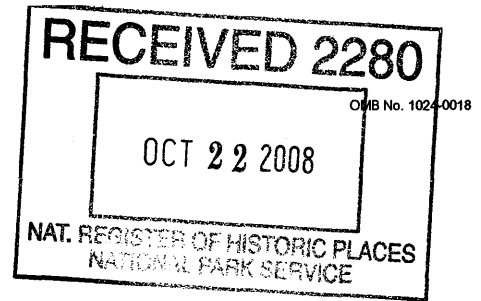


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 any 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 United Brethren Church

Other names/site number HM01-168

2. Location

Street & number 1103 K St.

Not for publication

City or town Aurora

Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Hamilton Code 081 Zip code 68818

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Michael J. ...  
Signature of certifying official

10-14-08  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
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 this 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

for  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**United Brethren Church**

Name of Property

**Hamilton County, Nebraska**

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	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ Tudor Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete

Walls Brick

Roof Ceramic tile

Other

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes 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" 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 a 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

**Period of Significance**

1912-1922

**Significant Dates**

1912 - original construction

1922 - construction of addition

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Mr. Bair, architect

Harvey Wood, contractor

**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 for additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**United Brethren Church**

Name of Property

**Hamilton County, Nebraska**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of property** Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>		<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1.	14	583974	4524192	3.			
2.				4.			

[] 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 Wayne Briner / Owner & Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 6/18/08  
street & number 1103 K St. telephone 402-694-0479  
city or town Aurora state NE zip code 68818

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Wayne Briner  
street & number 1103 K St telephone 402-694-0479  
city or town Aurora state NE zip code 68818

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**United Brethren Church**

Name of Property

**Hamilton County, Nebraska**

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The community of Aurora is the county seat of Hamilton County and is located approximately 75 miles west of Lincoln, the state capital. Named in honor of Alexander Hamilton, the economic base of Hamilton County is agricultural and industrial in nature. In 2000, the population of Aurora was 4,225.

Designed by an architect from Hastings named Bair, construction on this Tudor Revival style church was completed in 1912. In 1922, an addition which provided Sunday School rooms as well as a second sanctuary was completed. The addition added not only a second sanctuary area, but also Sunday School rooms which could be isolated from the sanctuary. Wooden tambour doors could also isolate the 1922 sanctuary from the 1912 sanctuary.

Built out of Fredonia brick pavers, an unusual type of brick with a rounded edge, and trimmed with Indiana Bedford limestone, this building is rather unusual in its design. There is one dominant north-south gable. The roof is clad with red clay tile shingles. Two modest parapets are present on the south façade at the each end of the building. These wonderfully patterned parapets are capped with Bedford limestone and have simple castellations. With regard to the picturesque, these parapets are without a doubt the most noteworthy feature on this structure. The last of the most outstanding or rare features are the attached buttresses which line the outside of the walls. These buttresses are again trimmed with Bedford limestone and helped to frame the original church entrances. The entrances are trimmed with limestone and feature segmented arches. When constructed in 1912, the south façade featured two identical entrances. When the addition was placed in 1922, the easternmost door was filled with brick and a stained glass window. The church expansion constructed to the east of this door and included a third, slightly taller segmented arch door surround. Thus, the easternmost attached buttress serves to mark the historic location of the original east wall. The central feature of the south façade is a large segmented arch window comprised of several smaller windows. This large arched window features four large stained glass windows at the base, and eight elipitically shaped evenly spaced stained glass windows near the top of the arch. Their placement within the arch determined the size of these windows, size gradually increasing from the outer margins to the center of the window. A beltcourse of bedford stone encircles the building at the basement level.

Many of the features of the south façade are carried around to the west façade. Including attached buttresses, the parapeted gable end, and the use of Bedford stone as an accent material. The windows on this façade are set in pairs in between each attached buttress. These windows are a mix in terms of functionality; some are fixed and some feature small hopper windows that open inward and provide some ventilation. A smaller version of the large arched stained glass on the south façade was centered in the gable of the western façade. This window features the same segmented arch surround and the same window configuration, but due to size, has fewer windows within the arch. A utilitarian door is placed at the north corner of this façade.

The north façade has few windows, as the altar was located at this end of the building. There is another gable with stone capped parapet and a large chimney. The east façade is simple as well. A large arched window is centered in the gable, but rather than using Bedford stone as trim, this window uses the same red brick of the body of the church. Stained glass windows, some fixed and some with hopper style windows, punctuate this façade at regular intervals at both the first floor and the basement levels. Bedford stone is used as trim to cap the parapet and as window sills.

The most noteworthy feature of the upstairs are the two large sanctuary areas. Both of these rooms have pressed tin plated barrel vaulted ceilings with a peak height of 18 ft from the floor. In these areas five mission style chandeliers adorn the ceiling. Stained glass lines all of the exterior walls, with nearly all of the original stained glass remaining. Two large stained glass installations on the south and east wall are particularly noteworthy. The stained glass covering the east wall (approx. 9' x 12') displays two American flags: one with the initials "GAR" and the other with the letters "WRC". The glass on the south wall (approx. 9' x 12') is unadorned and contains no symbols, unlike nearly all of the other stained glass windows in the building. There are thirty stained glass windows in the church. The north end of the main sanctuary area

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has an arched area that is part of an elevated altar area. The original wood floors, with their slight slope, still exist. The original pews have been removed, although a few remain in the structure as furnishings.

Two main entrances exist, both with their original doors. The east entrance allows entry to both the upper and lower levels. The west entrance opens to a foyer which is currently used as a lounging room. There are three other rooms. One was the choir cloak room (now bathroom). The former "cry room" now serves as a master bedroom. Each of these rooms has their original woodwork and stained glass. A separate 'pastor's office' is located on the west side of the building and has a separate outside entrance in addition to the interior entrance from a back hallway. This room also has a flat pressed tin ceiling and a moderately sized stained glass window.

The floor plan of the church is based on the "Akron plan" developed by Lewis Miller. The intent was to include children in the church services as appropriate without necessarily having them present for the entire service. This was accomplished in this structure by a separate room with a glass observation window and a number of walls that could be pulled down or rolled back up to accommodate the needs of the young parishioners.

Most of the original woodwork is intact. It is a darkly stained pine with simple mission style adornments. Pull down tambour doors are also in place and divide the sanctuary into smaller areas to allow concurrent use for worship and Sunday School. These tambour doors are original to the building.

The lower level area is not particularly remarkable, though it does retain excellent integrity. It consists of one large gathering area, now used for classrooms and gallery, with one metal panel wall and a second smaller gathering space which is now used as a lounge. There are three office sized rooms, two bathrooms, storage room, large shop and large kitchen with original metal ceiling. One of the office areas retains a pressed tin ceiling that is still in good condition. The mechanical rooms are also located in the basement.

The building is situated on a corner lot lined on the west side by three large linden trees. The south side has a parking area and several shrubs and displays the buildings two main entrances. The east side adjoins the former Hamilton Telephone Company building and is separated by only a few feet. The north side faces the other lot of the property and consists of an open area with several trees, a garden, workshop and bushes.

This building has been converted from worship space to use as a single family dwelling. The activities associated with this conversion have been very sensitive to the physical integrity of the building. Furnishings such as pews and altar tables, have been removed, however, the large open spaces of the sanctuaries have been maintained. In short, all seven aspects of integrity are well represented, including setting and feeling.

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The United Brethren Church of Aurora is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architectural significance. Designed in a modest Tudor Revival style, the building conveys architectural significance through style and use of materials. The building is also significant for physically exhibiting the tenets of the Akron plan for church design. This historic property meets the requirements established under Criterion Consideration A in that it derives its primary significance through its architectural distinction.

The United Brethren Church in Aurora was organized in 1895. For several years, this congregation worshiped at another church located at 11<sup>th</sup> & H Streets in Aurora.<sup>1</sup> Designed by an architect named Bair from Hastings, construction began on this building in 1911.<sup>2</sup> The building was dedicated on July 7, 1912<sup>3</sup> and cost about \$13,000 to complete. It seems safe to assume that membership in the church grew rapidly, and by 1922, the church needed to expand to accommodate the congregation. This expansion added a second sanctuary as well as Sunday School rooms, and overall conformed to the Akron plan. The architect for the addition is unknown, but the contractor was J.F. Stoddard. Construction began in the spring of 1922, was complete by late fall that same year and cost \$12,500.

The 1922 addition to this building turned this church into an Akron Plan church. The Akron plan was created in 1867 and remained popular through the early 1920's. This arrangement was intended to allow children to participate in worship without having to attend the entire service. Usually, a room at the back of the sanctuary was set aside for the Sunday school during the worship hour, and a movable wall could be opened to include the children when appropriate.

In a very subtle manner, the United Brethren Church exhibits a variant of the Tudor Revival style that features parapeted gables, which is based on the more formal English building traditions of the Late Medieval period. In this variant, the walls of the characteristic gables rise in a parapet above the roof behind. This subtype of the Tudor Revival was prominent in the Northeast United States from 1895 to 1915, and its late and subdued occurrence in Hamilton County, Nebraska fits in well with this time frame.<sup>4</sup> In this case, the gables exhibit a slight degree of difference between the roof surface and the parapet of the gable, with a exceptions. The western submissive gable exhibits a single step in its gable near the eave, a nod to other Flemish variants of this subtype. In addition, the castellations of the parapet are far more pronounced than the gables.

Another common feature of more subdued Tudor Revival buildings in Nebraska is their construction material being entirely brick wall cladding. This is seen most commonly in Tudor Revival houses, since the style is found most commonly in domestic architecture, but its presence in this case is not surprising considering the architect's desire to lend a sense of strength to the building. Stone trim is common on Tudor Revivals in all subtypes, and its presence here lends a sense of permanence and grandeur to a somewhat simplified form.

The United Brethren Church is a lovely, if atypical example of ecclesiastical architecture for Nebraska, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. It meets requirements for Criterion Consideration A, having once been used for religious purposes, in that it derives its primary significance from its architectural quality and significance.

<sup>1</sup> Bremer, Bertha G. Centennial History of Hamilton County. 1967.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, historical information is taken from Kuck, 2007. On file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

<sup>3</sup> Bremer, Bertha G. Centennial History of Hamilton County. 1967.

<sup>4</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 356.

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**United Brethren Church**

Name of Property

**Hamilton County, Nebraska**

County and State

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Section 9

**Bibliography**

Bremer, Bertha G. Centennial History of Hamilton County. 1967.

Kuck, Jordan T. Aurora: A History of its Most Beloved Homes and Buildings. On file, NeSHPO. 2007.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Section 10

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 3 and 4, Block 24, Original Town plat.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary as described above includes that property historically associated with the United Brethren Church.