. The building was designed by Cram & Ferguson, Architects, of Boston, Massachusetts, one of the nation's leading architectural firms for ecclesiastical design during the late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The building calls attention to Late Gothic Revival styling and illustrates how the firm manipulated it for the design of a small church. This can be seen in the design of the building's roof system, in the selection of its building materials, and in many of its architectural elements and details. St. Luke's Methodist Church is the only structure in Iowa designed by the firm. Influenced by the Late Gothic Revival taste, the edifice illustrates how Cram & Ferguson applied this styling to a small building.

The period of significance, under Criterion C, for St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church is 1950, the year in which the building was completed and first occupied.

Criteria Consideration A has been satisfied because this property derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction.

The property contains one resource for this nomination--the church building, which is classified as a building and as contributing to this nomination.

BACKGROUND

St. Luke's Methodist Church was first organized in Monticello in 1858, and its first church building was constructed in 1863. Built of frame, it featured a facade gable roof and a bell tower with spire. This building was constructed at a cost of \$1,750.00. This building stood on Lots 360 and 361 and faced south. Later, a parsonage was built on Lot 362 and stood at the rear of the church. This church building was demolished in 1898.

In 1899 a new, brick church was constructed. It faced to the east. Structural problems plagued the second church building, and water leaking through the tower was a particular problem. The congregation ultimately decided to raze this structure and erect a new building. (That story is told below.) The bell from the 1899 building was removed and later installed at Camp DeShaw, a Camp Fire Girls property located outside Monticello.

The new building--the third on the site--hosted its first worship service on October 1, 1950. Several months passed before the church furniture, on order, arrived. New pews were installed in January 1951 immediately upon their delivery to Monticello. The building was dedicated on May 9, 1955, in a ceremony that included the burning of the note held for its construction. At this time,

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

the membership of the congregation numbered 350. Other amenities installed after the building's construction included the church's stained glass windows.

In the 1990s, the congregation of St. Luke's joined with that of the local Congregational denomination to form the United Church of Monticello. That organization met one month in one of the churches and the following month in the other church. This arrangement was later changed and all services are now held at the Congregational property. St. Luke's congregation decided to sell their church property, and it was acquired by a private party interested in the preservation of the building. An arrangement was later made for the Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center to use the building, with the understanding that that group might acquire the title to it. In 2000, the MHCC received a grant-in-aid from the Historic Site Preservation Grant Program of the State Historical Society of Iowa to assist in the acquisition of the property. The building is now used as a site for cultural performances and programs and as a local history museum.

ARCHITECTURE

St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church is significant because it calls attention to Cram & Ferguson, Architects, one of the nation's premier architectural firms, and their considerable architectural powers. Within this context, St. Luke's illustrates how the firm manipulated Late Gothic Revival styling for the design of a small church. This is the only edifice in Iowa designed by the firm.

Cram & Ferguson, Architects

Ralph Adams Cram (1863-1942) was one America's premier Late Gothic Revival architects. His firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, which became Cram & Ferguson in 1889, was noted for its designs for the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, Princeton University, and many churches across the nation.

During the 1930s, the firm received numerous commissions for large church buildings. East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh for Richard Mellon, for example, was designed and built between 1931 and 1935. During the early years of World War II, the firm engaged primarily in contracts with the U. S Government, designing military facilities. Examples included Coast Guard towers, and defense works at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Rye, New York, among others. Almost no civilian designs date from this period.

Then, in 1944, the firm received a spate of commissions for community church designs, including the following, noninclusive list:

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

CRAM & FERGUSON DESIGNS COMMISSIONED IN 1944

St. Luke's Methodist Church	Monticello, IA
Unitarian Church	Concord, NH
Grace Church	Colorado Springs, CO
Campbell Hall, Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
Boston University	Boston, MA
Church	Orange, NJ
John Hancock Building	Boston, MA
Christ Church	Charleston, NC
Grace Church	Albany, NY
Riverview Chapel	Portland, OR
Trinity Church	Princeton, NJ
House of House Presbyterian Church	St. Paul, MN
Church	Hicksville, NY
Church	Akron, OH

Source: HDB Computer Data Base, 2001.

As noted in the above list, St. Luke's Church awarded this commission to Cram & Ferguson in 1944. That year was particularly active for the firm, in spite (or perhaps because) of the fact that the outcome of World War II still weighed in the balance. According to Ethan Anthony, a partner of HDB, the successor firm of Cram & Ferguson, "1944 was clearly an enormous building year for community churches for the firm." (Ethan Anthony) The firm typically recorded the year it received a commission, rather than the year it completed the design, so the above list indicates the former date. A design might require a year or so to complete. (*Ibid.*)

St. Luke's congregation ranked the selection of an architectural firm of outstanding reputation as a high priority. As a local newspaper reported at the time:

It was felt that the church building could never be better than its design so an effort was made to secure the ablest architects available and the world famous firm of Cram & Ferguson of Boston were selected. This firm is well known as the designers of the Great Episcopal Cathedrals in New York and Detroit, St. Thomas Church and Christ Methodist in New York, Calgary Church in Pittsburgh, the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, the famous Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and hundreds of other churches throughout the eastern part of the nation. This is, however, their first church in Iowa. (*Monticello Express 1949a*)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CFN-259-1116

St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

This effort to secure what the congregation viewed as "the ablest architects available" is rather unusual in Iowa. St. Luke's Methodist Church was not only the first building designed by Cram & Ferguson in Iowa, it was the only one designed by the firm. (Ethan Anthony)

Although Cram himself died in 1942, the firm continued the traditions he had established, witnessed by its later commissions, which include designs for the completion of the Cathedral of St. John the Devine in New York City. In 1968 the firm of Hoyle, Doran & Berry, the successor firm to Cram & Ferguson, was incorporated. In 1971 David H. Hulihan joined the firm. Today, it is styled "HDB Architects."

The connection between St. Luke's Church, Monticello, Iowa, and Cram & Ferguson, Boston, remains a mystery. The prestige of the Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Marsh (1880-1968) within Methodist circles might have played a role. As president of Boston University--a nationally prominent Methodist institution--Marsh virtually rebuilt the university. In an obituary, *Time* magazine commented that:

There was no argument about the near miracle he worked at Boston University where he took a moldering collection of brownstones for 9,600 students in 1926 and built a multiversity that today boasts 23,000 students and thirteen graduate schools. (*Time*)

The firm of Cram & Ferguson was commissioned for many of these building projects, including the construction of Marsh Chapel on the Boston University campus. These projects are said to have been widely publicized in Methodist publications. They might have provided a link between Cram & Ferguson and the Building Committee of St. Luke's Church. (Ethan Anthony)

Cram & Ferguson submitted a series of blueprint drawings to St. Luke's building committee for their review and approval. Some of these drawings bear the date June 20, 1949, and one drawing, "Organ Screen Details," is dated July 13, 1950. From this documentation it is clear that the firm was engaged in designing the building for over one year's time.

St. Luke's Design

St. Luke's Methodist Church illustrates how Cram & Ferguson, Architects, manipulated Late Gothic Revival styling for the design of a small church. This can be seen in the design of the building's roof system, in the selection of its building materials, and in many of its architectural elements and details.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

Altogether in keeping with its Gothic-inspired styling, the steeply pitched roof of St. Luke's Methodist Church is the most prominent element of the building's design. Yet the design of this roof system introduced a series of architectural problems, whose successful solutions illustrate the architectural skill of Cram & Ferguson.

The large size of the education wing posed a roofing problem. With a footprint measuring about 62' x 34', the roof of the educational wing had to span a greater area than that of the narrow sanctuary. Yet a gable roof of sufficient pitch to cover the educational wing would have visually over-powered the gable roof, which covers the sanctuary. To solve this problem, the firm designed a mixed roof system for the education wing. A gambrel roof covers the west slope of the educational wing's roof (a span of about 11'). A gable roof covers the east slope of the educational wing's roof (a span of about 22'). This solution enabled the roof ridge of the educational wing and the roof ridge of the sanctuary to intersect at the same level.

Another problem remained for the design of the educational wing's roof: how to harmonize the visually disparate gambrel slope and the gable slope? To solve this problem, the firm placed lower gambrel roofs over the small wings projecting from the south facade and the north facade of the education wing. These small wings and their lower-set gambrel roofs form a visual transition for the otherwise discordant elements of the main roof. The top slope of these lower gambrels is set on the same plane as the main roof's north gable. This design provides another note of harmony. The selection of a gambrel roof for the education wing also helps provide an architectural transition from Monticello's central business district to a residential neighborhood, which stand on either side of the church. This gambrel roof relates nicely to the smaller scale of the roofs covering nearby single-family dwellings.

The placement of the bell-cote solved another problem associated with the building's roof. Without this vertical element, the overall massing of the church with its intersecting gable roofs would have been heavy, horizontal, and out of keeping with the perpendicular feeling preferred by the Gothic taste. The presence of this tower adds an important note of verticality at a critical point in the church's roof design. It is regrettable that the fleche was never added to the bell-cote. The height of the fleche would have tied visually the length and the breadth of the entire building into a tightly unified composition.

The interior framing to support the sanctuary's roof provides another example of Late Gothic Revival styling used in the church's design. Constructed of pine, this framing provides the entire structural support for the roof. The extensive use of limestone for the church imparts the feeling of antiquity to the building, and the stone's rough cut facing suggests the hand-craftsmanship of an age before machines.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

St. Luke's Methodist Church abounds in architectural elements and details influenced by Late Gothic Revival taste. They include the steeply pitched roofs, the cruciform shape of the building's sanctuary wing, the sanctuary's lancet-shaped windows, and their richly-colored stained glass, designed and fabricated by the Boston-based Charles J. Connick Studio, a leading American maker of stained glass in the Late Gothic Revival style.

Cram & Ferguson successfully addressed other problems inherent in St. Luke's Methodist Church and the needs of its congregation. As befitting a Methodist church and that denomination's emphasis on education, provisions for "a modern departmentalized Church School" (*Monticello Express* 1949a) were included in the congregation's specifications for the building. As a result, the educational wing included separate rooms for the following five divisions of the school: Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, Teen-Age, and Adult.

It will be possible to conduct five separate sessions at the same time without their interfering with each other and without placing any classes in the church proper. One of the interesting features will be a very small chapel with two adjoining class rooms for the Juniors." (*Ibid.*)

The tower, so revered in Gothic Revival styling, for example, was too costly to contemplate, so the firm devised a simpler solution.

Perhaps the most interesting exterior feature will be the bell-cote which is substituted for the traditional tower and is crowned with a slender spire known as a "fleche," which is the French word for arrow. (*Ibid.*)

The congregation was justifiably proud of its new church and the financial commitment required for its construction. When, for example, the cornerstone was laid on July 31, 1949, Rev. Glenn W. McMichael preached a sermon praising these efforts:

It will be well to have a fine church here. Cram and Ferguson are probably the world's best known church architects, and this church which you are building may become known as one of the fine small churches of the middle-west which visitors from all over America will stop to see.

It will not depress any of us if persons passing by turn and look again and remark, "What a beautiful Church. There must be wealthy people here." (*Monticello Express* 1949b)

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

Thumbnail Sketch of Construction

St. Luke's Methodist Church was the result of planning, financial commitment, and patience on the part of the congregation and its building committee.

The new church building was initially planned during the pastorate of Rev. Glenn W. McMichael (1941-1945). A campaign succeeded in raising a considerable sum of money for its construction. The likelihood of construction during World War II was, however, most improbable, with federal building restrictions in place. The quarrying of Indiana limestone had also been effectively halted for the war's duration.

During the pastorate of Rev. Virgil C. Grant (1945-1947), "the plans for the new building were changed and more money was raised." (*Monticello Express* 1955) During Rev. Oswald Sandbach's pastorate, from 1947 to 1949, the church plans were altered again and finally established, and additional money was raised.

Finally, during the pastorate of Rev. Robert V. Gildner,

the major portion of the building fund was raised, the new church constructed, furnished and paid for, the parsonage renovated and remodeled and 210 new members have joined the church. (*Monticello Express* 1955)

The early history of planning the building was touched upon during a sermon preached on July 31, 1949. It singled out, among others, Charles A. Doxee, who

was the man who made, in a regular Church Board meeting (I think as long as seven years ago), the motion which started the planning and thinking about a new church here. He visited many churches in order to be well-informed on church architecture. He made trips to see architects. He buttonholed many people for gifts for the building fund. Up until the last months of his life he expected to worship God in the new Church. He looked to see these Church walls which you see, and saw them not. (*Monticello Express* 1949b)

Dooxee served as the original chairman of the building committee.

The demolition of the 1899 church building and the site's clearance began on March 1, 1948. Leigh Clark and crew were in charge of this work. The ground breaking ceremonies for the new building took place on May 8, 1949. (*Ibid.*)

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

The local newspaper reported on the building's progress in 1949:

"We'll be lucky if the stone work on St. Luke's Methodist church is finished by the middle of September," Leigh Clark, supervisor of construction at the church said early this week.

At the west end of the church and at the east end the stone wall has been built to the window level. Three different colors, brownish, red, deep grey, and light grey, of Bedford stone are being used in the construction.

Carl "Brick" Vesey and Sons are the bricklayers who are doing the stone work. At the present time "Brick" is the only one of his family who is working at the church.

Vesey, who is from Delhi, has six men working for him on this job, Hank Bartlett, Leo Quint, Blake Michaels, Jerry Barlett, Howard Glessen, all of Delhi, and Cliff First of Monticello.

Vesey said that the church will have a 17 inch wall when it is finished. A row of cement blocks is laid on the inside and there is an inch of airspace between them and the Bedford stone which is put on the outside. . .

The Methodists plan to use 125 tons of Bedford stone in the construction of their church.

Vesey, who has been doing this type of work all his life, is also doing the masonry on the new Catholic church at Sand Springs. (*Monticello Express* 1949b)

Although the craftsmanship exhibited in St. Luke's Methodist Church is excellent, the progress of its construction proceeded at a checkered pace. In particular, the building committee's attempts to cut cost took its toll on the project. As described by one account:

In letting the contract for the building the new church, it was decided to let the contract on a time and material basis. Two of the building committee decided that it would be more convenient for the board to order the materials instead of the contractors. These two took the job of ordering the materials. The church building was up and ready for the roof in early September [1949], but they had not ordered the trusses early enough so work had to be halted on the church until the trusses came in. It was thought that they would arrive the first week of October and work could resume. The trusses did not arrive until about the middle of January 1950. It was one of the coldest days of that winter and they had to

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

be unloaded and stored in another building. This delay set the building back about 4 months.

Work resumed in early spring and progressed rapidly. However another road block occurred when the mill work did not arrive when it was needed, which caused another delay of about 2 weeks. In spite of the delays the church was finished enough so that the first service was held on October 1, 1950 in the new building. It was not dedicated at that time as there was still a debt on the church. (*St. Luke's Methodist Church, 1858-1984*)

While it cannot be said that St. Luke's was constructed in a piece-meal fashion, cost remained an important factor in the construction of the building, and the architect's design was not implemented in its entirety at the time of the building's original construction. The stained glass windows, for example, were installed later, and the building's partial basement was later expanded. Other amenities--such as the fleche atop the bell-cote--remain unimplemented to the present day. A local newspaper referenced the building's somewhat incomplete status in an article written in the 1950s, stating that:

The new church which was completed to its present stage in April, 1951. . .

The church edifice is incomplete. The steeple, which will eventually be placed above the bell-cote, the installation of stained glass windows, along with more equipment and expansion of facilities are projects for the future. (*Monticello Express 1955*)

These reports make it clear that the congregation was fully aware that the building was unfinished.

PIPE ORGAN

St. Luke's pipe organ--designed, built, and installed by the Weraching Organ Company of Salem, Ohio--calls attention to the craftsmanship of that firm and to its contributions to musical life.

During the 1908-1914 pastorate of Rev. Roy V. Porter, the congregation launched and successfully concluded a program to purchase a pipe organ. The Carnegie Foundation contributed to the fund raising campaign.

In 1913 the instrument was installed in St. Luke's. It was locally judged to be of fine quality, an opinion shared by John A. Mehrle of Dubuque, Iowa, who subsequently rebuilt it circa 1950 for

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installation in the new church building. As originally installed, the pipe organ was hand-powered. The instrument was electrified, when it was rebuilt by Mehrle. (*St. Luke's Methodist Church, 1858-1984*)

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

The City of Monticello has yet to be surveyed for its historical and architectural resources. In 2000, the Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center (MHCC) participated in a Technical Advisory Network (TAN) consultation, sponsored by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), with William C. Page as consultant. He prepared an Iowa Site Inventory Form for St. Luke's Methodist Church, which the MHCC submitted to the SHSI. The SHSI staff reviewed this form and issued a Determination of Eligibility for the property's National Register of Historic Places status. The present nomination is a direct result of this TAN consultation and the MHCC's efforts to preserve and protect the building.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological significance is, as yet, undetermined. Whatever materials from previous occupations of the site in the Nineteenth Century or earlier would probably have been compromised by later construction on the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The pipe organ instrument at St. Luke's Methodist Church should be evaluated within the context of the Weraching Organ Company and the surviving works of its production.

Further research might focus on issues of *The Christian Advocate*, the national organ of the Methodist Church, to assess its coverage of Boston University's reconstruction in the 1930s and 1940s, the role Cram & Ferguson played in those efforts, and the possibility that such publicity might have provided a link between that architectural firm and the Building Committee of St. Luke's Methodist Church.

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2001 Computer data base for Cram & Ferguson commissions, created by HDB Architects, Boston, Massachusetts, the successor firm.

Monticello Express

1949a "Drawing of New Methodist Church." Undated newspaper clipping. Includes feature story about "the new Methodist church to be built in Monticello this summer." Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center Archives.

Monticello Express

1949b "Work Progresses on Methodist Church." Undated newspaper clipping. Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center Archives.

Monticello Express

1955 "New Church." Undated newspaper clipping. Features the history of St. Luke's Methodist Church and likely published on May 9, 1955 or soon after, the date the church was dedicated free of debt. Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center Archives.

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Harmon, Nolan B., General Editor

1974 *The Encyclopedia of World Methodism*. The United Methodist Publishing House.

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N.d. Privately published (c. 1984). Collection of pictures and articles about the church and its history.

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ARCHITECT DRAWINGS

Cram & Ferguson, Architects
1944 Series of 10 sheets, Job 986. Property of the Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center,
Monticello, Iowa.

MAPS

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Monticello, Iowa

1894, 1905, 1914, and 1935.

United States Geological Survey; Monticello Quadrangle; 1980.

ORAL HISTORY

Anthony, Ethan, May 24, 2001, with William C. Page. Anthony is a partner of HDB Architects, Boston, Massachusetts, the successor firm of Cram & Ferguson. Anthony shared information from HDB's computer data base of Cram & Ferguson commissions and his knowledge about the firm's opus.

Morf, Louis, May 30, 2001, with William C. Page. Morf, a long-time member of the St. Luke's congregation, shared information about the church's history.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 360, 361, and 362 in Railroad Addition to the town, now city, of Monticello,
Jones County, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains all land historically associated with the resource.

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Looking west northwest
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001
2. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Looking northwest
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001
3. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Looking southwest
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001
4. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Detail of south facade
Looking north
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001
5. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Detail of east facade
Looking west
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001

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St. Luke's Methodist Church, Jones County, Iowa.

6. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Interior view--sanctuary looking east
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001

7. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Interior view--organ console and pipes looking northwest
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001

8. St. Luke's Methodist Church
211 North Sycamore
Monticello, IA 52310
Interior view--stained glass window of Moses
Corey Goettsch, Photographer
July 31, 2001

