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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 AND/OR COMMON
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
223 East 4th Street North
CITY, TOWN
Newton
STATE
Iowa
VICINITY OF
Fourth
COUNTY
Jasper
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE
097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
STREET & NUMBER
223 East 4th Street North
CITY, TOWN
Newton
STATE
Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Jasper County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Newton
STATE
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Stephen's Church is a rendition of the "carpenter Gothic" style. The several rooflines reveal various sections of the structure; narthex and nave under one, a smaller section to the rear for chancel, a chapel in the single transept, and the L-shaped education wing. Although this latter section was added in 1961, its exterior features conform closely to those of the main church building. The structure is frame, on a brick foundation. The sanctuary measures 32' x 52, chancel 23' x 21'; the education wing is 53' along the west side of the church, 50' long in the other leg. The church is located on a corner near the business district, surrounded by small, residential structures.

Dominating the overall design is the board-and-batten siding with arched heads. This feature is found on the north elevation, the tower, and the west and south elevations of the education wing. Elsewhere, the siding ends squarely beneath narrow eaves, or below the cornice line. The Gothic theme is carried further in the pointed arches of the stained glass windows, door frames (with one, round-arched, exception) and louvered openings in the bell tower. Further decoration is provided by the short wall buttresses, and small brackets beneath the eaves on the east facade of the main block. Composition shingle is used on the roofs and on the four-sided spire of the square, two-level corner tower.

Alterations and additions took place in 1961. The narthex, which was originally a tower base on the northeast corner, was moved to the northwest corner, and a spire (part of the original design, but not included at first for lack of funds) and a second tower level added. The choir was slightly enlarged and the education wing erected on the west side.

Interior design and furnishings remain largely in their traditional state. Hammer beams provide interior support for the sanctuary; the arches formed by this structural feature are echoed in an arrangement of three, high, wide, pointed arches opening into the side chapel, chancel and side exit to the education wing. Walls are finished with wainscoting and plaster. Furnishings (alter, pews, choir stalls, stained glass) date from the early years of the church.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-4

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Joseph Stevens; David S. Stover

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is an excellent example of the relatively unusual "carpenter Gothic" style. This form is the expression, in wood, of the early Gothic Revival style, which emphasized the pointed arch, basilican plan, with steeple at the entrance end. Also noteworthy is the care with which the modern education wing reproduces design features of the church itself, thus blending with, rather than detracting from, the architectural integrity of the main structure, as many such additions do.

St. Stephen's begun in 1871 and completed in 1874, is the oldest church in Newton to be in continuous use by its congregation. It was built by Joseph Stevens, a native of England and carpenter by trade, who came to the U.S. in 1854. Stevens was assisted by another carpenter, David S. Stover, who came from Ohio to Newton in 1858. Both men found steady business in the growing town (incorporated 1857), as well as political activity: Stevens was an alderman, town mayor, and fire chief; Stover served on the city council.

The St. Stephen's Parish was first organized in 1867 by the Reverend W.T. Currie, and incorporated the following year. Although only five people are listed (with six others listed as "incorporators) as first members, by 1878 the church had 30 communicants. For a period between 1878 and 1911, however, membership was too small to maintain a resident minister, and services were discontinued during that time. Since then, however, St. Stephen's has enjoyed a renaissance, as expressed in the new education wing and careful maintenance of the property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vestry Minute Book, Vol. 1, pp. 6-8. Property of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.
 Newton Daily News, 6 February 1961.
 Weaver, James B. (ed.) Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Co., 1912 (2 Vols.), Vol. I, p. 183.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 9 5 8 3 5	4 6 1 6 3 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

corner lot, 132 feet east by 188-9/10 feet north, bounded on east by East 4th Street North, and to the north by North 3rd Avenue East.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Florence Treloar, Chairman, Historical Committee

ORGANIZATION

DATE

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

415 N. 4th Ave. E

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Newton

Iowa 50208

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

Adrian H. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 7/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9-22-77

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]
Walter Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER