



Nebraska State HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Here open to all is the history of this people.

December 12, 2025

Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Program
1849 C Street, NW (7228)
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Property in Nebraska

Dear Ms. Beasley,

This submittal contains a true and correct copy of the nomination for the First Congregational Christ located in Geneva, NE, to the National Register of Historic Places. It is being resubmitted following revision based on comments received from the National Park Service.

Notification

The property owner(s) was (were) notified of the proposed nomination on December 11, 2024.

- No objections to the nomination were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office during the public comment period.
- An objection to the nomination was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office during the public comment period.
- A letter of support for the nomination was submitted to the State Preservation Office during the public comment period.

Certified Local Government

- The nominated property is not located in a CLG community.
- The nominated property is located in a CLG community and a copy of the local commission's review is attached.

Historic Tax Credits

- The federal historic tax credit is being used in the rehabilitation of this property.

NPS Grant-Funded Submissions

- Not funded with an NPS grant
- African American Civil Rights Grant
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities Grant

- History of Equal Rights Grant
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
- Save America's Treasures Grant
- Semiquincentennial Grant
- Tribal Heritage Grant
- Underrepresented Communities Grant

State Review Board

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board reviewed the draft nomination materials at its meeting on January 31, 2025. The Board voted that the property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criteria A and C. The State Historic Preservation Officer has approved the nomination.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at michael.belding@nebraska.gov or (402) 613-1591.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Belding III
National Register and Historic Markers Coordinator
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
michael.belding@nebraska.gov
Phone: 402-613-1591

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: First Congregational Church

Other names/site number: FM05-018

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 906 H St.

City or town: Geneva State: NE County: Fillmore

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification


As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

	12/12/2025
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer	Nebraska State Historical Society
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

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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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public – Local	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public – State	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public – Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: BRICK
Roof: ASPHALT

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

First Congregational Church of Geneva stands on a flat, double lot 0.41 acres in area (ninety-six feet deep by 184 feet long) at the northeast corner of an intersection in downtown Geneva, Fillmore County, Nebraska. Construction of its earliest portions (the sanctuary, kitchen, and fellowship hall) began in 1925 and was completed in 1926. It was built of Indiana red face brick on a cast-in-place concrete foundation. It appears in a modest Late Gothic Revival style that displays elements of the late Victorian Romanesque Revival and late Gothic Revival styles. An education wing was added on the north side of the original church in 1960 and the sanctuary remodeled in 1967. The building is in excellent condition and retains all aspects of integrity.

Narrative Description

Building Exterior

Massing

The church consists of three primary sections: the sanctuary, the original kitchen and Sunday school space, and the education and office wing that was added in 1960. These follow one another sequentially from south to north. The sanctuary is most prominent, being located on the corner of both H and Ninth Streets. It is rectangular in shape and oriented from east to west, with gable ends on those façades and longer side façades on the north and south. On the west façade, a connecting space leads from the sanctuary north to the pastor's office, kitchen, and fellowship hall. This second section is much shorter but also rectangular and oriented from east to west, giving the original church building an essentially symmetrical U-shape (squared off and rotated 90 degrees clockwise), although the connecting space protrudes forward to the sidewalk. The 1960 addition was built northwards from the back (east) half of the 1926 building's

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secondary space, leaving a lawn at the northwestern quarter of the property. Overall, the building's exterior walls consist of Indiana red face brick trimmed in limestone.

Foundation and Basement

The church was built on a foundation of cast-in-place concrete walls set on spread footings. For all walls the bottom of these footings reach to various depths below grade, while the exterior walls of the building extend to three-and-one-half to four feet below grade. The only basement area of the church is an eight-foot-tall space under the east end of the sanctuary, at the southeast of the church. The remaining areas are crawl spaces or slabs on grade. Exterior concrete walls are 13 inches thick with supporting walls from six to eight inches in thickness.¹

Sanctuary

Located at the south end of the property, along both H and Ninth Streets, the sanctuary of the church rises two stories in height. A portal on the west (Ninth Street) façade provides access, with both stairs and a handicap-accessible ramp, to the space that connects the sanctuary and secondary spaces. Two doors and four windows divide the south (H Street) façade into six bays. A window in the center of the east facade, whose shape matches that of the four on the south façade, illuminates the altar space. At night, the window on the east and the windows on the south are illuminated. On the west, a much larger opening illuminates the narthex (foyer) on the first story and, above it, the choir loft. It is flanked by two much smaller rectangular windows on the first story.

The church's portals, buttresses, windows, and parapets give the building a modest Late Gothic Revival style. A portal at the west end of the south (H Street) façade provides direct access to the narthex (foyer). Along with one other entrance on the south side and four window openings, it divides the sanctuary's south elevation into six bays. At the east end of the south façade a short staircase leads down to a door that opens onto the basement below the east end of the sanctuary. Between these two doors at the end of the south side the wall is pierced by four large decorative colored glass windows. As will be explained in Section 8, below, these depict religious emblems and scenes from the biblical scriptures. An exterior buttress between each bay and, for the doors, at the outer end of the opening provides further visual interruption on the exterior and demarcates the wall's six intervals.

All buttresses are brick and capped with limestone blocks. The buttresses flanking the portal at the southwestern corner, however, are treated differently than those of (from left to right) bays three through six. The stone caps of both the taller, inner segment and the shorter, outer segment of each of the latter buttresses are slope outwards and downwards, to the south. The taller portions buttresses flanking the portal share this design. Their shorter portions, however, are topped with stone gablets whose two sides slope downwards towards the east and west, or left and right of the doorway. Additionally, three bricks laid in soldier course are set into the face of each gablet. The lower portions of the buttresses flanking the portal are the only instance

¹ XII Stones, Inc., *Limited Building & Investigation & Evaluation Report* (Lincoln, NE: Architecture and Planning, 2015), 9.

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of English bond's use on the south façade. Similarly, the buttresses flanking the portal on the west façade are the only instance of English bond's use on that side.

A narrow lancet window pierces the south wall above the door to the basement under the east end of the sanctuary, farthest to the right. The four bays in the middle of the south wall are pierced by large window openings. Mullions subject these to many divisions, but their middle sections are elongated and the three windows within terminate in ogee four-centered arches. The four window openings themselves are bounded at the top by four-centered arches. Above the portal at the left end of the south wall, between its flanking buttresses, a carved stone panel displays seven lancet arches into which are set unenclosed trefoils.

The portal at the west end of the south elevation, the two gable ends of the sanctuary, the portal on the west façade, and the two gable ends of the secondary section of the 1926 building are surmounted by square-ended parapets that follow the rise and run of the gable roofs behind them. The west façade is dominated by the two-story window opening in the center of the sanctuary's west wall. As on the south façade, mullions divide it into many sections horizontally as well as vertically. The lower band consists of four rectangular windows composed of numerous rectangular panes of leaded glass. Above each of these is a wood panel that sets within a rectangular frame an unenclosed trefoil. Finally, in the top half, elongated windows filled with leaded glass in a lattice arrangement rise to ogee three-point arches, which are then taken up to the brick four centered arch at the top of the opening with lancet arches.

Secondary Spaces

The pastor's office, kitchen, and fellowship hall (originally Sunday school room) of the 1926 building are north of the sanctuary, connected to it by a vestibule that projects forward from the primary plane of the west façade to the sidewalk on that side of the church. Behind this vestibule (to the east) a two-story enclosure houses the staircase to the choir loft in the sanctuary. The west façade of the church's secondary mass is opened by three windows: one small fixed window at the vestibule, a larger, centered, rectangular window that combines fixed and sash windows and is set under a stone drip mold, and an ordinary-sized sash window at left. Stone-capped buttresses border and set off the massing of the secondary spaces as they do for the sanctuary. The north façade of the secondary mass is pierced by four windows. At right (west) is a sash window matching that on the west façade. The three others share the four-centered-arch shape of those on the east, south, and west façades of the sanctuary but, befitting the mass's support functions and lower height, are smaller. As on the south façade, stepped buttresses accent the center of the wall between them. A fourth such window was originally built and still exists but is obscured from exterior view by the 1960 addition.

Church School Addition (1960)

The 1960 addition can be divided into two masses, which are approximately equal in length. Whereas the 1926 building's masses were oriented from east to west, the educational wing is oriented from north to south. Its southern half, connected to the 1926 building, is set back from the plane of the west façade of the 1926 building about half of the latter's depth. The northern part of the addition is set back a similar distance from the plane of the west façade of the

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addition's southern section. These setbacks leave a lawn at the northwestern quarter of the church property.

The addition is a one-story masonry building topped by a shingle gable roof of lower pitch than the earlier building. Originally, its roof was flat; the current roof design dates to 1986. The addition contains garden (basement) and first-floor levels. A sidewalk leads to its main entrance on the west façade from the public sidewalk on the west. The large entrance opening is filled with an aluminum door and window assembly and topped by a simple pentagonal pediment. The wall between the addition's entrance and the 1926 building is opened by two pairs of sash windows. Left (north) of the addition's entrance four-part metal windows, their lowest segment an operable hopper window, pierce the wall. As elsewhere on the exterior, stepped buttresses separate the bays. Finally, a recessed egress door is located at the far left (north) end of the west façade.

Handicapped Accessibility

In 2007, the congregation made the building handicapped accessible outside. Ramps and handrails were installed on the west entrance in both directions. The design is a visually pleasing solution to the mission of providing safe accessibility to the building.²

Building Interior

Sanctuary

Internally, the altar is located at the east end and narthex (foyer) at the west end. One portal at the west end of the church's south façade and a second on the west façade, between the sanctuary and secondary spaces, open onto the narthex, which serves as a greeting place before worship. Wood windows with clear glazing separate the narthex from the nave (sanctuary). These were installed as part of a substantial interior renovation in 1967 (described at greater length below, in Section 8, under Criterion C), which also replaced three sections of seating separated by two aisles with two sections of seating separated by one aisle, moved the pipe organ down from the choir loft's current location to the middle of the chancel, and built a choir loft beneath the church's east window. Double doors provide access to the sanctuary. The floor of the nave is carpeted concrete and slopes downward from the narthex (west) to the chancel (east), ending two feet lower than where it began. A shortened pew at the back of the sanctuary, just inside from the narthex, provides space for a wheelchair-bound visitor. At the east end, before the chancel, stands the communion table, accessible to worshippers during services.

The south wall of the sanctuary is opened by several large decorative windows depicting biblical scenes. The north wall, shared with the kitchen, balances the space with two blind windows opposite the middle two of the south wall's large decorative windows. At the east end of the nave, steps lead up to the chancel, which is furnished with a pulpit, lectionary, and a historic Reuter organ. Farthest east is the choir loft, illuminated by a large stained-glass window on the east, before which is suspended a gold cross. The choir loft is furnished on its north and south sides with pews for members of the choir, above which two organ chambers with wood balusters

² XII Stones, *Limited Building Investigation & Evaluation Report*, 16.

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provide volume control through their opening and closing. Chimes were added to the organ in 1951 and an additional pipe rank in 1976. The organ was completely restored in 2020.

The seating provided on the floor of the sanctuary is augmented by seating in the balcony, which is located above the narthex at the west end of the church. It is opened for funerals, weddings, and special occasions. The balcony also serves functional purposes as the location of equipment that operates the church's audio-visual systems, air conditioners installed after the sanctuary was renovated and re-dedicated in 1967, and lights to illuminate the large stained-glass window on the west end of the church. Heavy timbers organized into scissor trusses with cross purlins make up the roof structure above the nave. The ceiling was covered with gilded decorative paper during the circa 1967 renovation of the sanctuary to give it a lighter-colored appearance.

Handicap Accessibility

On each side of the west entrance doors are two bathrooms, men and women. In 2018, the women's bathroom was redesigned to be a unisex, handicap-accessible bathroom. A ramp was built into the narthex while leaving the original steps on the other half of the entrance.

Kitchen

Just north of the sanctuary, the kitchen still serves its original function. Through the years, the kitchen has been updated to allow for the needs of the church women and their mission projects—especially important to the church's history, as women's difficulty preparing food for church events motivated them to demand a new building in 1925—but many of the original cupboards remain. A door on each end of the kitchen provides access to the fellowship hall.

Fellowship Hall (originally Sunday School Room)

The rest of the 1926 building was designed to be used, as needed, as a fellowship hall or Sunday school room. A stage, removed in the early 1960s, was originally built at the east end of the room. It was also used as a kindergarten room. The larger portion of this section of the church was used as a fellowship hall. The fellowship hall was subdivided into its current form in conjunction with the addition in 1960 of a Sunday school wing to the north of the 1926 building and the subsequent removal of the stage. At its west end it provides the pastor's study and an informal lounge.

Integrity

The integrity of the church is almost entirely intact. Its location has remained the same. Its design is unaltered, and the one addition it received continues some of the original church's style. Its current setting near the middle of town at a fairly prominent intersection is consistent with its historic appearance. The materials that provide the church with its character-giving features remain prominent parts of it, their historic workmanship apparent. The historic feeling of the property is clear, as are its association with historic architecture and its association with the social life of the community broadly, beyond the members of the congregation.

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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.)

X	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.
X	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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

X	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.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926–1976

Significant Dates

1926

1951

1961

1967

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

—

Cultural Affiliation

—

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Architect/Builder

Eugene G. Groves (architect)
John Robinson & Co. (builder)³

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.)

First Congregational Church of Geneva, Nebraska (now First Congregational United Church of Christ) is historically significant at the local level to the period 1926–1976 under Criterion A in the area of Social History and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is significant to social history as the base of its congregation’s community outreach and involvement and as a gathering and educational space for the community at large. Architecturally, it is significant as a late example of the Gothic Revival style, which received meaningful utilitarian and artistic updates in the modern era. Although a religious property, built and used for a religious institution, the property is nominated only for its substantiated significance to Social History and Architecture and not as an endorsement of any religious belief, system, organization, or practice.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

“But One Thing Is Needed”: The Construction of a New Church⁴

By 1925, the frustration of the women of First Congregational Church in Geneva, Nebraska (now First Congregational United Church of Christ) had reached a turning point. The details of their church building have not survived, except that it was a wood-framed building whose sanctuary door and steeple were at its southwest corner, and that contained a small room that was used for serving refreshments (Figure 01).⁵

³ Earlier believed to be George Robinson, the builder is identified at *Fillmore Chronicle* (Fairmont, NE), Oct. 29, 1925, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

⁴ Luke 10:38–10:42 (New King James Version).

⁵ “Church Farewell,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), May 7, 1925, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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Figure 01: First Congregational Church's first building (detail; view toward the northeast)⁶

What the congregation's original church building did not contain was far more important. Food for church events had to be cooked in the parsonage next door and carried over to the church. For dinner to be served, they had to move the pews to the sanctuary sides to have room for their gathering. They called several men to the church. When the men asked, "what do you want"? The women responded, "We want a new church."⁷

The church formed a committee to explore replacing its existing building with a new one; soon it had hired architect Eugene G. Groves of Denver, Colorado. That same year, the old church was torn down. The church's oldest member and the largest donor for the new building, eighty-six-year-old Nancy Biggs, turned the first shovel of dirt at a groundbreaking ceremony attended by 200 people.⁸ During the construction of the new church, services were held in the historic city auditorium, diagonally across the street diagonally from the church.

As was common for substantial construction projects of the time, local newspapers narrated workers' progress. By the end of October 1925, the church had awarded its building

⁶ Photographic print attached to rear of earlier church's rose window, held in storage at the Geneva State Bank Building, Geneva, NE (Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office site number FM05-054, located on the northwest corner of G Street and N 9th Street).

⁷ "Geneva Congregational Church Observes Golden Anniversary," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Oct. 1, 1936, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁸ "Ground Breaking," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), July 23, 1925, p. 1, 8, Newspapers.com; "Start New Geneva Church," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), July 30, 1925, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

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contract.⁹ In late November, the concrete basement was poured, stone from the earlier church building's basement having been "broken up to re-enforce the concrete," and some carpentry was under way.¹⁰ On Christmas Eve (December 24), the newspaper reported that for two weeks weather conditions had prevented work on the church to advance, but "the foundation has been completed and the masons are now laying the brick walls."¹¹ In the early months of 1926, the weather ceased to be the force that limited the construction workers' progress. At the end of January, "work on the new Congregational church is going along as fast as the material arrives."¹² This pace was temporary. Five weeks later, "the bricklaying work was resumed on the new Congregational church the first of the week. Several weeks were lost because of a failure of material to arrive."¹³ The bricklaying must have gone on for about two weeks before weather again halted it. An early April report stated that "work on the Congregational church was resumed Monday after a two weeks delay due to snow and cold weather." By then, however, construction had gone far enough that other artisans could join the work, and the assemblage of brick was beginning to take on more features of a building: "A carpenter gang joined the bricklayers. Some of the window frames are now in place."¹⁴

In April the church's builders made something much more recognizable as an edifice. "Construction work on the new Congregational church has gone ahead rapidly the past week. The heavy wooden beams for the roof are being placed this week. The brick work on the outside walls of the south wing of the building has been completed," the newspaper reported on April 15.¹⁵ One month later, "the roof of the new Congregational church is being laid. Asbestos shingles are being used."¹⁶ Work moved indoors soon afterwards, when "the work of plastering the inside of the new Congregational church began this week."¹⁷ This and subsequent phases, such as "painters ... decorating the main auditorium of the building" were out of view compared to the walls and roof, of course, but in early summer the newspaper confidently wrote of the pace of construction that "work on the interior of the new Congregational church is being pushed rapidly."¹⁸

In early August the church scheduled a ceremonial laying of a cornerstone to mark the end of the building's construction and beginning of finishing touches: Sunday, August 15, 1926.¹⁹ The announcement of the event and its program, which included the note that a new era in the church's history would be recognized in that "the new members received at the first communion will be designated as charter members of the rebuilt church," also stated that the church's new organ should arrive around that time and require a month to build.²⁰ The congregation was expected to continue meeting in the city auditorium for another month, but the

⁹ *Fillmore Chronicle* (Fairmont, NE), Oct. 29, 1925, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

¹⁰ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 26, 1925, p. 7, Newspapers.com.

¹¹ "Work on Church Delayed," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 24, 1925, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

¹² "Building Operations," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Jan. 28, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

¹³ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Mar. 4, 1926, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

¹⁴ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Apr. 8, 1926, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

¹⁵ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Apr. 15, 1926, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

¹⁶ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), May 20, 1926, p. 7, Newspapers.com.

¹⁷ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), May 27, 1926, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

¹⁸ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), July 1, 1926, p. 7, Newspapers.com.

¹⁹ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 5, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²⁰ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 5, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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education and assembly spaces of the original north wing were already suitable for the Sunday school, so the church began using them the Sunday prior to the cornerstone laying.²¹

At the church's exterior, "the cement walks around the outside of the church were laid."²² At its interior, by contrast, the installation of major furnishings continued. The week before the cornerstone ceremony, "the seats," which were "dark wood with individual soft leather cushion bottoms," were "being placed in the church auditorium."²³ Meanwhile, "carpenters are doing the inside finishing around the altar and windows."²⁴ When the church's cornerstone ceremony of August 15 was held it attracted attendees from beyond Geneva, notably Fairmont, the pastor of whose Federated Congregational church gave an address at the ceremony.²⁵

In the final third of August, the newspaper's chronicle of the construction declared that "the organ is being built by the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kas. The lighting fixtures are furnished by Frank Sutton, formerly of this city, but now of Lincoln."²⁶ These projects' completion would make it all but "ready for occupancy. Indeed, after the church held its first worship service in the newly finished space on September 12, 1926, the newspaper let half of its reportage on the church's first service in its new space dwell on the seventeen-rank pipe organ's quality and the worship space's ability to carry its sound: "Mrs. Robert Waring played the pipe organ at both morning and evening meetings, giving a half hour prelude of organ selections at the evening service. The organ is said by judges of instruments to be of exceptional tone quality and its range was brought out in the pieces played by Mrs. Waring which included those requiring thunderous volumes of sound and also the more melodious flute-like tones of the upper register. The church auditorium has perfect acoustic properties."²⁷ On a later page of the newspaper, a longer item noted the service's observance and affirmed the church's use of the building the following Sunday, even sharing the full order of the morning service (with hymns identified) and of a special evening service consisting mostly of "our great hymns and their history," which was to be preceded by another half-hour musical prelude by the organist Waring.²⁸

The timing of the pipe organ's availability, evidently, had decided whether the congregation would use its new worship space, but a few outstanding elements remained undone when it came into use. According to the music-focused report, "the building is still incomplete, as the memorial window has not yet been placed and other windows finished and no pulpit furniture or carpet has yet been installed."²⁹ Two months later, the church was completed. A weekend of inaugural celebrations was planned for the end of November.³⁰ Separate from the dedicatory worship service scheduled for Sunday, November 28, however, people could pay one dollar for a

²¹ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 12, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²² *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 12, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²³ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 12, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²⁴ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 12, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²⁵ *Fillmore Chronicle* (Fairmont, NE), Aug. 19, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

²⁶ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 26, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com. More specifically, it stated in a separate short item: "The new Reuter pipe organ for the Congregational church is being installed by an expert, Floyd Preston of Lawrence, Kas. George Nelson is assisting. The installation will be completed in a few days. Frank C. Sutton, who has the contract for the electric fixtures, is here doing that work. He is assisted by R. G. Wright of Geneva and Roland Hammond of Exeter." *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Aug. 26, 1926, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

²⁷ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Sept. 16, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

²⁸ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Sept. 16, 1926, p. 7, Newspapers.com.

²⁹ *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Sept. 16, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

³⁰ See, for example, *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 18, 1926, p. 3, Newspapers.com.

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reserved seat at “an organ recital given by Mrs. Pearl Emley Elliott of Kansas City, Missouri,” to be held the preceding Friday evening, November 26.³¹ The day before, a longer newspaper announcement reiterated these invitations. As in September, the Sunday service’s full program was listed in advance.³² The pipe organ’s Friday dedication was explained more fully. Elliot was “a talented musician” who would play “a very fine program” on this “fine new organ.”³³ The dedication of the pipe organ was a much less sacred event than that of the church. The former’s dedication was to “consist of a responsive reading by minister and people and a dedicatory prayer” during the intermission of “this organ recital [that] will afford the music lovers of Fillmore county an unusual opportunity to hear the work of a talented artist.”³⁴ Following both dedications, the newspaper praised the pipe organ’s dedication and an open house the following evening as events during which “the church was at home to the public for a social evening, affording an opportunity for a leisurely examination of the interior beauties of the church and the unusual equipment to be found in its various departments.”³⁵ During the dedicatory recital itself, the organist Elliot interpreted Classical and Romantic selections not only musically but also verbally, and praised the organ selection committee for their choice of instrument. “After the third number she complimented the persons who had selected the organ.” As she explained, “At some places she had visited she had found that numerous accessories had been added without the organ itself being adequate, but she found this organ entirely adequate and beautiful.”³⁶

Three religious dedication services for the church were held on Sunday, November 28, 1926. Each service was addressed by a different speaker, while each service featured special music by the choir.³⁷ In the evening, Robert Waring, local attorney, spoke on the importance of “Value of the Church to the Community.”³⁸ Included in his speech, he explained that the church is noted as a cultural factor in every community by disseminating education and knowledge, contributing to congregants’ character formation.³⁹ The congregation’s and community’s need for a new church building, impelled by its ladies’ need for a new kitchen, had been provided. All told, the cost of the new church was \$56,000, of which \$7,500 was represented by the pipe organ.⁴⁰

The next-door parsonage whose kitchen was replaced by that of the new 1926 church had been built in 1913 in the form of an American Four Square house. It remained on the site for several decades. The 1926 church was enlarged in 1960 with the addition of an education wing behind the parsonage. The property remained crowded for about ten years, until in 1970 the parsonage was moved to a lot almost one block west, at 814 H Street. After the move, the church’s front lawn was enlarged over the former parsonage site.

³¹ See, for example, *Fillmore Chronicle* (Fairmont, NE), Nov. 18, 1926, p. 3, Newspapers.com. A report on the dedication events published after they were held further identifies Elliot as the “organist of the Central Presbyterian church of Kansas City.” “Dedication Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

³² “Next Sunday,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 25, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

³³ “Next Sunday,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 25, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

³⁴ “Next Sunday,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 25, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

³⁵ “Dedication Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

³⁶ “Dedication Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 6, Newspapers.com.

³⁷ “Next Sunday” and “First Congregational Church Dedicatory Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 25, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

³⁸ “First Congregational Church Dedicatory Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 25, 1926, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

³⁹ “Dedication Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, 6, Newspapers.com.

⁴⁰ “Dedication Service,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, 6, Newspapers.com.

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Criterion A: Social History

The First Congregational Church in Geneva, Nebraska is significant for its architectural design; however, it is important to note that from a historical standpoint, church members had a farther reach. After the church was built, the Sunday school room became a social center for Geneva. The Women's Fellowship served high school alumni banquets, Thanksgiving dinners, bazaars, cookie, and candy sales. The congregation's extensive involvement in the local community and their offering of the church's space to the local community for many kinds of social functions and assemblies also makes it locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History.

From its period of construction, First Congregational Church was envisioned as a new type of church building to match its contemporary world and facilitate activity outside of ordinary worship services. In early 1926, the church was forecast to be a "modern church home" once complete.⁴¹ The newspaper affirmed the match between the church's design and the world in which it was built upon its dedication at the end of the year. It began a long account of the several dedicatory events by declaring, "As the years pass November 28, 1926, will have a place of increasing importance in the calendar and history of the Geneva Congregational church because it will be remembered as the day on which the beautiful new edifice of worship, constructed to meet requirements of a church organization of the present day that finds it desirable for the benefit of spiritual life of the church to carry on social activities in connection therewith, was dedicated."⁴² Textually, the newspaper's opening passage is restrained to social functions as a contributor to religious practice. The speaker at the Sunday afternoon dedicatory address, however, described more general influence the church could have. W. A. Tyler,

superintendent of Congregational work in Nebraska, ... said that it is fitting that this beautiful, well planned and properly equipped house of worship should be erected to conform to the physical progress of the county and as an expression of the gratitude to God for the many blessings enjoyed by the people who have come up through the years since the erection of the old church building thirty-eight years ago and in anticipation of a continuation of those blessings through ability to serve the spiritual and social needs of the people of this community.

Speaking of the church building, Dr. Tyler said that he had walked about it on the outside that morning, admiring the beauty of its outlines, and had studied its interior arrangement and decoration and he thought its beauty was not equalled [*sic*] by any other church of the denomination,

except for First Central Church in Omaha, of which First Congregational Church in Geneva "reminded him a good deal."⁴³

Both the church's spaces, such as its kitchen and fellowship hall, and its location permitted its significance to Geneva's social history. The church sits diagonally across the street from the historic city auditorium, and musical and theater groups use the church to allow performers to

⁴¹ "Building Operations," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Jan. 28, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁴² "Dedication Service," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁴³ "Dedication Service," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Dec. 2, 1926, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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dress, practice for rehearsals, and wait during intervals between performances. The church was one building in an *ad hoc* assemblage of buildings that performed these functions. In March 1937, for example, Geneva hosted “the district music context,” for which “sixty-seven schools have registered,” expected to send “more than 1,900” contestants—“the largest [“contest”] ever held in the district.”⁴⁴ The newspaper boasted early in its announcement of the upcoming event that “Many other towns would be glad to entertain this contest but no other town offers the advantages offered in Geneva. These consist of adequate, satisfactory and conveniently placed buildings that can be used for the presentation of the many events. First in this group is the city auditorium. Its location is very central and its size and equipment are exactly right. Few towns have such a building. Then not more than a stone’s throw away is the fine new Congregational church. A block from that church is the Methodist church,” replaced with a Modern building in 1963. “A little farther away but in reach is the United Brethren church. Less convenient but still within reach is the high school building. The convenient grouping of these buildings is important. Judges, contestants and spectators can go from one to the other very quickly and with the utmost convenience. Confusion is avoided and time is saved. Feeding the crowds will be a problem but it will be considerably simplified because one or more churches will serve lunches in their dining rooms.”⁴⁵

To a certain extent, the church’s involvement in the community may be informed by the economically adverse circumstances of the nominated church’s first two decades. Planned and built only a few years before the stock market crash of October 1929, the congregation worked hard to repay the church’s construction loan. The minister agreed to a salary reduction. The women of the church held many fundraisers. The lumber of the old church building was used to construct a building at the Fillmore County Fair Grounds, also located in Geneva, as soon as the old church was torn down.⁴⁶ The ladies used the church as a lunch stand during the fair for many years. Letters from Earl Wilkins, a church member who was also the local banker, asked for funds during the 1930s as the subscriptions had diminished during this time. Farmers had no crops for four years, but local banker Earl Wilkins believed in his community and fellow church members, trusting that the church members would fulfill their obligations when their crops returned. An additional mortgage by the First Congregational Church Building Society of New York was granted with one commitment from the church. The ladies needed to raise \$500 to paint the sanctuary in time for the 50th anniversary of the church. They went to work painting the sanctuary. Over time the subscriptions returned, and the mortgage was repaid and the paperwork burned in 1945.

In 1951, a trust fund was set up as a safeguard against periods of depression. Its income was to be used to keep the building from deteriorating and for educational purposes. To this day, the church is in excellent financial condition. As will be discussed, the use of this fund supported the church achieving its local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

During the Second World War, the Sunday school room became a social center for the town’s youth, hosting homecoming dances and roller-skating and card parties. More civically important was the church’s embrace of 6,000 armed services personnel stationed at Fairmont Army Airfield, built during World War II between Geneva and Fairmont, a small town less than

⁴⁴ “District Music Contest to be Held in Geneva April 2 and 3,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), March 25, 1937, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁴⁵ “District Music Contest,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), March 25, 1937, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁴⁶ “First Congregational Church,” *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), July 30, 1925, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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ten miles to the north. The local civilian population welcomed them with open arms—quite an undertaking as the population of the two towns combined was 2,700. The servicemen were given home-cooked meals and taken to local church services, theatres, and dances. In 1941, a local church couple opened the Thrifty Drug Store, a Walgreen Agency store, in Geneva. The drug-store soda fountain was a popular place for the servicemen stationed at the airfield.⁴⁷ Everyone knew their stay would be short lived, but barracks were also built in Geneva for family housing.⁴⁸ At one point, eighty-two servicemen were on the church's prayer list. After two marines on the church's prayer list were killed at Iwo Jima, the church held a double memorial service for them.⁴⁹ Ironically, one of the squads from the Fairmont Army Airfield was asked to join a squad in Utah. This group dropped both atomic bombs on Japan.⁵⁰ After the war, the airbase was deactivated. The property was listed on the National Historic Register in 2003.

The church has historically been active in local education. Church members served for many years on the advisory board of the Geneva Training School which was a state operated facility for educating and helping disadvantaged youth. When the church was dedicated in November 1926, students of the training school gave a vocal and instrumental concert.⁵¹ In 1935, the first charter for the Boy Scout Troop 175 was sponsored by the First Congregational Church. Reverend Edward Day signed the charter.⁵² The church's involvement with education intensified after its education wing was added in 1960 its space was available when other facilities were insufficient. When Geneva was building a new public elementary school in 1964, the church's education wing was used for classes. In the 1960s, a school for handicapped children was operated out of the 1960 education wing. In the 1970s, counselors were available free of charge, and the church also became a meeting place for Alcohol Anonymous and its related family support group, Al-Anon.

Criterion C: Architecture

First Congregational Church of Geneva is locally historically significant as a late (1926) expression of the Gothic Revival architectural style for a church in a small rural town; the fullest stylistic expression of its architect's designs for religious buildings, which were a relatively small portion of his known works; and as a building that received an addition more than a generation after its original construction that was both expressive of the original design and contemporary materials and forms.

⁴⁷ Obituary of Louise Picard, www.findagrave.com, accessed March 16, 2024.

⁴⁸ In 2023, a World War II poster was found in the church and was restored.

⁴⁹ "News of Fillmore County Men and Women in National Service," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), April 12, 1945, p. 1.

⁵⁰ Fairmont Army Airfield Nebraska Historical Marker, located near Highway 81 and Road H, Fillmore County, Nebraska, accessed March 3, 2024.

⁵¹ "Congregational Church," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Nov. 11, 1926, p. 2.

⁵² Wilbur Gaffney, *The Fillmore County Story* (Lincoln: The University of Nebraska, 1967), 208.

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Eugene G. Groves

Eugene G. Groves practiced architecture from the mid-1910s until his death in 1967.⁵³ Born in Indiana and educated at Harvard, Groves moved to Denver, Colorado in 1914. He remained based there until he died. Most of his known, credited works are located in the state; most of them, too, are educational or civic buildings. Groves became “recognized for his expertise in the use of poured, cast, and reinforced concrete,” eventually patenting a building technique that “utilized precast concrete studs and beams supporting concrete slab floors and concrete stucco over wire mesh walls” and creating a separate corporation in 1936 to construct buildings using it.⁵⁴ Also during the 1930s, he “completed plans for school, college and county courthouse buildings as part of Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration projects” that constituted part of the federal government’s response to the Great Depression.⁵⁵

Groves did not spend his entire career specializing in these areas—in Colorado, precast concrete, civic and educational buildings, and modern architectural styles. In the mid- to late-1920s he accepted several commissions outside Colorado, almost all of them for churches, and almost all of them in Nebraska.⁵⁶ Often, Groves’ commissions from churches included worship-complementing educational and assembly spaces, showing (and, due to their construction dates, often anticipating) his designs for civic and educational institutions.

Groves’ earliest known church design was also his grandest. His second church design resembles the first but at a reduced size and with a limited stylistic expression. The latter is the nominated First Congregational Church. It is the fullest execution as a single construction project of one of Groves’ designs for a church with education wing and the most stylistically elaborate of his designs that was built in a single project. Groves drafted the (slightly) earlier, larger, and more extravagant church with education wing for First Christian Church in Lincoln, a Gothic Revival complex intended to occupy one-quarter of a city block diagonally across the street from the state capitol (Figure 02).

⁵³ “Eugene D. Groves,” *Designers of Colorado – Biographical Series*, History Colorado, revised November 29, 2007, https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Architects_groves.pdf (accessed December 10, 2025).

⁵⁴ “Eugene D. Groves,” *Designers of Colorado – Biographical Series*, History Colorado, rev. November 29, 2007.

⁵⁵ “Eugene D. Groves,” *Designers of Colorado – Biographical Series*, History Colorado, rev. November 29, 2007.

⁵⁶ One exception is currently verifiable, the library of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, completed in 1924. “Library Building Dedicated Tuesday,” *Lincoln (NE) State Journal*, June 4, 1924, p. 11, Newspapers.com.

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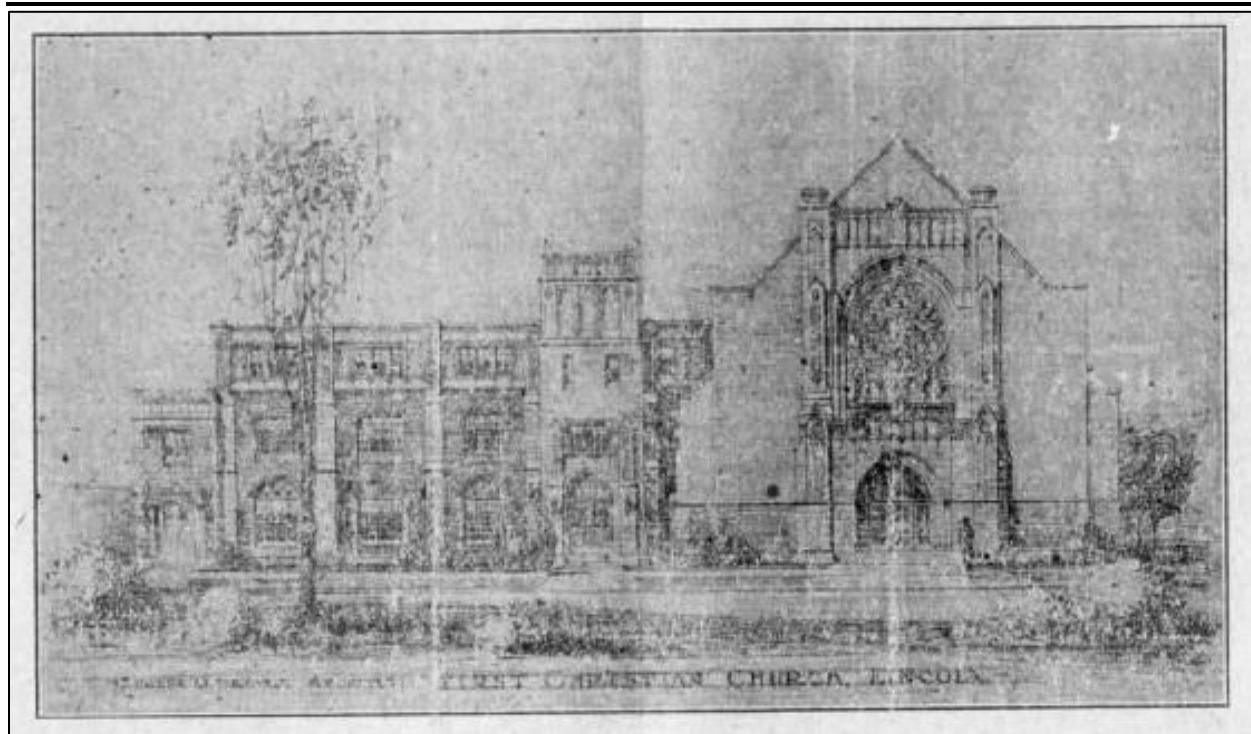


Figure 02: Planned façade (Sixteenth Street) elevation, First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE⁵⁷

The church announced Groves' role in September 1924.⁵⁸ By the following spring, the church was laboring to raise \$250,000 for the construction of Groves' design, which included "a beautiful auditorium seating fifteen hundred people; a quiet chapel for smaller meetings; a three-purpose room which will serve as dining-room, seating four hundred; gymnasium, and auditorium seating six hundred" and "a completely modern educational plant with classrooms and offices, parlors and halls necessary to meet the demands upon it for religious education" (Figure 03).⁵⁹

⁵⁷ "Lincoln First Christian Church Builds," *Christian Reporter* (Bethany, NE), April 17, 1925, p. 1, Newspapers.com (detail).

⁵⁸ "Plans for Church Building," *Lincoln (NE) Star*, September 9, 1924, p. 6, Newspapers.com; "Drawing for New Building for First Christian Church," *State Journal* (NE), September 14, 1924, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

⁵⁹ "Lincoln First Christian Church Builds," *Christian Reporter* (Bethany, NE), April 17, 1925, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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Figure 03: Façade of First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE as built⁶⁰

Construction of Groves' stylistically elaborate church complex ceased after the educational wing was finished. The project resumed more than thirty years later, in 1958, and the addition of the worship space concluded the following year, mostly according to Groves' earlier design.⁶¹

In September 1928 Groves worked again on at a scale resembling that envisioned by First Christian Church in Lincoln, "To construct an educational and social building ... and to remodel the present auditorium, at an approximate cost of \$100,000" for First Christian Church in Columbia, Missouri.⁶² As he had done a few years earlier in Lincoln, he exercised little stylistic restraint, and the two designs share the quality of stylistic definitiveness. On this occasion, however, he applied the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style to the building.⁶³ The commission in Columbia also differed from that in Lincoln in that Groves' educational building there

⁶⁰ David P. Murphy, *First Christian Church*, May 2016, *Place Makers of Nebraska: The Architects*, http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/images/c/c5/DM201605_104_11w.jpg (accessed December 10, 2025).

⁶¹ "First Christian Church Lays Cornerstone for Sanctuary," *Lincoln (NE) Star*, June 9, 1958, p. 2, Newspapers.com; "3-Yr. Fund Drive Ends," *Lincoln Evening Journal and Nebraska State Journal*, July 11, 1958, p. 3, Newspapers.com; "First Christian Church Dedicates New Sanctuary," *Lincoln (NE) Sunday Journal and Star*, April 19, 1959, p. 17, Newspapers.com; "First Christian Sanctuary Full at Dedication Rites," *Lincoln (NE) Star*, April 20, 1959, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

⁶² "Church Plans to Build new Addition Soon," *Columbia Missourian*, September 4, 1948, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁶³ "Church Plans to Build new Addition Soon," *Columbia Missourian*, September 4, 1948, p. 1, Newspapers.com; "Church Plans Receive Final Improvement," *Columbia Missourian*, October 6, 1928, p. 1, Newspapers.com; and "Christian Church Near Completion," *Columbia Missourian*, October 30, 1929, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

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complemented an extant church building rather than one that awaited construction; it was completed near the end of 1929.⁶⁴ At almost the same time, in October 1928, Groves left this scale and style to design a renovation for First Christian Church in Hastings, Nebraska. The Hastings renovation and addition modified entrances, enclosed some spaces, and added education and meeting facilities in a manner that matched the Classical Revival style with which the church had been built in 1910.⁶⁵

Groves' commissions for whole churches, rather than an addition or renovation, that were built without interruption from start to finish, include First Congregational Church; First Christian Church in Ashland, Nebraska; the Methodist Episcopal church in Friend, Nebraska; and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Amherst, Colorado. First Congregational Church is the largest and most stylistically expressive of these, and, although it did not receive a genuine education wing until 1960, the only one that included spaces substantial enough for specific education-and-assembly use, aligning it more with his designs for Lincoln, Columbia, and wider portfolio of educational buildings than with the small churches of Ashland, Friend, and Amherst.

During the construction of First Congregational Church, First Christian Church in Ashland, southwest of Omaha, burned down.⁶⁶ Groves was hired to design its replacement, ground was broken on July 4, 1926, and the new building dedicated in the spring of 1927. It received an additional education and assembly wing in the early 1960s that more than doubled its size.⁶⁷ A few years later, these circumstances were repeated. The Methodist Episcopal church in Friend, between Lincoln and Geneva, burned down a few days before Christmas 1929; by mid-March, Groves had received the commission for a replacement.⁶⁸ Groves' latest known and credited church was built soon afterwards, in 1931: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Amherst, Colorado, a few miles from the state's border with Nebraska.⁶⁹

All four of these smaller churches possess Gothic Revival-style elements and accents, but First Congregational Church expresses these to the greatest extent and is most like a scaled-down version of the architect's grandiose design for First Christian Church in Lincoln that went half-constructed for thirty years. First Congregational Church is faced with red Indiana brick and conveys the Gothic Revival style through buttresses, arched stone tracery, brick pilasters, arched windows, parapets, stone copings, and heavy timber scissor trusses with cross purlins. The church's portals, buttresses, windows, and parapets evoke a modest Late Gothic Revival style.

⁶⁴ "Christian Church Near Completion," *Columbia Missourian*, October 30, 1929, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁶⁵ "First Christian Church Observes Its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Last Year," *Hastings (NE) Daily Tribune*, March 7, 1961, p. 19-H, Newspapers.com and "Christian Church Members Re-dedicate Their Building," *Hastings (NE) Daily Tribune*, October 27, 1928, p. 5, Newspapers.com.

⁶⁶ "First Christian Church Dedication Service, Apr. 3," *Ashland (NE) Gazette*, March 31, 1927, p. 1, Newspapers.com and "History of the First Christian Church," *Ashland (NE) Gazette*, March 31, 1927, p. 2, Newspapers.com.

⁶⁷ 1702 Boyd, Ashland, NE, 1959 and 1966, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (accessed December 10, 2025).

⁶⁸ "M. E. Church Totally Destroyed by Fire," *Friend (NE) Sentinel*, December 19, 1929, p. 6, Newspapers.com; "Views of Methodist Church Fire," *Friend (NE) Sentinel*, December 26, 1929, p. 6, Newspapers.com; and "Award Contracts on New Friend Church," *Night Journal* (Lincoln, NE), March 14, 1930, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁶⁹ "St. Paul's Lutheran Church," National & State Register Listed Properties, History Colorado, <https://www.historycolorado.org/location/st-pauls-lutheran-church> (accessed December 10, 2025).

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Modern Education Wing

The nominated church is also a full and rich example of a building designed in a historicist style that has been updated with additional features that add to its character and show the property's adaptation to later needs and opportunities. The cement-block and tile-floor 1960 education wing is typical of postwar educational facilities despite its construction as an appendage to a traditional-appearing church and small scale. At the exterior, as explained in Section 7, the addition repeats some of the original building's most obvious elements, namely the use of red brick and capped balusters defining bays.

Modifications to the Nave Windows and Pipe Organ

At a congregational meeting in 1950, it was suggested that new lighting on the nave windows would be a tremendous improvement, especially if they could be installed in celebration of the building's twenty-fifth anniversary. The women of this church were well-known for their ability to solve problems, so they were asked to find solutions for this project. After months of investigation, the ladies decided they needed more help than what they could provide. They wanted the project done right and not half-way. They spent the next year gathering more information. They were curious about what type of glass should be used, paints and processes, window inspections, and contacted studios that were relatively close to Geneva. Ready-made windows were not going to be possible. The women also felt that they were not able to take the measurements themselves. After considering their options, the group selected Gaytee Studios in Minneapolis, Minnesota, founded in 1918 by Thomas J. Gaytee, a former student of Louis Comfort Tiffany. One significant question of this project was how to eliminate the considerable glare produced by the large volume of light received by the building on its south side. One church member, Earl Wilkins, whose wife in particular was having difficulty with this glare, went to visit the studio to talk to its president, L. N. Miller, and ensure that the firm understood the undertaking. They arranged for Miller to visit the church himself, and he spent an entire day in the sanctuary noting the architectural features, studying the lighting conditions, taking measurements, and suggesting colors, patterns, and paint processes.⁷⁰

Five nave windows, six narthex windows, and the church's largest window, the upper window on the west façade, were approved by the church for replacement at a cost of \$5,150. The west window was made possible by a gift from Mrs. C. S. Stover who had willed the church \$1,000 to be used to improve the church interior. These windows were of the best quality domestic and imported antique, stained, and leaded glass. The nave and narthex windows are painted in Elizabethan Grisaille and twice fired. The purpose of the painting and matting is to soften the lights, blend the colors, and add to the pattern.⁷¹ Firing allows the colors to become permanent. During an interview with Beth Wilkins, a life-long church attendee, it was learned that her mother was very sensitive to light, and the original windows were bothersome to her.

Each of the three windowpanes at the bottom of each nave window have a latched opening. A special stick was used to open these on hot days. The big, blue west window was not fired

⁷⁰ "New Nave Windows Installed at Congregational Church," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Oct. 4, 1951, p. 1, Newspapers.com.

⁷¹ "New Nave Windows Installed," *Nebraska Signal* (Geneva), Oct. 4, 1951, p. 8, Newspapers.com.

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since it was desired to have it correspond with the chancel window; “It looks a little bit like a stained glass window but they primarily just hung a piece of the blue glass. They made an imitation stained glass window.”⁷²

The symbols in each of the lancets of the sanctuary’s windows on the north and south sides introduce decorative motifs and were chosen to evoke the lessons which the church teaches its children, appealing to their imaginations and furnishing the basis for interesting study projects. The correlations between the religious texts and elements of the windows are, informationally, as follows. The window at the northeast corner of the nave (see Photo I–08) suggests the long history of the church. The Ark of the Covenant occupied the most sacred place in the early worship of the Lord. The ship “Mayflower” is used because of its significance in relation to religious freedom, both in the United States and in the Congregational Church. The fish has been an accepted ecclesiastical symbol for centuries. The initials of the Greek equivalent for the phrase, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

The nave window nearest to the chancel on the south (see Photo I–10) shows the Decalog, a lamp, and an open Bible. Its theme was taken from Psalms 119:105: “the word a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.” The shields in the second window from the left (see Photo I–11) show moon and stars, mentioned so often in the Old Testament as testifying to the majesty of the Creator and the marvel of the universe. For instance, in the nineteenth psalm are the phrases, “The heavens declare the Glory of God” and “There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.” The constellations the Pleiades and Orion are named because they have aroused admiration and wonder since the time of the early shepherds. Job also mentions them twice. The second window from the right (see Photo I–12) emphasizes the wonder and the beauty of the world around us. It shows the wheat, the lilies, and the grapes all used by Christ to illustrate his teachings. Three indicates the trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The heads of wheat symbolize the Bread of Life. The lily (fleur-de-lis) is the flower of the Virgin Mary. The grapes symbolize the sacrament of Holy Communion. The inspiration for the window at the far left on the south façade (see Photo I–13) was taken from a verse in the last book of the Bible, Revelations 22:13. The theme is “Jesus Christ with us” from the beginning to the end of life. Its symbols are Greek letters. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Between them is one of the ancient monograms for Christ. It is a combination of the Greek letters Chi and Rho, the first letters of the Greek word for Christ.

Six rectangular windows are in the narthex (foyer) on the west side of the building. These colored glass windows were created for the twenty-fifth anniversary of this building. These windows were done in the same manner as the nave windows. They were painted in Elizabethan grisaille and twice fired.

In 1951, the church’s youth group donated \$900 to add chimes to the organ. An eighteenth rank was added to it in 1976.⁷³

1967 Renovation and Re-Dedication of the Sanctuary

In 1967, after receiving memorial bequests for the church, the congregation initiated Project Renewal, a suite of interior renovations that provided the church’s worship space with its

⁷² Interview with Hugh Wilkins, conducted in 2003, accessed Jan. 2024.

⁷³ Most recently, a complete restoration was undertaken in 2020 at a cost of more than \$100,000.

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current appearance. During the renovation, the church again held services in the historic city auditorium across the street. A specially designed cross was hung in front of the east stained-glass window. The organ was moved down from its original placement immediately beneath this window, to the chancel, to enhance the view of the east window. A choir loft was built in its place (Figures 04 and 05).



Figure 04: East end of church prior to 1967 renovation⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Anniversary Prints, Special Booklets, Bulletins, and Other Historical Documents Collection (hereafter Historical Documents Collection), First Congregational United Church of Christ, Geneva, Nebraska (hereafter First Congregational United Church of Christ).

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Figure 05: Chancel of church prior to 1967 renovation⁷⁵

New, cushioned pews were installed that gave the sanctuary a single, center aisle and two sections of seating rather than the original two aisles dividing seating into three sections. The wall between the nave and the narthex was opened and filled with windows to provide a clear view of the narthex windows (Figures 06 and 07).

⁷⁵ Historical Documents Collection, First Congregational United Church of Christ.

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Figure 06: Nave and chancel of church prior to 1967 renovation⁷⁶



Figure 07: Nave, balcony, and narthex of church prior to 1967 renovation⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Historical Documents Collection, First Congregational United Church of Christ.

⁷⁷ Historical Documents Collection, First Congregational United Church of Christ.

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On the sanctuary side of this division, wood trim from the front of the chancel area was repurposed as wainscoting below the windows. Above, the interior of the church sanctuary was painted. Beaverboard ceiling panels were covered with a delicate gold paper. Carpet was installed over the concrete floors. Air conditioning and indirect lighting were installed. The carpeting over of the church's concrete floors (Figure 07) and installation of air conditioning completed the project.

Elaine Williams, an interior decorator from Crete, Nebraska, designed a cross for the church as part of this renovation. The circle in the middle of the cross represents the perfect form of God in his eternal being. The circle has no beginning and no end. The vertical sweep of the cross signifies man's reaching, searching, and aspiring to God. The horizontal sweep represents the life of the church—its mission, sharing and reaching out into the world.⁷⁸ Her work also included interior designs in a Prospect, Connecticut church as well as liturgical designs in various Nebraska churches.⁷⁹ She also worked on the interior design of the County-City building in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Points of Comparison

As one of the works of Eugene G. Groves, First Congregational Church has already been discussed. It can, however, be compared to other buildings grouped on several bases, such as material, architectural style, property subtype, or age. The red brick which First Congregational Church has in abundance is a common exterior material for churches in the towns of Fillmore County. It differs from these others, however, in its age, expression of the Gothic Revival style, lack of architectural intrusions, and overall design as a church with integral supporting facilities.

Among Fillmore County towns' extant brick churches, First Congregational Church is middle-aged. Among those of Geneva, however, it is the oldest. The others were built in 1963 (Figure 08), 1973 (Figure 09), 1976 (Figure 10), and 1999.

⁷⁸ First Congregational Church, "Re-Dedication of the Sanctuary," booklet, 8.

⁷⁹ Obituary of Elaine Williams, *Lincoln (NE) Journal Star*, June 4, 2010, B5.

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Figure 08: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Geneva, NE, built in 1963⁸⁰



Figure 09: Evangelical Free Church, Geneva, NE, built after 1973⁸¹

⁸⁰ Michelle Cunliffe and Stephanie Rouse, RDG, *FM05-864*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Lincoln, NE (hereafter NeSHPO).

⁸¹ Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM05-377*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

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Figure 10: United Methodist Church, Geneva, NE, built in 1976⁸²

These late-twentieth-century churches were all built in a Modern architectural style, making First Congregational Church not only the oldest brick church in town but also the only one designed and executed in a historicist style (which was then, as noted, applied to a modern addition rather than discarded on the later construction).

First Congregational Church is one of three of Fillmore County's extant brick churches built early in the interwar period. In 1922, Saint Helena Catholic Church was built in Grafton (Figure 11). In 1925, a Methodist church was built in Fairmont (Figure 12).

⁸² Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM05-898*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

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Figure 11: Saint Helena Catholic Church, Grafton, NE, built in 1922⁸³



Figure 12: United Methodist Church, Fairmont, NE, built in 1925⁸⁴

⁸³ Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM06-008*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

⁸⁴ Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM04-010*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

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Each of the three interwar churches differs greatly in style, however. Geneva's, as discussed, expressed the Gothic Revival. Grafton's, by contrast, was built as an exemplar of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. On Fairmont's a few Gothic Revival embellishments were applied to a Neoclassical Revival building.⁸⁵

Stylistically, only one other church in a Fillmore County town makes substantial use of the Gothic Revival style (Figure 13). St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Exeter, completed in 1903, which assumes a blended Romanesque Revival-Gothic Revival appearance evocative of a church in one of the European continental cities of the Hanseatic League. In addition to exhibiting a very different iteration of the style, the church's construction during a very different era give it substantially different contexts than those that apply to First Congregational Church. Finally, also located in Exeter is the oldest brick church in a Fillmore County town (Figure 14). It is also probably the most modest and most altered from its original form. Indeed, its brick is a veneer added in 1927, more than forty years after its construction.⁸⁶



Figure 13: St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Exeter, NE, built in 1903⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Michelle Cunliffe and Stephanie Rouse, *A Historic Survey of Fillmore County Nebraska* (Omaha, NE: RDG, 2020), 53.

⁸⁶ Cunliffe and Rouse, *Fillmore County*, 13.

⁸⁷ Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM03-027*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

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Figure 14: United Methodist Church, Exeter, NE, built in 1881⁸⁸

The Methodist church in Exeter, built in 1881, was enlarged in the early twentieth century: “cut in half in 1905 and a new sanctuary built in the middle,” at which time “the tower in front was relocated to the elbow of the new and old portions.”⁸⁹

First Congregational Church is the oldest church among those discussed to have had assembly and education spaces integral to its original design, with integral supporting spaces for assembly and worship. Its construction nearly forty years before the next-oldest church with such a comprehensive design places it into a different temporal context than the others. However, the addition of its Modern but Gothic Revival-accented education wing in 1960 may be regarded, in retrospect, as an initiator of the Modern trend observed in Fillmore County towns’ subsequent religious architecture, from the construction of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Geneva in 1963 and onward.

Criteria Consideration A

As a property built and used for a religious institution, Criteria Consideration A is applicable. The property is nominated only for its substantiated significance to Social History and Architecture and not as an endorsement of any religious belief, system, organization, or practice.

⁸⁸ Cunliffe and Rouse, RDG, *FM03-013*, December 2019, photograph, Survey Photographs, NeSHPO.

⁸⁹ Cunliffe and Rouse, *Fillmore County*, 13.

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Newspapers:

Ashland (NE) Gazette
Christian Reporter (Bethany, NE)
Columbia Missourian
Friend (NE) Sentinel
Hastings (NE) Daily Tribune
Lincoln Evening Journal and Nebraska State Journal
Lincoln (NE) Journal Star
Lincoln (NE) Sunday Journal and Star
Fillmore Chronicle (Fairmont, NE)
Nebraska Signal (Geneva)
Night Journal (Lincoln, NE)
State Journal (NE)

Websites:

E-nebraskahistory.org.
Findagrave.com.
Reuterorgan.com
Uccgenevane.org

Interviews:

Interview with Jean Emery.
Interview with Beth Wilkins.
Interview with Hugh Wilkins.

Other Sources:

Anniversary Prints, Special Booklets, Bulletins, and Other Historical Documents Collection.
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Geneva, Nebraska.
Cunliffe, Michelle and Stephanie Rouse. *A Historic Survey of Fillmore County, Nebraska*.
Omaha, NE: RDG, 2000.
“Eugene D. Groves,” Designers of Colorado – Biographical Series, History Colorado, revised
November 29, 2007, [https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/docu-
ment/2017/Architects_groves.pdf](https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Architects_groves.pdf) (accessed December 10, 2025).
Fairmont Army Airfield Nebraska Historical Marker, located near Highway 81 and Road H in
Fillmore County, NE.
Gaffney, Wilbur. *The Fillmore County Story*. Lincoln: The University of Nebraska, 1967.
XII Stones, Inc. *Limited Building Investigation & Evaluation Report*. Lincoln, NE: Architecture
and Planning, 2015.

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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: First Congregational United Church of Christ, Geneva, NE)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: 0.41

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.52729 | Longitude: -97.60243 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property consists of the property historically associated with the church: a 96-foot by 184-foot double corner lot at the northeast corner of Ninth Street and H Street in Geneva, NE.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property consists of the property historically associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gail Chapman; Michael M. Belding III
organization: Member, First Congregational United Church of Christ; National Register Coordinator; Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 1500 R St.
city or town: Lincoln state: NE zip code: 68508
e-mail: fgchap@windstream.net; michael.belding@nebraska.gov
telephone: 402-366-4184; 402-613-1591
date: December 12, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

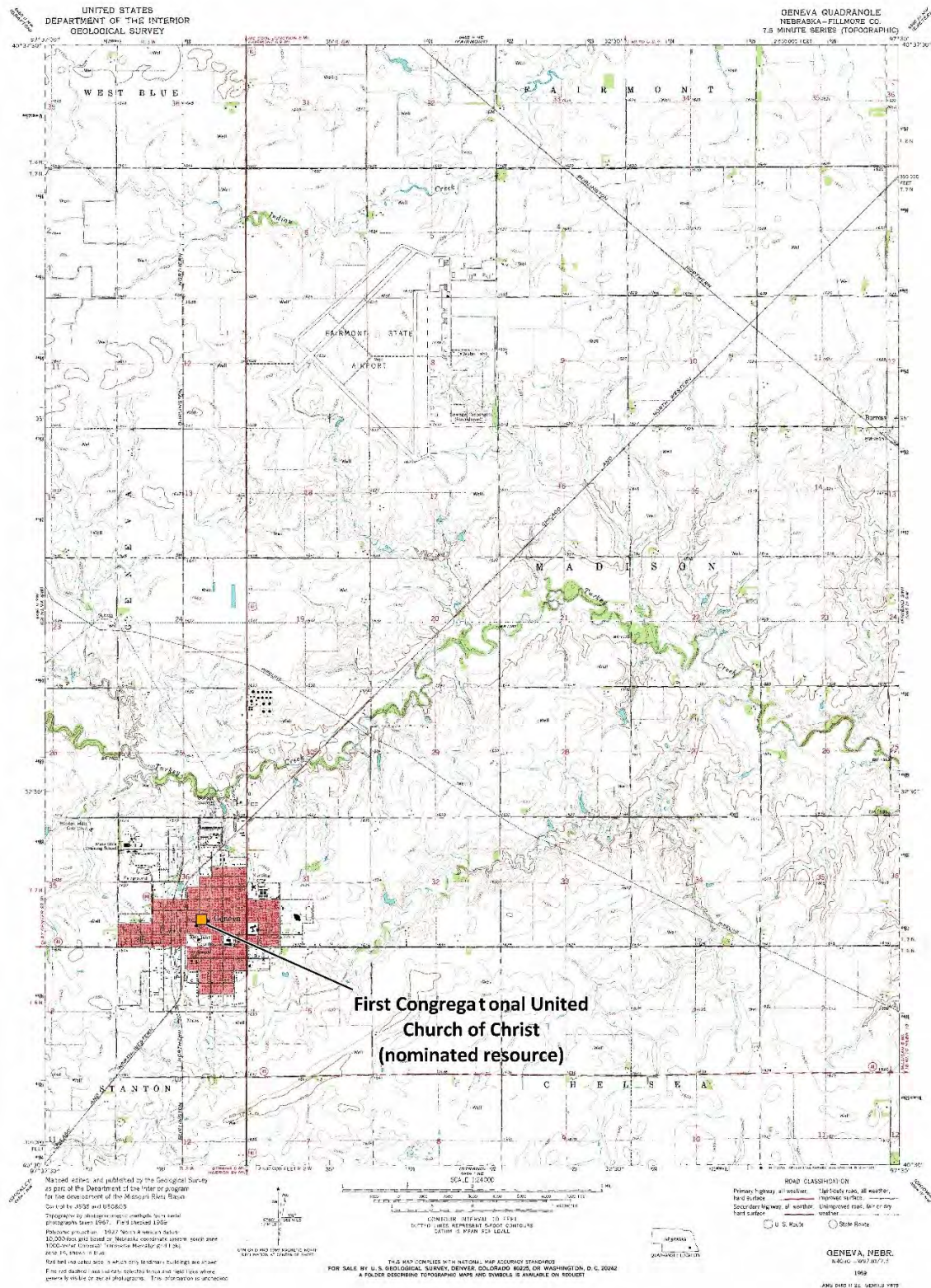
List of Figures and Maps:

- Figure 01: First Congregational Church's first building (detail; view toward the northeast)
- Figure 02: Planned façade (Sixteenth Street) elevation, First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE
- Figure 03: Façade of First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE as built
- Figure 04: East end of church prior to 1967 renovation
- Figure 05: Chancel of church prior to 1967 renovation
- Figure 06: Nave and chancel of church prior to 1967 renovation
- Figure 07: Nave, balcony, and narthex of church prior to 1967 renovation
- Figure 08: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Geneva, NE, built in 1963
- Figure 09: Evangelical Free Church, Geneva, NE, built after 1973
- Figure 10: United Methodist Church, Geneva, NE, built in 1976
- Figure 11: Saint Helena Catholic Church, Grafton, NE, built in 1922
- Figure 12: United Methodist Church, Fairmont, NE, built in 1925
- Figure 13: St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Exeter, NE, built in 1903
- Figure 14: United Methodist Church, Exeter, NE, built in 1881
- Map 1: Location of nominated resource (USGS)
- Map 2: Location of nominated resource within Geneva, Nebraska
- Map 3: Location of nominated resource within Geneva, Nebraska (detail)

First Congregational Church
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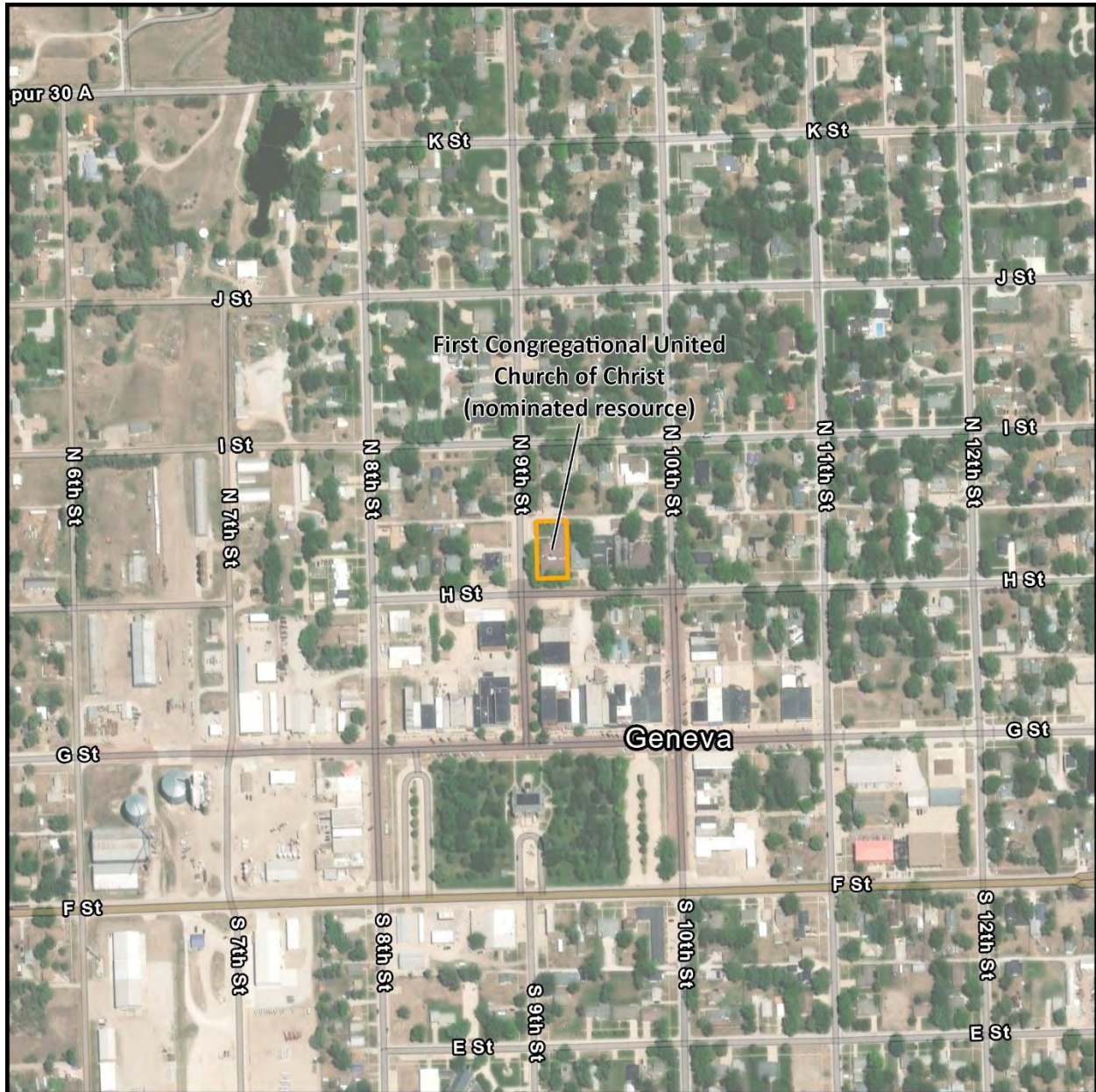
Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.



Map 1: Location of nominated resource (USGS)

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

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Map 2: Location of nominated resource within Geneva, Nebraska

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

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County and State



Map 3: Location of nominated resource within Geneva, Nebraska (detail)

First Congregational Church
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Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Key all photographs to this map.

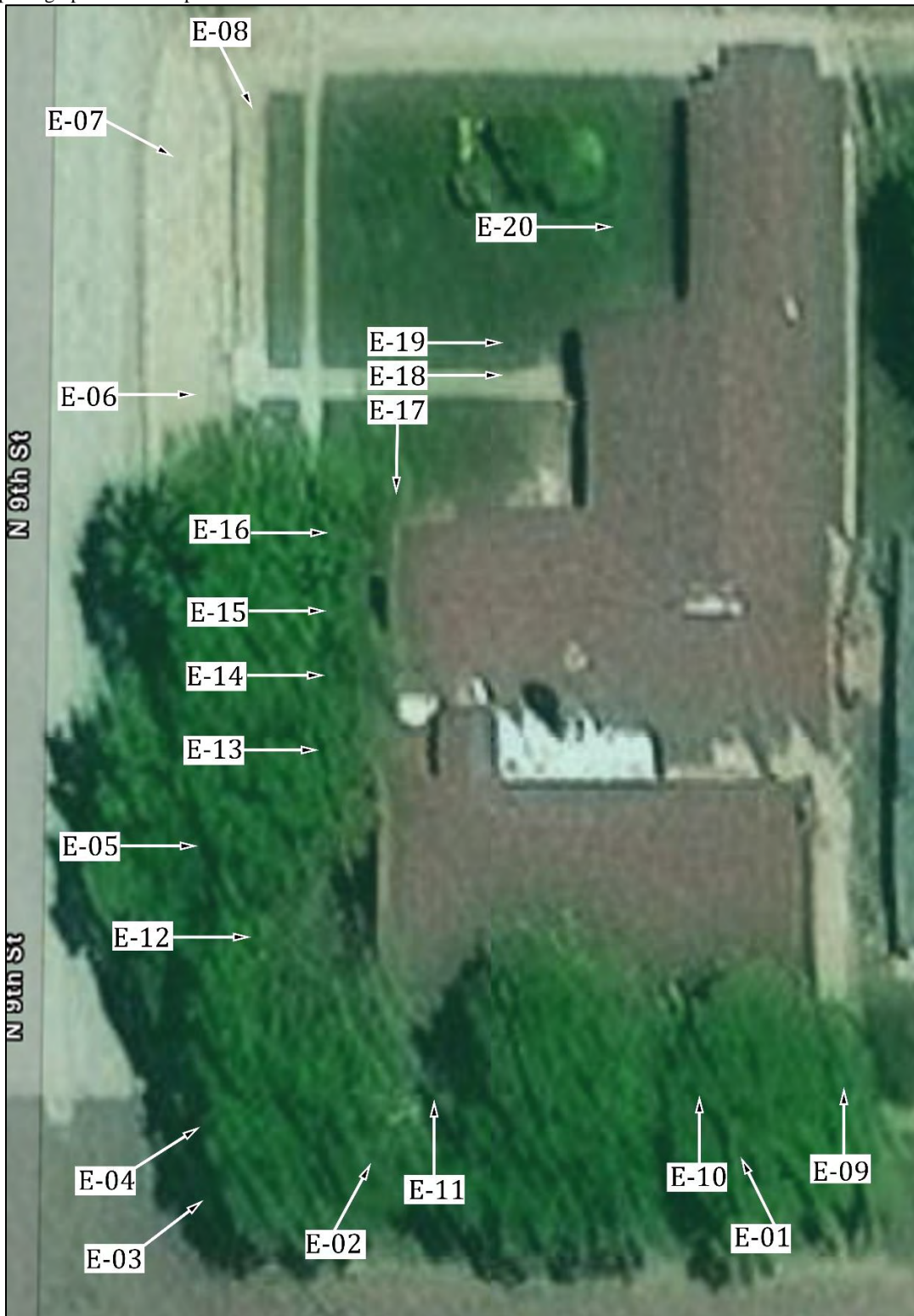


Photo Key 1: Exterior (north at top)

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Fillmore, Nebraska
County and State

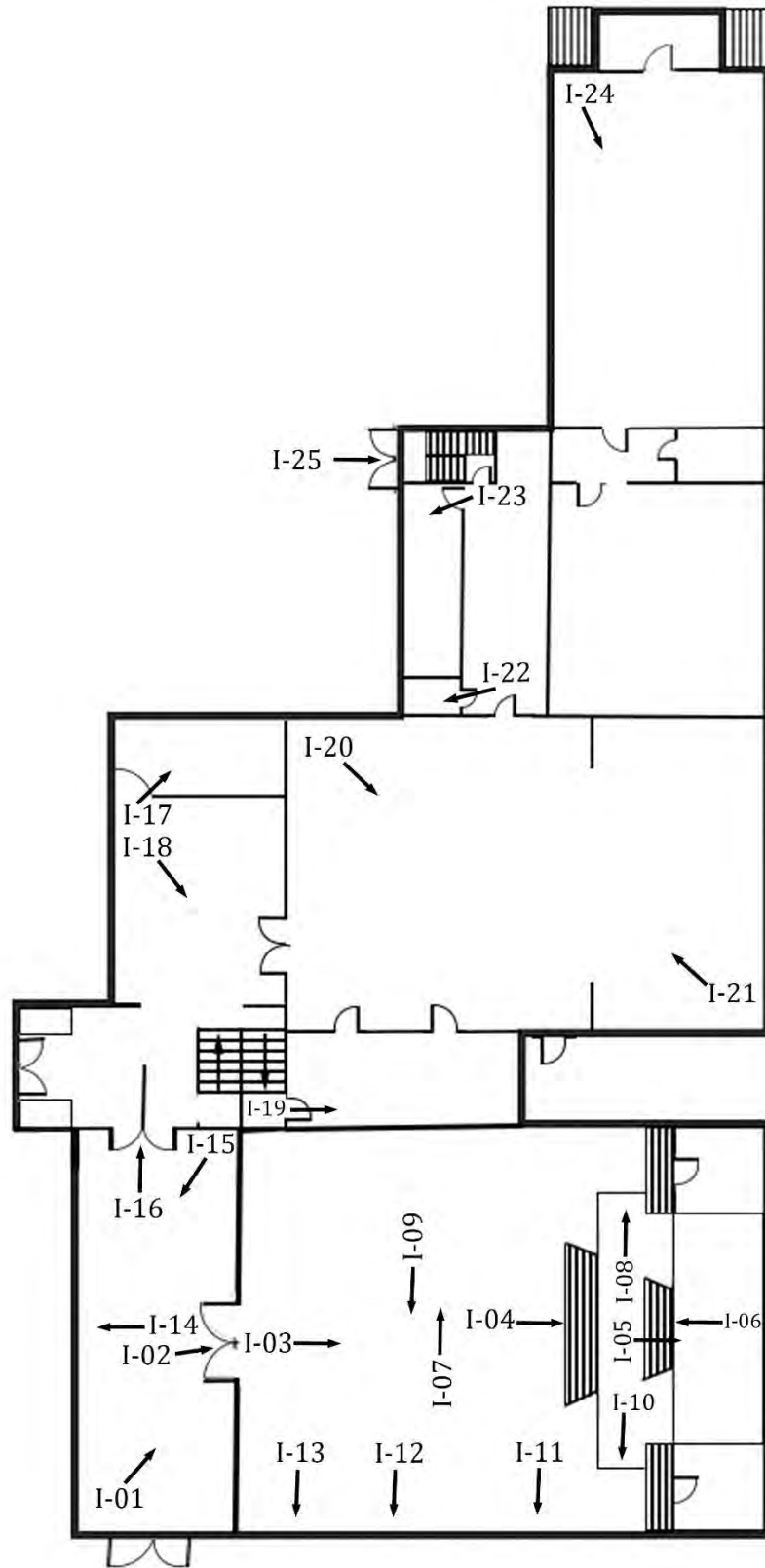


Photo Key 2: Interior, main floor (not to scale; north at top)

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Fillmore, Nebraska
County and State

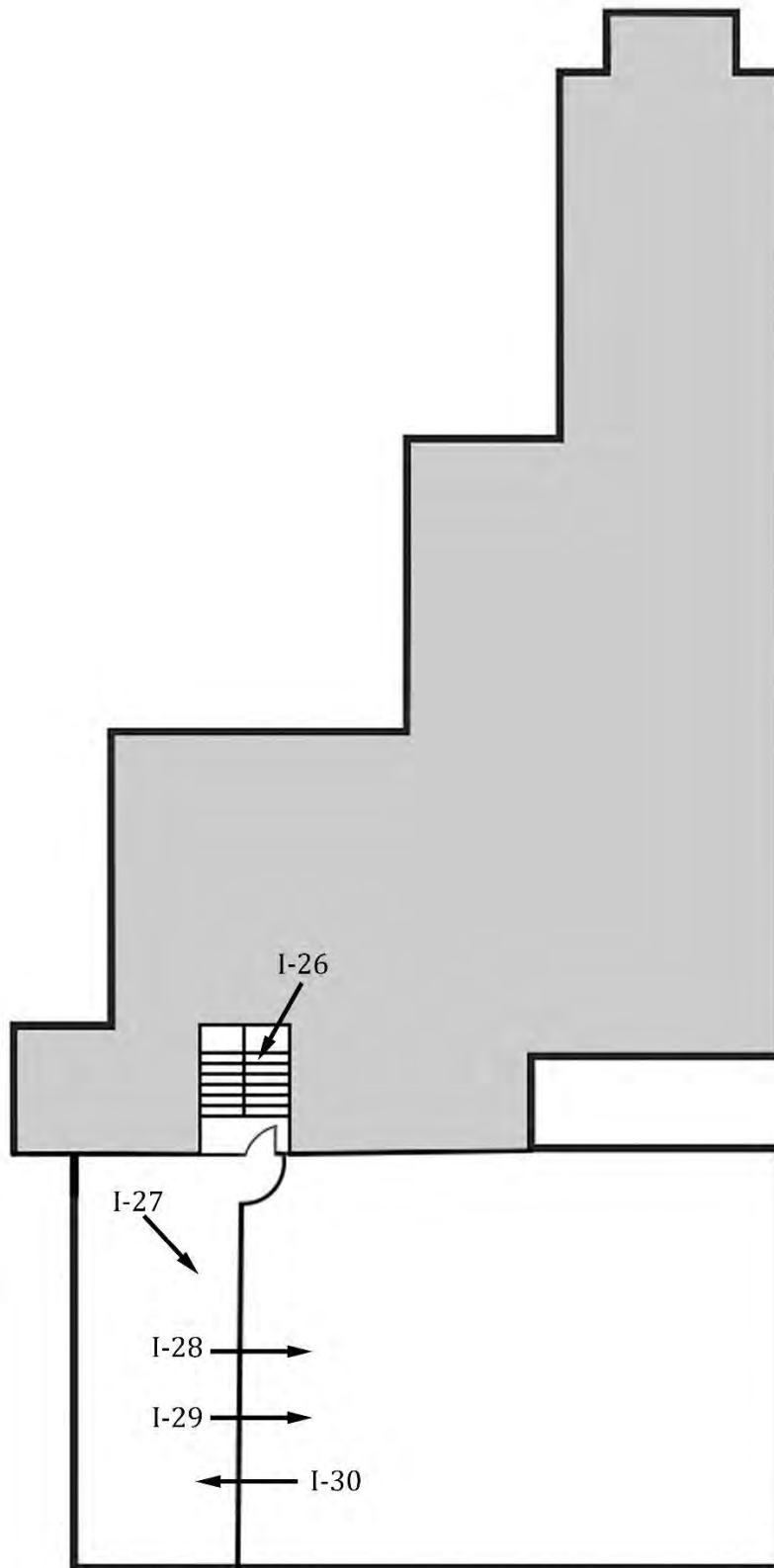


Photo Key 3: Interior, balcony (not to scale; north at top)

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Fillmore, Nebraska
County and State

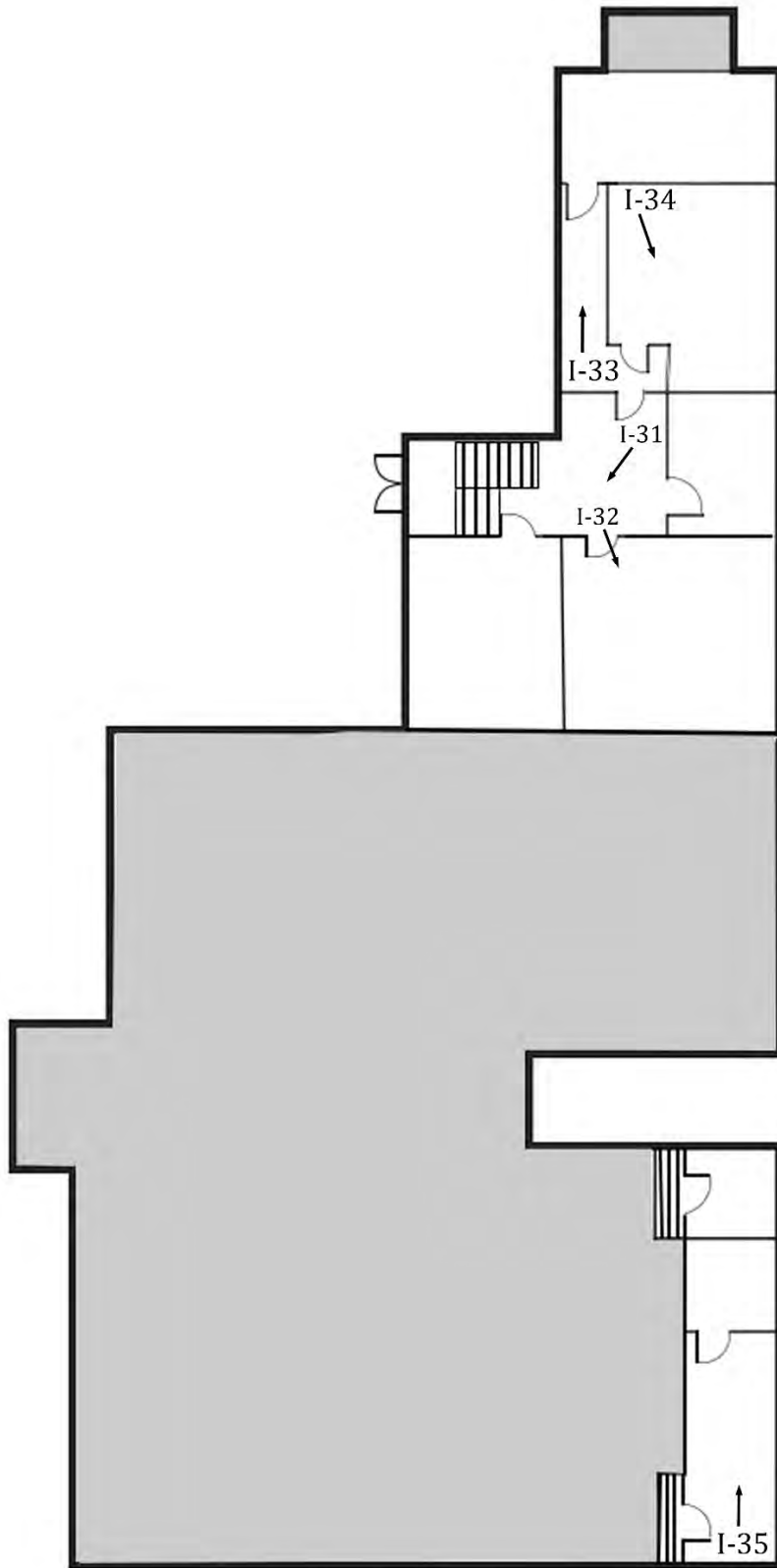


Photo Key 4: Interior, basement (not to scale; north at top)

First Congregational Church
Name of Property

Fillmore, Nebraska
County and State

Additional items:

(Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

N/A

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: First Congregational Church

City or Vicinity: Geneva

County: Fillmore State: NE

Photographer: Michael M. Belding III, National Register Coordinator, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (exterior); Jade Mendoza, Standing Structures Survey Coordinator, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (interior)

Date Photographed: January 3, 2024 (exterior) and April 30, 2025 (interior)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Exterior

E-01 (1 of 55): View of south façade. Camera facing north-northwest.

E-02 (2 of 55): View of south façade. Camera facing north-northeast.

E-03 (3 of 55): View of south and west façades. Camera facing northeast.

E-04 (4 of 55): View of south and west façades (detail). Camera facing northeast.

E-05 (5 of 55): View of west façade. Camera facing east.

E-06 (6 of 55): View of educational wing and office west façade. Camera facing east.

E-07 (7 of 55): View of west and northwest façades. Camera facing southeast.

E-08 (8 of 55): View of west and northwest façades. Camera facing southeast.

E-09 (9 of 55): View of east façade at the nave. Camera facing north.

E-10 (10 of 55): View of a nave window on the south façade (detail). Camera facing north.

E-11 (11 of 55): View of narthex portal on the south façade (detail). Camera facing north.

E-12 (12 of 55): View of south façade at the narthex (detail). Camera facing east.

E-13 (13 of 55): View of portal on the west façade (detail). Camera facing east.

E-14 (14 of 55): View of a window on the west façade (detail). Camera facing east.

E-15 (15 of 55): View of band of windows on the west façade (detail). Camera facing east.

E-16 (16 of 55): View of window on the west façade (detail). Camera facing east.

E-17 (17 of 55): View of a fellowship hall window on the north façade (detail). Camera facing south.

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E-18 (18 of 55): View of educational wing and office entrance (detail) on the west façade. Camera facing east.

E-19 (19 of 55): View of office window (detail) on the west façade. Camera facing east.

E-20 (20 of 55): View of classroom window (detail) on the west façade. Camera facing east.

Interior

Main Floor

I-01 (21 of 55): View of narthex with hallway to fellowship hall at left and nave at right. Camera facing northeast.

I-02 (22 of 55): View of doors between narthex and nave. Camera facing east.

I-03 (23 of 55): View of nave and chancel. Camera facing east.

I-04 (24 of 55): View of chancel. Camera facing east.

I-05 (25 of 55): View of choir window at east façade. Camera facing east.

I-06 (26 of 55): View of pulpit, lectern, nave, narthex, and balcony. Camera facing west.

I-07 (27 of 55): View of nave's north wall. Camera facing north.

I-08 (28 of 55): View of window at the nave's north wall (detail). Camera facing north.

I-09 (29 of 55): View of nave's south wall. Camera facing south.

I-10 (30 of 55): View of window at the nave's south wall (detail). Camera facing south.

I-11 (31 of 55): View of window at the nave's south wall (detail). Camera facing south.

I-12 (32 of 55): View of window at the nave's south wall (detail). Camera facing south.

I-13 (33 of 55): View of window at the nave's south wall (detail). Camera facing south.

I-14 (34 of 55): View of windows at the narthex's east wall (detail). Camera facing west.

I-15 (35 of 55): View of narthex toward south-façade portal. Camera facing south.

I-16 (36 of 55): View of hallway toward narthex; stairs to balcony at left. Camera facing north.

I-17 (37 of 55): View of pastor's office. Camera facing northeast.

I-18 (38 of 55): View of lounge. Camera facing southeast.

I-19 (39 of 55): View of kitchen. Camera facing east.

I-20 (40 of 55): View of fellowship hall; kitchen entrances at right and right-of-center. Camera facing southeast.

I-21 (41 of 55): View of fellowship hall. Camera facing northwest.

I-22 (42 of 55): View of storage closet enclosed by educational wing and office; formerly exterior wall at left. Camera facing west.

I-23 (43 of 55): View of church office. Camera facing southwest.

I-24 (44 of 55): View of a classroom. Camera facing southeast.

I-25 (45 of 55): View of educational wing and office entrance (detail) on the west façade (detail). Camera facing east.

Second Floor (Balcony)

I-26 (46 of 55): View of balcony stairs. Camera facing southwest.

I-27 (47 of 55): View of church roof interior. Camera facing southeast.

I-28 (48 of 55): View of nave and chancel. Camera facing east.

I-29 (49 of 55): View of church ceiling (detail). Camera facing east.

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I-30 (50 of 55): View of balcony window at west façade. Camera facing west.

Basement

I-31 (51 of 55): View of basement stairs and foyer in educational wing. Camera facing south-west.

I-32 (52 of 55): View of basement classroom. Camera facing southeast.

I-33 (53 of 55): View of basement hallway. Camera facing north.

I-34 (54 of 55): View of basement classroom. Camera facing southeast.

I-35 (55 of 55): View of basement storage area beneath choir. Camera facing north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.





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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL ARE WELCOME	WORSHIP 10:30 LIVE OR ON YOUTUBE
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AND
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AND
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SHOW

Welcome to Sandy School

Open House

Information

Information



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Welcome
Sundry
School









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CHURCH









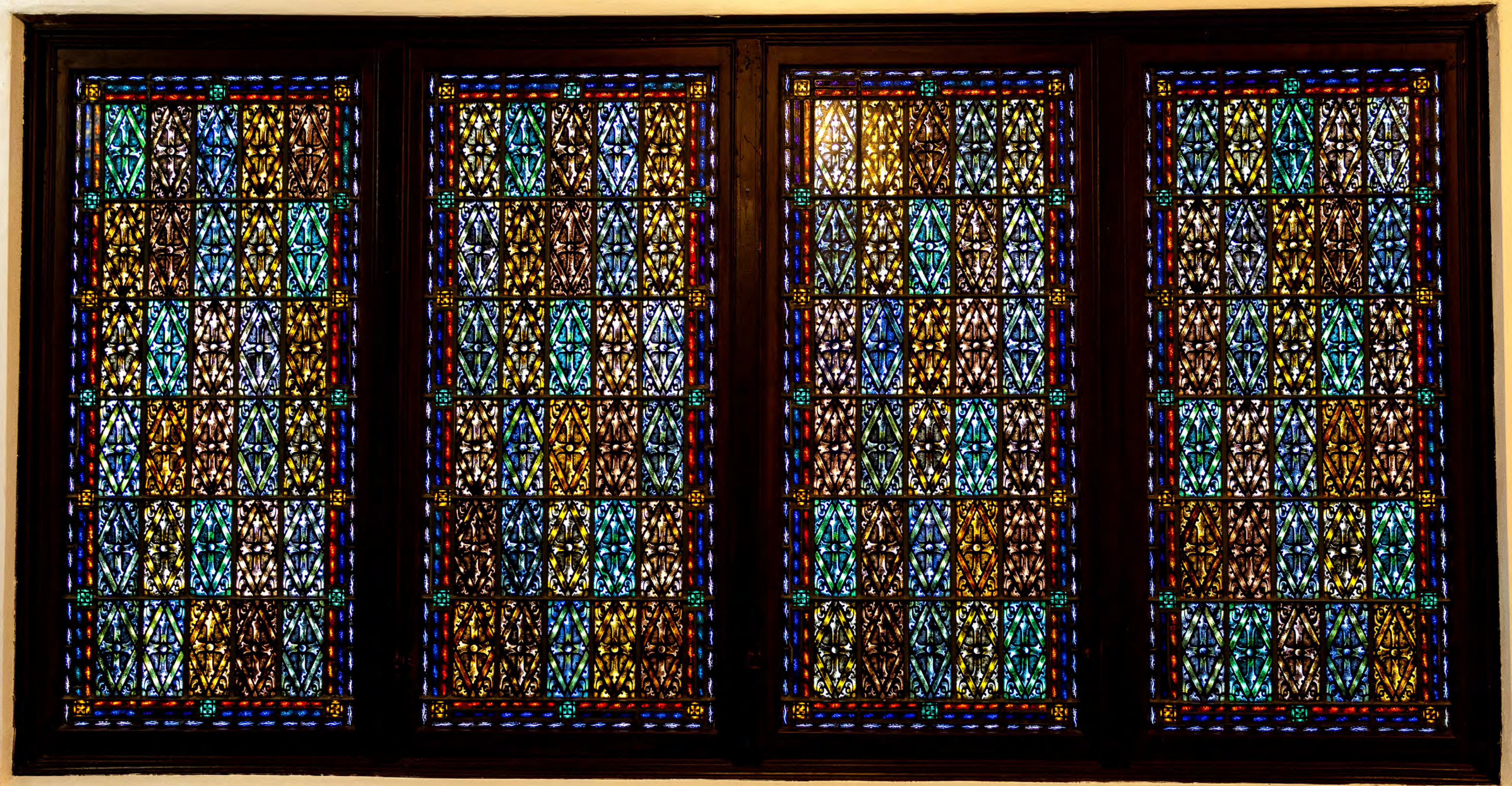














EXIT

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Do not drink water from the tap. It is not safe to drink. Use the bottled water in the cooler.

Do not drink water from the tap. It is not safe to drink. Use the bottled water in the cooler.

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THE COFFEE POT. IT IS HOT.



BEE WHO
JESUS
WANTS YOU
TO BEE
Romans 12:23

EXIT

RESTROOMS



Love is patient, love is kind
It does not envy, it does not boast
It is not self-seeking, it is not
proud, it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil,
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.





24

KEEP COOL -
FRESH - FRUIT

5000

Jenkins
RICE KRISPIES

Jackie

Deb
Jenkins

BY THE POOL
Wacky Noodle

Wacky Noodle





EDUCATIONAL WING AND OFFICE

SHOW
KINDNESS

LOVE
ON
ANOTHER













ROOM
3

ROOM
3

DO U
OTH

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DO NOT
SMOKE







FLUORIDE WATER
IS THE BEST
WAY TO
PREVENT
TOOTH
DECAY

PLEASE MAKE
SURE THE COFFEE
POT IS SHUT OFF
WHEN YOU
LEAVE



PLEASE MAKE SURE
YOUR COFFEE POT IS
SHUT OFF WHEN YOU
LEAVE



