1 NAME

DATA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TH

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

693898

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 1 9 1978

1979 FED 1 DATE ENTERED

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

AND/OR COMMON	/			
The Congregational Church of Blair			(WN02-2)	
LOCATION	J			
STREET & NUMBER	2			
16th	& Colfax Sts.		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
Blair	•	VICINITY OF	Second	
state Nebra	acka	CODE 031	COUNTY Washington	CODE 097 /77
CLASSIFIC			washington	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
			AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME Board	F PROPERTY of Trustees, Congrega	tional Church of B	Jair	/
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7' DESCRIPTION

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EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	Xoriginal	SITE
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FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Congregational Church of Blair is a small Carpenter Gothic style church built in 1874 to the designs of Charles F. Driscoll, an Omaha architect, by George Sutherland, a local builder. Several of the elements of the Carpenter Gothic style are present in the building, i.e. board and batten siding and simple lancet windows which are free of tracery except in the front door fanlight. The details at the cornice line are quite elaborate. A series of pointed arches spring from the top of the battens and encircle the building. The cornice of the east and vestibule gables are decorated with wooden fretwork in a geometric pattern (see photo #4). A small belfry is atop the front (east) gable.

The character of the church has been maintained in the later additions to the structure by the board and batten siding and lancet windows in each addition. The lecture room extension to the south was built in 1884 and used primarily for Sunday School space. In 1908, a choir loft was added behind the pulpit. At the same time, the basement was excavated and a concrete block foundation installed which raised the building 27 inches. The exterior entrance to the basement was also installed. Rooms behind the choir loft were added in 1957 as Sunday School rooms (two on first floor and two in the basement).

The exposed scissors-truss roof of the nave was reinforced in 1969 with tie rods at the two center spans. The sanctuary retains its simplicity even though it has been remodelled several times and few, if any, original furnishings remain.

A historical marker honoring the church was placed on the east lawn by the congregation and the Nebraska State Historical Society.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1874	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Architect: C.F	•

Builder: George Sutherland, Blair

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Congregational Church of Blair is architecturally significant to Nebraska as one of the few Carpenter Gothic style churches known in the State. It is the only non-Episcopalian church in the style currently known, which is not surprising, because of architect Richard Upjohn's encouragement of Carpenter Gothic chapels for small Episcopal congregations through his book, Rural Architecture (1852). However, in light of the historical religious differences between the Congregationalists and the Episcopalian/Anglicans, it is somewhat unusual, but not unknown, for the church to use the style. The building exhibits several characteristics (the board and batten siding, lancet windows and fretwork decoration) of the Carpenter Gothic style which is the wooden version of the Early Gothic Revival style.

Eight charter members organized the church on February 10, 1870, eleven months after the town was platted and lots sold. In 1874, the congregation requested that two architects, A. Roberts and C. F. Driscoll, submit plans for a building and each were paid 25 dollars. Driscoll's plans were accepted and George Sutherland erected the building. It was dedicated November 22, 1874. Little is known about the architect, Charles F. Driscoll. A native of New Jersey, he practiced in Omaha from 1872-97 and designed many buildings in surrounding towns, including the Ideal Steam Laundry, Fremont, (National Register of Historic Places).

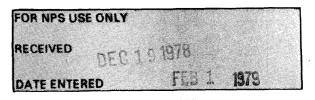
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

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Nebraska State H	listorical Socie	ty	December, 1978 TELEPHONE
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CITY OR TOWN	<u></u>		STATE
Lincoln			Nebraska
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1. Charles	adm	\frown	DATE 2.1.77
ATTEST: William H. Bra	GISTER /	.31.29	DATE
CHIEF OF REGIST RATION			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

- Blair Congregational Church, Board of Trustees Minutes. Manuscript filed with State Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society (MS. 545).
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- O'Hanlon, Lozein Rhoades. "The First Congregational Church, Blair, Nebraska." <u>Centennial Celebration of the Blair Congregational</u> Church, United Church of Christ. Blair, Nebraska, 1970.

Jipp, Edwin T. "A Footnote to History" ibid.

Poppeliers, John, S. Allen Chambers, Nancy B. Schwartz. <u>What Style</u> Is It? Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1976-77.