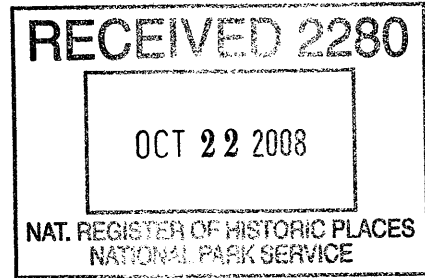


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1134



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 First United Presbyterian Church

Other names/site number Historic Presbyterian Community Center

2. Location

Street & number 104 East 4th Street

Not for publication

City or town Madison

Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Madison Code 119 Zip code 68748

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.)

Muel [Signature]
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 12-3-08

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison 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		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.)

RELIGION/religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater,
auditorium, museum, music facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Romanesque Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Reinforced concrete

Walls Brick

Roof Asphalt

Other Bedford stone

Narrative Description

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

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

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

1914

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. R. Smith, Architect, Lincoln, NE.

J. J. Adams, 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: _____

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .2 acre

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

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Contains rows 1-4 and a note: [] 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 Phyllis Trine & Stacy Stupka-Burda / National Register Coordinator
organization Preservation Madison / NSHS date 8/22/08
street & number 1500 R ST (NSHS) telephone 402-471-4770 (NSHS)
city or town Madison / Lincoln state NE zip code 68748/68501

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 Preservation Madison, Inc.
street & number P.O. Box 1224 telephone 402-454-2944
city or town Madison state NE zip code 68748

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Madison is located 110 miles north of Lincoln in the Northeast corner of the state, just 15 miles south of Norfolk. The county seat of Madison County, Madison is a farming community with area farmers growing mostly corn and soybeans in rolling hills. Madison County is noted as having one of the best county fairs in the state. The population of Madison in 2000 was 2,367 (2000 U.S. Census).

The former Presbyterian Church building is set on the southeast corner of the block at Fourth Street and Nebraska Street, one block off of Main Street, next to the former Hein's Opera House. It is a brick building designed in a modest Romanesque Revival style and features decorative polychromatic patterns produced by using contrasting colors and textures of brick and stone. The main body of the building is constructed of red brick. Light colored tan brick is used throughout the exterior of the building to provide embellishments and visual interest. A belt course of Bedford stone visually separates the basement from the first floor and continues around the exterior of the building. Windows placed throughout this level provide light for basement activities. Bedford stone is used again to cap the parapet. The brick used below the belt course is variegated and is, in general, composed of dark colors. The main portion of the building is primarily rectangular in shape and features an octagonal dome with backlit stained glass windows. The Sunday School room is located at the western end of the building and is one-half of a dodecagon or is six sided. The east façade features small towers at each corner, complete with castellations. A third tower, slightly taller than those previously described, houses the bell.

The main entrance, located at ground level, is located on the southwest corner of the church at the base of the bell tower. This entrance features an arch surround fashioned of light tan brick. A lunette stained glass window graces this entrance as well as the two east entrances described below. Double hung arched windows are present at this level, one facing east and one facing west. The arch surrounds on these windows are also made of light colored brick, a pattern which is repeated throughout the arched windows of the building. A horizontal stone band connects the arch of the door to the arches of the windows and creates separation between the lower level and the first level. Moving up the bell tower, a belt course of light tan brick surrounds the tower. Immediately above this belt course on the south façade a pair of diamond shaped windows are set in a raised light tan brick rectangle. This rectangular brick pattern is repeated on the west and east sides of the bell tower with diamond shaped corbelling centered within each rectangle. Light tan colored raised brick presents a dentiled appearance and forms yet another visual separation using both color and texture. This raised brick decoration continues across the bell tower and moves across to the main portion of the building and continues around the church on the primary facades. The upper story of the bell tower features paired arched windows filled with wood louvered shutters. The window sills are constructed of Bedford stone, as are all the window sills in this building. Immediately above these windows, brick corbelling helps draw the eye upward to the top of the tower which features castellations.

Moving east from the bell tower, a large arched window is centered between the bell tower and the tower at the southeast corner of the church. A second arched window is located on the east façade, centered once more between the two corner towers. These windows are surrounded by light tan colored brick as the arch surrounds and Bedford stone as the sills, materials serving again to provide visual interest and texture.

The east façade features two more entrances centered within the towers, each with concrete steps and stone capped brick half walls. These entrances lead to the sanctuary and to the pastor's study, and are centered in small rectangular towers. An entrance located on the north side of the church provides access to the kitchen.

The north façade is not as highly decorated as the primary facades of the south and the east. Double hung stained glass windows provide light and beauty to the functional areas of the study. An arched stained glass window is centered under the gabled parapet and provides light to the choir platform. On the northwest corner of the building is a large brick

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

chimney for the former coal-fired steam furnace. On the north side is a small entrance that goes down to the kitchen or up to the Sunday school rooms and choir room. Another stairway leads down to the furnace room.

On the west façade, the Sunday School rooms are located within a one-story six-sided portion of the church. Wooden double hung stained glass windows are centered in each side. Smaller double hung windows punctuate the basement level and are placed immediately below the stone belt course. The roof of this area forms a conical cupola of sorts with clerestory windows with cross-hatched white mullions. The vertical walls of the cone are woodframe and are painted white.

A second octagonal cupola like structure is located above the rectangular main section of the building. It too is painted white and has two very small windows with decorative mullions. Historically, all of these clerestory windows opened to provide ventilation.

Interior

Upon entering the main south entrance through the double doors, there is an open split vestibule with stairs going down to the basement or up to the sanctuary or Sunday school rooms. Upstairs the two sets of double swinging doors are red oak, as are all the doors on the main level.

The two very large (approx. 12'x18') stained glass windows in the sanctuary (south and east walls) are very impressive and immediately garner attention. Though smaller, the stained glass window above the choir loft is no less striking. There are two stained glass windows in the pastor's study and another in the southeast entrance. Above the entrance doors on the east and the main entrance on the south are lunette stained glass windows. In the main entry are two more windows on each side and there are six in the Sunday school rooms on the west.

In the sanctuary, perhaps most notable of all is the octagonal atrium dome stained glass. The center section opens to afford ventilation out through the cupola. The windows in the cupola bring light into the dome stained glass windows during the day and at night there are electric lights around the base. The windows in the cupola and those over the Sunday school area are hinged at the bottom and were previously opened by pulley.

The sanctuary is rectangular, but because the floor is sloped and the curved pews are placed diagonally across, it is a theater style room. The entrance at the southwest corner of the room has a center aisle that slopes down to the altar platform in the northeast corner. The organ pipes back the altar platform and the Estey pipe organ sits on the north edge of the platform. There is a small platform for the choir, which seats fifteen. There are also two side aisles. Because of the angles, the curved pews are different sizes, and are made of solid oak with ornate carving on the ends. They have racks for hymnals and some have racks underneath for a man's hat.

The building is arranged in an Akron plan. The Akron plan was created in 1867, and 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 the First United Presbyterian Church in Madison, there are two large, 14' high by 12' wide tambour doors at the back of the sanctuary that may be opened to include the Sunday school rooms. This Sunday school area is six sided and has four-section folding doors, 9' high, that divide the space into 6 pie shaped rooms. It was announced in the Madison Chronicle that the sanctuary would hold 200 worshippers and when opened, the Sunday school rooms could hold an additional 150 people.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

There are no fixed pieces of ecclesiastical furnishings, such as a stationary enclosed pulpit, communion table or baptismal font. A heavy carved table is placed at the front, along with a lectern and a small baptismal font. All these can be rearranged.

In the southeast corner are double swinging doors opening into a small space leading out the east entrance. In the northeast corner, behind the Estey pipe organ is a small study for the pastor as is noted in the lunette stained glass window above the door. One wall has built-in glass fronted cabinets for books and altar cloths. There is a small heating stove in the room. Between the choir platform and the Sunday school rooms is a cloakroom with storage for robes and music and books.

The basement holds a fellowship room of roughly the same size and shape as the sanctuary above. On the north side of the basement are a kitchen, a ladies restroom, a large room called "the ladies lounge" and a closet under the pastor's study which houses the pump for the organ. The kitchen has floor to ceiling built-in wooden cupboards and a counter with slide up doors opening to the fellowship hall.

There are additional Sunday school rooms which mimic those on the main floor and are partitioned the same with tall folding wooden doors. In the area under the main stairway is a men's toilet with a corner sink. The doors in both restrooms have a swinging "barroom" door to the toilet area with an antique lock denoting open or closed.

Between the kitchen and the Sunday school room is the stairwell up to the north door and down to the room with a large old steam furnace and coal chutes. This furnace is no longer used and has been replaced with 2 smaller gas furnaces. One is located in the hallway between the kitchen and old furnace room and the other is on the main floor in the southeast entrance. There have been no other major changes other than new asphalt shingles.

The property retains excellent physical integrity. The roof has been repaired and reshingled, and the old coal furnace has been replaced with newer gas furnaces. Landscaping is minimal with a nice lawn and a few well-placed bushes and shrubs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

The First United Presbyterian Church of Madison is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architectural significance. Designed in a modest Romanesque 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.

Early arrivals to Madison, the Barnes family were originally from Poughkeepsie, New York. They arrived in Madison in 1867 and began holding Presbyterian services in their home and in various other buildings until they organized the first church in town. This same congregation eventually built the present church. Descendants of those pioneers still live here and are members of the present owner organization, Preservation Madison, Inc.

The congregation was organized Tuesday, February 1, 1870 by Reverend Sheldon Jackson, superintendent of the Presbyterian Mission for the states of Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Utah and Dakota. Dr. Jackson went on to become famous as a missionary in Alaska and served as the first agent of the United States Bureau of Education in that Territory. He introduced the use of domesticated reindeer there, convinced that food and skins for clothing were more essential to the almost destitute natives than the schools he had been sent there to establish.

The first building housed the school during the week and was used as a church weekends. It also housed the first lending library created when Mr. Barnes' sister sent books from Poughkeepsie. Then in 1872 the Presbyterian congregation made plans to build a church. They hauled all lumber by oxen and wagon from Columbus 35 miles away. In October 1876 the first bell in Madison County was installed in that church and now hangs in the old Carnegie library in Madison, a part of the Madison County Museum. The very first fair in Madison was held in September 1873 at the Presbyterian Church. The "large crowd" consisted of 50 to 60 people. The steps were lined with the pumpkins, squash, potatoes and onions and there were shocks of grain in the churchyard. Pen and ink sketches by Mr. Strutsman formed the main attraction. A few pony races were run on the streets. Pioneers had an enjoyable time just having an opportunity to get together and visit. They continued to hold the fair at the church for many years. This year, 2008, the Madison County Fair celebrated its 135th anniversary.

On September 28, 1881, the first church was demolished by a cyclone. Only the west wall was left standing. Not a rent was made in the large flag of the 38 United States which hung there, draped above the picture of the martyred President Garfield for a memorial service held in his honor. That flag (the first flag in Madison County) was the pride of the community, presented by J.T.C. Trine at the Fourth of July celebration in 1869. (It was recently exhibited at the dedication ceremony for Preservation Madison, Inc.) The force of the storm had hurled the bell from the church steeple into the hall over the Chris Neidig store across the street. They sold the land and used the money to build a new church building in the present location. It cost \$2,000 and was dedicated debt free on May 2, 1882 only 7 months later.

By 1912, a new larger church was the chief topic of conversation. The earliest church building was sold and the building was razed. Materials from that building were recycled and used to build houses in east Madison. On November 18, 1913, they laid the cornerstone for the new building and the subject of this nomination. While the construction was in progress, the congregation met in the lodge hall above the nearby theater (Hein's Opera House). Again, some materials from the old building, such as brick were reused. On June 14, 1914, after only 7 months of construction, the beautiful building now standing was dedicated. It was constructed at a cost of \$26,000, with contractor J.J. Adams in charge.

Upon completing the church, parishioners made changes in the furnishings to conform to the times. A beautiful Estey pipe organ renowned to be one of the finest was built into the building. A carved, heavy oak bench with brown leather

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

cushion has its place on the rostrum where three high backed red plush upholstered chairs had previously filled the space in the old church. The pitcher and chalices were set aside and an individual communion set came into use. An article in the Madison Chronicle of June 19, 1914 about the dedication, states, "There are larger and more pretentious edifices in the state than the new Presbyterian church recently dedicated, but none more artistic or complete". The new church was designed according to the Akron Plan, a plan devised in 1867 for a Methodist church in Akron, Ohio. The Akron Plan allowed multiple Sunday school classes to be held during the worship service in classrooms adjacent to the sanctuary. At appropriate times, the partitions to these rooms could be opened to allow the children to participate in the service.

The First United Presbyterian Church in Madison exemplifies this plan to the fullest. The very large oak tambour doors at the rear of the sanctuary are much more effective at closing off the Sunday school rooms than draperies used in some other examples. The six pie shaped Sunday school rooms are very effectively divided by the tall, oak folding doors and when all are opened, provide additional seating for about 150. The sloped flooring and curved seats provide an auditorium type setting with very good acoustics.

Distinctive in the church are its stained glass windows depicting Biblical scenes. "Jesus and the Children" given by the choir, shines above the choir platform. "Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler", a gift from Christian Endeavor, graces the south wall. A favorite of everyone's is the window on the east of the risen Jesus and Mary outside the empty tomb, presented by the Ladies Aid Society. It is an awesome sight as the sun comes up and begins illuminating it.

The First United Presbyterian Church of Madison exhibits many fine details of the Romanesque Revival architectural style, including the liberal use of wide round arches on windows and doors, multiple towers, and the use of several different brick colors as well as stone to create decorative wall patterns.

The First United Presbyterian Church of Madison has literally grown with the community. The ability to organize, the faith to endure and the vision of possible accomplishments were in the first families who made a home here. Undaunted thru the struggles of the pioneer years, the destruction of the cyclone and years of droughts, the church has maintained its place helping to make the community a better place in which to live.

The congregation survived a tornado, the dust bowl, and the Great Depression, but in 2007 the nine remaining active members (four of whom live in nursing homes) decided they no longer could sustain the handsome brick building. Their farewell service was held May 29, 2007. A concerned group of citizens led by Jeanne Reigle, could not bear to see the building sold or torn down and formed an organization called Preservation Madison, Inc. for the purpose of preserving this important part of the community. They incorporated, applied for their non-profit status and received title to the property January 3, 2008.

This building holds many beautiful memories for the members of the community. A most notable one being the continuing tradition of the Easter Sunrise service held every year for generations. People are awed by the beauty of the Easter sunrise coming through the very large and beautiful stained glass window depicting Jesus with Mary. It has become a community ecumenical service that Preservation, Inc. plans to continue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First United Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Madison County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9 & 10 Page 6

Bibliography

Florence Bauch Kortman, History of The First United Presbyterian Church of Madison 1940.

Lois Johnson Westfall, Scrapbook of The First United Presbyterian Church of Madison.

Madison Chronicle, June 19, 1914.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 8, Block 14 of the F.W. Barnes Addition, Madison, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

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