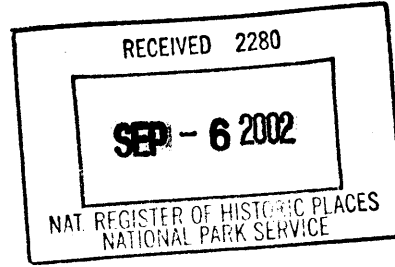


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United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service



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 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 University Presbyterian Church and Student Center  
other names Pres House

2. Location

street & number 731 State Street N/A not for publication  
city or town Madison N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53706

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 for additional comments.)

Alicia L. Cor...  
Signature of certifying official/Title

August 27, 2002  
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.)

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

University Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**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.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

per  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall      10/16/02

**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 listed resources within the count)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<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.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: religious facility

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Late Gothic Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation CONCRETE  
walls STONE  
roof ASPHALT  
other BRICK

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Section 7 Page 1 University Presbyterian Church and Student Center  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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INTRODUCTION

The University Presbyterian Church and Student Center was designed by Madison architect Edward Tough in 1931 and completed in 1935.<sup>1</sup> It is Neo-Gothic Revival in style with Collegiate Gothic elements, veneered with Lannonstone (a pale gray stone with yellow seams quarried in Lannon, Wisconsin) and brick, and rests on a poured concrete basement. The steeply pitched, gable roofs are clad with thick, composition shingles.

DESCRIPTION

The University Presbyterian Church and Student Center (Pres House) stands on the southeast corner of State and North Murray streets. Although State Street carried automobile traffic when the Pres House was built, it has been a pedestrian mall for about 25 years. The University of Wisconsin campus lies north, south and west of the Pres House. Two other campus ministries are located between the Pres House and Lake Street (to the east). These are St. Paul's Catholic Chapel and Student Center (717 State Street) and Calvary Lutheran Student Center (713 State Street). Madison's commercial downtown begins on the other side of Lake Street and runs east along State Street to the Capitol Square.

The Pres House is of steel-reinforced, structural tile construction. The State and North Murray Street (north- and west-facing) facades and part of the east-facing facade are finished with rock-faced, Lannon stone in a random ashlar pattern while the south (rear) and the remainder of the east-facing facades are veneered with brick. The Pres House has an "L" shaped plan, wrapping around a raised patio. The north-facing

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<sup>1</sup> Building permit, Madison Department of Planning and Development; and "The Pres House Story, A History: 1907-1973," prepared by the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation, 1973, p 9.

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University Presbyterian Church and Student Center  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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gabled section houses the student center, while the chapel occupies the west-facing gabled section south of the student center. The overall footprint measures 115 feet (north-south) by 75 feet (east-west).

The front of the Pres House faces north, overlooking the State Street pedestrian mall. A seventy-foot high, square, stone tower, tucked into the ell, dominates this façade (see photo 1). At the base of the north face of the tower, there is a Tudor arched portal beneath a stone label molding. The door is Tudor arched, made of heavy wood planks, and displays elaborate, wrought iron, strapwork hinges. The portal is surmounted by a polygonal oriel with diamond-paned casements, above which appears a tall arched window with stone tracery including trefoils, quatrefoils and lozenges. The west face of the tower is nearly identical, except that a multipane, metal window (rather than a door) is set at the base of the tower. Above the oriel, all four faces of the tower feature a narrow arched opening with tracery, pinnacles and an accolade. A delicate, polygonal belfry crowns the tower. Stone buttresses with pinnacles further embellish the tower.

Both the chapel (south) and the student center (north and east) sections are entered through the tower. Part of the north-facing façade of the chapel section is visible west of the tower, and shows a Tudor-arched, wood-plank door within a Tudor-arched surround. This door gives access to the chapel's vestibule. A pair of multipane casement windows above lights a staircase in the vestibule that climbs to the choir loft.

The north-facing façade of the student center section is a gable end, which flares slightly at the eaves (see photo 2). Stone buttresses articulate this facade. Four regularly spaced groups of three multipane casement windows appear in the basement. At the first story, a polygonal bay window with a Gothic-arched transom and a stone surround is centered above each group of

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University Presbyterian Church and Student Center  
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windows. The transoms hold diamond-pane windows. A large, polygonal oriel with stone tracery and diamond-pane casements is set in the middle of the second story. On either side of the oriel, a pair of metal, multipane, casement windows appears. The flat-arched lintel above these windows is composed of rock-faced stone voussoirs with prominent keystones. A loop window with a stone label molding is centered in the gable end above the oriel. A blind loophole appears near the peak of the gable.

The west-facing façade of the Pres House overlooks North Murray Street. On this façade, the chapel (south), the tower (center) and the student center (north and east) all can be seen. The gable end of the chapel faces west and features a central, projecting entrance pavilion with a shouldered, gabled parapet. A datestone, inscribed "1931" is found just north of the entrance pavilion. At the base of the entrance pavilion, broad stone steps rise to the principal chapel entrance. This entrance is composed of three Tudor-arched portals, with a continuous stone label molding, surmounted by fillet and billet moldings. Heavy plank doors with elaborate, wrought iron, strapwork hinges are recessed within each portal. The central portal holds a pair of doors, while single doors appear in the flanking portals. A pair of gabled buttresses frames the entrance portals, each displaying a stone patera from which an ornate bronze lantern is suspended. Above the entrance, a tall arched opening appears. Recessed within this is a band of blind tracery, featuring trefoils and lozenges, executed in stone. This tracery is surmounted by a large, multipane, fixed window, articulated with narrow buttresses and holding leaded glass panes. A blind loophole is set in the gable peak.

On the west-facing façade of the student center section, the first story exhibits a group of metal, multipane windows within which are set multipane casements. A pair of metal, multipane, French doors surmounted by an arched transom flank either side of the grouped windows. A pair of metal, multipane casements can be

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seen at the first story between the tower and the southern pair of French doors. At the second story, a broad wall dormer enriched with applied half-timbering is tucked under the main roof. The dormer displays groups of multipane casement windows with multipane transoms similar to those on the first floor. A pair of casement windows is found at either end of the second story.

On the south-facing façade of the Pres House, only the chapel section can be seen. This façade is finished with brick. Four brick buttresses frame three tall, arched windows. The windows are enriched with stone tracery and display leaded-glass. Some of the panes are hopper windows. A door into the chapel appears at the east end of this façade.

The east-facing façade is set very close to St. Paul's Catholic Chapel and Student Center, next door. At the south end of this façade, the gable end of the chapel is finished with brick and projects slightly. The polygonal apse is centered in the gable end of the chapel. Three tall lancet windows with leaded glass light the altar, within the apse. Metal, multipane windows appear in the basement and at the first floor on either side of the apse. The east-facing façade of the student center is finished with Lannonstone. A boxy, gabled wall dormer with applied stucco and half-timbering dominates the second story of the student center. A stone chimney rises through the wall dormer. On either side of the chimney, a group of metal, multipane windows inset with casements appears. Four bays of metal multipane casement windows are regularly distributed at the basement, first and second stories south of the wall dormer. A fire escape climbs to the second floor just south of the wall dormer. North of the wall dormer, a flight of concrete steps descends to a door into the basement.

On the interior, the plan is composed of the chapel section and the student center section (see enclosed floor plans). The chapel

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is open, with the vestibule at the west end and the altar at the east end. The choir loft is set above the vestibule. The student center's first floor plan consists of a vestibule in the southwest corner, with a bath and two offices east of the vestibule, and a large lounge to the north. A kitchenette and a storage room, constructed in 1999, are tucked into the southwest corner of the vestibule. The second floor plan of the student center is similar, except that the lounge is smaller, accommodating another office, and the tower houses yet another office, entered from the second floor vestibule. The four second-floor offices apparently were dormitories for students originally. The basement includes an apartment and kitchen at the north end (under the student center), a large room with a stage at the south end, and a furnace room, storage rooms and bathrooms at the west end (under the chapel). In 1970 partitions were constructed in the large room, creating four offices on the east side of the room. The second-floor dormitories were put into office use about the same time.<sup>2</sup>

The tower houses a steel dog-leg staircase. The metal handrail exhibits twisted balusters, some of which form quatrefoils. In the vestibule of the chapel, two staircases rise to the choir loft (one at either end). Interior finishes include concrete floors surfaced with vinyl tiles, ceramic tile (in some bathrooms and part of the basement), and carpeting (in the chapel), and rough plaster walls and ceilings. Built-in wood bookcases and cabinets appear in several of the offices and in the first-floor lounge.

Decorative plasterwork is found in several spaces. On the first floor, the tower displays a beamed ceiling and a plaster cornice enriched with Tudor roses, acorns and *fleur-de-lis*, as well as a rope molding. The first-floor lounge also features a beamed ceiling, but the beams themselves are embellished with Tudor

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<sup>2</sup> Building permit.

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roses, tulips, acorns, *fleur-de-lis*, grapes and grape leaves, and rope moldings. The lounge's plaster cornice is simpler, but does exhibit Tudor roses. A massive, stone fireplace dominates the first-floor lounge. It has a Tudor-arched opening enriched with compound moldings, and a tall mantel embellished with shields and ribbons. The windows and doors in the first-floor lounge exhibit quoined, rock-faced, stone surrounds. A second fireplace, smaller and simpler than the first, is located in the second-floor vestibule in the student center section and also displays a Tudor-arched opening.

The chapel possesses a vaulted ceiling, featuring plaster ribs enriched with rope moldings that terminate in bosses decorated with flowers. The apse, which houses the altar, is polygonal and features plaster ribs and floral bosses identical to those that appear in the nave of the chapel. The altarpiece is paneled wood, decorated with quatrefoils.

One of the most notable features about the Pres House is that it retains many of its original light fixtures. These are metal, made to look like wrought iron, and include electric candle brackets, chandeliers with electric candles, wall-mounted lanterns and chandeliers with hanging lanterns. The chandeliers in the chapel, which incorporate trefoils, quatrefoils and grape leaves, are works of art.

#### ALTERATIONS

The Pres House has experienced no exterior alterations. Interior alterations have been confined to the large room in the basement (partitioned in 1970 to create offices along the east wall and now receiving plaster decorations for its tenant, the Catacombs coffeehouse) and to the first floor vestibule in the student center. In the latter space, the bathroom was fitted to



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accommodate the handicapped in 1981, and the kitchenette and storage room were constructed in 1999.<sup>3</sup> These changes are very minor and do not diminish the excellent integrity of the Pres House.

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<sup>3</sup> Building permits.

University Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
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 the  
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from  
instructions)

Architecture

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.

Period of Significance

1935

Significant Dates

1935

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 resource.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is  
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tough, Edward

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The University Presbyterian Church and Student Center (Pres House) is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. It is an outstanding local example of early twentieth century Neo-Gothic Revival design with Collegiate Gothic elements and retains excellent integrity. The period of significance coincides with the date of the building's completion, 1935.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: CITY OF MADISON

The original plat for the Village of Madison was surveyed for James Duane Doty in 1836. Doty named the village in honor of the fourth president of the United States. Madison grew slowly during its first decade. It was incorporated as a village in 1846 with a population of 626. In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30<sup>th</sup> state and Madison was named the capital. The same year, the University of Wisconsin was founded. Tremendous growth followed, not only in government and at the university, but in the population in general. When Madison was chartered as a city in 1856, its population was 6,864. By that time, the city's character as a center for government and as a college town was well established. Growth stalled during the Civil War, but boomed during the 1870s as excellent train service helped the city to become a regional commercial center. In the 1880s and 1890s, Madison added another dimension, becoming a manufacturing center. At first, agricultural implements and machine tools were produced by such companies as Fuller and Johnson. In the early twentieth century, the French Battery Company (later known as Ray-O-Vac) and Oscar Mayer were established. The development of a vigorous manufacturing sector and the quadrupling of the student body at the University of Wisconsin between 1900 and 1925 were major factors spurring Madison's growth from the seventh largest city in the state in 1910 to the third largest by 1930.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> David V. Mollenhoff, *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*, (Dubuque:

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Today Madison remains a government and university town with thriving commercial and manufacturing enterprises. Detailed information on the history of Madison can be found in David V. Mollenhoff's excellent book, *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*, and in the 1995 report, "Madison Intensive Survey," produced by the City of Madison Department of Planning and Development.

**HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE  
PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT CENTER FOUNDATION**

The expansion of the Presbyterian Church during the nineteenth century generally followed the three-phase pattern typical of other denominations: organization, mission and parish. During the organization phase, a group of communicants would begin holding services. The group would then either petition for regular visits from a clergyman, or a circuit-riding minister looking to expand his territory would find them and schedule occasional visits. When the group had regular attendance and sufficient membership, the church would establish a "mission" among the communicants. A circuit-riding minister, financially supported by the church, would be assigned to that mission. During the mission phase, if the congregation grew in membership and financial resources such that it could support a full-time pastor, the mission would become a "parish." This is the third phase. As a parish grows, with the permission of the church, the parish church may establish a mission to serve communicants who find regular attendance difficult, either because of distance from the church or some other isolating factor. The parish church continues to "mother" the mission, providing pastoral and financial support, until the mission becomes self-sustaining. Generally, if the

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mission does not become self-sustaining, it is closed and the mother church absorbs the membership.<sup>5</sup> This hierarchical and cyclical pattern in the expansion of Protestant churches continues today.

Most denominations, including the Presbyterians, traditionally have established outreach missions to special populations, such as prison inmates, orphans and college students. Outreach missions develop in a manner somewhat different from standard missions and may be continued even if the mission does not become self-sustaining financially. The evolution of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation at the University of Wisconsin illustrates this type of mission very well.

Two acts by the U.S. Congress during the nineteenth century spurred the establishment and growth of public colleges and universities. In 1850, Congress granted to each state "swamp and overflow lands," which each state could sell to finance public education (both elementary/secondary and university). Wisconsin claimed over 3 million acres under this grant. In 1862, the Morrill Act provided each state an additional 30,000 acres for each member of Congress. The proceeds from the sale of these lands were earmarked for an agricultural and mechanical college.<sup>6</sup> As a result of this largesse, state-supported colleges and universities flourished during the late nineteenth century. By the turn-of-the-century, the number of students attending state institutions had eclipsed the number studying at church-sponsored colleges. Religious instruction generally was prohibited at state institutions and by 1900, Christian parents had begun lobbying the authorities of their own churches to provide religious

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<sup>5</sup> Harold Wagner, *The Episcopal Church in Wisconsin, 1847-1947: A History of the Diocese of Milwaukee*, (Milwaukee: Diocese of Milwaukee, 1947), pp. 206-28 and 273.

<sup>6</sup> Nesbit, p. 227.

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support to the thousands of students attending these "Godless institutions."<sup>7</sup>

In 1901 Reverend James Beveridge Lee and Reverend Barton B. Bigler, pastors of the Immanuel Church (Milwaukee) and Christ Church (Madison) respectively, petitioned the Presbyterian Synod of Wisconsin to provide a minister for the 300 Presbyterian students at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In response, a committee of the Synod organized the "Presbyterian Student Union," whose aim was to further "mutual acquaintance and spiritual culture" among the Presbyterian students at the University of Wisconsin.<sup>8</sup>

In 1904 the Reverend George Hunt was named pastor of Christ Church in Madison. Believing that the Presbyterian students at the university deserved more religious support than the leaderless Presbyterian Student Union could provide, Reverend Hunt requested that the Synod hire a secretary or a pastor to minister to the students. In 1905, the Synod authorized a fund-raising campaign to employ a minister. Reverend Hunt engaged Reverend Matthew C. Allison, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Indiana. Reverend Allison was ministering to students at Indiana University and teaching Bible classes.<sup>9</sup>

In September 1907, Reverend Allison began his work at the University of Wisconsin. He had two principal duties: ministering to students and soliciting funds from parish churches to support his mission. Donations to Reverend Allison's mission were slim at first, as many Presbyterians maintained that parents should send

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<sup>7</sup> "A History of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation at the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Wisconsin," prepared by the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation, 1957, p. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

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their children to Carroll College in Waukesha (founded by the Presbyterian Church) if they wanted their children to attend an institution with a religious atmosphere. Undaunted, Reverend Allison took a personal and active approach with students, such that by 1912, he had brought 500 students into full or affiliated membership at Christ Church, and had sponsored eight candidates for the ministry. This success convinced many parishes around the state to support the campus mission and induced the Synod to pay Reverend Allison's salary.<sup>10</sup>

By 1912, Reverend Allison had realized that his mission needed to be located near campus. Christ Church was a mile from the University, discouraging students from attending services regularly. In April 1914, Christ Church was destroyed by fire. The new church, finished in 1915 (124 Wisconsin Avenue, demolished), included an office for the campus mission as well as many classrooms and a large auditorium. However, family membership in Christ Church grew rapidly, leaving the students feeling out of place and crowded out.<sup>11</sup>

Reverend Allison was firmly convinced that a separate building for the student mission was essential. He knew that the Catholic and the Methodist churches had also established missions to students at the University of Wisconsin, but as yet did not have facilities near campus. Reverend Allison and Reverend Hunt approached the national Presbyterian Assembly with a proposal that a single building for all the denominations be built. The Presbyterian Assembly, captivated by the idealism of this proposal, responded by holding a national conference in Philadelphia in 1916. Thirteen of the larger denominations sent representatives to this conference, which concluded with a tentative agreement to form a union for students. In 1917, at a second national conference, the plan for this union was hammered

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<sup>10</sup> "The Pres House, A History: 1907-1973," p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

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out. Reverend Allison hired an architect to design the "Union Religious Center" building in Madison. The plans called for a large, domed auditorium surrounded by clubrooms for each denomination, to be located near campus. However, Reverend Allison was unable to raise funds to erect the building, as the U.S. had entered World War I and everyone was buying liberty bonds. When World War I ended, the rivalries between the various denominations reasserted themselves. The Catholics began building St. Paul's Catholic Chapel and Student Center (717 State Street) and the Methodists made plans for the Wesley Foundation. The plan for a union fell apart.<sup>12</sup>

Reverend Allison, although disappointed at the dissolution of the union, turned his attention to finding a location for a chapel and clubhouse for the Presbyterian students. In 1918, the Presbyterian Synod of Wisconsin appointed a committee to form a corporation to purchase a site near the University campus and build a chapel. Reverend Allison had identified a property at State and North Murray Streets (the present site), then owned by the Fitch family. On February 11, 1920, a land contract was signed, acquiring the property for \$45,000. The location of the property, at the east end of the University campus, was ideal for a student mission. The interior of the Fitch House, a Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence facing State Street, was remodeled. The chapel and clubhouse, on the first floor, could hold 150 worshippers. A residence for Reverend Allison and his family was created on the second floor. Three small houses, a large rooming house and several garages were also present on the property, facing North Murray Street and Fitch Court behind the Fitch House. These were rented out, producing a steady though modest income for the mission.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 8.



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In 1921, the University Presbyterian Church and Student Center opened. It proved very popular and by its first anniversary in December 1922, the "Pres House," as the students called it, had 126 full members.<sup>14</sup> By the mid-1920s, the Pres House had become too small to accommodate all those who came to religious services and too limited for the members' social activities. In 1929, the Presbyterian Synod of Wisconsin reorganized the Presbyterian Student Union and named it the "Presbyterian Student Center Foundation." Meanwhile, Reverend Allison had undertaken a fund-raising campaign for the construction of a new building, with a chapel and a larger clubhouse.<sup>15</sup>

By 1930, Reverend Allison and the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation had secured sufficient donations and pledges to begin planning for a new building. Madison architect Edward Tough was employed to prepare the plans. The initial design far exceeded the \$118,000 donated and pledged to the project, so Tough scaled back the plans.<sup>16</sup> The Madison firm of J. H. Findorff and Son was awarded the contract to erect the building for \$112,561 in August 1931.<sup>17</sup>

The Fitch House was razed and construction began on the new University Presbyterian Church and Student Center immediately. However, as a result of the economic freefall that followed the stock market crash of October 1929, the value of the money that had been donated (totaling \$66,000), which had been invested in

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<sup>14</sup> "47 Join UW Presbyterian on Sunday. Membership Now Totals 126; Celebrates First Anniversary," *Capital Times*, 18 December 1922.

<sup>15</sup> "The Pres House Story, A History: 1907-1973," p. 8.

<sup>16</sup> Oral history tells that the redesign eliminated a large church, to be appended to the rear of the chapel. Hoping the church would be erected at a later date, the exterior of the south- and east-facing facades of the chapel were not finished with stone. Joy M. Bailey, Administrator, Pres House, personal communication, 10 May 2001.

<sup>17</sup> "Start Building New Chapel Friday, Presbyterian Structure to Cost \$125,000," *Wisconsin State Journal*, 26 August 1931.

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securities, had fallen precipitously, such that they could not be cashed in to pay the contractors. Compounding the situation, very little of the money that had been pledged was collected. To pay the contractors, the Board of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation borrowed as much money as the banks would allow, supplementing this with a loan of \$50,000 from the Wisconsin Teachers Retirement Fund. It was not enough to complete the project and parts of the building, including much of the chapel, were left unfinished.<sup>18</sup>

Sadly, the stress of the building project and the many years of ministering to students took its toll on Reverend Allison. He suffered what was probably a stroke in June 1933, lying incapacitated until his death two years later on July 25, 1935. His passing and his funeral service held in the unfinished chapel appears to have been a catalyst. Commitments from a Mrs. Nishan of Reedsburg (\$25,000) and the Board of Trustees of Carroll College enabled the completion of the Pres House in 1935.<sup>19</sup>

When the Pres House was finished, the student center included a lounge and bathrooms on each floor, a small office and library for the pastor on the first floor, and several sleeping rooms for students on the second floor. The basement contained an auditorium with a stage, a kitchen, and an apartment for the pastor and his family.<sup>20</sup> The basement apartment is still intact, but the second floor dormitories were converted to offices (with no structural changes) around 1970.<sup>21</sup>

During the Depression, the focus of the staff of the Pres House was to provide support to students with employment and housing

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<sup>18</sup> "A History of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin," p. 13.

<sup>19</sup> "The Pres House, A History," p. 9.

<sup>20</sup> Bailey; and *Wright's Madison City Directory*, (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1939).

<sup>21</sup> Building permits; and "The Pres House Story, A History: 1907-1973," p. 18.

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opportunities, and inexpensive food (fifteen-cent suppers) and entertainment (ten-cent parties). The economy improved as World War II got underway. During the early 1940s, the staff of the Pres House placed equal emphasis on the support of students and servicemen, and on religious services and instruction. In the years following World War II, the Pres House added a new dimension, becoming involved in international humanitarian efforts. The Pres House sponsored displaced persons from Europe and contributed to the "Restoration Fund," which assisted in the rebuilding of churches in Europe.<sup>22</sup>

Attendance at both religious and social activities at the Pres House grew through the 1950s. Toward the end of the decade, a national ecumenical movement arose, the goal of which was to unify Protestant missions on college campuses. In 1962, three denominations joined together to form the UCCF: the United Presbyterian, the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ. The UCCF state commission became the policy-making and funding agency for campus missions of those three denominations, including the Pres House.<sup>23</sup>

At the same time, Pres House staff and student members became increasingly interested in national issues, especially civil rights. Through the 1960s, the Pres House sponsored speakers on issues of national and international importance, including civil rights, the war in Viet Nam and women's rights. Attendance at religious services at the Pres House dropped during the period, as it did on many other campuses. In 1969, the congregation of the Pres House, then quite small, voted to dissolve and to devote the Pres House to ecumenical ministry.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> "The Pres House Story, A History: 1907-1973," p. 12.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., p. 16-17.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., p. 17-18.

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In 1970, the boards of directors of the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation, the Baptist Student Center, the Wesley (Methodist) Foundation of Wisconsin and the United Church of Christ campus ministry merged to become the "Madison Campus Ministry." Since 1970, the Pres House has remained a center supporting the religious faith of students, and student activism, particularly with regard to human rights issues, especially American foreign policy in Latin America and South Africa. Community Action on Latin America (CALA), for example, has maintained its headquarters in an office in the basement of the Pres House for more than 20 years.<sup>25</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURE

The Pres House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as an outstanding and intact example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style.

The Neo-Gothic Revival style is considered a part of the Period Revival movement of the early twentieth century and was used primarily in the design of churches and chapels between about 1915 and 1945. Neo-Gothic Revival religious buildings typically exhibit either a rock-faced stone or brick exterior finish, irregular massing and steeply-pitched roofs. Gothic and Tudor arched openings are characteristic of the style. Elements drawn from European Gothic churches and cathedrals are often employed, including buttresses, tracery, parapeted gables, and square towers or keep-like entrances.<sup>26</sup>

The Pres House presents an excellent example of Neo-Gothic Revival style, incorporating many of the features characteristic of the style as described above. The Pres House displays a rock-faced

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>26</sup> Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-5 and II:2-30.

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random ashlar exterior, steeply-pitched gable roofs, a gabled parapet, a keep-like entrance tower with a traceried belfry, buttresses, and Gothic arched windows with multifoil tracery. The many Tudor Revival elements the Pres House possesses suggest that its architect, Edward Tough, looked to English Gothic precedents in his design. These elements include the use of diamond-pane casement windows, the wall dormers finished with stucco and applied half-timbering, and the many Tudor-arched openings. These elements are also found in academic buildings employing the Collegiate Gothic style. The Tudor influence is repeated on the interior, with the use of Tudor-arched doorways and fireplace openings, and crown moldings enriched with the Tudor rose. In contrast, the lovely chandeliers and lanterns in the Pres House, providing electric light, are clearly fixtures of the early twentieth century and distinctively Neo-Gothic Revival. All these features retain a high degree of integrity.

The Pres House is among the best and most intact examples of Neo-Gothic Revival church design in Madison. A search of the Architecture/History Inventory (AHI) of the Wisconsin Division of Historic Preservation identified nine Neo-Gothic Revival churches in Madison, built between 1921 and 1945. Including the Pres House, six are finished with stone and three are veneered brick exteriors. Generally, the stone-finished churches are more elaborate and larger than the brick examples.

The earliest of Madison's six stone-veneered Neo-Gothic Revival churches is the first Luther Memorial Church at 626 University Avenue. Erected in 1914, this is a small structure wedged in among commercial buildings; only the front façade is Neo-Gothic Revival. Although the first Luther Memorial Church displays Gothic-arched window openings, the original sash have been lost and the building is otherwise much altered and in commercial use. It is not eligible for the National Register, but is being considered for designation as a Madison Landmark. The other five Neo-Gothic Revival churches either are listed on the National Register or

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appear eligible for listing. The second Luther Memorial Church, located at 1019 University Avenue, was constructed in 1921. The Madison architectural firm of Starck, Sheldon and Schneider prepared the plans. The second Luther Memorial Church is probably the most comparable to the Pres House among Madison's Neo-Gothic Revival churches. It is a grand composition featuring Gothic-arched windows with tracery, buttresses and a traceried entrance tower with belfry.

St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church at 2450 Atwood Avenue is slightly less elaborate than either the Pres House or Luther Memorial. John J. Flad prepared the plans for St. Bernard's in 1926. Finished with rock-faced sandstone, this church exhibits a corner bell tower and Gothic-arched windows with tracery. It was made a Madison Landmark in 1981. St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 1827-33 Regent Street presents a simpler, more streamlined example of the Neo-Gothic Revival. Designed by Madison architect Arthur Peabody and built in 1927, St. Andrews is trimmed with brick and displays Gothic-arched openings. It is listed on the National Register as a contributing resource in the West Lawn Heights Historic District.

Two of Madison's stone-veneered Neo-Gothic Revival churches were constructed in the 1940s. Trinity Lutheran Church at 1904 Winnebago Street is the simpler of the two. Finished with rock-faced sandstone and erected in 1949-1951, the architect of this building was Milwaukee church expert Hugo Haueser. The Memorial Reform Church (now Bethel Lutheran Church) is located at 312 Wisconsin Avenue. Haueser designed this church also; it was built in 1940. It is quite elegant, with a traceried tower, buttresses and Gothic-arched windows. However, a large 1963 social hall addition overwhelms the church section. Despite this, the Memorial Reform Church is listed on the National Register as a contributing element in the Mansion Hill Historic District.

The three brick Neo-Gothic Revival churches are the Swedish

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Lutheran Gloria Dei Church at 402 East Mifflin Street (1922, 1957 addition), Parkside Presbyterian Church at 116 North Few Street (1923) and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 2121 Rowley Avenue (1937). All three are not comparable to the Pres House in scale or architectural interest. Of Madison's nine Neo-Gothic Revival churches, only the second Luther Memorial Church approaches the Pres House in architectural distinction.

It should be noted that Madison possesses two Tudor Revival churches of the early twentieth century. The first is the University Congregation Episcopal Church and St. Francis House at 1001 University Avenue. Built in 1925, this outstanding design by Eschweiler and Eschweiler of Milwaukee is veneered with brick and displays stone trim. It has a rustic, medieval appearance, complete with a stone garden wall (within which red roses, the flower that symbolizes the Tudors, bloom in the summer). The other ecclesiastical example of Tudor Revival is the Glenwood Moravian Church at 725 Gilmore Street. The architect is unknown. Glenwood Moravian Church was erected in 1930 and exhibits a stone finish combined with stucco and applied half-timbering. It is a small and relatively simple design and has a 1948 addition. Both the University Congregation Episcopal Church and Glenwood Moravian Church retain a high degree of integrity.

Edward Tough (1878-1970) designed the Pres House. Tough was born in Scotland and educated at the Technical College of Glasgow. In 1901, he began practicing as an architect. In 1911, Tough came to Madison, serving as Wisconsin State Architect from 1911 until 1913. In private practice from 1914 until 1946, Tough executed a large number of commissions, predominantly in Madison, in styles ranging from the Prairie School to the Art Moderne. Although he prepared designs for different types of buildings, Tough specialized in schools and churches. Most of Tough's many known

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projects are unremarkable. The Pres House, a masterful example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, is Tough's best work.<sup>27</sup>

**CRITERION CONSIDERATION**

Under Criterion Consideration A, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not eligible for the National Register. However, the Pres House is significant for its Neo-Gothic Revival architecture, not for any religious association. Therefore, on the basis of architectural significance, the Pres House qualifies for the National Register.

**CONCLUSION**

The Pres House is a fine and intact local example of an early twentieth century Neo-Gothic Revival church. As such, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

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<sup>27</sup> Katherine H. Rankin, "Intensive Survey of the Historic Resources of Madison," prepared for the Madison Department of Planning and Development and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1994, no page numbers.



University Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheet(s).)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
<input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Other State Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Local government
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> University
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
	Name of repository:
	<u>City of Madison Department of</u>
	<u>Planning and Development</u>

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/4/7/2/0</u>	<u>4/7/7/1/6/8/0</u>	2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**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 Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization for City of Madison (K. Rankin) date 5-5-2001  
street & number 215 MLK Jr. Blvd telephone 608-266-6552  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53710

**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.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The University Presbyterian Church and Student Center is located on Lot 1, Block 5 of the University Addition to the city of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. This lot encompasses less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the University Presbyterian Church and Student Center coincide with the legal boundaries on which the building sits. These boundaries include all those resources historically associated with the University Presbyterian Church and Student Center.

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Photo 1 of 7  
University Presbyterian Church and Student Center  
Madison, Dane County, WI  
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, March and April 2001  
Negative on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
View of the north face of the entrance tower, looking south.

Photo 2 of 7  
View of the north-facing façade of the student center section,  
looking south.

Photo 3 of 7  
View of the west facing main entrance to chapel, looking east.

Photo 4 of 7  
View of side and back of chapel, looking northwest.

Photo 5 of 7  
View of first floor lounge, showing fireplace, beam with  
decorative plasterwork, and quoined stone window surround.

Photo 6 of 7  
View of the interior of the chapel, showing the apse.

Photo 7 of 7  
View of interior of chapel, apse detail.

University Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
County and State

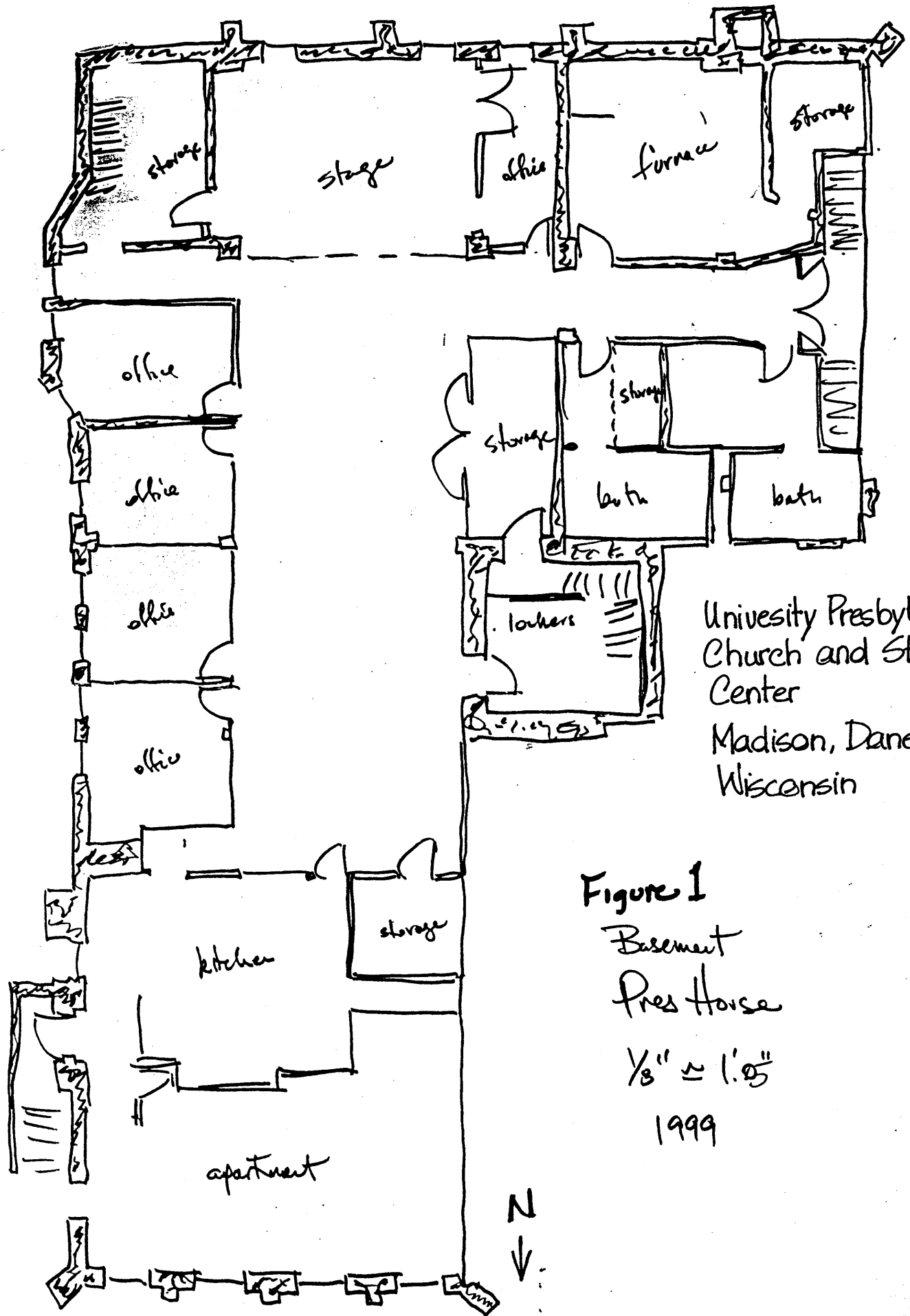
Property Owner

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

Name Presbyterian Student Center Foundation (Joy Bailey, contact)  
street & number 731 State Street telephone 608-257-1039  
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53706

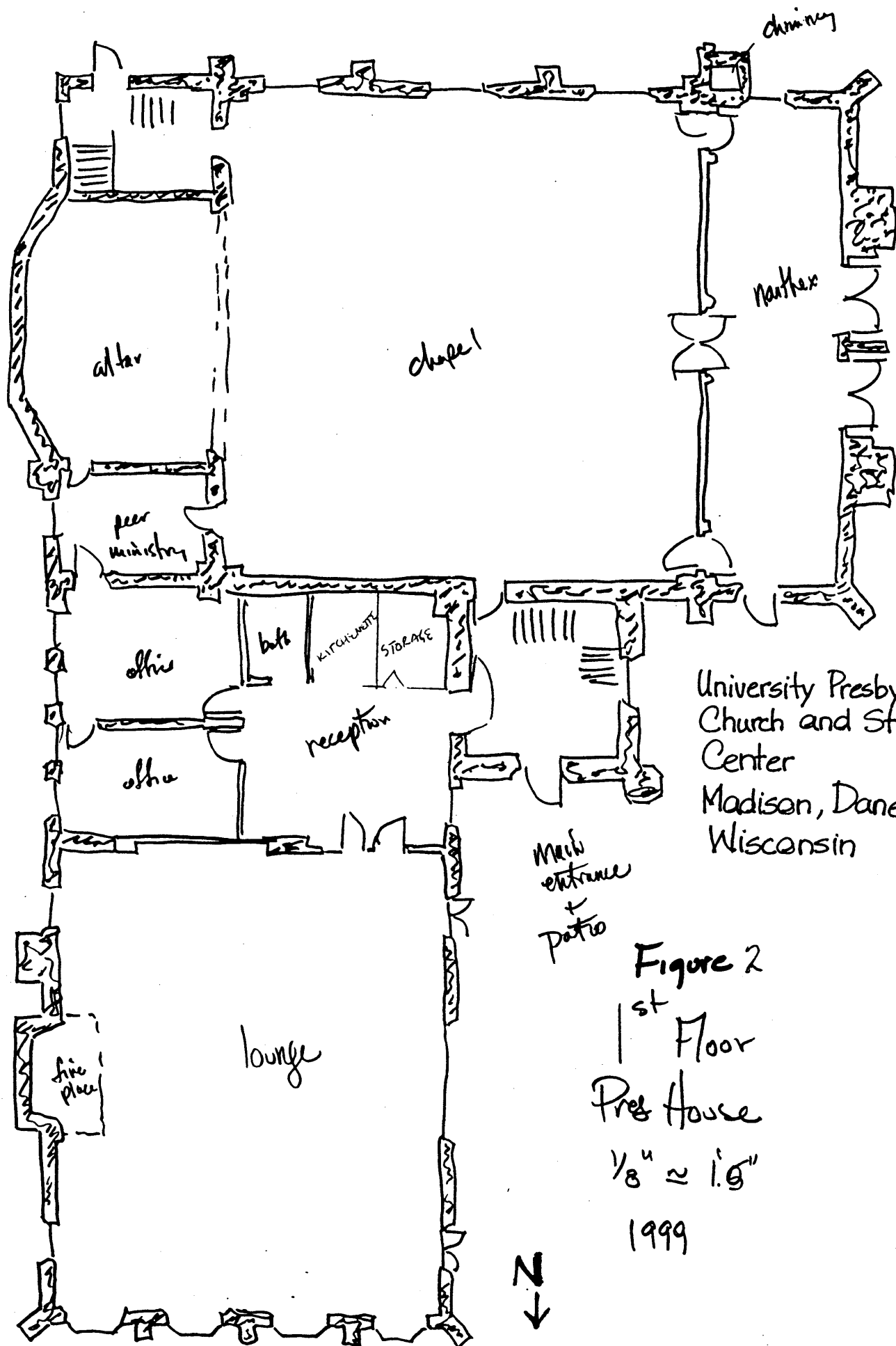
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University Presbyterian  
 Church and Student  
 Center  
 Madison, Dane Co.,  
 Wisconsin

Figure 1  
 Basement  
 Pres House  
 $\frac{1}{8}'' \approx 1'-05''$   
 1999

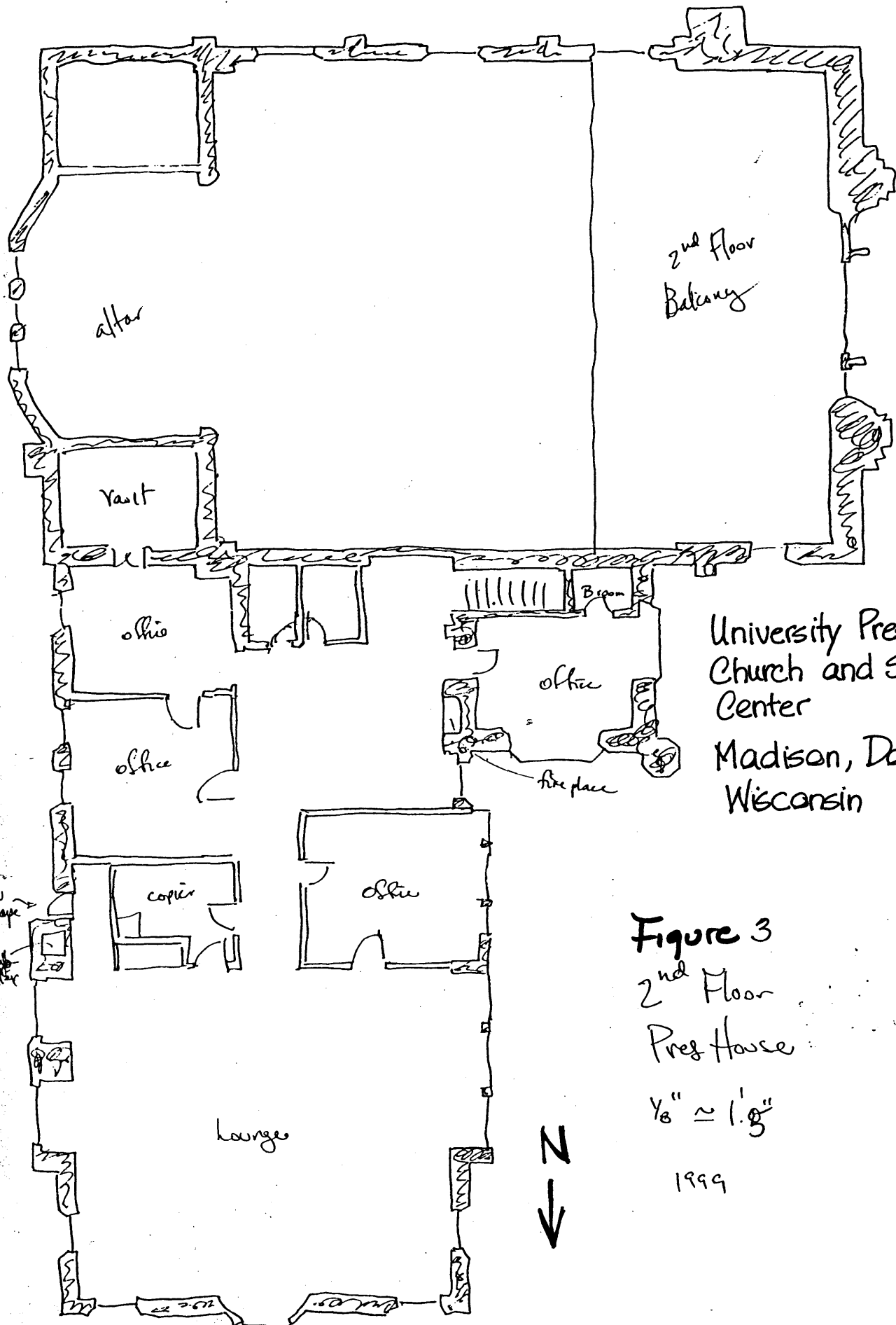


University Presbyterian  
 Church and Student  
 Center  
 Madison, Dane Co.,  
 Wisconsin

Figure 2  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Pres House  
 1/8" = 1.5"  
 1999







University Presbyterian  
 Church and Student  
 Center  
 Madison, Dane Co.,  
 Wisconsin

Figure 3  
 2nd Floor  
 Pres House  
 $\frac{1}{8}'' \approx 1'0''$

1999



University Presbyterian Church and Student Center

731 STATE ST

Madison, Dane County, WI

