NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line 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 Prop	verty	
historic name	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	
other names/site nu	mber FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH; TEMPLAR LODGE NO. 514; WI	EST BEND HISTORICAL MUSEUM
2. Location		
street & number _	101 1 st Avenue SW	<u>N/A</u> not for publication
city or town	WEST BEND	<u>N/A</u> vicinity
state <u>IOWA</u>	code <u>PALO ALTO</u> county code <u>147</u> z	zip code 50597
3. State/Federal	Agency Certification	
Signature State or F	the X locally). (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) The Additional Comments.) of certifying official Title SociETY OF IOWA To certifying offi	ation sheet for additional
Signature	of certifying official/Title Date	
State or F	ederal agency and bureau	
I hereby certify that entered in the See co determined National See co determined National	he National Register. ntinuation sheet. A eligible for the Register Intinuation sheet I not eligible for the	Date of Action 5.24.10

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First Presbyterian Church _________ Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Cate (Check as many lines as apply)	gory of Property (Check only one line)	Number	of Resources (Do not include)	within Property previously listed resources	in the count.)
X private _ public-local _ public-State _ public-Federal	X building(s) _ district _ site _ structure _ object			Noncontributing	sites structures
Name of related multiple prop (Enter "N/A" if property is not part		Number	of contributin previously list	g resources ed in the National Regi	ister
N/A				N/A	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			Current Funct (Enter categories	tions from instructions)	
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FAC	ILITY/church	_	VACANT/NC	T IN USE	
		_	WORK IN PR	ROGRESS	
		- 17			
		-			
		-			
		-	-		
		_			
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)			Materials (Enter categories	s from instructions)	
LATE VICTORIAN		- 1		STONE	
		- 0	walls	WOOD	
			roof	METAL	
			1.		

Palo Alto County, Iowa County and State

Narrative Description

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number

Page 1

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

MATERIALS, continued

Foundation: CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Site Description

The First Presbyterian Church, located at 101-1st Avenue Southwest, is situated on Lot 1 of Block 6 of the Town of West Bend in Palo Alto County, Iowa. The building is sited on a 66-foot x 122-foot raised lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of 1st Avenue Southwest and 1st Street Southwest, with its gable end facing east. A north-south alley bisects the block at the rear (west) of the building. A public sidewalk runs the perimeter of the block providing access to a wide set of concrete steps leading to a private walkway and adjacent concrete pad that sits flush to the property's facade. Although the step and pad were historically constructed of wood, they appear to be consistent with the original in size and placement.

The First Presbyterian Church is sited north of West Bend's historic commercial core and near the north edge of the developed community. Residential property types historically dominated the immediate area; the same is true today, although the area is more densely developed. The neighborhood streets, including along the church lot, are lined with mature trees.

Building Description

The First Presbyterian Church in West Bend was constructed in 1889. In 1915 an addition of some 33-feet was made to the rear (west) of the building, requiring the removal of the apse on that elevation, but otherwise respecting the historic character of the original building. A significant remodeling of the interior was also completed in 1915 and the sanctuary reflects the dominant secular stylistic tendencies of the era, particularly the Neo-Classical. The narthex retains the 1889 Victorian decorative elements. All told, with the retention of the historic form, fenestration, and many of its most significant stylistic elements, the church appears today very much as it did following the 1915 renovation.

The First Presbyterian Church is a wood-frame building set on a foundation comprised of stone (under the 1889 section on the east end) and concrete block (under the 1915 addition on the west end.) The building is a simple, gable-roofed rectangle measuring 28-feet wide x 72-feet long. While currently sheathed in metal, it is likely that the roof was historically covered in wood shingles. Painted white today, historic images of the 1889 church indicate a multi-color palette was used originally.

The building's façade features a stepped, tripartite window at center. Individually, the windows of the trio have double-hung sash with a one-over-one light configuration - the upper light utilizes red glazing. Each window has a simple, flat hood and sill. The center window, which is both taller and wider than those that flank it, features a Queen Anne sash (the lower sash is a single light, while the upper has a large light with small, square, colored panes creating a border). Together, the tripartite window reads as a unit through the utilization of a single, triangular hood. The triangular hood is created through the use of what appears to be molding typically used as interior trim, with corners mitered to create the triangle. Through this construction method, the triangle

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

projects sharply from the wall plane. The triangle both connects the individual parts of the whole and, through the intersection of its sides with the stepped form of the window set, creates three triangles within the larger triangle. The triangular motif is carried further by the use of tongue and groove board laid in a herringbone pattern to create a backdrop upon which another triangle is mounted over the center window. In addition, radiating wedge-shaped forms extend from the corner points where the center window meets the outside windows.

Wide entrances with paired doors flank the tripartite window. Following the established motif, a triangular hood surmounts the doors. Today the entrances have transoms over them, the south door does not function, and the north door has a steel replacement. Historically, a pair of screen doors was mounted on the exterior of each opening (Figure 16.)

The church's sacred character is expressed on the exterior through the use of religious symbolism, which is clearly stated through the use of the triangular hoods, the applied ornamental forms within the hoods, and the tripling of the central window. Historically, additional symbolism was found in the bargeboard of the church's gable front where a pair of wooden circles was set upon the framework that remains today (Figure 16 and Figure 18.) Each of the elements symbolizes a tenet of the Christian faith (the meaning of the symbolism is addressed in Section 8).

The façade also features a pair of unadorned windows set into the wall plane at the second story, a deep eave overhang, and a flat, wide fascia board. A belfry, historically part of an integrated steeple, is located at the east end of the ridgeline.

A series of seven windows punctuate the side elevations; the equilateral triangle motif established on the façade is carried to the fenestration of the secondary walls. Each window is double-hung with a one-over-one light configuration, but the material composition of the glazing varies. This variation may be explained by alterations made at the time of the 1915 addition. As the historic image indicates, the original church building had four windows on each of the two secondary elevations. Though the image does not provide visual confirmation of the historic window glazing, it is believed that when the addition was made, the 1889 windows were moved to alternate with the added windows, resulting in the initial variation: alternating windows had red glazing and a Queen Anne sash. Later breakage and loss may have required the introduction of textured, translucent glass that is found in some of the windows.

When constructed in 1889, the church had an apse on the west; the apse is not visible in historic exterior images, but apparent in the sole historic image of the interior (Figure 17.) Today the rear elevation is absent window and door openings.

Stylistically, the church is reflective of its Victorian era construction period, with aspects of various influences prevalent during that time apparent. Specifically, the influence of the Queen Anne can be seen in the sash treatment of the tripartite window on the façade. The gable-end treatment is indicative of the Stick Style and the applied ornament of the triangular hoods is not out of keeping with vernacular works of that period. The church also exhibits aspects of a Classical influence in its sense of simplicity and symmetry. Further, when constructed, the church's steeple and associated belfry featured dentils (a Classical decorative device) and the interior utilized a Roman arch with an Italian Renaissance inspired archivolt. The 1915 addition and interior renovation eliminated some of the Classical elements (specifically the arch just mentioned), but introduced new elements (e.g. the window trim) with a decided Neo-Classical bent.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

A small enclosure around an exterior staircase leading to the basement is located on the north elevation. The enclosure was added at an unknown date (probably in the 1950s), but outside the period of significance.

Interior Description

The interior of the First Presbyterian Church, though vacant and absent the fixtures of its historic function, remains today as it appeared following the 1915 renovation. The property's interior is divided into two primary spaces: the narthex retains the 1889 Victorian decorative elements, while the sanctuary reflects the 1915 renovation.

The church building is entered on the east through the north door (the south door now being blocked.) A small vestibule just inside the entrance was subdivided from the original narthex during the renovation. From the vestibule one can proceed through a second door into the church sanctuary or turn left into the narthex proper. The original, Victorian trim remains intact in the narthex, albeit modestly altered in response to the subdivision of the space. The Victorian era trim includes a 12-inch baseboard and channeled window and door trim with corner blocks. Further, patches of the original Victorian era wallpaper with its bold pattern and dark, earth tones (seemingly out-of-keeping in a place of calm and repose) remain (Figure 17.) A pair of tri-fold doors opens into the sanctuary – the doors appear original, with historic hardware intact.

As noted, a second exterior entrance has been closed off; the entrance would have opened directly into the narthex. Despite its blocked condition, the impermanent nature of the alteration and the retention of the opening's historic trim would allow for an easy reversal.

Also located in the narthex, and in close proximity to the above noted entrance, is the staircase to the church balcony located over the narthex space. The narrow staircase (2-feet 7-inches wide) is L-shaped and features an ornate balustrade dating to the original building. A small closet is located under the staircase. The interior of the church is dominated by the space that historically functioned as the sanctuary - the area that, following the 1915 renovation, accommodated the congregational seating and the raised dais upon which the altar was located. The dais is outwardly curved in the center with steps on either side and spans nearly the width of the church, stretching from the west wall into the sanctuary approximately twelve and a half feet at its deepest point. A railing on the north side marks the staircase to the church basement.

The sanctuary features a truncated gable ceiling (currently sheathed in acoustical tile.) The window and wall trim of the sanctuary reflect the Neo-Classical influences prevalent during the period of the 1915 renovation. In contrast to the original Victorian trim, the trim in the sanctuary is without decorative embellishment; rather, the trim relies on the beauty of the wood itself. Window trim is flat in profile and varnished rather than painted. Baseboard molding follows this general description.

The construction date of the balcony (located at the east end of the sanctuary, over the narthex) cannot be confirmed – examination of construction elements creates conflicting possibilities. However, because the staircase, including its balustrade, appears to be original to the building and the elements of the balcony itself (including the railing) clearly date to the 1915 renovation, the most likely scenario is that the balcony is original, but altered.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

The floors of the sanctuary are 4-inch wide wood strip, while those in the narthex are linoleum tile. The walls in the original, east section of the church sanctuary retain patches of the historic wallpaper over plaster, with the west wall being paint over plaster. As noted, patches of the historic wallpaper are also visible in the narthex. Historic ceiling light fixtures dating to the renovation era have been returned to the property.

The church basement is roughly finished and was used by the congregation as a kitchen and congregational meeting space.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The First Presbyterian Church in West Bend retains a very high level of historic integrity as it relates to all seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, association, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

Because the church building remains on its original site, the level of integrity as it relates to location is excellent. The elevated site this church occupies underscores the importance of integrity of location. When constructed, the raised lot accentuated the importance of the building and its religious function. And while the case for significance does not relate to the historic function, the retention of the elevated site as it relates to the design of the property and to its surroundings is of value.

The integrity of the church building's setting and association are also very high. The church remains at the edge of the city's commercial core, in an area historically dominated by residential property types. The retention of setting is important to understanding the historic physical relationship of the property to its community, which has grown over time. In addition, as a church, the property's association relates to the population that it served, so the retention of location and setting results in a high level of integrity of association as well.

As a resource considered eligible for registration under Criterion C, integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are of paramount concern and the integrity of each of those is very high. The church has seen one major alteration; that being the addition made in 1915. The addition is the physical manifestation of the growth of the church congregation and is significant as it contributes to the form and stylistic identity of the property, both inside and out. As a result the addition is considered part of the historic fabric and contributes to the very high level of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

The loss of the historic steeple is unfortunate, but reversible (the present owner intends to restore the steeple). The retention of historic decorative elements is particularly significant as those elements speak to the building design, particularly to the use of religious symbolism. Further, the decorative elements emphasize the vernacular quality of the workmanship, which sets this small town church apart from large, "high style" designs. And finally, the material from which the decorative elements were created also suggests the influence of a local craftsman who utilized his personal ingenuity to create an appropriate motif.

The building also retains a high level of integrity as it relates to feeling. Because the church building retains a very high level of integrity as it relates to the previous qualities, visitors from the Period of Significance would readily recognize the building today and experience it in much the same manner as they would have historically. From arriving at the church and walking up the steps of the raised site, to experiencing the symbolism of the exterior elements, to entering the narthex and sanctuary - each facet of the experience rings true.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

FUTURE PLANS

The current property owner is in the planning stages of an historic rehabilitation of the First Presbyterian Church. The owner has arranged with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office for a TAN (Technical Assistance Network) visit by an historical architect who will make specific recommendations regarding rehabilitation of the church building. With those recommendations in hand, the owner plans to apply for an HRDP (Historic Resource Development Program) grant in May of 2010 to begin rehabilitation on the building. The future function of the church building has not been decided, but the owner recognizes the importance of keeping the historic interior space and character defining features intact as she makes decisions regarding its future use.

First Presbyterian Church Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- Property is associated with events that have m A a significant contribution to the broad patterns our history.
- _ B Property is associated with the lives of person significant in our past.
- X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction o represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations

- XA owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- С a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.

- a reconstructed building, object, or structure. E
- F a commemorative property.
- less than 50 years of age or achieved signific G within the past 50 years.

Palo Alto County, Iowa County and State

Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	(Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
X 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	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	1889
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1915
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)	Significant Dates
Property is:	<u>1889</u> 1915
$\underline{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{A}$ owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_ C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
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.	Architect/Builder Unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the	e property on one or more continuation sheets)
9. Major Bibliography References	
Bibliography	

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in prep Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- previous determination of individual listing (36
 - CFR 67) has been requested
 - _ previously listed in the National Register
 - _ previously determined eligible by the National Record
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - _ recorded by American Buildings Survey #
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data: X State Historical Preservation Office Other State agency

- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other
- Name of repository

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1889 with an addition made in 1915, is locally eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The resource is considered significant as an unusual example of a wood-frame, Late Victorian era church, which retains a very high level of historic integrity. The church's exterior clearly illustrates the vernacular of the local craftsman (i.e. carpenter) who created a façade influenced by the stylistic trends of the time, while utilizing religious symbolism as decorative devices. The church's interior narthex retains the Victorian details of the 1889 period, while the sanctuary reflects the more Classically influenced decorative trends dating to the 1915 addition.

The church in West Bend stands apart from other early Iowa churches in the vernacular expression of its Late Victorian era exterior and in the high level of integrity that it retains. Historic churches dating to a similar construction era are extant in the state of Iowa, though their numbers are diminishing. The vast majority of those churches with records on file at the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office are stylistic derivatives of Classical or Gothic Revival architecture rather than exhibiting the combination of Late Victorian influences that dominates the church in question. In contrast to the West Bend First Presbyterian Church, most have alterations that negatively impact their historic integrity.

Iowa has 118 churches listed on the National Register of Historic Places, none of which are located in Palo Alto County. A random sampling of Iowa's listed resources suggests the dominance of Classically derived or Gothic Revival, vernacular construction in Iowa's historic churches.

CHURCH	COUNTY	STYLE	BUILT
Sciola Missionary Baptist Church	Montgomery	Vernacular/Classical	1872
Sheldahl First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church Loucks Grove Church	Story Adair	Vernacular Vernacular/Gothic	1883 1895
Rose Hill Methodist Church	Mahaska	Gothic	1879
Palmyra Methodist Episcopal Church	Warren	Vernacular/Gothic	1867-70
Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Immanuel Danish Evangelical	Audubon	Gothic	1898
Lutheran Church	Audubon	Gothic	1904
Middle Methodist Episcopal Church	Ringgold	Vernacular/Italianate	1886
Universalist Church	Polk	Mid 19th Century	1868

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Historically, West Bend's churches followed these stylistic trends, with the 1892 Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church a hybrid of the Gothic Revival and the Classical, and the German Evangelical Peace Church (1891) a Gothic Revival. Today, the First Presbyterian Church is West Bend's sole-surviving pre-1900 church building - the other early church buildings having been replaced as congregations outgrew them. A new, brick building was constructed for the German Evangelical Peace Church (now Peace Lutheran) in 1924 and the original Sts. Peter & Paul church building was replaced in 1922.¹ Other early West Bend churches have likewise been replaced.

The Period of Significance for the First Presbyterian Church is 1889 and 1915; respectively, the year the property was put into service and the year the addition and associated interior renovation were completed. Significant dates include 1889, the year the original building was placed in service, and 1915, the year the addition was placed in service. The property contains one resource, the First Presbyterian Church itself, which is counted as contributing and classified as a building.

The First Presbyterian Church in West Bend meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property that derives its primary significance from its architecture, rather than its historic function and/or historic associations derived from said function.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The area of what became West Bend, Iowa in Palo Alto County was first settled in 1855. In that year, two families, the William Carter family and the Jeremiah Evans family, staked a claim near the bend of the Des Moines River. Within three years, Palo Alto County was organized and, in 1863, boasted a population of 142.²

Initially, the town site was located further to the west, much nearer to the bend (from which the town drew its present name) and the Carter family's log cabin. However, the routing of the B.C. R. & N. Railway (Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern, which later became the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific) in 1881 dictated a move to the east and, within one year after its arrival, the town had numerous permanent structures and a total of twenty residents. In 1884 the community was incorporated. First known as Ives (so named after a railroad official), the town was renamed West Bend. Like communities across the state, West Bend's growth was predicated in large part upon access to railroad transportation. By 1895 the town's population stood at 409.³

The First Presbyterian Church

Although the earliest Presbyterian congregations established in Iowa date to shortly after the state was opened for white settlement, it is doubtless that ministers were traveling across its unbroken terrain prior to that time. The various branches of that early Presbyterian Church quickly established congregations in the state and, by the end of the 19th century, though never a dominant religious affiliation, held a firm position in communities across Iowa.⁴

¹ http://www.celticcousins.net/paloalto/churches.htm. Accessed September 17, 2009.

² http://www.celticcousins.net/paloalto/WBJournal1956.htm. Accessed August 15, 2009.

³ ibid.

⁴ Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton, eds., *he American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia* [Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2007], 712.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

The Presbyterians established their first congregation in 1836 at Sugar Creek in Lee County.⁵ By 1840, the Presbytery of Iowa had formed, with nine organized congregations recorded. The Fort Dodge Presbytery organized in 1870; the church at West Bend would later be associated with the Fort Dodge Presbytery. Between 1837 and 1900 the church in Iowa had enrolled 750 congregations with 1200 ministers, though that number quickly dropped to 416 enrolled congregations.⁶ As Joseph W. Hubbard states in the 1907 history of the Presbyterian Church in Iowa, the church utilized any available location for worship, which were at first "... the groves, then the log cabins, and later the local school houses and other public buildings [that] afforded the places for worship and organization." This is certainly the case in West Bend, where the first services were held in log cabins.

A Presbyterian pastor, Reverend McComb, conducted the earliest Protestant service held in the West Bend area. David S. McComb was first recorded as serving Iowa at Oskaloosa from 1851-53. He then served Bethel and Greely from 1854-56. He is known to have moved into the West Bend area in 1857, serving the area from his home near Algona (located twenty miles northeast of West Bend) from 1857 to 1867.⁷ The reminiscences of Charles McCormick recall that McComb was a traveling Presbyterian minister who lived north of Algona and that the pastor held services during the summer of 1860 in McCormick's family cabin in Fern Valley Township, north of West Bend Township in which West Bend was later founded. McComb also held services at the William Carter "district" located five miles southwest of what is now West Bend. McCormick recalls further that McComb also traveled to Lott's Creek, located in the area where Livermore is now located.⁸ Pastor David S. McComb died in 1888.⁹

Reverend H.S. Dickey held services at West Bend in June of 1882.¹⁰ According to a local news piece, "a crowded house greeted him" and voted unanimously for him to return. By the following summer, the minister was shared by West Bend and Livermore, where he preached every other Sunday.¹¹ The First Presbyterian Church at West Bend was chartered on December 23, 1883 with 11 members.¹² Harvey S. Dickey served as the pastor in West Bend the first part of that year, but passed away on June 29, 1884 in Pennsylvania.¹³

According to Synod and/or General Assembly minutes as recorded in the Hubbard book, subsequent clergymen to serve West Bend include: Andrew S. Zimmerman 1885-1887 (shared with Livermore), Geo. H. Duty 1888-1889 (shared with Rolfe), Abram A. Pratt 1890-1891 (shared with Plover), 1892 Supplied, Alexander W. McConnell

⁵ The American Midwest, 713.

⁶ Joseph W. Hubbard, *The Presbyterian Church in Iowa 1837-1900.* [Cedar Rapids, IA: The Superior Press, 1907], introductory page. Hubbard notes that not all of the church enrollments were lost; rather, the decrease in number was due in large part to changing names.

⁷ Hubbard, 216.

⁸ Charles McCormick, "Some Reminiscences of a Pioneer," Palo Alto Reporter, July 25, 1906, p.4, col. 2.

⁹ Hubbard, 216.

¹⁰ "West Bend Items," Palo Alto Reporter, June 10, 1882, p.4, col. 2.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Presbyterian Historical Society.

¹³ Hubbard, 184.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

1894-1896 (shared with Rodman), De Witt White 1897-1898, and Joel C. Lininger 1899-1900 (shared with Rodman and Ottosen.)¹⁴

The land upon which the newly chartered church was constructed was conveyed from the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls and North Western Land and Town Lot Company to the Public in 1881.¹⁵ It was at this time that the town was surveyed and platted. On January 21, 1889, a warranty deed was issued transferring the property to the First Presbyterian Church of West Bend for a consideration of \$1.00.¹⁶

Articles of Incorporation for the First Presbyterian Church were filed on June 27, 1888, with a mortgage filed on January 24, 1889 from the First Presbyterian Church to The Board of the Church Erection fund, of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the USA. The entry reads, "Encumbers all of Lot No. One (1) block No. Six (6) situated in the Incorporated town of West Bend, Palo Alto Co. Iowa as platted by the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & North Western Land and Town lot Company. \$400.00 payable according to note."¹⁷ The Presbyterian Historical Society verifies that the articles of incorporation were filed in 1888 and that a mortgage and loan (inaccurately reported as \$4000.00 in local histories) to build the church date to January 24, 1889.

Although no records exist to indicate who designed or built the church in 1889, the simple plan and vernacular appearance suggests a local hand at work. The inclusion of Christian symbolism is particularly evident and its use heightens the sacred nature of the building. In the First Presbyterian Church at West Bend, the use of the triangle, representing the Holy Trinity, is clearly expressed through the use of the triangular hoods, the applied ornamental forms within the hoods, and the tripling of the central window. Historically, additional symbolism was found in the bargeboard of the church's gable front where a pair of wooden circles was set upon the framework that remains today. The open circle is a general symbol for the eternal or for that which has neither beginning nor end¹⁸, suggesting the promise of eternal life through relationship with God and His Son. The open circle also suggests the Christian belief in an omnipresent god.¹⁹

After the church's closing, its official records were transferred to the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society. However, the unofficial records remained in the building while it was occupied by the Templars and were moved with that organization when they relocated. A fire at the Templar lodge destroyed the church records, creating a large gap in the information available about the history of the church (both relating to the building and to the congregation.) The loss is particularly significant in regard to the addition and interior rehabilitation made to the building in 1915. It is known that S.U. Leinbach was the pastor from 1912-1915 and so was likely instrumental in directing the project.²⁰ All other specific information is derived from direct observation and evaluation of the building today (described in Section 7.) The table on the following page reveals that West Bend's population rose significantly from 1895 to 1910, gaining 1145 inhabitants or 280% and supporting the

¹⁴ Ibid., 41-92.

¹⁵ Property Abstract.

¹⁶ Ibid. The entry indicates that Lot 1 of Block 6 was "sold by contract executed the 10th day of July A.D. 1888."

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ http://www.symbols.com/encyclopedia. Accessed August 15, 2009.

²⁰ "The First Presbyterian Church" [Program from dissolution service, July 30, 1972].

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

notion that growth of the Presbyterian congregation mirrored that of the larger community, warranting the addition and interior rehabilitation.

Year	West Bend Population
1895	409 ¹
1900	1239
1910	1554
1920	1219
1930	1206
1940	1311
1950	1295
1960	1379
1970	1235
1980	1236

⁽SOURCE: Goudy, Willis. Population in Iowa's Incorporated Places: 1850-1986)

The First Presbyterian Church building served the congregation in West Bend until 1972. Due to declining membership, the church was dissolved and final services were held on July 30, 1972. A nearly 21% West Bend population decline from 1910 to 1970 appears to support the assertion that a loss in church membership precipitated the dissolution, although only a closer evaluation of membership numbers at the church could confirm that assertion and, due to the loss of the church records, that is not possible.

After the dissolution, the building was acquired by the local Templar Lodge No. 514 and used by that group until December 14, 1977, at which time the West Bend Historical Society purchased the building for use as a museum; it functioned as such from June 1981 to 2007 when the museum was moved to a newly constructed facility. The present owner purchased the church building at that time and intends to complete an historic rehabilitation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

RELEVANT CULTURAL RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

Little cultural resource survey work has been completed in West Bend; the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office database includes only twenty-two resources, most of which have been determined not eligible for National Register listing. West Bend has a single resource, The Grotto of The Redemption, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Neither West Bend nor the county of Palo Alto participate in the Certified Local Government program and both lack an historic preservation plan.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

The potential for historical archaeology was not assessed as part of the present National Register nomination. Further research may reveal historical archaeological resources associated with yard debris and/or privies. The relatively undisturbed condition of the historic site suggests that possibility.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research for the National Register nomination utilized a variety of resources including personal interviews, the resources of the West Bend Historical Society, records of the present owner, and the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. Further, a search for other churches dating to a similar construction era and exhibiting similar form, stylistic influences, and construction materials was conducted utilizing the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office database, the National Park Service's database of National Register listed resources, and numerous web and printed sources featuring historic images of comparable churches.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

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Palo Alto County, Iowa County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15	382004	4757320	Verbal Boundary Description
Zone	Easting	Northing	(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)
2	یت نید در د (Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on
Zone	Easting	Northing	a continuation sheet)
3		1	
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	L	L	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Alexa McDowell, Architectura	l Historian
organization	AKAY Consulting	date March 25, 2010
street & number	1226 6 th Street	telephone <u>515-491-5432</u>
city or town Boone	state <u>Iowa</u>	zip code50036

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 SHPO or FPO.)	
name Jean McClendon	
street & number P.O. Box 1088	telephone 619-473-8323

zip code 91962

city or town Pine Valley state California

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C, 470 et seq.).

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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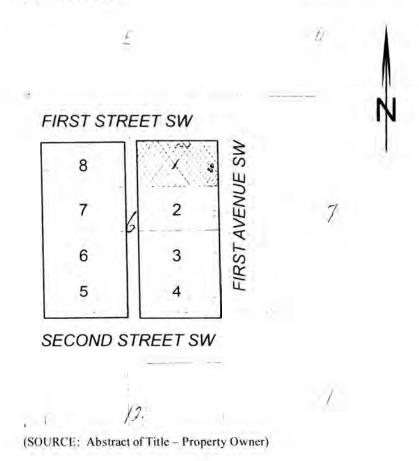
CFN-259-1116

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The First Presbyterian Church building, 101 1st Avenue Southwest, is situated on Lot 1 of Block 6 of the Original Town of West Bend in Palo Alto County.



Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the church building itself and the 66-foot x 122-foot city lot to which it is historically associated.

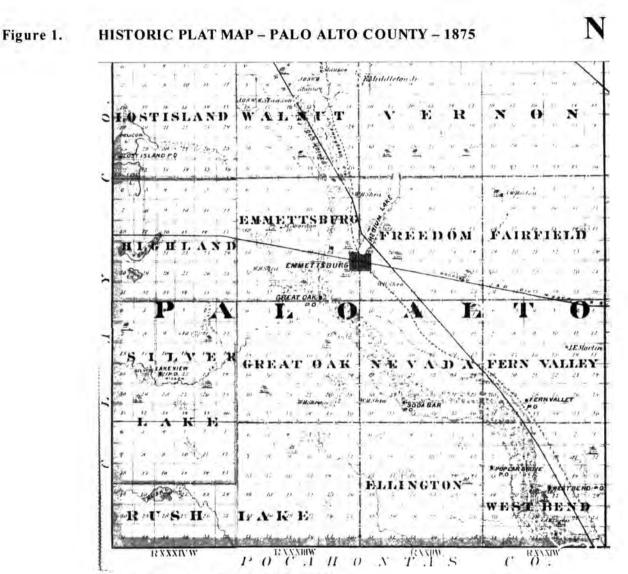
CFN-259-1116

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.



(Source: A.T. Andreas Historical Atlas - 1875)

West Bend is located at the eastern edge of West Bend Township in the southeast corner of Palo Alto County.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

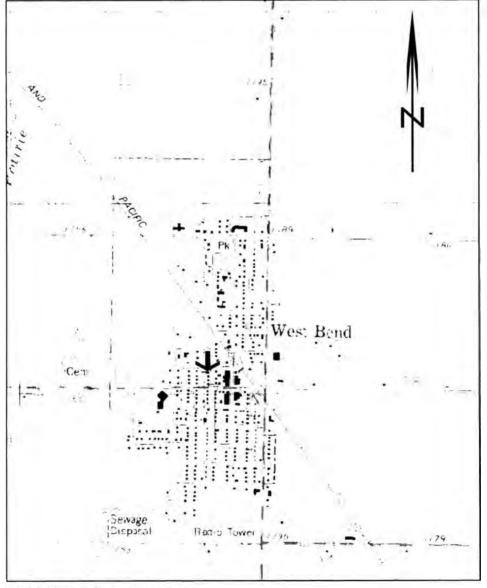
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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.



2. USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP- WEST BEND QUAD (1980)



⁽SOURCE: http://www.trails.com)

The location of the First Presbyterian Church is indicated by the arrow.

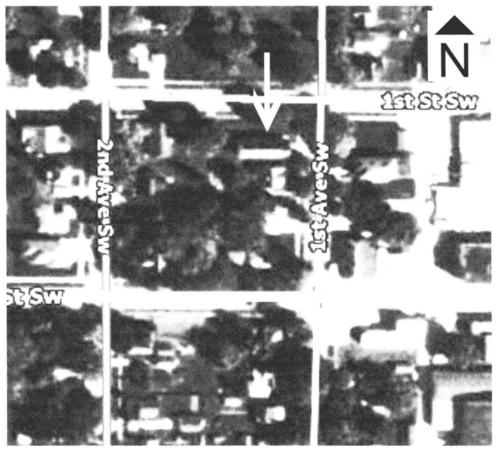
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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CFN-259-1116

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

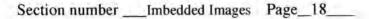
Figure 3. AERIAL MAP - 2009



(SOURCE: http://www.mapquest.com)

The location of the First Presbyterian Church (southwest corner of the intersection of 1st Avenue SW and 1st Street SW) is indicated by the arrow – the ridge of the property's roof is clearly visible.

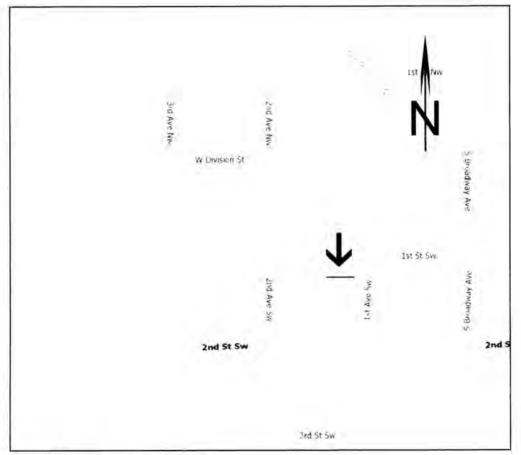
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.





(SOURCE: http://www.mapquest.com)

The location of the First Presbyterian Church is indicated by the arrowhead.

National Park Service

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS



(SOURCE: All contemporary images taken by AKAY Consulting - May 29, 2009)

Façade (east) and north elevations looking to the southwest.

Figure 5. IMAGE – 00022

National Park Service

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 6. IMAGE - 00026



Rear (west) and south elevations looking to the northeast.

The 1889 church stretched from the front (east) of the church to the west, to include four of the windows seen on the south elevation of this view. Like the fenestration of the façade, the windows feature a triangular hood.

National Park Service

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CFN-259-1116

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 7. IMAGE - 00028



Rear (west) and north elevations looking to the southeast.

The small addition on this elevation was constructed outside the period of significance to house an exterior staircase into the basement.

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CFN-259-1116

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS





Façade tripartite window trim.

The triangular motif in the tripartite window of the façade establishes the symbolism that is carried across the exterior. Note that the individual elements of the molding could easily have been adapted from remnants of interior trim. The carpenter appears to have utilized scrap molding, adapting its placement to create the triangular forms that, in Christianity, symbolize the Holy Trinity.

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 9. IMAGE - 00068

View of the narthex looking to the southwest.

The narthex retains its Victorian era trim, including that around the staircase to the balcony, doors and windows. The baseboard is also largely intact, though modified in response to the subdivision of the narthex, which created a small vestibule just inside the entrance. The wallpaper seen here covers the original, which was darker in tone and much bolder in design. Note the Queen Anne window by the staircase and the folding doors that open into the sanctuary.

National Park Service

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 10. IMAGE – 00077



View of the sanctuary looking to the west from the balcony.

From this view the shape of the roof, the variation in the window glazing, and the form of the dais are clearly visible. Also note that the hanging light fixtures and the trim (including the railing of the balcony) date to the 1915 renovation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

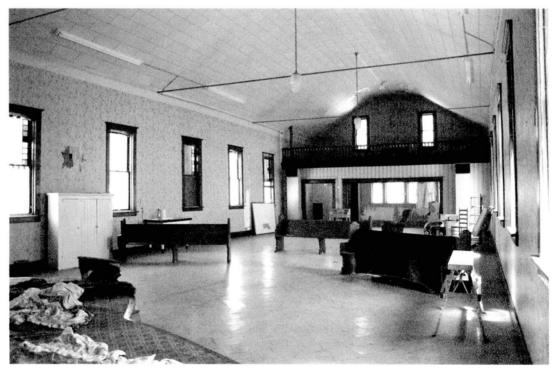
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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 11. IMAGE – 00046



View of the sanctuary looking east toward the balcony.

In this view looking to the north, the folding doors are open to the narthex. Note that the church ceiling and floors are covered in non-historic materials. The walls are papered as they were historically (1889).

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 12. IMAGE - 00053



The glazing in the upper sash of this window dates to the original building; the use of small panes of colored glass is commonly referred to as a Queen Anne sash and was utilized during the Victorian era to which the original church dates. When the 1915 addition and interior renovation were completed, it is likely that the historic windows were moved to alternate with the new windows to create continuity between the 1889 building and the addition.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPHS

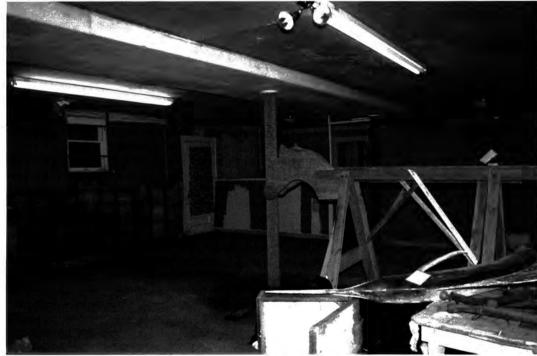


Figure 13. IMAGE - 00087

View of the basement, looking to the northeast.

The door at the left marks the exterior stairs and the associated enclosure.

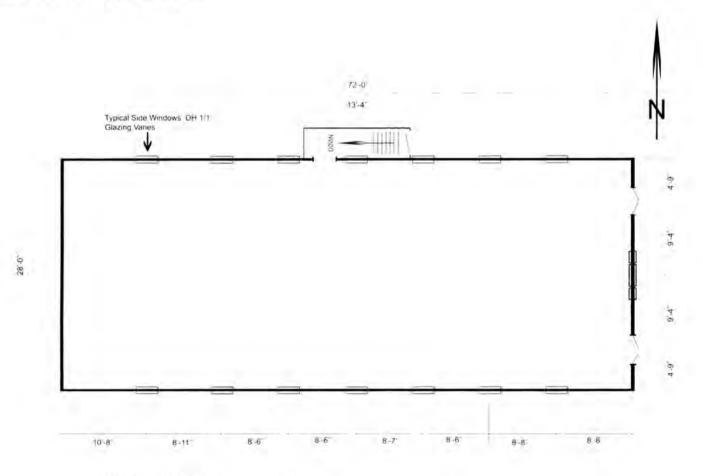
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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 14. PLAN VIEW - 2009





PLAN VIEW

SCALE: 1/16" = Approximately 1'-0"

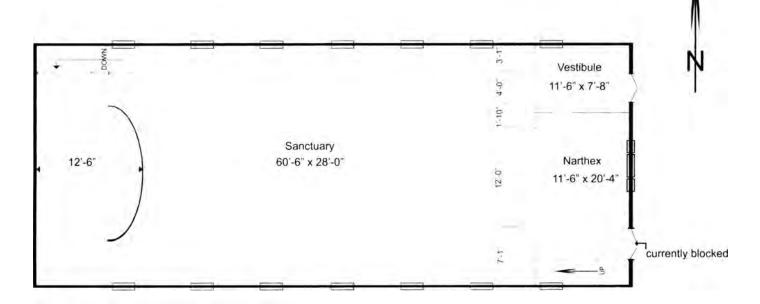
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CFN-259-1116

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 15. FLOOR PLAN - 2009



(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting - July 01, 2009)

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/16" = Approximately 1'-0"

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 16. HISTORIC IMAGE - ca. 1889



(SOURCE: West Bend Historical Museum)

As constructed, the First Presbyterian Church was approximately thirty-three feet shorter than after the 1915 addition and, although not visible in this image, had an apse on the rear. This image also documents the appearance of the original steeple with its Classical elements, the open circle motif in the bargeboard, the use of the decorative symbolism, and the wooden entrance platform. Note that the image suggests a paint scheme different than the white used on the church today.

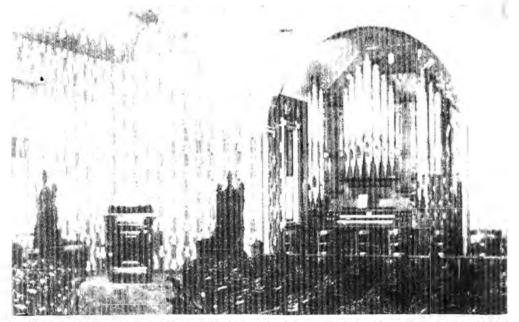
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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 17. HISTORIC IMAGE - INTERIOR - ca. 1889



(SOURCE: "The First United Presbyterian Church" - Program from the dissolution service, 1972.)

Despite the compromised quality of this historic image, important elements of the original interior can be discerned: 1) the dominance of the pipe organ, which is located in the apse, a space typically occupied by the altar. The pipe organ is framed by a cabled archivolt on the face of the Italian Renaissance inspired arch; 2) the use of a highly patterned, Victorian wallpaper on all visible wall surfaces; 3) the arrangement of seating (which appear to be chairs rather than pews) in rows set on the diagonal and oriented to the southwest corner where, what appears to be an altar flanked by "bishop chairs" are located; and 4) the presence of a side window in the apse (presumably, a matching window mirrored the one in view.)

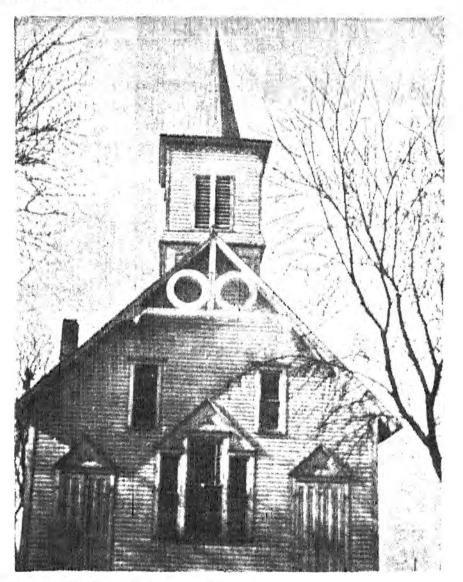
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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 18. HISTORIC IMAGE - Undated



(SOURCE: West Bend Historic Museum)

Although undated, the growth of the trees in this image compared to the previous exterior image suggests the passage of several years. Note the retention of the steeple and bargeboard, as well as both of the entrance doors.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

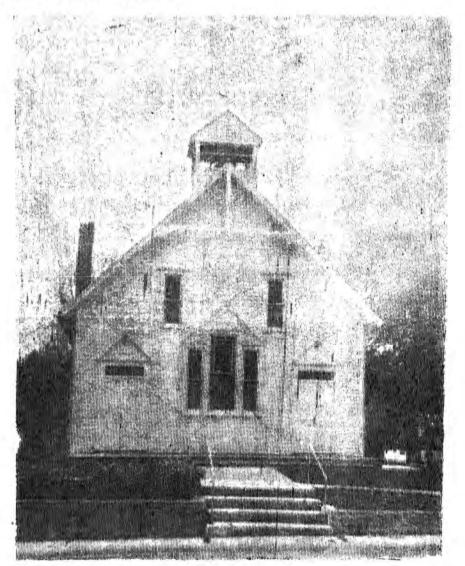
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto County, Iowa.

Figure 19. HISTORIC IMAGE – ca. 1972



⁽SOURCE: West Bend Historic Museum)

By the time the church dissolved in July of 1972, the building's steeple had been reduced to a belfry only, the original doors had been replaced by shorter versions, resulting in the introduction of transom glass, the open circles of the bargeboard had been removed, and the concrete steps and platform were in place.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Palo Alto

DATE RECEIVED: 4/09/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/10/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/25/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/24/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000276

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN

-74.10 DATE REJECT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
	the second se

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

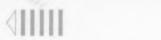
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



IA - Palo Alto - First Presbyterian Church_ 0022



IA - PaloAlto-First Presbyterian Church-0026





IA_Palo Alto-First Presbyterian Church_0028



IA_PaloAlto_First Presbyterian Church_ 0039





IA-PaloAlto_FirstPresbyterian Church-0040



IA - Palo Alto_FirstPresbyterianChurch_ 0045





IA-PaloAlto-First Presbyterian Church-0046



IA-Palo Alto-First Presbyterian Church_0055

dHII



IA_FaloAlto_First Presbyterian Church_ 0053





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IA_PaloAlto_Firstpresbyterian Church_0077



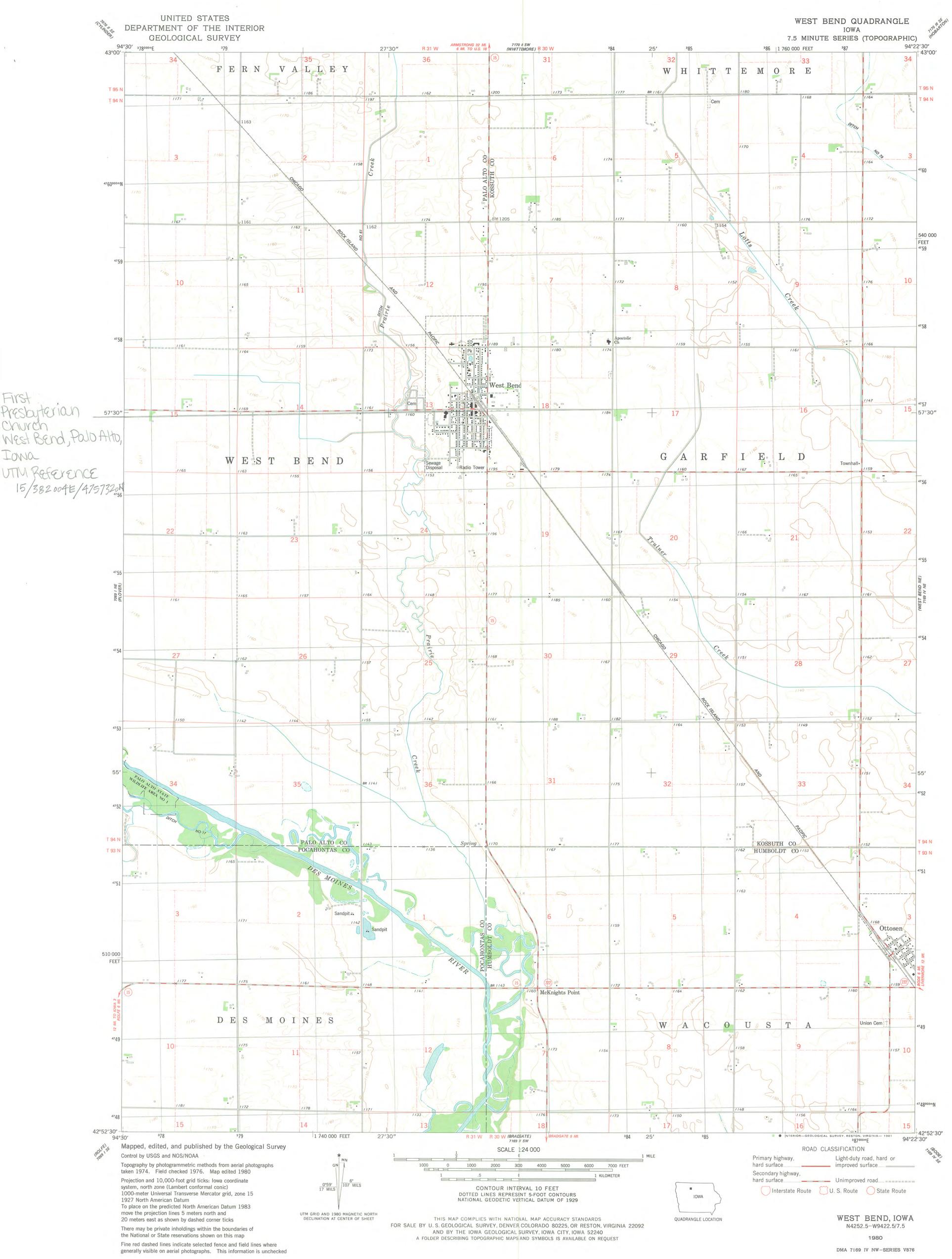
IA - Palo Alto- First presbyterian Church_0087

HIII



IA_Palo Alto_First Presbyterian Church_ 0098







March 30, 2010

Carol Shull, Chief National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

• First Presbyterian Church, 101 1st Avenue SW, West Bend, Palo Alto County, Iowa

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Faster Hill

Elizabeth Foster Hill Tax Incentive Programs Manager/ National Register Coordinator