

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Sarpy	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.31.0005	DATE 10/15/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Presbyterian Church

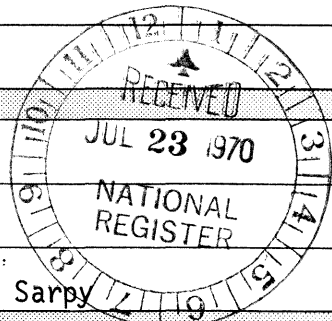
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2002 Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bellevue

STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **68005** COUNTY: **Sarpy** CODE: **153**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Harold D. LeMar

STREET AND NUMBER:
3807 Burt Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **26**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds, Sarpy County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
122 East Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Papillion** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **26**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

70.10.31.0005-10/15/70

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building is located in the northeast quarter of Block 174 of the original plat of Bellevue. As originally constructed in the late 1850's, the church was a low, 30 by 40 foot, masonry structure with a gable roof. The building was entered (as it is today) through the east gable end of the structure. The building may originally have had both a low vestibule extending eastward from the main entrance and, less likely, a cupola projecting upward from the east half of the roof. When the building is eventually restored, close examination should throw light on these questions.

The four exterior walls of the original building are composed of a rubble stone and grout mixture which was probably faced originally (as it is today) with a smooth layer of stucco or grout. Various sections of the present stucco layer clearly date to various periods. Some older sections have horizontal and vertical grooves etched into the stucco surface to give the appearance of smooth-faced ashlar, and this ornamentation may originally have been applied to all four walls of the church.

Greek Revival stylistic influence is revealed through further examination of the original church exterior, including the low pitch of the roof and the design of the windows and cornices. However, the large, triangular, bracketed window hoods suggest Italianate as well as Greek Revival influence. These heavy frame window hoods, some of which have been removed in recent years, formerly capped all original windows and may be original to the structure.

While much of the interior and exterior of the original edifice is intact, several additions have been built since the 1850's. In 1869 a tower was constructed which may have incorporated a vestibule that was original to the church. This tower was crowned by a spire which projected well above and to the east of the original roof ridge. Around the turn of the century, this tower was severely damaged during a tornado and replaced by the present tower, which retains the old front doors and, again, may possibly incorporate a vestibule that is original to the church. The present crenelated tower (10 by 10 feet at its base) clashes with the original styling of the church and is to be demolished once restoration begins.

Other later additions that will presumably be razed eventually are the west and south wings appended to the original structure. In 1904 the church doubled its seating capacity to 500 and assumed a modified cruciform plan. The original sanctuary was enlarged through the construction of a 27 by 56 foot addition to the west and by an 8 by 20 foot choir extension to the west of this addition. In 1924 the present Social Hall, a frame structure faced with stucco, was appended to the south elevation of the 1904 addition. While the stucco facing of the entire building is in poor condition, the walls themselves as well as the church interior still appear to be in good condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1856-58**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Founded as a fur trading post in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Bellevue is Nebraska's oldest existing community and was Nebraska's only non-military settlement in existence prior to the creation of Nebraska Territory in 1854. Constructed ca. 1856-58, Bellevue's old Presbyterian Church is believed to be the oldest building erected in Nebraska to house religious services. The Presbyterian congregation which built the edifice was founded in 1850 and is probably the oldest existing church congregation established in Nebraska. Although the building has been enlarged and altered several times over the years, much of the original exterior appearance is intact. Accurate restoration, which is planned, will be possible because examples of most of the original ornamentation are still intact. While only modestly pretentious, the church as originally designed combined Greek Revival styling with some early Italianate elements, and the building is now one of Nebraska's few surviving buildings exhibiting Greek Revival influence.

At least as early as 1834, Presbyterian missionaries were actively evangelizing the Indians of eastern Nebraska. In 1846 Rev. Edward McKinney arrived in Bellevue, where a large Presbyterian mission building (a log structure razed in the 1860's) was erected under his leadership in 1846-48 to serve the Oto and Omaha Indians. During a meeting at the mission building on December 26, 1850, the Presbyterian Church of Nebraska was organized under the care of Rev. McKinney and with five charter members. The worship services of this congregation were conducted at the mission until the late 1850's. In 1853 Rev. McKinney retired from the leadership of the mission and church and was succeeded by Rev. William Hamilton, who continued to lead the congregation until the mid 1860's. In 1856 the church was reorganized as the First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, a name which it still retains.

Under Rev. Hamilton's guidance, D. E. Reed, a builder who was experienced in grout work, began construction work in 1856 on the Presbyterian Church as well as Father Hamilton's own Bellevue dwelling (a National Register property) and a new Indian mission (not extant) in what is now Thurston County, Nebraska. The walls of all three structures were composed of rubble limestone tied together with grout and probably faced originally with grout stucco--a form of wall construction rarely found in Nebraska outside of Bellevue. These three masonry buildings were not finally completed until about 1858.

(CONTINUED)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files, Nebraska State Historical Society.
 Kerr, David R., "Semi-Centennial History of the Bellevue
 Presbyterian Church"
 (unpublished m.s.), 1904.

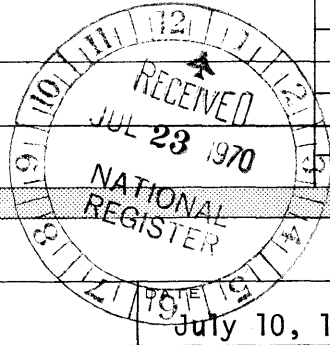
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41	08	22
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	95	53	37
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/2 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
 UTM
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John Q. Magie, Historic Sites Curator

ORGANIZATION:
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 R Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Lincoln

STATE:
Nebraska 68508

CODE:
26

July 10, 1970

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Maurice E. Knott

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date _____

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

Ernest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Smutge
 Keeper of The National Register

AUG 1 1970

Date _____

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

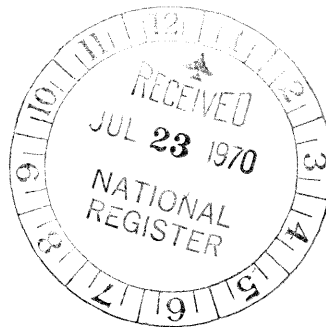
(Continuation Sheet)

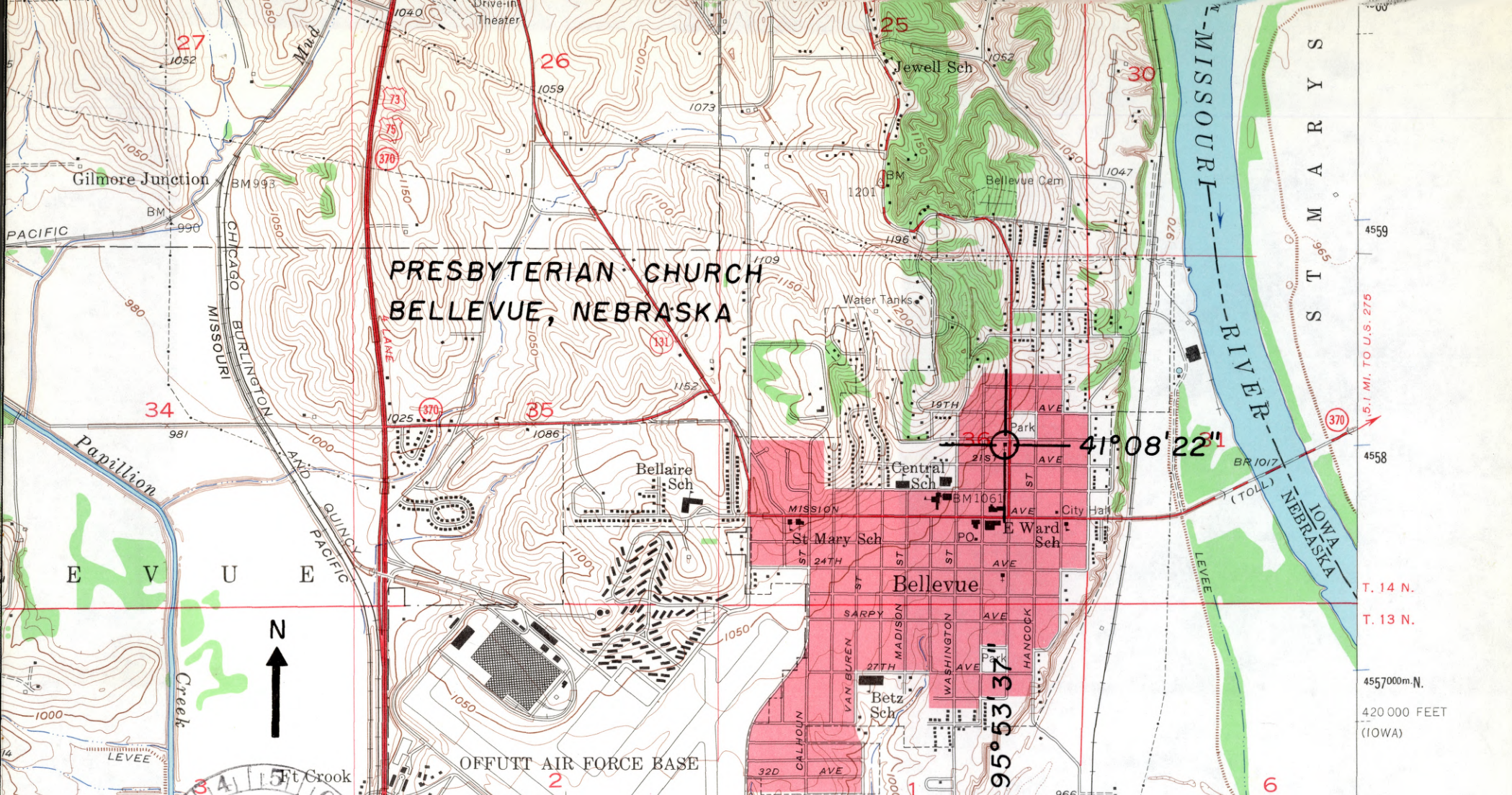
STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Sarpy	
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(Number all entries)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8. The old Presbyterian church building continued to serve the needs of the First Presbyterian congregation until early in 1959, when a new and larger church edifice was completed for this organization at 1220 Bellevue Road in Bellevue. In 1961 the congregation sold the old church building and property to the present owner, Mrs. Harold D. LeMar, a local preservationist and president of the Greater Nebraska Historical Foundation. The old building has subsequently been occupied, on a temporary basis, first by the Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal) and now, since ca. 1967, by Bellevue's First Assembly of God Church. An official Nebraska historical marker was recently installed on the lawn to the east of the building.



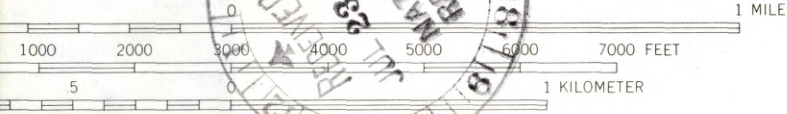


**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA**



(PLATTSMOUTH) 6866 III SW
LA PLATTE 3.7 MI.
PLATTSMOUTH 9 MI.

SCALE 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1967
R. 13 E. R. 14 E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route
- State Route

OMAHA SOUTH, NEBR.—IOWA

N 4107.5—W 9552.5/7.5

1956

AMS 6866 III NW—SERIES V875

COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
NATIONAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
FOR A LIST OF PUBLISHED TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

(PACIFIC JUNCTION)
6866 III SE

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Sarpy	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.31.0005	DATE 10/15/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Presbyterian Church	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
2002 Franklin Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Bellevue			
STATE:	Nebraska 68005	CODE 26	COUNTY: Sarpy
			CODE 153
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Omaha South			
SCALE:			
1: 24,000			
DATE:			
1956			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

