

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED 10 SEP 1979	OCT 22 1979
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Sioux City Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Nebraska Ave.

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Woodbury

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Sioux City Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Nebraska

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Woodbury County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

7th and Douglas Streets

CITY, TOWN

Sioux City

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church (completed 1918, as the First Congregational Church) is a significant example of an ecclesiastical building designed in the Prairie School style. The building is rectangular, 74' x 126', and is composed of three distinct zones, each approximately the same dimensions (the center being slightly larger). The entrance zone is at the east end, entry being through a recessed porch into a lobby area at the south side. In the center is a large reception room and on the other side a cloak room and small parlor. The auditorium occupies the middle zone and extends through two stories. It is oriented with its axis at right angles to the major axis of the building, and the pews, arranged in semicircular fashion within the rectilinear confines of the room, face north and focus on the semicircular apse of the choir against the north wall. The rear zone contains classrooms on both first and second floors.

The exterior of the building is characterized by crisply defined rectilinear masses, enlivened with fin-like piers or buttresses and pierced with arched window openings. The three zones are clearly and unequivocally expressed on the exterior. The mass of the auditorium extends above the front and rear sections and projects beyond the sides. The front facade features a deeply recessed porch, screened by two piers, elongated rectangles in section, which are set at right angles to the facade. The piers support a lintel or panel which extends above the top of the flanking walls. Below, the porch is screened by low walls in its side bays and an ornamented steel gate in the center. The wall surfaces to either side contain tall round-arched windows, which, in contrast to the crisp clarity with which the edges of the massing elements are treated, are outlined with stone label moulds. These windows are continued around the south side of the building.

The building is crowned with a Byzantine dome which provides overhead light for the auditorium through arched windows. The dome was originally painted a dark color, darker than the tawny brick of the window surrounds and thus differentiated from them. It is now painted uniformly white. The surface material of the building is a Roman brick laid in quarter running bond with raked horizontal joints.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 1918 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Steele

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sioux City Baptist Church is significant as a major work of an architect, who, while not an innovator, created highly competent designs in the Prairie School style, and was one of the figures responsible for carrying on the tradition long after it had died out in its center of origin. The Prairie School movement was definitely on the wane by 1916, when the church was begun, and it is thus a late example of the style. It is also one of the few ecclesiastical works in the style, and, along with the Woodbury County Courthouse and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cedar Rapids, one of the largest Prairie School buildings in Iowa.

The church does, however, depart from the Prairie School in several respects: the use of certain elements essentially foreign to the style (the dome and arched windows) creates tensions which are not completely resolved and which indicate that Steele was not committed solidly to the style and was also looking elsewhere for inspiration. The dome as used here suggests the influence of the Byzantine or Romanesque. It is very possibly related to the dome over the rotunda of the Woodbury County Courthouse (also by Steele), and it should be noted that these two domes are the only ones known to exist on buildings either in the mainstream of the Prairie School movement or associated with it. Arches appear in the work of Sullivan, and Purcell and Elmslie, in the banks, for example, where, however, they are used singly and are a key design motif. In this church, they form the overall pattern of fenestration, and, as detailed, are somewhat suggestive of the Georgian Revival.

William Steele was born in 1875 in Springfield, Illinois, and graduated with a B.S. degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1896. From that year until 1903 or 1904, when he moved to Sioux City, he worked in architectural offices in Chicago, spending about 3 years in Sullivan's office. In Sioux City he formed a brief partnership with W.W. Beach, and then practiced alone until forming a partnership in Omaha with Kimball and Sandham (1920), where he worked until his retirement in 1946.

Steele's oeuvre was extensive, and he designed numerous public buildings, including churches, schools, libraries, and city halls in Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas. His early work, according to Guy Wilson (p. 24) only occasionally showed Sullivan's influence, and was often executed in revivalist styles then current. In January, 1915, Steele won the competition to design the Woodbury County Courthouse in Sioux City. He then arranged to have George Grant Elmslie (whom Steele had met while in Sullivan's office) assist him in the design of the courthouse, which was begun in the spring of 1916 and occupied in March, 1918. The Congregational Church (now Baptist Church) was designed and built while work on the courthouse was under way.

See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries. New York: W.W. Norton 1976.
 Schmitt, John F. Historical Profile of Sioux City. Sioux City: Sioux City Stationery Co., 1969.
 Wilson, Richard Guy and Sidney K. Robinson. The Prairie School in Iowa. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1977.

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Sioux City North, Ia; S.Dak.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	7,1,3,3,3,0	4,7,10,9,8,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 75' x 110', northwest corner of Nebraska Ave. and 13th St.,
 Sioux City, Iowa

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

S.J. Klingensmith, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

John A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Skel

DATE

10-22-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Brauer

DATE

10-17-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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OCT 22 1979

Sioux City Baptist Church, Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

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There is no proof that Elmslie participated in the design of the church, but his influence is readily apparent, most noticeably in the "post and lintel" theme of the entrance facade. This device was used as early as 1904 by Wright on the Larkin Building and again, although differently, in the project for the Smith Bank in Dwight, Illinois (also 1904). Purcell and Elmslie used it frequently and on their banks and other commercial structures it became almost a leitmotif (cf. Merchants' Bank, Winona MN, O.L. Bransom and Co. Building, Mitchell SD; also as a variation on the Woodbury County Courthouse). In all of these the post and lintel theme is well-integrated into a total scheme of facade articulation. The lintel of Steele's church, ranging, as it does above the coping of the flanking walls, achieves a degree of autonomy far greater than its predecessors and reads as an isolated panel.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Withey, Henry F. and E.R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.
The Western Architect. Vol. 28 (January 1919).