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## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations or individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property			
Historic name	Fairmount Congregational C	hurch	
Other name/site number	173-5880-3389		
2. Location			
Street & number 16	650 North Fairmount		not for publication
	/ichita		vicinity
State Kansas Code	KS County Sedgwick	Code 173	Zip code 67208
3. State/Federal Agency Ce	rtification		
☐ request for determination  Historic Places and meets  ☐ meets ☐ does not meets	on of eligibility meets the documentathe procedural and professional requet the National Register criteria. I represent the National Register Communication is all Title	ation standards for re juirements set forth i ecommend that this	ded, I hereby certify that this  nomination egistering properties in the National Register of a 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property property be considered significant comments.)
State or Federal agency an	d bureau		•
In my opinion, the property Comments.)	meets does not meet the N	ational Register crite	ria. ( See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of commenting or	fficial /Title	Date	_
State or Federal agency an	d bureau		
National Park Service Certifica	ation )		
I herby certify that the property is  entered in the National R See continuation s determined eligible for th Register See continuation s determined not eligible for National Register removed from the Nation Register other, (explain:)	degister. sheet e National sheet.	ignature of the Keep	Date of Action

Name of Property: Fairmount Co	County and State: Sedgwick County, Kansas				
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) count.)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resoui		Property clude previously listed res	ources in the
private public-local public-State public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object			Noncontributing	buildings sites structures objects total
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a	multiple property listing.)	<del></del>			
Previously listed in the National Reg See Continuation Sheet N/A		National Re	outing resources previou gister -	usly listed	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)		Current Functi (Enter categorie		ctions)	
RELIGION: religious facility		RELIGION	l: religious f	acility	
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		<b>/laterials</b> Enter categories from in	structions)		
LATE VICTORIAN: Richardsoniar	n Romanesque F	Foundation: STON	<u> </u>		
		Walls: BRICK  Roof: ASPHALT			
	_(	Other: WOOD: Wea	atherboard;	shingle	

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

Name of Property: Fairmount Congregational Church	County and State: Sedgwick County, Kansas
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Natonal Register	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
_	ARCHITECTURE
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history	COMMUNICATIONS
☐ <b>B</b> Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
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.	Period of Significance
D Property has yielded, or likely to yield,	1910 to 1955
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
	Significant Dates
Property is:	1910, 1920
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.     B removed from it original location.	
C a birthplace or grave.	Significant Person
D a cemetery.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
☐ F a commemorative property.	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	
	Architect/Builder
	Stringfield, William R.
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or	more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:    preliminary determination of individual lising (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	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
Record #	

Name of Prope	rty: Fairmount Congregational Church		County	and State: Sedgwid	ck County, Kansas
10. Geographic	al Data				
Acreage of Property	y less than one				
UTM References (Place additional UTI	M references on a continuation sheet.)				
Zone Easting 14S 650123	Northing <u>4175397</u>				
		See con	tinuation sheet		
<b>/erbal Boundary Des</b> Describe the boundarie	cription es of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification Explain why the bound	n laries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepare	d By				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Name/title	Kathy L. Morgan, Senior Planner, Jean	ne deGrasse, Barb	ara Hammono	and Dr. George P	latt
Organization	City of Wichita Historic Preservation Of		July 23, 200		
Street & number	er 455 N. Main, 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor	Telephor	e <u>316-26</u>	3-4421	
City or town	Wichita	State K	ansas	Zip code	67202-1688
Additional Docum	nentation		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Submit the following iter	ms with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets					
Maps	A <b>USGS map</b> (7.5 or 15 minute series) indi	icating the property'	s location.		
	A <b>Sketch map</b> for historic districts and prop	perties having large	acreage or no	ımerous resources	
hotographs	Representative black and white photogra	i <b>nhs</b> of the property			
Additional items	noprosontative black and write priotogra	ibile of the broberty	•		
Check with SHPO or F	PO for any additional items)				
roperty Owner					
name _	Fairmount United Church of Christ Congrega	ational		# · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 -
street & number	er1650 North Fairmount	telephone	316-682-28	00	
city or town	Wichita	state	KS	zip code	67208
	Act Statement: This information is being collected for				

**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

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Section \_\_7 Page \_\_1

Fairmount Congregational Church
Name of property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

LATE VICTORIAN: Richardsonian Romanesque

#### **Architectural Description Overview**



This vernacular Richardsonian Romanesque church was built in 1910, encompassing, as its south wing, the structure of an older church building, the Mayflower Congregational Church (1887-1894) that had been moved to the site in 1907. They selected William R. Stringfield<sup>1</sup> as the architect and his first drawings were published in November of 1909<sup>2</sup>. Estimated cost at that time was \$10,000, which was finalized at \$15,000. The congregation dedicated the completed church in September 1911.

The building is brick veneer and measures 82 feet by 85 feet. The brick veneer is laid in a running bond pattern. It has a full basement with concrete walls and floor. The basement walls extend above grade to form the water table, which is separated from the façade by

a limestone belt course. The church has a steeply pitched cross-gabled roof with a lower gable wing on the south and two lower gable wings on the west elevation. The gable ends have deep cornice returns. Two asymmetrical towers with flared eaves punctuate the opposite ends of the east elevation. Straight run stairs with concrete wing walls lead up to the entrances in the towers. There are two, two-story round arched stained glass windows in the east and north elevation with round arched louvered vents above the stained glass windows. All original window openings remain with the exception of a round arched window on the south elevation where the elevator addition was built. The windows have modern aluminum storms. The church underwent both exterior and interior renovation during 1987-88. The exterior red brick was painted white and inside the choir loft was separated from the nave by a continuous choir rail and white-painted paneling.

#### East Façade

The church is oriented to Fairmount Street and contains a front facing gable with two asymmetrical wood sided towers. The two-story stained glass window is a memorial to Nathan Jackson Morrison. The south tower is the shorter of the two and has paired stained glass wood sash windows with a shed window hood with curved consoles on the east and south side of the tower and square wood shingle siding. Double paneled solid wood doors with a wood panel transom open out to enter into the vestibule. Above the paired windows is a continuous lintel and material change to narrow wood lap siding. Oculus louvered vents with four keystone details are centered above the paired windows on the east and south elevation of the tower. The pyramidal roof has a flared eave. A gabled wing extends

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stringfield was born in McClain County Illinois in 1865. No death date has been confirmed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Wichita Beacon. October 9, 1909, pg 2.

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off the south end of the building. There is a one-story room with a deck roof and chamfered corner to the south of the south tower. All of the windows in this room are stained glass wood sash. This room was originally a chapel and now serves as a nursery. There is an exterior access door to this room on the south side of the south tower landing. There is a covered stairwell on the east side of the one-story room that leads to the basement. The door is on the south end of the structure.

The north tower is the taller of the two. It has paired stained glass wood sash windows on the east and north elevation. The exterior cladding of the tower is running bond brick veneer up to the shed window hood. From the bottom of the scrolled consoles on the shed window hood up to the sill of the triple round arched louvered vents is square shingle siding. The louvered vents occur on the east, north and west side of the tower. The cladding from the louvered vents to the eave is narrow wood lap siding. The entrance to the tower has a soldier course lintel above the wood panel transom. The entrance doors are the same as in the south tower.

#### South Façade



The south elevation has a center gable wing flanked by one-story deck roof wings. There is a horizontal stained glass window in the one-story room to the east of the center gable. The west one-story wing has two, stained glass wood sash windows. An elevator addition begins at grade and extends up to the first floor and is centered in the gable end. There were originally four round arched, four-light half-circle windows over six-over-nine wood sash windows. The two middle windows were closed to create the wall and the western-most window was taken out for the elevator door opening. Two of the windows remain, one on each side of the addition. The addition has a hipped shed roof. There is square shingle siding surrounding the gable wing where it attaches to the south cross gable.

#### West Façade

There are two asymmetrical lower gable wings off the west elevation. The south gable wing is the smaller of the two and has stained glass wood sash windows in all sides of the wing. The gable has deep cornice returns. There is a stained glass wood sash window between the two wings, one bearing the initials "FCL." The water table has five one-over-one wood sash windows. The north gable wing has a one-story chamfered corner brick wing with no windows and a hipped shed roof. To the north of this wing is a stained glass wood sash window that is a memorial to Margaret Capsey (1835-1912).

#### North Façade

The stained glass window in the gable end is dedicated to William, Henry Isley, the first Dean of Fairmount College. There are nine one-over-one wood sash windows in the water table that provide light into the basement. There is a stained glass wood sash window in the north wall of the northern-most lower gable west wing.

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#### Interior

Typical of many Protestant churches built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the design is based on an Akron plan of church architecture in which the interior is wider than it is long. Seating for the congregation is arranged in a half-circle with the raised platform for the pulpit in the middle. The nave features a raked floor, descending moderately toward the platform. The portion of the building that was the old Mayflower Church is separated from the main auditorium by moveable partitions (installed in 1958), and it contains a large meeting room (the Wells Room) plus a small kitchen and a room first used as a chapel and later as a nursery.

The two vestibules open into the assembly hall/sanctuary. The stairway to the balcony is located next to the south vestibule. The nursery, originally a chapel opens off the south vestibule. The east stained glass windows have been covered with a false wall. The lecture hall can be separated from the assembly hall/sanctuary by accordion doors. A kitchen, originally the pastor's study, is located to the west of the lecture hall. There is access to the basement from the hallway between the pastor's study and the stairway up to the pulpit and choir loft.

The assembly hall space has a groin-vaulted ceiling and measures 50 by 36 feet. The ceiling is beaded board with a clear varnish finish. To the east of the assembly hall is 39 by 18 feet room, which is directly beneath the balcony. The church seats approximately 1,000 people. Interior features include a modified groin-vaulted sanctuary ceiling executed in narrow bead board with raised beams, a second floor balcony spans the space between the two towers and accesses a room in each tower, stained glass windows throughout with dedications on three, and a finished basement for functions. It has a concrete basement with a dining room (69 by 41 feet), kitchen/serving room, separate cloakrooms and restrooms for the men and women, and boiler room. Three stairways lead from the basement to the main auditorium<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Wichita Beacon. October 9, 1909. pg 2.

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#### Statement of Significance Overview

The Fairmount Congregational Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** because of its architectural integrity and the fact that it represents the work of William R. Stringfield, an architect who designed several of Wichita's churches and two permanent structures at the original Wichita Zoo.

The building is also being nominated under **Criterion A** due to its association with Reverend Clayton B. Wells who instilled an unusual idea in the mind of local entrepreneur Charles Stanley during the earliest days of radio broadcasting. Stanley credited Wells with developing the idea to broadcast religious radio programs.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Criterion C: Architecture**

The Fairmount Congregational Church is a vernacular interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style using brick and wood shingle that creates a unique appearance. Henry Hobson Richardson (1836-1886) adapted the Romanesque Style popularized by James Renwick (1818-1895). The Romanesque Revival style was used from 1840 to 1880 primarily for churches, libraries, courthouses, and universities, but included some large homes. Richardson's work was popular in America from 1880 through the turn of the century. Two square, asymmetrical towers of differing heights, a flight of steps entering through each tower, a large central worship hall/ sanctuary with two, two-story arched stained glass windows, and a single-story extension on the southeast identify the major elements of the style. Interior features include a modified groin-vaulted sanctuary ceiling in narrow bead board with raised beams, a second floor choir loft spans the space between the two towers and accesses a room in each tower, stained glass windows throughout with dedications on most, and a finished basement for functions. Typical of the style, the church has a steeply pitched cross-gabled roof with lower gable wings and towers with flared eaves and round arched windows<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Charles A. Stanley, "Enter – The Radio Preacher: How a Preacher in Wichita, Kansas, Broadcasts Sermons Via Radio" *Radio News*, November, 1920, pages 270, 312. Accessible online at <a href="http://earlyradiohistory.us/19209BW.htm">http://earlyradiohistory.us/19209BW.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Cyril M. Harris. American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia. pg 276-277.

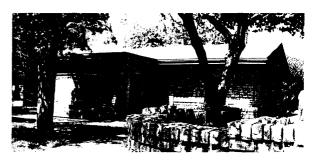
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#### The Architect

William R. Stringfield (1865-?) came to Wichita at the age of 43 and lived here between 1908 and 1911. Although his career here was brief, on his arrival he placed ads for his services in the Wichita City Directories of 1908 and 1909 and quickly established himself in business in the Winne Building where prominent Wichita architect, U.G. Charles also maintained an office. From the beginning Stringfield apparently gained a reputation as a designer of church buildings. In addition to the extant Fairmount Congregational Church, documentation of known structures attributes three other church-related projects to him. They include the College Hill Congregational Church at First Street and Clifton Avenue (1909), Grace Presbyterian Church at 124 Cleveland Avenue (1909), and a Sunday School addition to the College Hill United Presbyterian Church at First Street





and Green Avenue (1911). Also in that year the Wichita Park Commissioner contracted with Stringfield to design two public structures (pictured above) that were to become noteworthy Wichita landmarks for the next 50 years. Many local residents have fond memories of the zoological building in Central Riverside Park that housed animals such as tigers, lions, apes, and monkeys. Equally memorable, and significant for its architecture, was the permanent concession building at the zoo with its Japanese pagoda-style roof (bottom photo). Documentation also shows that Stringfield produced at least one commercial structure, a two-story garage building at 217 South Emporia (1909). Why he left Wichita in 1912, and where he went are unknown. An obituary or death date has not been found.

#### **Historic Context**

The church entity that came to be known as the Fairmount Congregational Church was the result of the founding of Fairmount College, now Wichita State University, in 1887. Fairmount College was founded by Reverend Joseph Homer Parker, the first "called" pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Wichita. Fairmount was to be a Congregational school for women, patterned after the New England liberal arts colleges. Construction began on the main building in 1887, but the financial "crash" of the 1880s, which hit Wichita particularly hard, stopped all plans for the College. It finally opened in 1892 as

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a co-educational academy, Fairmount Institute. In 1895 the original dreams of the founders were realized, and Fairmount College, a co-educational Congregational institution, began operation.

An essential component for a New England college was a college church, and Reverend Parker's early plans included one. Wichita already had three Congregational churches – Plymouth, Olivet and Mayflower – and the Congregational Home Mission Society strongly opposed a fourth. This did not discourage Parker, and he organized Fourth Church at 15<sup>th</sup> and Tyler (now Grove) Avenue. At that time there were only a few families living on Fairmount Hill so the church was located several blocks to the west. It was Parker's intention that as soon as the College started, the church would move to Fairmount Hill.

By the time the Institute opened in 1892, the number of families on Fairmount Hill had grown. Reverend R.M. Tunnell, Principal of the Institute, organized religious meetings at the school. Fourth Church disbanded and Fairmount Congregational Church was formally organized in 1892. Fairmount Church rented the old Fourth Church building, but that structure was sold in 1895, and the church moved to a brick store building at the southeast corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Vassar Avenue. This structure (which was later owned by Fairmount College and used as a boys' dormitory called Rugby Hall) was not well suited for a church. In 1896 Fairmount Church secured a plot of ground at the current 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Fairmount location and began planning for a new building.

By 1897, the building boom of the late 1880s had turned bust and many buildings in the once-fashionable Fairview and Park Place neighborhood were abandoned. The Mayflower Congregational Church building was one such structure. Instead of erecting a new building on their site, the Fairmount congregation purchased the Mayflower structure and moved the building 2 ½ miles directly east from Fairview Avenue to Fairmount Avenue. While the church was being readied for use, the members moved out of the store building and met in the chapel of Fairmount College for a few months. Ultimately, they worshipped in the newly situated Mayflower building for the next eleven years.

The Fairmount congregation grew and flourished and the old structure became outdated. They voted in 1909 to either enlarge the building or to raze it and construct a new one. They selected William R. Stringfield as the architect and he proposed to incorporate the old building into a major new church edifice. His drawing was published in October of 1909. It utilized the old building as a south wing that would contain a meeting room (the Wells Room), a small kitchen and a chapel (later converted into a nursery). Estimated costs were \$10,000, which later grew to \$15,000. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 10, 1910, and the completed church was dedicated in September 1911.

Since 1911 church members and their families and friends have worshiped in the building. Close ties were maintained with Fairmount College, which became the Municipal University of Wichita in 1926 and Wichita State University in 1964. All of Fairmount's presidents were Congregational ministers, and the

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church was a "second home" for many faculty members who lived on the Hill. Reverend A.P. Solandt, minister from 1903 to 1907, also served the college as Professor of French Language and Literature and Director of Bible Studies. Reverend B.C. Wells served from 1911 to 1926, and was a member of the faculty. He married the widow of Dean Isely, and as noted by C.M. Correll, "together they built for themselves a place of great significance in the community as well as in the church." When Fairmount Hall burned in 1929, the church housed classes and other activities until new space was constructed on campus.

A news article in 1944 announced that a campaign had been started to raise \$25,000 to tear down the church and erect a new structure plus an education building. The new edifice was never constructed; however, in 1953 a new religious education facility was completed across Fairmount Avenue from the church. John Hickman of the well-known architectural firm of Thomas and Harris designed the building. Hickman had been a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the education building is an excellent example of Prairie architecture. Hickman later designed Century II, the Wichita civic center, two buildings on the University campus, a Wichita public school and many other buildings in Wichita.

#### Criterion A: Reverend Wells' Good Idea

Many pastors served Fairmount Congregational Church, but it was Reverend L.C. Markham who was credited with the bulk of the effort to achieve a new building for the church. However, he resigned his post shortly before its completion and Reverend Clayton B. Wells of Dallas, Texas succeeded him in 1911. Mr. Wells was a widower when he came to Wichita and he soon married the widow of Professor W.H. Isely, the first Dean of Fairmount College. Mr. and Mrs. Wells served the church and community from 1911 to 1926, when he retired. The church was reluctant to lose his guidance and honored him as "Pastor Emeritus". He continued until his death to advise and council with his beloved group. It was Reverend Wells who connected the church on Fairmount Avenue to a venture in radio that would have future implications.

Radio history began in 1897 when Guglielmo Marconi experimented with sending radio signals. Radio experiments also took place in the United States, building on Marconi's pioneering efforts. Most radio transmissions occurred between operators who sold parts for wireless instruments and people who purchased receiver sets, such as jewelers who needed to receive correct time signals. There were others also, who participated simply because they were fascinated with the new technology. After World War I, civilian radio restrictions were relaxed and operators saw possibilities for expanding the use of radio by transmitting radio news and data that might be of interest to other amateurs and experimenters. In radio parlance of the time, this use was known as a "QST", i.e., a general information broadcast of interest to all. Beginning in 1919, this experimentation accelerated in local receiving areas across the country with bits of weather reports, news items, and musical entertainment.

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Among the early wireless pioneers was Charles Stanley, who came to Wichita to work for Kansas Gas & Electric Company in 1905. In 1915 he built a wireless station (WQM) at KG&E. His activities were suspended during World War I when amateur radio broadcasting was declared illegal. After the war, he set up an amateur station (9AXE) in his home at 1725 Fairmount Avenue. He began to transmit a daily QST from that location in 1919 with the help of fourteen-year-old Ted Combs as the operator.

Stanley published the following note in *Radio News* of November 1920 about an incident that led to a custom that continues today in modern radio and television communication.

On a certain Sunday evening in May [1919], as I sat in my station ready to send out my evening "QST", Dr. C. B. Wells, who by the way, is teacher of Bible at Fairmount College as well as pastor of the Fairmount Congregational Church, chanced to pass, droppt into the station, took me to task for not having attended morning service, and then and there suggested that the use of the radio station on the Lord's day should henceforth be devoted to the Lord's work. I immediately took down Dr. Wells' sermon and transmitted it to the hundreds of stations within hearing; and it has now become an established practice to send out these sermons every Sunday evening at 7:30. Letters of appreciation addressed to the "Radio Preacher" and the "Wireless Parson" have been received from all parts of the middle west. <sup>6</sup>

Thus, Reverend Wells, with the help of Stanley, was able to "preach" in Morse code to 1000 wireless operators who lived within a 500-mile radius of Wichita. Some of them transcribed the sermons and posted them in public places to be shared with those who did not have radios.

In 1920 Stanley built a new continuous wave transmitter. It was a low-powered transmitter using four 5-watt vacuum tubes putting out about 10 watts for voice. He typically offered news and music on weekday evenings when people were most likely to be listening. On Sunday, May 2, 1920 Reverend Wells began a series of voice broadcasts of his evening sermons.

The independent nature of such local, independent broadcasts makes it difficult to sort out the conflicting claims about where in the United States the actual earliest broadcast took place. There is general conclusion among historians of religious broadcasting that the first "formal, allout religious program" was broadcast on January 2, 1921 over KDKA, the Westinghouse station in Pittsburgh. This Sunday evening service was transmitted from Calvary Episcopal Church.

Further research and argument might support a case that Reverend Wells was the first, but short of that, Kansans can be rightly proud that he was certainly one of the first preachers to send out

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Charles A. Stanley, "Enter – The Radio Preacher: How a Preacher in Wichita, Kansas, Broadcasts Sermons Via Radio" *Radio News*, November, 1920, pages 270, 312. Accessible online at <a href="http://earlyradiohistory.us/19209BW.htm">http://earlyradiohistory.us/19209BW.htm</a>.

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a regular religious message. The ultimate result was that the radio ministry brought rural and urban people together in ways not possible before. In addition to hearing the same news, market reports, music, and comedy programs, they also shared a common spiritual experience.

By 1922 C.A. Stanley had followed the radio "bug" to a commercial operation. He received the first license in Kansas to operate a station (WEY) in Wichita.

#### Summary

Fairmount Church is an excellent example of vernacular Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style and qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. Fairmount Church also qualifies for listing under Criterion A for communication in broadcasting. Reverend Clayton B. Wells, with the help of Charles Stanley, was able to send his religious message to the residents of Wichita and the surrounding region of southern Kansas in the early days of radio.

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Name of property

Sedgwick County, Kansas County and State

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 11 Fairmount Congregational Church
Name of property

Sedgwick County, Kansas County and State

Interview with Kenneth E. Brown, retired architect, member of Thomas and Harris architectural firm in 1953.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 12 Fairmount Congregational Church Sedgwice
Name of property Coun

Sedgwick County, Kansas County and State

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located at the southwest corner of Fairmount and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The legal description of the property is the lots 47-49-51-53, Fairmount Addition.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This nomination includes the parcel of land historically associated with the resource.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Fairmount Congregational Church
Sedgwick County, Kansas
Kathy L. Morgan and Jeanne deGrasse, Photographers
Date of Photographs: August 2004 and August 2005
Location of digital images:
City of Wichita, Historic Preservation Office
455 N. Main, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor
Wichita, Kansas 67202-1688

- 1. Northeast corner elevation, looking SW
- 2. South tower detail, looking NW
- 3. South elevation, looking NW
- 4. Northwest corner elevation, looking SE
- 5. North elevation, looking south
- 6. Interior south vestibule, looking SE
- 7. Stained glass windows in nursery, looking south
- 8. Sanctuary, looking SW into lecture hall
- 9. Sanctuary, looking east into balcony
- 10. Beaded board and beamed ceiling, looking north
- 11. Stairway up to balcony, looking SE