

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **MAY 14 1986**  
date entered **6-13-86**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic First Presbyterian Church

and/or common First Presbyterian Church

**2. Location**

street & number 220 North High Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hartford City N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Blackford code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	

**4. Owner of Property**

name First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
of Hartford City, Indiana, Inc.

street & number 220 North High Street, P.O. Box 307

city, town Hartford City N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47348

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Blackford County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Hartford City state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First Presbyterian Church faces west onto High Street and is only one block from downtown Hartford City. The Romanesque Revival style church is asymmetrical and essentially rectangular in plan; and shows the Richardsonian influence in its massing, the broad arches, and rock-faced limestone trim. The high foundation is constructed of course, rock-faced limestone and has a plain limestone water table. The walls are finished with brick.

The main facade is gabled, with a square bell tower on the northern end (photo #1). There are two round-arched openings on this facade: an entrance and a window. Narrow brick buttresses topped with limestone caps are on each side of the window opening and on the southern end of the facade. The entrance on the northern end contains recessed, rectangular, double doors with eight panels each, and a stained glass fanlight. A radiating voussoir, consisting of six rows of brick (one recessed) with limestone blocks at the springpoint of the arch, trims the door. An electric lamp is on each side of the entrance. Six steps, with handrails on each side, lead to the doors. Above the entrance is a limestone plaque with the following inscription: "First Presbyterian Church 1892".

In the tower two beveled, metal courses are above the entrance. Two tall rectangular openings, which were enclosed with limestone panels in 1931, extend above these courses. There are two limestone trefoils within each opening. Directly above the limestone panels is a limestone belt course, followed by a round-arched opening with a limestone sill in a recessed panel on each of the four sides. The church's bell is within the open belfry. The area above the opening is billeted, with a metal course above. The corners of the tower form piers which rise above the original hipped slate roof, which is now covered in fiberglass shingles. Topping each pier is a hipped, metal cap. At the apex of the steeply pitched roof is a copper-clad wooden cross.

A large, round-arched, stained glass window is in the gabled section of the main facade (photos #2 and 3). The window trim is similar to that of the entrance, and there is a limestone sill. Above the window opening is a narrow limestone course, which forms the sill for three blind arches.

The church was built in two phases. These are distinguishable on the north elevation which faces Franklin Street. The original church building contains five bays on this elevation. The Westminster Fellowship Hall was added to the rear of the church in 1960 and contains three bays.

The westernmost window of the north elevation is in the tower section and is a round-arched, stained glass window. The tower above this window is the same as on the west elevation. A projecting gabled section is to the east of this opening. This section contains a large, round-arched, stained glass window. A limestone belt course is at the springpoint of the arch. A metal course is above the window. The corners of this gabled section form piers which rise above the roof and are topped with metal finials. The third window of this portion of the original structure is a rectangular stained glass window with a limestone sill and lintel.

Continuing on the north elevation we find a second gabled section. A round-arched entrance is on the western end of this section. The entrance has tall, narrow double doors with eight panels each. A stained glass fanlight is above the door. Directly above the entrance is a round-arched opening with a limestone sill. A concrete porch with double side stairways, consisting of eight steps each, leads to the door. East of this is a group of three tall, narrow openings. The arched openings consist of a rectangular stained glass window topped by a round-arched stained glass window with a spandrel between. The single sill is of limestone. Limestone blocks form gable returns in this section.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet First Presbyterian Church Item number 7 Page 1

The 1960 Westminster Fellowship Hall, a two-story, flat-roofed structure, is constructed of a darker brick than the church. The entrance is on the eastern end of the structure. Paneled double doors, with two lights each, are topped by a fanlight with eight lights. The round-arched opening has a limestone keystone. A lantern is on each side of the entrance. There are two large window openings on the slightly below grade first level. These are rectangular windows with flat limestone lintels which have a keystone at the center, and limestone sills. Directly above these windows are identical openings. Limestone coping trims the flat roof.

The church roofing material is black fiberglass shingles. The tower's roofing material, originally a hipped slate roof, is also black fiberglass shingles. A single flush gable chimney is at the rear of the 1892 structure.

The vestibule contains two large openings which lead to the main worship area of the church. One opening is on the east side of the vestibule and one is on the south. Both openings have double doors with five panels each. The openings are trimmed with architrave molding with bullseye corner plates. A bullseye plate also forms a keystone in the round-arched molding. The church sanctuary has a vaulted ceiling with wooden ribs (photos #5 and 6). The furniture is modern, laid out in a modified Akron floor plan. The pipe organ dates to 1912. The stained glass windows are original.

In the 1930s the east end of the sanctuary (which had been an open lecture room) was closed off with the erection of a balcony and the partitioning of space below it and above into six classrooms. In 1959-1960 the sanctuary was again remodeled by moving the choir loft (formerly behind the chancel) to an inset in the east wall of the sanctuary (created by the removal of the balcony), the organ console was moved from the center of the chancel to the north end of the new choir loft; and three stained glass windows, originally in the east wall of the church, were placed in the loft with indirect lighting behind them. At this same time new chancel appointments were installed; these were hand carved at the Willman Lumber Company here in Hartford City. (This company is no longer in business here.) Finally, in 1964, a doorway behind the pulpit was closed and the furnishings were changed to their current light oak color.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

**Specific dates** 1892-1893, 1960      **Builder/Architect** Alec Gable

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The First Presbyterian Church is the oldest church building in Hartford City. The massing of the broad gables, the wide arches, the rock-faced limestone trim, and the pyramidal-roofed tower show the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, making the church the best example of this style in Hartford City.

On December 18, 1843, the Presbyterian Church of Hartford (City), was founded by thirteen residents of the wooded, unincorporated village. In 1868 the church purchased a building lot on the southeast corner of Franklin and High Streets, the spot currently occupied by the First Presbyterian Church. In 1892 the cornerstone of the present sanctuary was laid.

An outstanding feature of this original structure is the beautiful stained glass windows, especially a massive one located in the western wall (photo #9). Given in 1892, it is dedicated to the memory of Lydia Taughinbaugh, one of the charter members of the church.

The glass for the window was hand-made in Belgium and assembled in Hartford City by the Belgian glasscrafters who inhabited the area. The colors of the window are of unusual brilliance and beauty and many cannot be duplicated using modern stained glass techniques. When installed it was believed to be the largest window enclosed by one frame in Indiana, and it is still among the largest.

In 1912 a pipe organ fund was started by the church, the first deposit coming from proceeds of a rummage sale (the first ever for Hartford City). The congregation raised money toward the purchase and the fund was completed through a gift of \$1,000 from the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. This organ is thought to be the first pipe organ installed in Hartford City and still inspires Presbyterians with its majestic tones. To this day the congregation of First Presbyterian Church maintains the only lasting Presbyterian presence in Blackford County, Indiana.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1943 Centennial Brochure of First Presbyterian Church, Hartford City, Indiana.  
This booklet was written and prepared by the Historical Committee.

Church Records

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Hartford City East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	3	8	3	6	0	4	4	7	9	0	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

(southeast corner)  
Starting at the intersection of High and Franklin Streets, 96' east, 64' south, 96' west back to High Street, 64' north back to the intersection of High and Franklin Streets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin R. Boyd, Minister

organization First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

date November, 1985

street & number 220 North High Street, P.O. Box 307

telephone 317/348-1431 or 5156

city or town Hartford City

state Indiana 47348

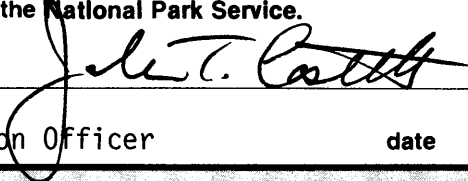
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-29-86

For NPS use only

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

**National Register**

date 6-13-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration