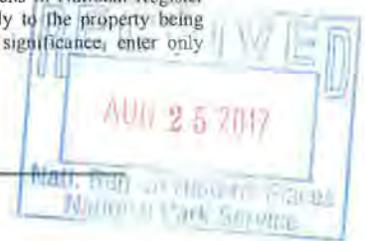


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 601 State Street

City or town: Chatham State: IA County: Buchanan

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>18 AUG 2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>State Historical Society of Iowa</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

Joy Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10.4.17
Date of Action

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

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS
RECREATION AND CULTURE/MUSEUM
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete, asphalt, steel, synthetic/vinyl, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church is located in Section 10 of Perry Township, Buchanan County, Iowa at 601 State Street. The church is a central site in the unincorporated villages of Littleton and Chatham, as it lies on the main highway and is bypassed by the majority of traffic coming to or going from these villages (See Figure #16). This rural community is approximately eight miles northwest of Independence, the county seat. The Wapsipinicon River runs through Littleton and Chatham on its way to Independence with the remaining topography relatively flat in this farming region. This church, built in 1907 replaced the 1865 church and sits on the corner of Perry Street and State Street, also known as 175th St., and now County Highway D-16. Changes in construction technique of the period and national style influences likely played a role in the design of this church. Visionaries such as Frank Lloyd Wright used mass publications to spread the word on their emerging concepts. The side-steeple 1907 church fits the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements classification. It is nearly square in shape, yet not quite proportionate with west weighted wing and corner entrance. By looking at this style along with subtle characteristics similar to those of a bungalow, the concrete foundation and the clapboard siding, we start to see a transition from the small conventional church to a broader structure capable of serving a multifunctional congregation.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Narrative Description

Setting

While the church is in the northwest corner of Chatham, across the road to the west is the unincorporated village of Littleton in Section 9 of Perry Township (See Figure #15). The church sits facing south on four open lots in the unincorporated village of Chatham. The property is accessible by driveways on the south side from State St. and on the west side from Perry St. Only a single spirea bush along with a few rose bushes in front of the building are all that consist of woody vegetation on the property. Lot 4 is used for parking, the church sits on Lot 3. Lots 1 and 2 have been kept mowed and have served for outdoor church functions as well (See Figure #5). A new garden on Lot 2 has produced potatoes donated to the Independence Food Pantry. The parking lot can hold about 10 vehicles, with enough lawn space to hold dozens more. A residential garden to the north of the property also helps to provide a serene atmosphere.

Exterior

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church is an asymmetrical wood frame structure with the entrance located in the southwest corner and a wing extending from the west side. The exterior is covered with synthetic/vinyl siding, overtop the historic wood siding. No outbuildings remain on the property other than a small gabled housing (See Photo #2 and Figure #14), for the well casing, pressure switch and tank. The alley to the north (outside the nomination boundary) was inherited with the vacation of multiple alleys in Chatham back in 1974 (See Figure #13). The concrete block foundation displays glass block. The basement windows were replaced with glass block approximately 50 years ago; two windows are inset in the glass block. Two outhouses (See Figure #5) also sat on the property until circa 1979 when the plumbing was modernized. A ramp for handicap accessibility was added about 2003 (See Photo #1). The former iron handrails were removed, but the concrete stairs remain intact hidden underneath. Numerous storm windows were also replaced about this time. The church is a broad bungalow type with a hip roof and a small front facing gable, jutting out above the overhang. This gable bears a beautiful large gothic attic window overlooking the roof. The attic window was boarded up roughly forty years ago. The facade, with this gothic attic window and roof overhang underneath, bears a slight resemblance to the house in Grant Wood's, "American Gothic." The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, except for a small section on the northwest corner. This section of steel roofing is nearly inconspicuous from the ground as it is nearly flat. It encompasses the roof above the bathroom, closet and hall and the former concrete chimney protrudes from it. The roof also includes a gable on the back as well with the same hip below the gable. The bell tower located at the southwest corner of the church is also hipped. The openings on the bell tower were covered over with siding, with the exception a couple of louvers, to prevent the elements from doing damage inside the tower. The bell was purchased in 1954.¹ The rest of the first floor windows are gothic arch windows. Brackets support the gable capped hood over the entrance.

¹ "Littleton Church Will Dedicate Bell" (*Jesup*) *Citizens' Herald*, 2December1954.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Interior

The main building entrance is on the south side at the west corner, making it a side-steeple church (See Figure #11). The bell tower base also serves as the vestibule with paired doors entering the church. The original doors may have been paneled, appearing in photos up until the 1950s. They were replaced prior to 1978. Once inside the vestibule, a wooden stairway ahead and to the left directs down into the basement with two flights of narrow treads. A pull rope for the ringing of the bell is tied to a hook on the west wall. A row of coat hooks line the west and north walls of the vestibule. The doors opening into the sanctuary and the wing from the vestibule are both four foot wide solid wood doors. The majority of the doors throughout the building are 30 inches in width. Straight ahead of the vestibule is the wing of the church which held three full length pews, an organ and the ceiling entrance to the attic. To the east of the wing is a 13 foot paneled pocket door opening to the sanctuary. The pocket door is held in place by rollers on a track and a set screw located in the out-facing end allows for adjustment. Beyond the wing to the north is a restroom and storage closet as well as another door to the sanctuary. Prior to plumbing in the church, one of these rooms is said to have been used as an office for the minister.

The interior of the church bears plastered white walls with a few cracks in the plaster. The floor of the entire level is covered with carpet. Under the carpet is hardwood flooring. Above all the flooring can be found wide baseboards and trim. The trim is dark with varnish finish throughout the church. The pews were very similar in color until they were refinished with a light finish back in the 1970's. To the right of the vestibule is the sanctuary with rows of pews and an 18 inch raised stage in front for the pulpit, communion table, baptismal font, organ and piano (See Photo #6 and 7). The window sills extend onto the walls, creating a chair rail around the sanctuary, up to, but not including the alter area. The north wall bears two gold-leaf crosses, painted by local painter Charlie Conger (See Figure #19). The rows of padded pews in the sanctuary are made up of (7) ten-foot pews and (19) six-foot pews. The church basement still houses five of the original wood pews covered with several coats of paint, measuring approximately 5 foot 5 inches in length. The main floor includes 11 1/2' walls that rise further to a vaulted ceiling. In the attic, the original scissor trusses support the original lathe ceiling, and run the length of the building to the large gothic window. This window is now boarded up, but still intact. Two ceiling fans are located on the flat peak of the ceiling. Two pendant lights are located at the north end of the church above the stage. Newer florescent lights were also placed halfway up the rise of the ceiling, where pendant lights were formerly present (See Figure #19). The basement is concrete block on the outside with poured concrete over the inside. The basement features a kitchen and dining area (See Photo #5 and #9 as well as Figure #21), with an exit through the back side of the church at the east corner on the north wall (See Figure #12). This entrance bears a wooden door with old latch at the basement level, hiding a set of swinging screen doors before reaching six steps and then the exterior barred wood door. The original furnace room is located in the northwest corner of the basement. This room was later used for storage with the newer furnace located in the main basement, near the dining area. Structurally the church has changed very little since its construction, retaining its overall form. Some of the furnishings in the building were moved from the La Porte City Church with its closing, including the current communion table and baptismal font as well as an electric organ. The former

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

communion table donated by the Zartman and Stevenson families was retained by the North Central Iowa Presbytery with the closing of Pleasant Grove. The Presbytery left photographs documenting changes to the church over the years, the original church, and images of individuals, such as charter members and first resident pastor John D. Caldwell.

UPDATES/INTEGRITY/PRESENT CONDITION

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church retains good integrity of the overall form on its original site. The church is structurally sturdy and has been well cared for. The only issue found is apparent settling of the building. The chimney, next to the old furnace room, appears not to have settled with the rest of the building. Also the curtain wall holding the plaster on the pocket door wall in the wing is sagging. The clearance of 1 ¾ inches between the chimney and floor is quite noticeable on the main level. A fracture in the plaster alongside the chimney is present as a result of the before mentioned issues. A jack post has been installed alongside the chimney as a precautionary measure to help stabilize the floor until more accommodating renovation can be done.

In 2003 the church celebrated 150 years and before this celebration a lot of time and effort was invested to improve the appearance and modernize the utilities:

- Asphalt shingles were replaced over the majority of the roof. A small portion of the roof in the northwest corner was covered with steel.
- Vinyl siding of similar color to the painted clapboard siding was installed (See Figure #10), along with enclosure of the bell tower to prevent leaking.
- Vinyl window film was added to the windows after the anniversary to give the appearance of stained glass.
- The wiring has seen a partial update alongside a new furnace and central air in the building, installed circa 2005.
- A septic system and restrooms were added for men and women in 1978. These restrooms were merged for a more accommodating facility about 2005.

Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location- The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church was erected in 1907 upon the same property as the former church. This location has served the congregation since 1865.

2. Design- The style is considered part of the Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American Movements. The plan and style of the structure has not changed since its construction, the overall form of the building survives. Smaller details have been altered, the replacement of the brick chimney with a poured concrete chimney and the enclosure of the bell tower are the most notable. The interior design

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Name of Property

survives as well, with little change to the interior architecture. The open sanctuary and vaulted ceiling still show the splendor of the building. Some pendant lights have been removed and florescent lights installed in their stead.

3. Setting- A setting was chosen to suit the community's needs. The church was built central in this unincorporated community. The neighborhood was residential when the church was built and remains a residential area. On the site, the bell tower was built at the southwest corner of the church for a side-steeple style. The surrounding site is very open.

4. Material- While the materials used to construct the church were commonly available for use during the time period, the builders did not skimp and created a structure that would serve the community for generations. With the exception of the vinyl siding, the rest of the original materials are visible to the eye. The original siding is still present under the new siding and could be potentially restored to its original splendor. The interior displays the original doors, hanging from the walls constructed of lathe and plaster. The original windows are also intact along with the matching trim and baseboard throughout the building.

5. Workmanship- The workmanship of the church was undertaken by skilled craftsman. These men came from Waterloo, Iowa and arduously constructed the structure. Technical practices and aesthetic principles were used during the churches creation. The gothic windows are just one example of the artistry implemented into the churches workmanship. While currently covered, it is hoped to soon expose the covered attic window once again.

6. Feeling- The churches broad structure, side-steeple bell tower, open sanctuary, vaulted ceiling, and the gothic arch windows all help to convey the historic character of the structure. The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church relates the feeling of a small town or rural community. The majority of the congregation were farmers and lived within their means while coming together to worship.

7. Association- The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church has been associated with numerous ministers, generations of congregation members over the years and various religious organizations. The image of the church is instantaneously recognizable by those who attended as a child or had seen an image of the church in family papers.

Future Plans

Future plans include developing the facility as a museum and community center. Doug Steinmetz, AIA has completed a Technical Assistance Network report for the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society with insight and recommendations about the building and potential issues. Rick Collins from Trillium Dell Timberworks has also viewed the building and made suggestions. The LCHS has plans to address the structure issues, beefing up the bearing wall in the basement (See Photo #5) or raising up the settling structure. Plans for rehabilitation are intended to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation. The exterior portion of the concrete chimney was removed in the summer of 2016. This portion was not historic to the building and removal will reduce potential issues with leaking around the chimney. The basement is suited for public and private events with a kitchen and dining area (See Photo #5 and #9), although some modernization is desired. The LCHS is waterproofing the unsealed concrete foundation in the storage room. They would also like to make the back entrance to the basement handicap accessible and add a bathroom to the basement. The upper

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

level houses some of the religious items formerly owned by the church and provides a nice place to display historical artifacts to the public. In 2015 the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society received a grant from the Buchanan County Community Foundation for display cases and archival storage materials. The LCHS was able to purchase ultraviolet filters for the florescent lights overhead as well as display cases and materials suitable for the long term storage of items currently owned by the LCHS and future contributions. Currently the windows are covered with a "stained-glass" contact paper. This covering prevents looking outside and is not historic. The LCHS plans on removing this film to provide an outside view as well as applying an ultraviolet film to prevent fading and deterioration to artifacts and fixtures.

Alongside making the basement of the facility available for a community center, the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society has considered making part of the sanctuary available to the public for small weddings.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

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 building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Chapman, F. W.

Tabor Construction Co.

Menzel

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The church is being nominated locally as an unusual example of architectural design. The church displays a form that might be mistaken for a schoolhouse with the Gothic style windows of a church. This unique style, alongside the addition of the gothic windows and similarities to a schoolhouse meets Criterion C. While simple in design, this architecture from the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement adds to the community scene and shows how well the construction has stood over the years. The church serves as a valid, well preserved specimen of these architectural traits.

The church is a rare specimen of this style in the area. No similar churches are known to exist in the area, nor are there any that were known to have been built in the area. When the church was built in 1907, it was part of the Dubuque Presbytery. Nine other churches were present in Buchanan County at that time: Jesup, Otterville, Hazleton, Rowley, Independence First, Independence German, Pine, Unity, and Cono Center. Otterville is about 5 miles away and Jesup is about 6 miles away. Both of these churches were of typical construction for that time as was the Hazleton church, built in 1906. The Jesup Presbyterian Church was built by F. W. Chapman in 1910, also being the typical L-shape of the time and featuring mainly round-top windows. Pleasant Grove Presbyterian later became a part of the North Central Iowa Presbytery. The closest church in that Presbytery was the Barclay United Presbyterian, being about 8 miles away. This church was also of typical construction for the time.

The period of significance is 1907, the year the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church was placed into service.

Contributing buildings- The church itself is the only building on the property of contributing value to significance. The well-house is a non-contributing structure.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

An archaeological investigation was not part of this nomination. Additional research may identify archaeological sites that contribute to the overall historical significance of this property.

Criteria Considerations

While the siding on the church has changed the style remains. The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church is located in a small community and is representative of a small town church. The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious purposes as it is a historic church significant for its architecture as well as social and religious history.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Social history

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the nearby countryside on June 4, 1853 by Rev. James S. Fullerton and Elder Vaughn of Marion, Iowa by the authority of the Cedar Presbytery.² The Pleasant Grove congregation moved to Littleton and Chatham in 1856 and continued to hold services in groves and the stone schoolhouse.³ The first church was built in 1865 (See Figure #1, 15 and 17). This original church was relocated circa 1907 to be utilized as a granary. The church formed before the villages of Littleton and Chatham were even established. The congregation first met in a log schoolhouse in the northeastern part of the township. After the villages of Littleton and Chatham were established, services were moved to the community where the stone schoolhouse was shared between the Methodists and Presbyterians for services. The former two-story schoolhouse sat a block north of the church and the former stone schoolhouse sat kitty-corner across the street from the church. This stone schoolhouse provided both the Presbyterians and Methodists with a place of worship prior to the construction of their churches. A quarter of a mile to the east is the Littleton Cemetery originally owned by Perry Township and now owned by the Littleton Cemetery Association. This cemetery has been erroneously referred to as the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, as many of the church members and their families have been buried in the cemetery over the years.

The Methodists were the only other congregation to have a church structure in the community. This church stood until about 1940 when it was dismantled.

First resident preacher Rev. John D. Caldwell for the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church had a very active role in the community, county, and state. Caldwell served as a minister for over three

² "History of Old Church," (*Independence*) *Conservative*, 17 June 1903.

³ William Justin Harsha, *The Story of Iowa* (1890), 112; digital format, *Iowa Biographies Project* (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iabiog/iastbios/si1890/si1890.htm>: accessed 30November2014).

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

decades at 14 churches in four counties⁴. He served Pleasant Grove from 1856 to 1891 and 1898 to 1899⁵. While the present building was not built during Caldwell's lifetime, the building was placed into service upon the religious foundation that Rev. John D. Caldwell spent his entire life cultivating.

By the church's 75th anniversary in 1928, the congregation had a membership that was right around 300.⁶ Sunday school was held often for the children; the teachers utilized either the basement or the wing of the church for this function. The Ladies Auxiliary was just one of the church's societies that were active in the community. The annual smorgasbord that the church used to facilitate is still talked about decades after they are no longer held. The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church served the community of Littleton and Chatham up until 2014, when the church voted to close due to low membership. Upon closing, the property was donated to the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society for use as a museum and community center. The church played an integral part of the community's interconnectedness. It is one of the few remaining buildings available for public use and it is the only church still extant in the community.

Architecture

The second and current church was built in the summer and fall of 1907 at a size of 41 feet by 46.5 feet in a Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement classification, with the 25 foot wing extending an additional 5 feet (See Figure #2). The carpentry work was done by F. W. Chapman, of Waterloo.⁷ The complete cost of construction was \$2,910.35.⁸ Chapman is also credited with constructing an addition to the north side of the Sumner High School in 1915 (added to the National Register in 2004), the Waverly Public Library in 1904, the Iowa Telephone Company building (Sioux City) in 1905, the Federal Block aka the Thomas Cascaden Jr. building (Waterloo) in 1908, the Jesup Presbyterian church 1910, and the Black Hawk County Home and Hospital in 1914.

Tabor Construction Company of Waterloo poured the foundation and Menzel, also of Waterloo, installed the Gothic windows. The building has served the church well and was very practical for the church's needs. The congregation was conservative and lived within their means. This architectural style is non-typical of the churches in the vicinity. The impact this building has had on the community can be seen by the mass of photos taken of the building (See Figures #2-9).

⁴ Joseph W. Hubbard, D. D. et al., Committee of Synod of Iowa, *The Presbyterian Church In Iowa* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Superior Press, 1907).

⁵ "Littleton," (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 9May1901.

⁶ "Early Members Aid in Littleton Church Jubilee," *Waterloo Evening Courier*, 4 June 1928, p 12 col 8.

⁷ "Littleton," (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 4 July 1907.

⁸ "Littleton," (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 26 December 1907.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

The church was no doubt the longest operating entity in the community and is one of the few existing community buildings that remain, along with being one of the few retaining its integrity.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Early Members Aid in Littleton Church Jubilee,” *Waterloo Evening Courier*, 4 June 1928.
Harsha, William Justin, *The Story of Iowa* (1890); digital format, *Iowa Biographies Project*
(<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iabiog/iastbios/si1890/si1890.htm>: accessed
30November2014).

“History of Old Church,” (*Independence*) *Conservative*, 17 June 1903.

Joseph W. Hubbard, D. D. et al., Committee of Synod of Iowa, *The Presbyterian Church In Iowa* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Superior Press, 1907).

“Littleton,” (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 4July1907.

“Littleton,” (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 26December1907.

“Littleton,” (*Independence*) *Bulletin-Journal*, 9May1901.

“Littleton Church Will Dedicate Bell,” (*Jesup*) *Citizens’ Herald*, 2December1954.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Charles C. Myers Library, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1 acre

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.533612 | Longitude: -92.023058 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 580228 | Northing: 4709487 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The parcel the building sits on has a parcel number of 0510151003 with a legal description of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block 4, all in the unincorporated Village of Chatham. The building is confined to Lot 3 of the above description.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nomination property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anthony A. Bengston/President

organization: Littleton and Chatham Historical Society

street & number: 1503 River Road Blvd.

city or town: Independence state: Iowa zip code: 50644

e-mail tonybengston@yahoo.com

telephone: (319) 415-1175

date: March 4, 2015

owner: Littleton and Chatham Historical Society

street & number: 601 State Street

city or town: Independence state: Iowa zip code: 50644

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church

City or Vicinity: Chatham

County: Buchanan

State: Iowa

Photographer: Anthony A. Bengston

Date Photographed: 2014 & 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: See Figure #11 (sanctuary), Figure #12 (basement) and Figure #13 (outdoor).

- 1 of 9. Facing North-South elevation, May 26, 2016.
- 2 of 9. Facing East/Southeast-West elevation, May 26, 2016.
- 3 of 9. Facing West/Northwest-East elevation, May 26, 2016.
- 4 of 9. Facing Southeast-North elevation, May 26, 2016.
- 5 of 9. Facing North-Basement kitchen, March 12, 2016.
- 6 of 9. Facing North-Sanctuary, March 12, 2016.
- 7 of 9. Facing North-Sanctuary during closing service, August 24, 2014.
- 8 of 9. Facing Southeast-Sanctuary, August 17, 2014.
- 9 of 9. Facing South-Basement dining area, March 12, 2016.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure #1 – The former Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in 1905. Photo owned by the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.



Figure #2 – The newly constructed Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in late 1907. “Crowd attends Anniversary of Pioneer Church,” *(Independence) Conservative*, 6 June 1928. “The New Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church at Littleton,” *(Independence) Conservative*, 18 Dec 1907.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure #3 – Circa 1920, Real Photo postcard, courtesy of the Buchanan County Historical Society from the Vera Eck estate.

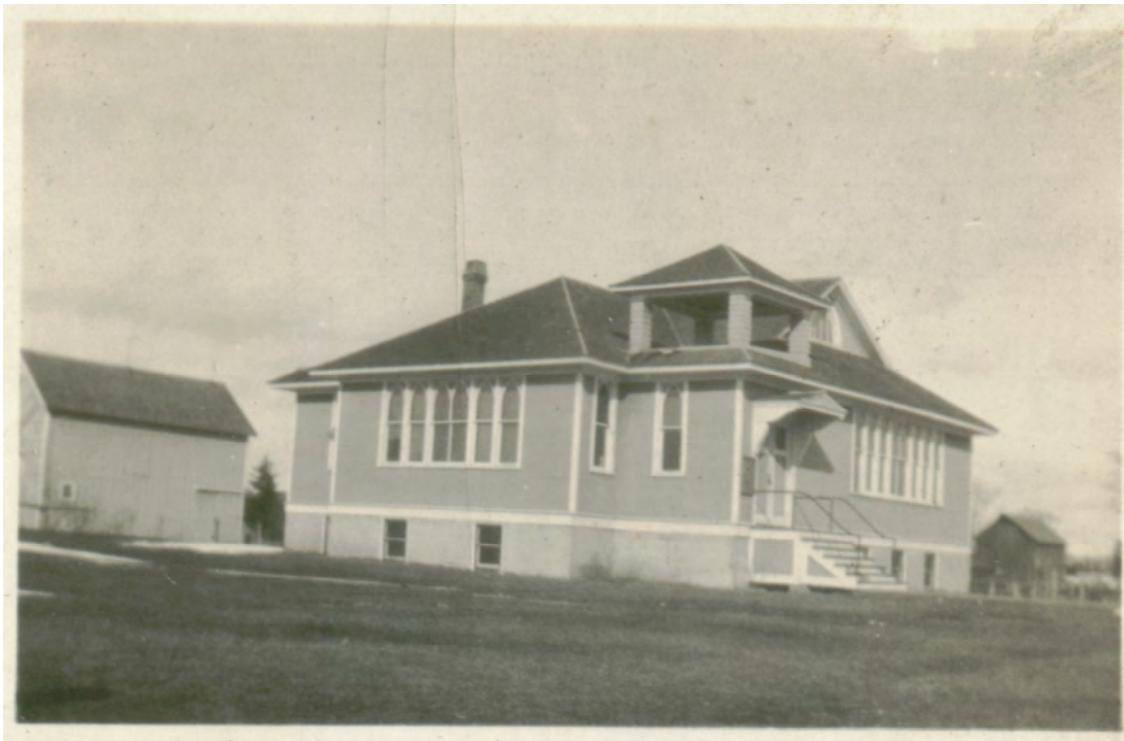


Figure #4 – Taken circa 1925, attributed to Littleton teacher, Dorothy Winters. Courtesy of the Buchanan County Historical Society.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure #5 – Children enjoying what appears to be an Easter egg hunt, circa 1950, photographer unknown. Property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.



Figure #6 – Photo attributed to Mrs. Loren C. Gallup [Ruth] circa 1950. Privately held by Katherine Bengston, Independence, Iowa, 2005.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure #7 – 125th Church Anniversary in 1978. Photo courtesy of Kim Edward Adams, Jesup Citizen Herald.



Figure #8 – Church circa 1990, attributed to Katherine Bengston.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



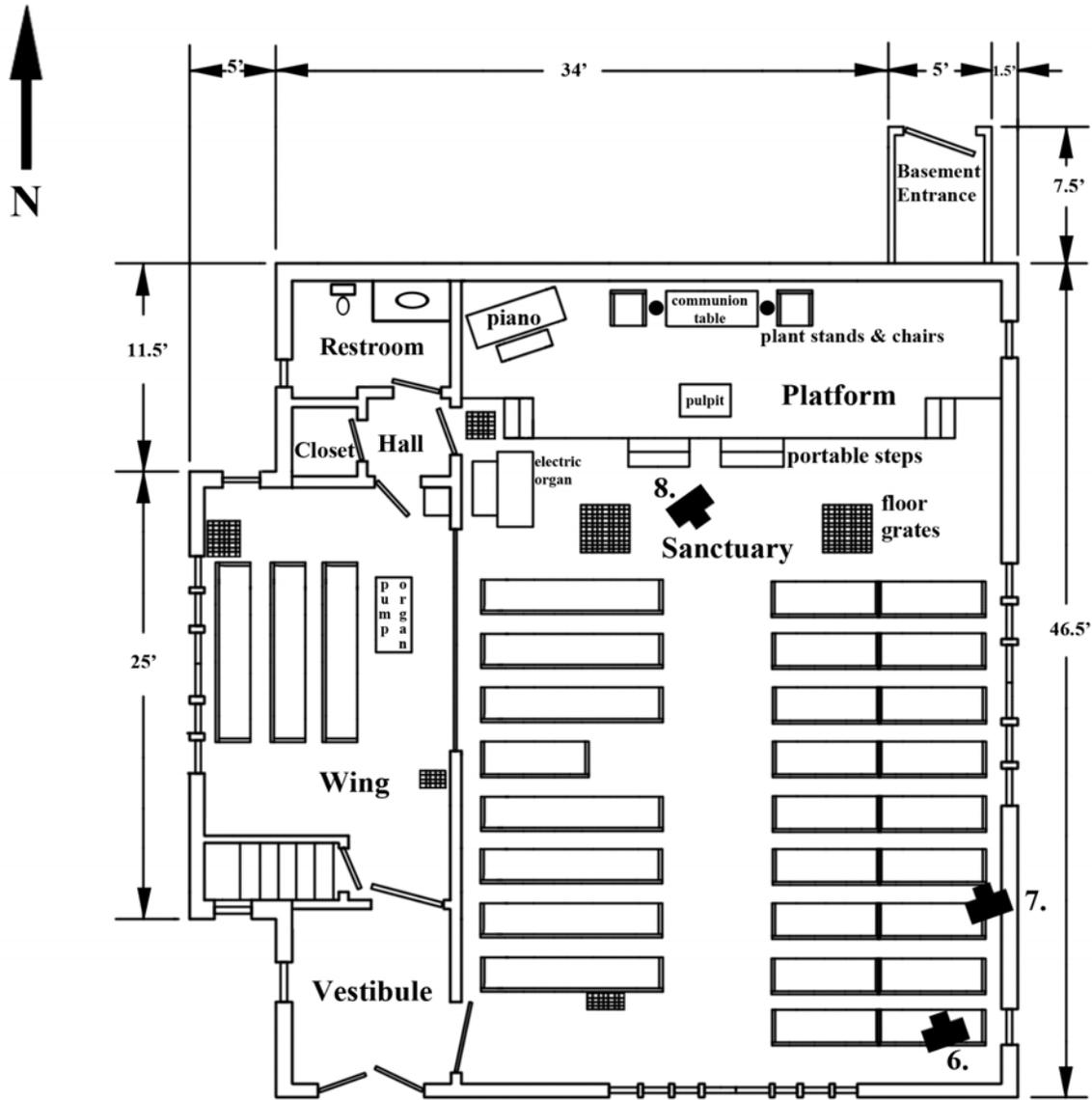
Figure #9 – Circa 2002, digital photo taken by Anthony A. Bengston.



Figure #10 – Work on the siding and roof in 2002, showing both the old wood siding and new vinyl siding. Property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



1" = 10'

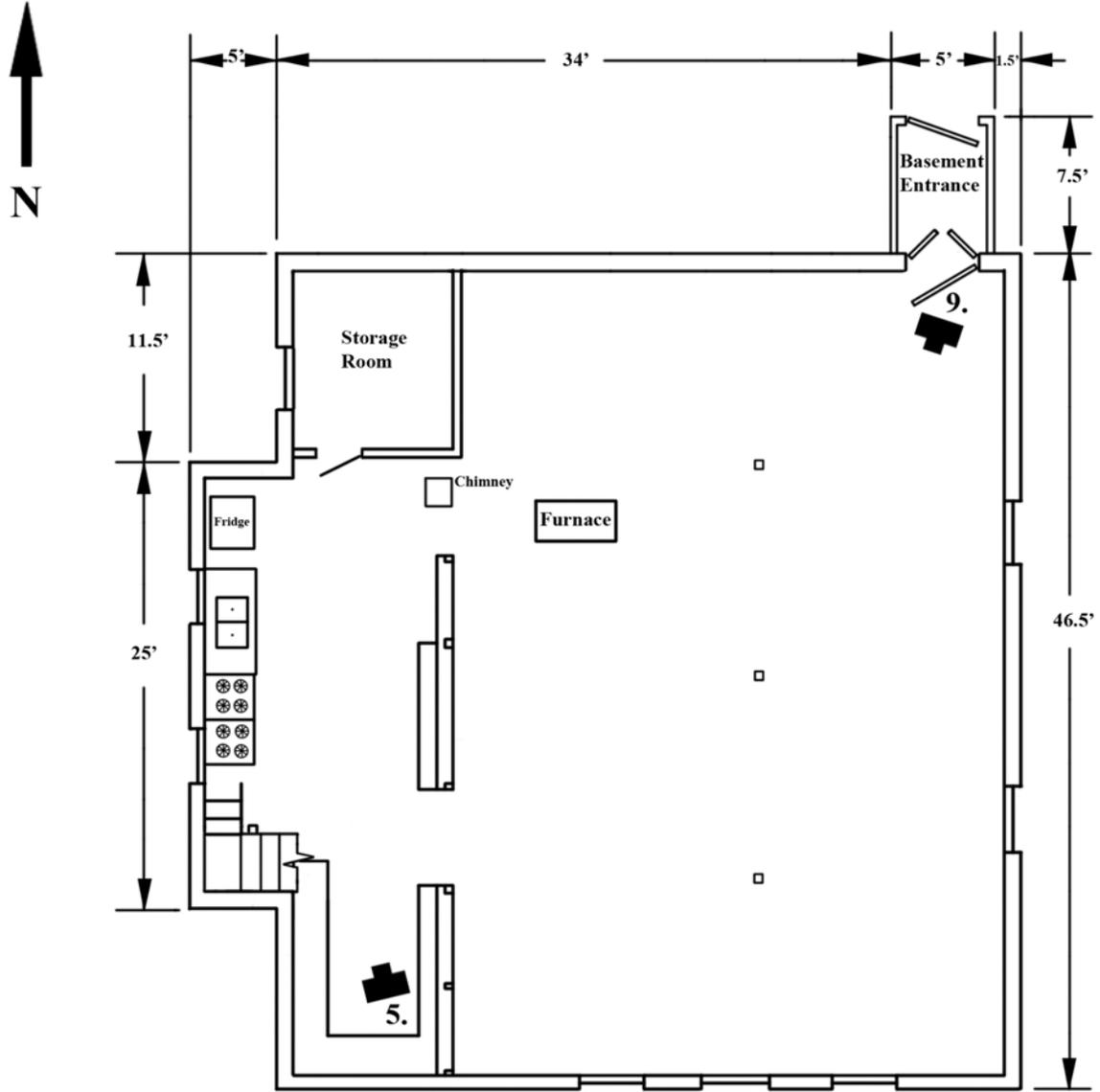
PLEASANT GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

as of August 24, 2014 by Anthony A. Bengston

Figure#11 - Floor Plan for the main level of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, with major fixtures and furnishings. Also included as a photo map for camera views.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



1" = 10'

PLEASANT GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

as of August 24, 2014 by Anthony A. Bengston

Figure#12 - Basement Floor Plan at the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church with major fixtures and furnishings. Also included as a photo map for camera views.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#13 - Site plan map showing the lot and block lines. Also included as a photo map for camera views. Buchanan County Assessor (<http://buchanan.iowaassessors.com>: accessed 4 June 2014), Parcel No. 0510151003, aerial image taken 2011.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

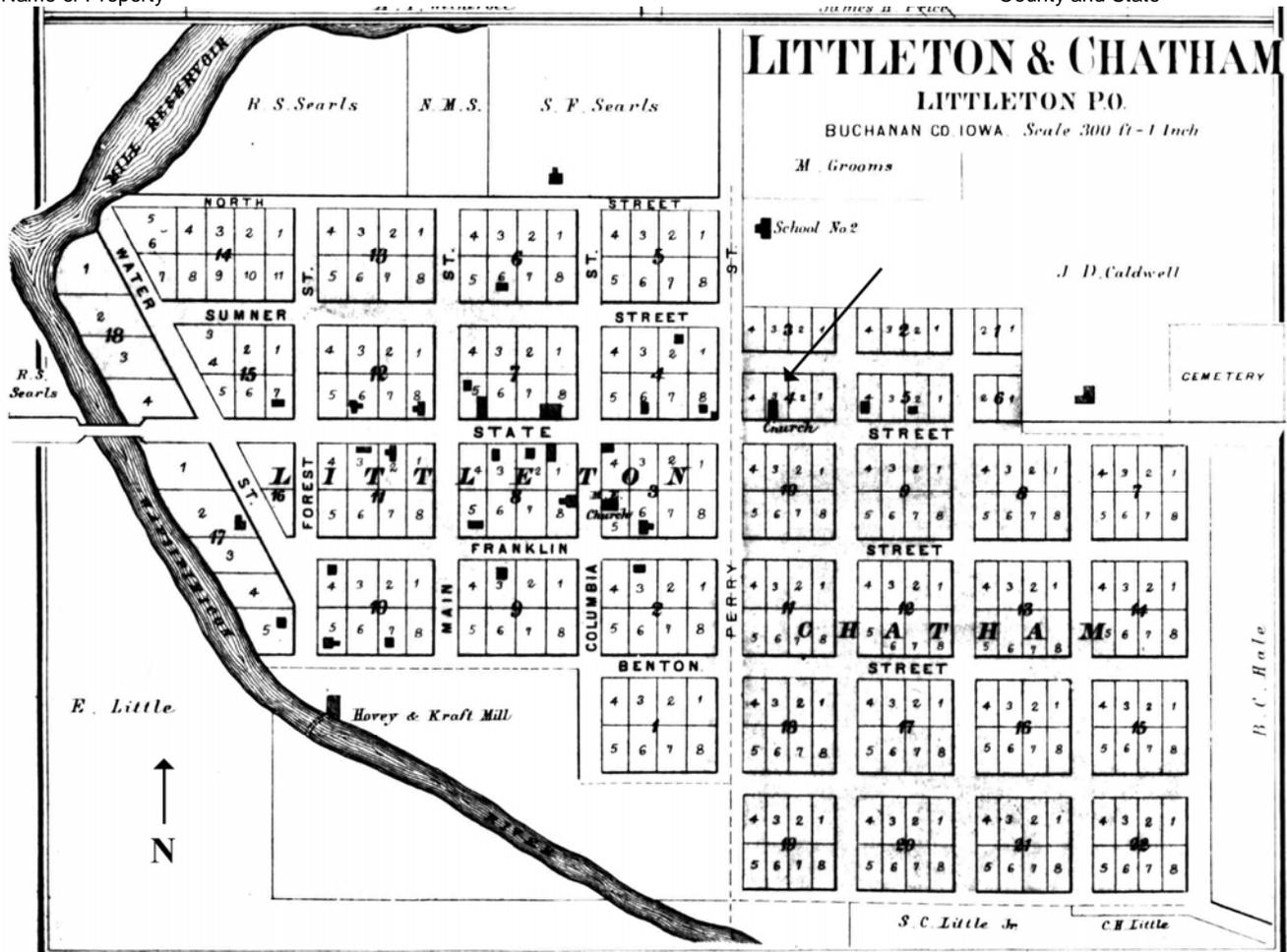
Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#14 - Site aerial showing the church and property in proximity to adjoining properties circa 2009. Bing Maps, Pictometry Bird's Eye (<http://bing.com/maps>: accessed 4 June 2014).

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#15 - Plat map of Littleton and Chatham showing the original Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church among other public and private buildings. *Plat Book of Buchanan County, Iowa* (Minneapolis, Minn.: Geo. E. Warner & C. M. Foote, 1886), 21, Littleton and Chatham.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

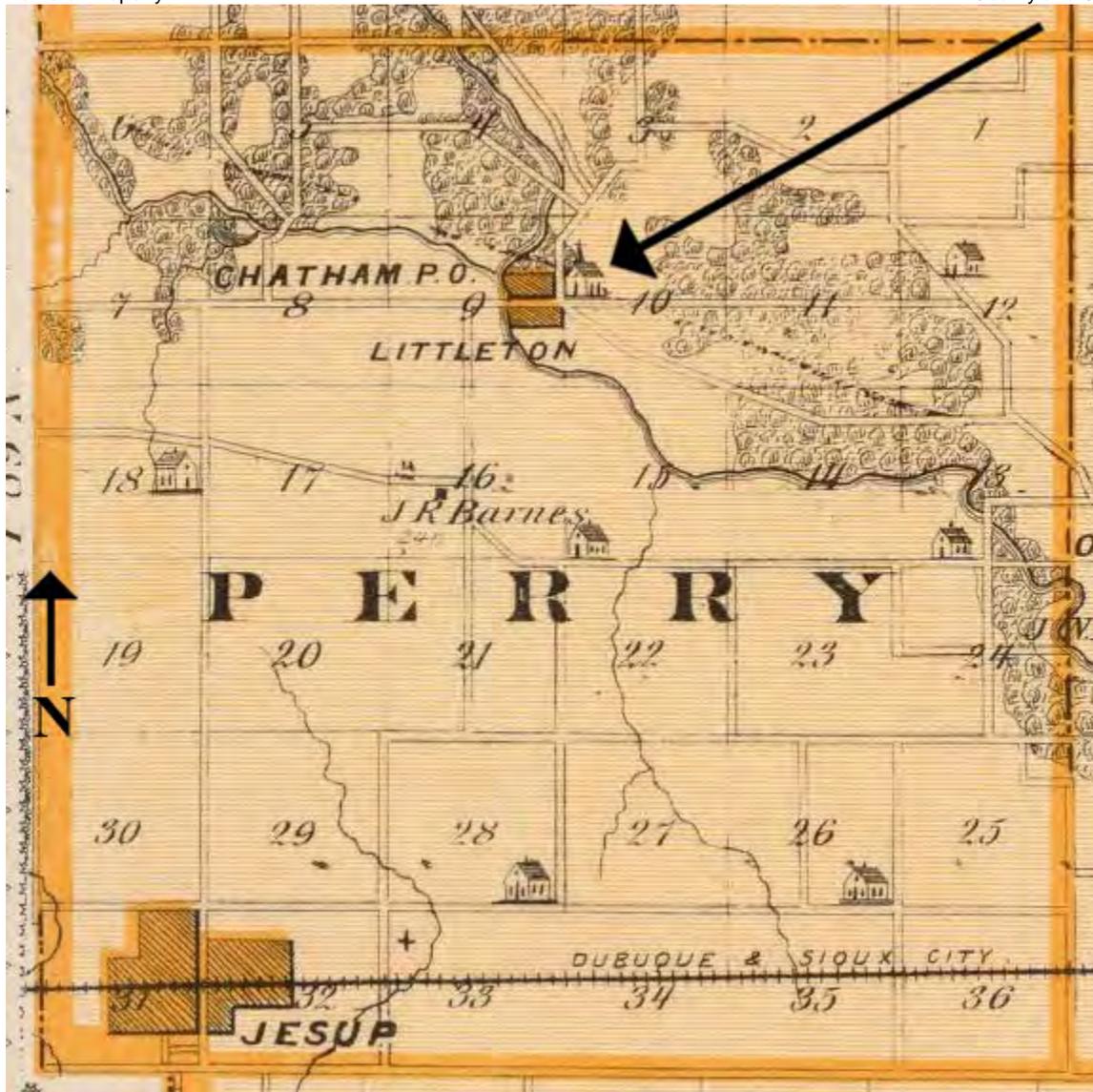
Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#16 - Aerial of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church shown in context to the majority of the villages of Littleton and Chatham. Digitally photographed by Anthony Bengston, May 3, 2009.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

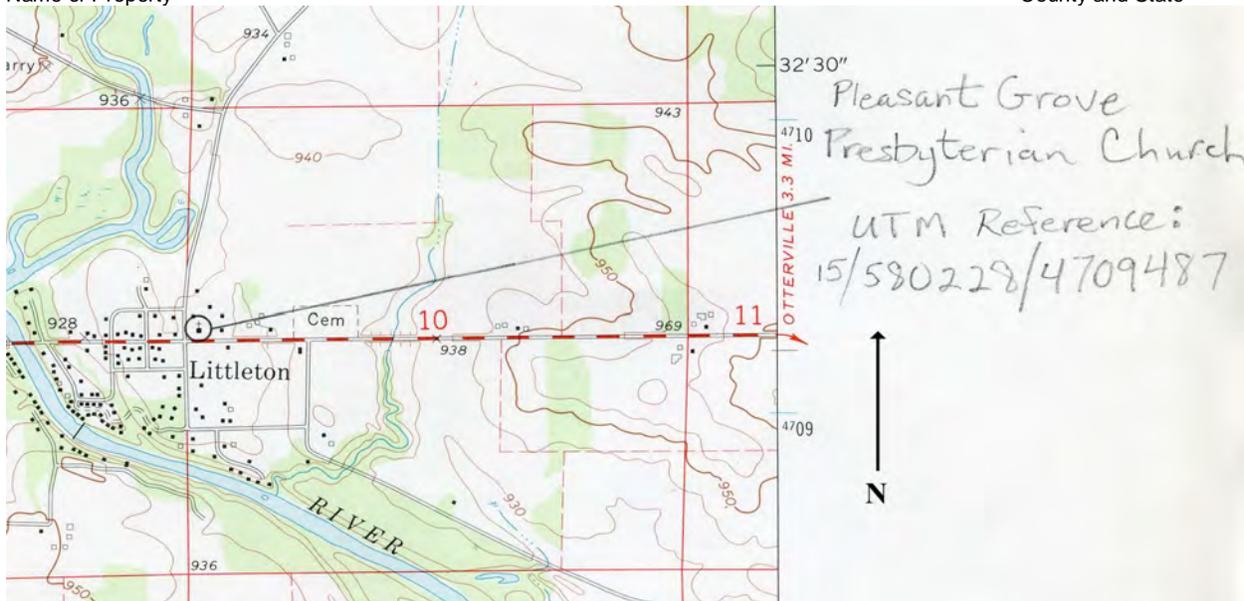
Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#17 - Perry Township, with the original Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church depicted. A.T. Andreas' *illustrated historical atlas of the State of Iowa*, 1875, online images, David Rumsey Historical Map Collection (<http://www.davidrumsey.com>: accessed 24July2014), Map of Buchanan County, State of Iowa.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#18 – Topographical map, Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church denoted with cross in Section 10 of Perry Township. UTM reference: 15/580228/4709487.



Figure#19 – Sanctuary of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church circa 1975. Photo property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#20 – Sanctuary of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in 1955. Photo property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.



Figure#21– Basement of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church circa 1955. Photo property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Buchanan County, Iowa
County and State



Figure#22– Basement of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church circa 1955. Photo property of the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society.



PLEASANT GROVE
**Presbyterian
Church**
Sunday 9:00 AM

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/25/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/19/2017 Date of 16th Day: 10/4/2017 Date of 45th Day: 10/10/2017 Date of Weekly List: 10/5/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 10/4/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

CHRIS KRAMER, ACTING DIRECTOR



August 18, 2017

IOWA ARTS
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE HISTORIC SITES

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmarks
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

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

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church

The church is being nominated locally as an unusual example of architectural design. The church displays a form that might be mistaken for a schoolhouse with the Gothic style windows of a church. This unique style, alongside the addition of the gothic windows and similarities to a schoolhouse meets Criterion C. While simple in design, this architecture from the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement adds to the community scene and shows how well the construction has stood over the years. The church serves as a valid, well preserved specimen of these architectural traits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Sadowsky
State Historian
State Historical Society of Iowa

Enclosures.