

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name First Presbyterian Church

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 201 South High Street

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Kirksville

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Adair Code 001 Zip code 63501

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Toni M. Prawl MAY 22 2017  
Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 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

First Presbyterian Church  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Other: Imitation Slate

other:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

First Presbyterian Church  
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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.)

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- 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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**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 Presbyterian Church;  
Adair County Courthouse;  
Pickler Memorial Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1922-1923

**Significant Dates**

1922-1923

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Dunbar, Irwin

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 40.193715 -92.580596 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cole Woodcox  
organization Truman State University date 17 January 2017  
street & number 616 East Harrison Street telephone 660.785.4437  
city or town Kirksville state MO zip code 63501  
e-mail [cwoodcox@truman.edu](mailto:cwoodcox@truman.edu)

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each Figure 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 Presbyterian Church

City or Vicinity: Kirksville

County: Adair State: Missouri

Photographer: Cole Woodcox

Date Photographed: December 2016 – January 2017

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

Photograph 1 of 7: North (left) and West (right) façades, looking southeast.

Photograph 2 of 7: East (left) and North (right) façades, looking southwest.

Photograph 3 of 7: South (left) and East (right) façades, looking northwest.

Photograph 4 of 7: West (left) and South (right) façades, looking northeast.

Photograph 5 of 7: Sanctuary, looking east.

Photograph 6 of 7: Sanctuary, looking southeast.

Photograph 7 of 7: Sanctuary, looking northwest.

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## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- Figure A** Site Map. Aerial photo of Linder and Mulanix Addition, Block 10 from Google Earth, with Co-ordinates. Accessed 16 December 2016. First Presbyterian Church is indicated with white outline and star. Co-ordinates set to 40.193715" N and -92.580596" W.
- Figure B** Context Map. Aerial photo of contextual map from Google Earth. Accessed 23 November 2016. First Presbyterian Church marked with white star. Nearby sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places are outlined in white. Co-ordinates set to 40.193715" N and -92.580596" W.
- Figure C** Construction Dates (Lat/Long screen shot from Google Earth).
- Figure D** First Presbyterian Church. First Floor Plan (Basement, front. Main floor, rear. Current. Not to scale).
- Figure E** First Presbyterian Church. Second Floor Plan (Sanctuary. Current. Not to scale).
- Figure F** First Presbyterian Church. Third Floor Plan (Current. Not to scale).
- Figure G** Stained glass window at landing between first and second floors. Looking north. Private photograph.
- Figure H** Fellowship Hall. Looking east. Private photograph.
- Figure I** Second Floor, Foyer. Looking west. Private photograph.
- Figure J** Detail of remodeled chancel showing 1940 murals. Private photograph.
- Figure K** West Window, detail. Private photograph.
- Figure L** Cumberland Academy (c. 1860-1867), Truman State University.
- Figure M** Old School Presbyterians Church (1893-1915), Private Photograph.
- Figure N** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kirksville, Missouri, (1914), 7.
- Figure O** Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1872-1922), First Presbyterian Church.
- Figure P** Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sanctuary (1872-1922), First Presbyterian Church.
- Figure Q** Adair County Courthouse (1898), Truman State University.
- Figure R** U.S. Post Office (1905), Adair County Historical Society.
- Figure S** Kirk Building (1922), Truman State University.
- Figure T** Grim Building (1905), Private Photograph.
- Figure U** Kirksville High School (1914), Truman State University.
- Figure V** Trinity Episcopal Church (1917. NR Listed 01/02/08), Private photograph.
- Figure W** Trinity Episcopal Church, Nave. Looking north (1917. NR Listed 1/02/08), Private photograph.
- Figure X** Postcard of the First Presbyterian Church, c. 1929. Adair County Historical Society.
- Figure Y** Washington Elementary School (1924-1925). Adair County Historical Society.
- Figure Z** Mary Immaculate Church (1946-1947). Private photograph.
- Figure AA** Mary Immaculate Church, Interior (1946-1947). Private photograph.
- Figure BB** United Methodist Church (1950-1953). United Methodist Church.
- Figure CC** United Methodist Church, Interior. Private photograph.
- Figure DD** Masonic Temple (1930).
- Figure EE** Greenwood Elementary School (1934-1935).
- Figure FF** First Baptist Church (1951). Truman State University.
- Figure GG** First Christian Church (1971). Private photograph.
- Figure HH** "Kirksville Churches", *Photographic Description of Kirksville, Missouri*. Issued by Chamber of Commerce, 1928, 18. Top to bottom the five photographs show: 1) Methodist Church South and Methodist Church; 2) First Baptist Church; 3) First Christian Church; 4) First Presbyterian Church (nominated property); and 5) Trinity Episcopal Church (NR Listed).
- Figure II** Princess Theatre (1915). Adair County Historical Society.
- Figure JJ** Sojourners Club (1916. NR Listed 03/11/14). Truman State University.
- Figure KK** Acacia Club (1916). Adair County Historical Society.
- Figure LL** Citizens National Bank (1924. Princess Theatre at far left). Truman State University.
- Figure MM** Baxter Miller Apartment Building (1926. NR Listed 05/21/09). Truman State University.
- Figure NN** Kennedy Theatre and Apartments (1926). Truman State University.
- Figure OO** Truit House (1940). Private photograph.
- Figure PP** Rieger Armory (1938). Private photograph.
- Figure QQ** Macon Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, Macon, Missouri (1938). Private photograph.
- Figure RR** Photo Key.

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### **SUMMARY**

First Presbyterian Church is a multi-story, cross-gabled, brown-brick building located at 201 South High Street in Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri. Built in 1922–1923, this church represents one of the largest structures in Kirksville designed by a local architect, Irwin Dunbar (1888–1975). The finished church is a solid example of how late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival styles were incorporated into American architecture in places far from the nation’s centers for high style. This church’s exterior displays such Tudor and Jacobean Revival elements as Tudor arches, Tudor hoods, tabbed door and window surrounds, buttresses, etc. First Presbyterian Church has been in continuous use by its original occupants since construction and has been updated and added on to as the congregation’s needs and ministries have evolved. Measuring 50 feet by 157 feet, the church faces west and dominates this section of South High Street. Two units – the two-story sanctuary and three-story education wings – make up the building’s original, 1922 plan. These two units produce a T-shaped plan (44 by 108 feet) that is immediately apparent notwithstanding a two-story modern addition (50 by 50 feet) constructed in 1985 east of the original building. Despite this addition and some interior updates, First Presbyterian Church retains numerous character-defining features and readily displays the building’s original materials, craftsmanship, and layout. The period of significance is associated with the date of construction, 1922-1923. Given its design, the condition of its exterior and interior, continuous use as a religious facility, position in local architectural history, and place in the career of its architect, First Presbyterian Church is locally significant under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **ELABORATION**

#### **Site**

The First Presbyterian Church is located at a cross street, 1/2 mile southeast of the Courthouse Square in Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri. The nominated structure occupies the northwest portion of Block 10 (lots 1, 2, and 3), a level site in the Linder and Mulanix Addition (See Photograph I and Figures A and B). The church is located in a neighborhood with mixed commercial and residential areas to the west (closest to the Central Business District); with residential areas to the south and east; and with another church complex to the north (See Figures A and B).

Much of the church is surrounded by paved surfaces. Seven-foot wide sidewalks lie between the street and building on the west (main), north, and east (rear) elevations. Along part of the south elevation, a thirty-one foot wide swath of lawn separates the main building

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from some off-street parking spaces. Grass, some shrubs, and short ornamental trees stand along the north and south elevations. Historic images from the 1920s show that this same unimpeded relationship between the church and the streetscape has existed since the date of significance (Cf. Figures X and HH from the 1920s and Photograph I, 2017).

The southern boundary of this nominated property follows what in 1922 was the property line. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the east-west alley through Block 10 was expanded latitudinally eighteen feet to give the congregation some off street parking (see Figure A). Because of its mass relative to the surrounding buildings, flora, and paved surfaces, as well as its being set close to the lot line, the First Presbyterian Church is a commanding architectural presence along this section of both High and McPherson Streets (See Photograph I).

### Exterior

First Presbyterian Church's rectangular footprint consists of three readily identifiable parts – moving from west to east these are the sanctuary (1922-1923), education wing (1922-1923), and a modern annex called the Travers Addition (1985). These three areas reflect the building's interior use and its construction history (See Photographs I, 3, 4 and Figures C, D, E, and F). The historic front section faces west and accommodates the sanctuary. Adult classrooms and office space are housed in the middle section, which was also erected in 1922-1923. Children's classrooms occupy the Travers Addition (1985).

The sanctuary (the westernmost section of the building) sits atop a full basement made of concrete rising four and a half feet above grade. The church's exterior is clad with brown brick laid in running bond. The cross-gabled attic features a gable roof covered with contemporary imitation slate and copper flashing. All four of the gable ends terminate in stepped parapets. Modern, protective glass windows protect all sixteen of the original stained glass windows on the North, West, and South façades. Two rectangular chimneys rise from the basement to the third story on the South elevation.

**West (Primary) Façade** The main elevation is divided into three bays (See Photographs I, 4 and Figures X and RR).

Moving from left to right, the first bay consists of a brick wall uninterrupted from the concrete foundation to the limestone coping on the parapet above. Short, two stage buttresses with limestone amortizements complete the outermost edges of this bay. The second (middle) bay dominates this elevation and is described below. The third bay (right) repeats the same brick wall and two stage buttress arrangement found in the first bay.

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Returning to the center bay: this is the widest of the three units on the main elevation. It breaks forward approximately two feet from the main block of the building. A small, limestone cornerstone occupies the left corner of the center bay. Much of the church's decorative work appears in this bay. Two tall, brick buttresses with limestone amortizements flank the central bay's vertical arrangement of windows and doors. In turn, these buttresses produce a strong vertical break between the first, second, and third bays.

The center bay offers a stacked composition consisting of the building's main entrance; a band of three square windows; and a large, tripartite lancet window. Beginning at the bottom of this composition, two straight run stairs lead to contemporary single light, bifold doors in the center bay. These doors open into the narthex. Original stained glass sidelights flank the doors. An original, tripartite, stained glass, convex transom light surmounts the doors. As a whole, the doors, sidelights, a transom light generate a squat Tudor arch.

The entrance unit is framed with a broad, limestone moulding. This band is angled approximately forty-five degrees; the reveal narrows from the exterior wall plane toward the main doors. Ten limestone quoins fill the space between the door and the two brick buttresses and produce a tabbed door surround. Recessed panels are set in the spandrels. An entablature with simple mouldings and a broad frieze is set above the door. "First Presbyterian 19 Church 22" is encribed in a recessed, rectangular section of this frieze.

Three square, original, stained glass windows – each with a wooden frame set within a limestone surround -- fill the next section of the central bay. These windows (which illuminate a foyer leading into the main sanctuary) are approximately 46 x 52 inches and are shielded by contemporary, glass windows. Five limestone quoins on each side of this band of windows extend out to the two buttresses noted above and create a tabbed window surround.

A second entablature with simple moldings separates the ribbon windows from the huge lancet window above. This broad entablature conceals the structural supports for the balcony inside the building.

Limestone tracery divides the large window into three, large, lancet-shaped lights and six smaller lights. Original stained glass fills all of these lights. Seven limestone quoins on each side of the window form the vertical part of the surround. An arch of limestone voisoirs forms the upper part of the surround; its outer edge has raised stops and a raised molding that extends along the top of the seventh quoin thereby producing a Tudor hood molding.

At the top of the center bay, a recess with a short limestone sill and lintel fills the peak of the gable. Although no original plans for the church are extant, this space might have held a louvered vent for the attic above the sanctuary. However, even the earliest photographs of

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First Presbyterian Church from the 1920s show the existing brick infill (Figures X and HH). Limestone coping caps the shaped pediment.

**North (Left) Façade**

The north elevation shows three distinct three zones (See Photographs 1 and 2 and Figure RR). Moving from right (main) to left (rear) across this facade: the first two – the sanctuary and education wings – are original (1922-1923); the third – the Travers Addition – is contemporary (1985).

The two-story, sanctuary wing consists of five bays each separated by a two-stage buttresses. These buttresses continue the vertical rhythms established on the main elevation. Moving from right to left along the north facade, the first bay holds two windows: the raised basement has a fixed, six light replacement window; directly above at, on the first floor, is a single, wooden, double-hung sash window set on a limestone sill and capped with a limestone Tudor hood. The second bay features paired 9/9, double-hung, replacement, sash windows in the raised basement. These windows sit atop the concrete foundation. A single course of soldier bricks constitute the lintel for these windows. Above the soldier bricks, a limestone, cyma recta molding forms the sill for a large segmental-headed stained-glass window. A system of wooden mullions and transoms divide this original, wood-framed window into eight lights – three lights above the main transom and five below it. Two small, rectangular casement windows are at the base of the central stained-glass panel. A contemporary glass storm window covers the original stained-glass window. Three courses of rowlock brick form the arch at the top of this large window. The third, fourth, and fifth bays are identical to the second bay just described. Above the large segmental-headed windows are a course of slightly projecting bricks and a brick dentate band; these are the last visible sections at the top of the wall. Copper well heads and downspouts are placed in the first, third, and fifth bays. A copper gutter extends the length of the sanctuary wing.

Continuing to the left, the next unit -- the three-story, education wing -- extends northward eight feet from the sanctuary unit just described. The right (west) side of this wing has two narrow, 4/4 double-hung, replacement, sash windows on the ground floor. Each window has a limestone sill and a rowlock arch lintel. A single 6/6 double-hung, replacement, sash window with a limestone sill and rowlock arch lintel is on the second floor. A similar window is on the third floor, however it lacks the rowlock arch lintel and is set flush with the course of projecting bricks and dentate band mentioned above.

The north (main) side of the education wing has three bays and incorporates many of the same stylistic elements already mentioned. Two two-stage buttresses with limestone amortizements divide the first, second, and third bays. The first floor has a 6/6 double-hung,

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replacement, sash window on a limestone sill with rowlock arch in the first and third bays. A metal double leaf, single light door fills the second (central) bay. A single concrete stair leads up to this door. The fenestration is aligned vertically across this façade with paired windows in the center bay of the second and third stories. The second story pair features a tabbed, stone window surround. A limestone sill, limestone lintel, and brick panel like those found on the main elevation fill the gable end. At the top, a shaped pediment with limestone coping echoes the pediment on the main elevation.

Continuing to the left is the third and final unit on this façade (Photograph 2). The two-story Travers Addition was erected in 1985. Although contemporary this wing was intentionally designed to be sympathetic in materials, style, and scale to the original sanctuary and education wings.<sup>1</sup> The north façade of the annex wing repeats the the scale and fenestration patterns found elsewhere. In addition, the double rowlock arches above the windows echo those found on the original building. Three bays form the north side of this wing. Three evenly spaced sets of 6/6, vinyl, double-hung sash windows are on the first floor. This arrangement is repeated on the second and third floors so that there is a strict vertical alignment of the fenestration.

**East (Rear) Façade**

The east side of the Travers Addition has no windows (Photographs 2 and 3 and Figure RR). Moving from the bottom to the top, the Addition's main features are 1) the main wall plane projects approximately one foot beyond the main mass of the annex on both the north and south ends of that wall plane. This feature echoes the projecting buttress of the 1922-1923 building; 2) two vertically aligned, metal, single leaf doors, one in the middle of the first floor elevation and the other in the middle of the second floor. A straight run metal staircase goes to the second floor door; and 3) a repetition of the stepped parapet from the gable ends of the original 1922-1923 building. Louvered, quarter-round attic vents are set in the gable end.

**South (Right) Façade**

All three units of the church (sanctuary, education, and Travers Addition) are clearly visible on this elevation (See Photographs 2 and 4 and Figure RR). This façade's composition repeats the arrangement and details described for the north elevation (supra). Moving from left to right and beginning with the sanctuary, this section replicates the same five bay arrangements discussed above. Moving right, the three-story education wing protrudes from the main building. The education wing has four vertically aligned vinyl replacement windows per floor with a chimney extending between the third and fourth bays; beginning at the raised basement level, the chimney rises the full height of the

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Linda Hudnall, member of the Church Presbytery, 15 December 2016.

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building. A second, interior chimney rises above the roof line and parapet. Continuing to the right, the two-story Travers Addition replicates the north elevation of that same wing with one major difference: the first bay holds a one and a half story porch that has a recessed porch on the first story leading to a contemporary, metal, single leaf, single light door. On the second story, two sash windows are set in the gable.

### Interior

The plan for the First Presbyterian Church is utilitarian: two superimposed areas (the Fellowship Hall on the first floor and the sanctuary immediately above it on the second floor) dominate the design. All interior spaces relate to these two large assembly spaces.

The interior is handsomely decorated, in excellent condition, and retains numerous original and historic character-defining fixtures, viz., white plaster walls, wooden balustrades, wooden door and window surrounds, stained glass windows, murals, light fixtures, wooden trusses (Photographs 5, 6 and Figures F, G, H, I, and J).

#### First Floor and Basement

The first floor of the Sanctuary wing is split into two zones: the narthex (which is part of the building's first floor) and the Fellowship Hall and kitchen, which are set lower and form the basement (Figure D).

Beginning with the west elevation and ground level (first floor), the main church's entrance opens into a rectangular narthex. The east wall of this room has floor to ceiling wood paneling. A contemporary (1986), stained-glass panel with the emblem of the Presbyterian Church stands at the center of this wall. A modern elevator for handicap accessibility is located on the north (right) side of the narthex. An original dogleg staircase fills the south wall of this room. The east side of this staircase leads upstairs to the sanctuary on the second floor (Figure G); the west side leads downstairs to the Fellowship Hall and lower level.

Moving downstairs, the Fellowship Hall and kitchen fill most of the basement level (Figure H). Paired windows line both the north and south walls. The west wall opens onto two hallways: one leads to the elevator, the other to stairs up to the narthex. The east wall of the Fellowship Hall opens onto the kitchen, a second stairhall, and a storage room.

Continuing east and returning upstairs to the ground level, the first floor of the education wing features a broad hallway that opens into a room on the east, restrooms, an original wooden staircase that leads up to the second floor, and a hallway that leads into the 1985 addition.

The first floor of the Travers Addition has a double-loaded corridor with classrooms, offices, and restrooms.

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**Second Floor** Figure E. A contemporary elevator and an original staircase from the narthex lead up to a rectangular foyer lit by the stained-glass ribbon windows on the main façade (Figure I). A second flight of stairs on north side of this foyer leads up to the balcony on the third floor.

The second floor foyer opens into the church's sanctuary (Photographs 5, 6, 7 and Figures J and RR). This large space retains significant, original, character defining features. Eleven wooden pews on each side of a central aisle face the chancel. An organ, piano, lectern and altar are located in the chancel. A wooden screen over the organ pipes and a historic, three-part mural rise behind this (Figure J). A door on the north end of the east wall leads into the vestry. A door on the south end of the east wall leads into a parlor. Five original stained glass windows occupy the north wall and another five original stained-glass windows are on the south wall. Four original, Howe trusses span the sanctuary laterally. Six historic, metal and stained glass lanterns are suspended on chains from the beams.

The rest of the second floor (education wing and Travers Addition) contains a vestry, offices, parlor, and a large Sunday School classroom.

**Third Floor** Figure F. The chief feature of the third floor of the sanctuary wing are the balcony and large West window that overlook the main worship space (Photograph 7 and Figures K and RR). The organ loft consists of six rows of pews.

The third floor of the education wing contains classrooms.

The third floor of the Travers Addition is attic space.

**Alterations** Some alterations have been made to First Presbyterian Church since its erection in 1922 - 1923. These include:

To the exterior:

- I) Adding a 5000 square foot addition to the east (the Travers addition) in 1985.<sup>2</sup> This alteration is at the rear of the building and does not obstruct any of the defining features on the original North, West, and South façades (See Photographs 1, 2, and 4 and Figures D, E, F, X, and HH). Furthermore considerable effort was made by the building committee to ensure that "The

<sup>2</sup> The 1922 - 1923 building is 10,000 square feet. Thus the Travers Addition represents one-third of the building's current square footage with the original structure making up the majority, two-thirds.

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exterior of the addition blends well with the original building, providing a continuity and dignity to the entire structure.”<sup>3</sup> The Travers Addition uses the same building material, the same roof profile, the same stepped parapet, the same double rowlock arches, and the same scale in fenestration as corresponding components on the historic structure. In plan, the Travers Addition did not disturb the original configuration of rooms in the adjoining, historic Education Wing. The rear entrance of the 1922–1923 building opens directly into the main hallway of the 1985 addition (See Figure D).

To the interior:

2) Reconfiguring the chancel in 1940s. Although this is a significant alteration it did not change the footprint of the sanctuary. It was caused when a new organ was installed in the chancel and the opportunity was taken to do additional work. Original side stairs were replaced with central stairs into the chancel for more direct access to the altar. Moreover this remodel introduced what is now a defining artistic feature to the sanctuary – the three-part mural with scenes from the life of Jesus, painted by Jack McMillan of the New York Art Students League. The mural was a gift from the Women’s Association (Photograph 5 and Figure I).

3) The replacement in 1984 of the 1940 organ with a new Reuter organ. The current wood and mesh screen over the organ pipes was configured and the 1940 murals in the chancel were cleaned at this time (See Figures I and J).

4) Changing out original sash windows in the basement and education wings with replacement windows in the 1990s.

While these modifications reflect the church’s historic purpose as a religious facility, they do not hamper the building’s architectural significance. Beyond these updates, the building’s original, 1922, two-part spatial configuration of sanctuary and education wing is easily apparent (Cf. Photograph I and Figure X) and its character defining features are evident.

<sup>3</sup> Georgia Warner Walter, *The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Missouri*, Kirksville, Missouri: First Presbyterian Church, 2006, 18.

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### **INTEGRITY AND CONCLUSION**

First Presbyterian Church has continuously operated as a vital religious facility in Kirksville since its dedication in 1923. The congregation fully understands the church's history and architectural importance. They have kept all aspects of the building in good repair and paid particular attention to maintaining such important features as the stained glass windows when these were restored in 2012 (See Figures G, I, and K). Both the exterior and interior of the nominated structure are in excellent condition and communicate its Tudor and Jacobean Revival Style. The building retains many of its original materials and numerous primary defining features. These readily communicate its 1922-1923 construction date, its historic function as a church for 95 years, and its vital position in the development of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century revival styles in Kirksville. Moreover, First Presbyterian Church represents an important design in the career of its local architect (*infra*). The nominated property was the largest church designed by that architect. A sense of this building's historic past and its importance as a local example of a popular revival style are easily conveyed by the condition of its exterior and interior (Cf. Photograph I and Figure X).

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### **SUMMARY**

Located at 201 South High Street in Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri, First Presbyterian Church represents one of the largest, extant structures in Kirksville designed by local architect, Irwin Dunbar. The church is eligible for National Register listing because of its local significance under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE. Under Criterion C, the church is the best local example of popular late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival styles. The nominated property combines a plan of interlocking spaces and levels, multiple functions, and Tudor and Jacobean Revival Style details. The building meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A its primary significance is architectural despite being owned by a religious institution. Finally, this church in a rural Missouri town holds a noteworthy place in the oeuvre of a leading local architect.

Built in 1922-1923, the cross-gabled, multi-story, brick church faces west. The building's original T-shaped plan (comprised principally of a Fellowship Hall on the first floor and a sanctuary on the second) is immediately apparent notwithstanding a two-story modern annex east of the main block. The annex, called the Travers Addition, now makes the building's footprint rectangular (Figures C, D, E, and F). The period of significance is associated with the dates of construction, from the summer of 1922 through the spring of 1923.

### **ELABORATION**

**First Presbyterian Church & Its Patrons** The local Presbyterian Church was organized in 1846, five years after the founding of Kirksville. The congregation had occasional visits from a circuit rider during its early years and the first regular Cumberland Presbyterian minister was appointed in 1854. A second congregation, Old School Presbyterians, was organized in Kirksville circa 1859. Around 1860 the Cumberland Presbyterians erected a two-story frame building in Northeast Kirksville (Figure L).<sup>4</sup> Neither congregation met during the Civil War but resumed their separate meetings in 1868. The Old School Presbyterians erected their church at the corner of McPherson and Franklin Streets that same year. This building

<sup>4</sup> This building faced west and stood on the site of present-day Memorial Park in Kirksville. The structure housed the congregation's educational project -- the Cumberland Academy, which the Presbytery established in December 1859. This is the building Joseph Baldwin bought in 1867 to house his newly-established teacher-train school (what became Truman State University). The Academy was sold by the state in 1873 and burned down in 1874. For histories of the Presbyterian Church in Kirksville see J.W. Heyd, *History of the Presbyterian Church*, 1946, Reprint. Kirksville, Missouri: First Presbyterian Church, 1982; P.O. Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians*, Kirksville, Missouri: First United Presbyterian Church, 1971; P.O. Selby, *A Historical Tour of Adair County*, n.p., n.d.; David Elliott Waggoner, *The Growth of the Presbyterian Churches, Kirksville Presbytery, Missouri Synod, 1820-1950*, M.A. Thesis, Kirksville, Missouri: Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, 1950; Georgia Warner Walter, *The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Missouri*, Kirksville, Missouri: First Presbyterian Church, 2006; and Shannon Walter, "Author Tells Church Story," *Index*, 19 November 2009, 13.

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burned in 1892 and the congregation erected a new church on the same site in 1893 (Figure M).<sup>5</sup>

After the sale of their 1860 church building (the Cumberland Academy), the Cumberland Presbyterians built a new frame structure built at the northeast corner of Illinois and Franklin streets in 1868.

Approximately one mile south of the Cumberland Presbyterians' new church, the Baptists in Kirksville built an ambitious church in 1872 at McPherson and High streets in Block 10, Lots 1 and 2 – the site of the nominated property (Figures N, O, and P). However, by the mid-1870s it became evident that the Baptists had overbuilt and the Presbyterians had underbuilt. The latter had outgrown their new church by the mid-1870s.<sup>6</sup> As a solution, the Baptists and Cumberland Presbyterians agreed to exchange buildings. In 1877 the Cumberland Presbyterians paid \$1600 for the larger building at McPherson and High Streets and the two congregations moved. The Presbyterians continued to use this 1872 building until the erection of the nominated building on the same site.<sup>7</sup>

The consolidation of Kirksville's two Presbyterian congregations (the Cumberland and the Old School) into one unit and the erection of the nominated church is not a simple matter. In 1906 the two groups voted to unite and renamed themselves the First Presbyterian Church.<sup>8</sup> The congregations met in both the Old School and the Cumberland Presbyterian buildings throughout the 1910s to see how each functioned.<sup>9</sup> However, neither structure adequately meet their needs. The first move toward solving the spatial problem came in May 1913 when the Session appointed a committee to work out a plan to dispose of one or both buildings and either to plan a new building or to remodel one of the two old ones. Committees were appointed to consult with architects and construction bids for a new building were requested in 1916. However, rising material and construction costs forced the abandonment of the project until after World War One. The arrival of a new minister in 1921 renewed conversations about the construction of a new church. The 1916 plans were shelved in favor of a fresh design. The heart of this new plan was a Fellowship Hall on the first floor which might be used for various activities and a large sanctuary above it. At the east end of the building, three floors of rooms for Sunday School classes and offices were proposed. Funds were raised so

<sup>5</sup> This 1893 building was sold in 1915 and razed. The Princess Theatre, an early building designed by local architect Irwin Dunbar, was built on the site. See Figure II.

<sup>6</sup> Between 1868 and 1870 alone, the congregation grew from 103 to 150 people. Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians* 10.

<sup>7</sup> They remodeled the 1872 church in 1878 and again in 1897. Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians* 11.

<sup>8</sup> Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians* 30.

<sup>9</sup> The Cumberland Presbyterian building was used for the first six months. It was the larger of the two congregations at that time. The Old Presbyterian building was never used for regular worship services during this period however since it was rapidly determined that it was not large enough. See Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians* 31-34.

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that construction of the nominated structure was begun in late 1922 and finished and dedicated in 1923.<sup>10</sup>

**First Presbyterian Church & Local Architectural Context** Designated as the county seat when it was platted in 1841, Kirksville, Missouri was incorporated in 1857. The town's early growth was slow and completely checked by the Civil War. With the coming of the Wabash Railroad in 1868 and the Quincy-Missouri-Pacific Railroad in 1872, Kirksville underwent a sudden and dramatic boom that lasted well into the early twentieth century. It became an agricultural and livestock center, a shipping and distribution hub, and a leader in medical treatment and teacher education. Much of the town's expansion after the 1870s ran along two perpendicular axes: southward along a north-south axis created by the Wabash rail lines and eastward along an east-west axis from the Quincy rail lines.<sup>11</sup> First Presbyterian Church stands on Block 10 in an addition platted in the 1870s as part of this eastward expansion. By the late 1870s, two of the lots on Block 10 were owned by the First Prebyterian church (supra), which took possession of an existing church erected in 1870.<sup>12</sup>

The architectural significance of this nominated property can be seen in the local context of a robust period of building activity between the early 1890s to the mid-twentieth century. First Presbyterian Church came at the midpoint of a construction boom that brought a variety of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival styles to Kirksville. Combining vernacular elements with Tudor and Jacobean Revival styles sets this church apart from the architectural designs used elsewhere in this rural northeast Missouri town.

Although a few architectural firms practiced in Kirksville at the turn-of-the-last-century, most commercial, domestic and religious construction in town was vernacular. Local real estate developers, contractors, and lumbermen had as much to do with the built fabric of Kirksville as any trained architect.<sup>13</sup> For instance, fires during the early 1890s destroyed several buildings around the central Courthouse Square; almost all of the replacement structures were

<sup>10</sup> Selby, *Kirksville Presbyterians* 37. See also: "Presbyterian Cornerstone laying Oct. 23", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 14 October 1922, 1; "Presbyterian Cornerstone to be laid Monday", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 21 October 1922, 1; "Dedication Week at First Presbyterian", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 24 September 1923, 3; "Church Services", *Kirksville Daily Express*, 31 August 1923, 6..

<sup>11</sup> See Marian M. Ohman, *Twenty Towns*, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri – Columbia, Extension Division, 1985 and *A Book of Adair County History*, Kirksville, Missouri: Simpson Printing Company, 1976, and Kerry Downs, *Cultural Resource Survey Plan*, Kirksville, Missouri, 2011, 102-117.

<sup>12</sup> See Figure N. Lot 3 was later purchased by the Presbyterians in the 1980s when the Travers Addition was proposed. In the 1950s the Church purchased the structures on lots 5, 6, and 7. By the 1980s, the First Presbyterian Church also bought the building on lot 8, bringing the total lots owned by the church to nine out of the ten on this block.

<sup>13</sup> See Downs, 102-117.

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not designed by architects.<sup>14</sup> In contrast to the warehouses, commercial, and residential structures, most of the town's major public buildings were architect-designed, but by firms outside Adair County. For instance, in the three decades before the construction of First Presbyterian Church, the streetscape of Kirksville was dominated by such buildings as the massive Romanesque courthouse (Figure Q, 1898. NR listed 08/11/78) by Robert G. Kirsch from Milwaukee; a new Colonial Revival post office (Figure R, 1905) designed by John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury; a Jacobean Revival office building, the Grim Building (Figure T, 1905. NR listed 06/27/79), designed by Albert B. Groves of St. Louis; a Collegiate Gothic high school (Figure U, 1914) produced by the St. Joseph firm of Funk & Gordon (this building is located across the street from First Presbyterian Church); and the Mission-styled Princess Theatre (Figure II, 1915) by local architect, Irwin Dunbar. All of these buildings remain and stand within three blocks of First Presbyterian Church. Except for the Princess Theatre, the exteriors of all these buildings retain integrity. None of them, however, exhibit the combination of Tudor and Jacobean Revival traits seen in the First Presbyterian Church, making its iteration of these two historicist styles rare in Kirksville.

By the early 1910s, many buildings in the Central Business District and the neighborhood surrounding the site for the First Presbyterian Church were approximately 40 to 50 years old. The First Presbyterian Church is part of a phase of modernization that occurred beginning in the 1910s.<sup>15</sup>

For example, in 1917, Kirksville's Protestant churches began razing their late-nineteenth-century buildings and erecting their current Craftsman, Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival and Modernist structures (Figure HH).<sup>16</sup> The Episcopalians began this phase of rebuilding (Figures V and W). The Presbyterians followed in 1922 when they replaced their fifty-year old building with the nominated structure. The three other nearby congregations waited until after World War Two to build new facilities (See Figures BB, FF, and GG). First

<sup>14</sup> Separate fires during the early 1890s altered the frontage of the north, west and south sides of the Court House Square. See E.M. Violette, *History of Adair County*, Kirksville, Missouri: Denslow History Co., 1911, 389-394 and *A Book of Adair County History*, Kirksville, Missouri: Simpson Printing Co., 1976, 131-135.

<sup>15</sup> See Amanda Jones, ed., *Adair County Revisited: Pictorial History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Adair County*, Missouri, Marceline, Missouri: Heritage House Publishing, 1999.

<sup>16</sup> By 1876 there were five churches in Kirksville within two blocks of each other: the Freewill Baptist (1865. In 1876 this building was bought by the Methodist Episcopal South congregation); Trinity Episcopal Church erected in 1870; the Methodist Episcopal North (1871); and the Missionary Baptist (1872. In 1877 this building was bought by the Cumberland Presbyterian Congregation); the Disciples of Christ (1876). The Baptists replaced their church in 1951. The Methodists started in 1955 and finished their chapel in 1953. The Congregation of Christ built a free-standing education building in 1957 and replaced their chapel in 1971, the last of the five to rebuild. All five of the sites still have a church on them, making First Presbyterian Church part of a cluster of properties continuously associated with religious activity in Kirksville since the 1870s. These were not the only congregations in town. By 1878, Kirksville boasted an Episcopal church, a Disciples of Christ church, two Presbyterian churches, three Baptist churches (one for blacks, the other two for whites), two Methodist churches, and an A.M.E. church (built in 1878 this front-gabled vernacular building is now the oldest extant church in Kirksville).

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Presbyterian Church represents an early point in the modernization for these five neighboring churches and is the strongest local example of Tudor and Jacobean Revival building.

At the time of First Presbyterian Church's erection in 1922 and throughout the 1930s, Kirksville continued to develop a strong assembly of buildings by Midwestern architects. New architect-designed edifices included the Administration Building for the Kirksville College of Osteopathy (1922) and Renaissance Revival styled Kirk Building (Figure S, 1923) for Truman State University; both buildings were designed by Sanneman & Van Trump from Kansas City. The Travelers Hotel (1923-1924. NR Listed 09/16/09) was also designed by Sanneman & Van Trump. Other major, high-style buildings included: the Neoclassical Revival Citizens National Bank (Figure LL, 1924) by Irwin Dunbar; the Renaissance Revival Kennedy Theatre (Figure NN, 1926) also by Dunbar; the Art-Deco Kirksville Daily Express Building (1930) designed by Bonsack & Pearce of St. Louis; the Egyptian Revival Masonic Temple (Figure DD, 1930. NR listed 01/07/10) by the same firm; the Colonial Revival Greenwood Elementary School (Figure EE, 1934-1935) and Memorial Hall (1936) for the Kirksville College of Osteopathy, also by Bonsack & Pearce. All of these buildings remain except for the Kennedy Theatre and all stand within two to four blocks of nominated church. The exteriors of these buildings retain integrity. However, again, none of them put Tudor and Jacobean Revival details on display in Kirksville.

The defining feature of most edifices standing close by First Presbyterian Church is that they exhibit popular late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century revivalist styles. But part of this church's local architectural significance is that it displays a combination of two styles, and of two revival styles not often seen even separately in Kirksville.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, First Presbyterian Church demonstrates an evolution from smaller or sprawling late-nineteenth century structures to larger, more tightly massed twentieth-century buildings. This church offers the physical evidence of an early-twentieth century architectural solution to the needs of an expanding congregation and its various ministries. Finally, the distinguishing physical characteristics of this church's exterior and its interior worship space have remained largely intact since its construction in 1922. Because of its workmanship and mix of two high styles, First Presbyterian Church is an important, extant structure in Kirksville for understanding the use of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival styles in a rural Missouri setting.

**First Presbyterian Church, Tudor and Jacobean Revival Styles** In early twentieth-century American architect, the so-called Tudor Revival often displayed masonry-veneered construction; decorative brickwork; shallow, recessed porches on the front facade; broad,

<sup>17</sup> See the discussion below of the Grim Building (Jacobean Revival) and the United Methodist Church (Tudor Revival).

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flattened arches; quoins produced from tabs of cut stone projecting into the surrounding brickwork; bands of windows with strong mullions; transom windows; label moldings (hood moldings); shallow buttresses; steep, front facing, gable roofs; parapeted, stepped, or shaped gables. The style is somewhat simpler than its near relation the Jacobean Revival, which often displays the features just noted plus a free borrowing of classical elements (viz., symmetry, engaged columns, pilasters, swags, urns, obelisks, portrait busts, scrolls, straps, lozenges, etc.).<sup>18</sup> The overall effect seen at First Presbyterian Church, Kirksville, is that of a straightforward, T-shaped building with intermingled Tudor and Jacobean elements (Photograph I and Figure X).<sup>19</sup>

The best example of an extant Jacobean Revival styled building in Kirksville is the Grim Building (Figure T), a two-story office building. The Grim Building exhibits the shallow recessed porch, tabbed window and door surrounds, quoins, label moldings, and classical ornaments associated with the Jacobean Revival. And, although many of Kirksville's late-nineteenth century churches utilized Gothic Revival and Romanesque designs, the first appearance in town of Tudor Revival elements on a building came with Irwin Dunbar's design for Trinity Episcopal Church (Figures V and W) in 1917, five years before the same architect designed First Presbyterian Church. Trinity, however, is a hybrid design – Gothic, Tudor, Craftsman. And its bargeboards, purlins, open eaves, exposed rafter tails, and interior woodwork show Dunbar's strong interest in Craftsman detailing, a primary characteristic of all his designs in Kirksville between executed between 1914 and 1917 (See Figures V, W, II, JJ, and KK).

Tudor and Gothic elements can also be seen in the Collegiate Gothic styled Kirksville High School (Figure U, 1914), Washington Elementary School (Figure Y, 1925), Mary Immaculate Church (Figures Z and AA, 1946-1947), and the Methodist Church (Figures BB and CC, 1950-1953). Unlike the High School, the last three show more modest applications of high style elements. Washington Elementary School has decorative brickwork and stylized, decorative flora rendered in stone around the main entrance. The stone surround, however, is bas-relief and more Art Deco than the rounded, high-relief, terra-cotta surrounds seen around the porch of the Grim Building. And Mary Immaculate applies Gothic Revival elements with some rectilinear, stacked, Art Deco inspired volumes. The Methodist Church utilizes several Gothic and Tudor Revival elements, but these seem subsidiary to the stronger mid-century emphasis placed on that church's massing of compressed, tidy, cubic forms.

In comparison to all six of these Gothic, Tudor, and Jacobean styled buildings in Kirksville, First Presbyterian Church demonstrates a more robust approach to the Tudor

<sup>18</sup> For complete descriptions of both styles see James Stevens Curl, *Encyclopaedia of Architectural Terms*, Donhead Publishing: Donhead, U.K., 1997, 127-128; 188-189; 327-328 and Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf: New York City, NY, 2003, 354-371.

<sup>19</sup> See Figure P.

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Revival. It is an excellent example of these two styles. The west façade of the nominated structure is a clear demonstration of Tudor Revival elements (the flattened arches, the band of windows, the trefoils in the spandrels, the quoins, etc.) and the wall planes of the secondary elevations continue the style with shallow buttresses, transomed windows, low segmental arched openings, and Tudor hoods. And on the exterior, the rectangular niche in the gable end, emphasis on symmetry found in the primary and secondary facades, and inside, the ogee arches, slim rectangles, scrolls, acanthus forms, and shields found in the stained-glass windows hint at the Jacobean Revival. Similarly, when compared with Trinity, Mary Immaculate, and the Methodist Churches, the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church uses its scale, large windows, woodwork, ceiling height, and Howe trusses to evoke a Tudor-styled interior better than any of the other three revival styled churches in town (Cf. Photographs 5, 6, 7 and Figures W, AA, CC. In particular, note the curved glulam arches in Mary Immaculate and First United Methodist).

In summary, no other building in Kirksville employs this combination of Tudor and Jacobean Revival styles on such a large, integrated scale. And no other local building shows such a hearty use of the Tudor style.

**First Presbyterian Church & Its Architect** Irwin Dunbar (1888 – 1975) was a leading local architect. In the course of his fifty-year career as an architect (approximately thirty years of which were spent in Kirksville), Dunbar designed numerous commercial, religious, civic, and residential projects in Adair and Macon counties. In addition, he remodeled and adapted a number of already existing structures in Adair County. No other twentieth-century architect lived and practiced in Kirksville for as long.<sup>20</sup>

Dunbar was born and raised in Schuyler County, immediately north of Adair County.<sup>21</sup> In 1914, he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri – Columbia and moved to Kirksville where he set up office by himself and began a career as an architect. He left and returned to Northeast Missouri several times throughout his life. Because of these moves, his architectural work in Kirksville falls into three easily distinguishable periods: 1914 to 1917; 1919 to 1926; and 1932 to 1944. His work is varied in its stylistic features – from Craftsman to Gothic Revival or from Tudor Revival to Classical Revival and Art Deco.

Dunbar worked alone. Since he joined the United States Army Engineers in World War I, his first architectural projects are restricted to a three year period between 1914 and

<sup>20</sup> See Kerry Downs, *Cultural Resource Survey Plan*, Kirksville, Missouri, 2011, 136-137.

<sup>21</sup> See "Irwin Dunbar Dies; Well Known Architect Here," *Kirksville Daily Express*, 31 August 1975: 1-2 and *A Book of Adair County History*, 359.

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1917. Some of his earliest commissions in Kirksville may include undocumented but locally attributed Craftsmen residential designs. Of note during this period, however, are four documented commissions. His first large building contract was for the Mission Revival style Princess Theatre (Figure II, 1915. 202 South Franklin Street), followed soon by the Sojourners Club (Figure JJ, 1916. 211 South Elson Street. NR listed 03/11/14), then the Craftsman-styled Acacia Club (Figure KK, 1916. 205 East Jefferson Street) and then by his first ecclesiastical commission -- Trinity Episcopal Church (Figures V and W 1917. 124 North Mulanix Street. NR listed 01/02/08), a Craftsman, Tudor, and Gothic Revival influenced design.<sup>22</sup> All four buildings are standing; two retain integrity (the Sojourners Club and Trinity Episcopal Church). Dunbar's early style, which utilized simple forms and exposed woodwork, appears on the exteriors of all four buildings.

Dunbar served in France during World War I for nineteen months with Company H of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers. After the war, he remained in France in order to study art at the Beaux-Arts University in Toulouse. He returned to Kirksville in 1919, re-established his own practice and was married in 1922, the year the nominated building was designed. Foremost among the buildings he designed in Kirksville during his second residency there (from 1919 to 1926), are the Tudor-Jacobean Revival styled Presbyterian Church (Figure X, 1922), the Neo-Classical Revival styled Citizens National Bank (Figure LL, 1924. 101 West Washington Street), the Rollins Apartments (1925. 216 South Mulanix Street), the Baxter-Miller Building (Figure MM, 1926. 101 East Harrison Street. NR listed 05/21/09), the Adair County Home for the Indigent (1926), and the Renaissance Revival styled Kennedy Theater (Figure NN, 1926). All but the last of these are still standing and retain integrity.

The Dunbars left Kirksville in 1926 for Whittier, California. He worked for an architectural firm and studied architecture at the University of Southern California and at the Chouinard School of Art, Los Angeles. Then, during the Depression, the family returned to Kirksville and Dunbar worked as an architect for the Missouri Highway Department. Projects between 1932 and 1944 include several houses in Adair County (e.g., the Truitt House, 1940. 1005 East Normal Avenue. Figure OO), the Art Deco styled Rieger Armory in Kirksville (Figure PP, 1938; 500 South Elson Street and retains integrity) and the Art Deco styled public swimming pool in Macon, Macon County, Missouri (Figure QQ, 1938; standing and retains integrity). These represent some of his most varied architectural designs. Due to the lack of construction work during World War II, he moved to Moline, Illinois where he worked as an architect for John Deere & Company until 1958 when he retired and returned to Kirksville. He completed a series of remodeling projects in town during the early 1960s, the most

<sup>22</sup> Dunbar used an identical design for Zion Lutheran Church in Macon, Macon County, which was built in 1924.

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important of these being repurposing the 1905 U.S. Post Office to become the Kirksville City Hall in 1964 (Figure R). Dunbar died in Kirksville in 1975 leaving a legacy of prominent buildings across Kirksville.

First Presbyterian Church exhibits a successful composition, working within financial and spatial design constraints as well as with clear client expectations for a building that would allow entertainment in the basement (a stage, dining hall, and kitchen), plenty of classroom spaces, and a large, inspiring worship space. Dunbar had been an architect for eight years when he designed the nominated property. It shows 1) his developing effective solutions for a modern, large-scale, multi-purpose, multi-level building, and 2) his skill at placing worship, entertainment, and education spaces within a coherent Tudor and Jacobean styled structure.

### **CONCLUSION**

First Presbyterian Church is an excellent local example of a Tudor and Jacobean Revival styled religious facility built in a small town in the early-twentieth century. The local Presbyterian congregation knows this building's architectural importance and has actively maintained its defining features for the past ninety-four years. The Kirksville Presbytery is therefore seeking National Register recognition as a step toward their commitment to the continued care and appreciation of this historic building, a distinctively styled place that has provided a spiritual and cultural resource to Kirksville citizens since 1922-1923.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

All of lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 10 of Linder and Mulanix Addition, a subdivision laid out in southeast Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri.

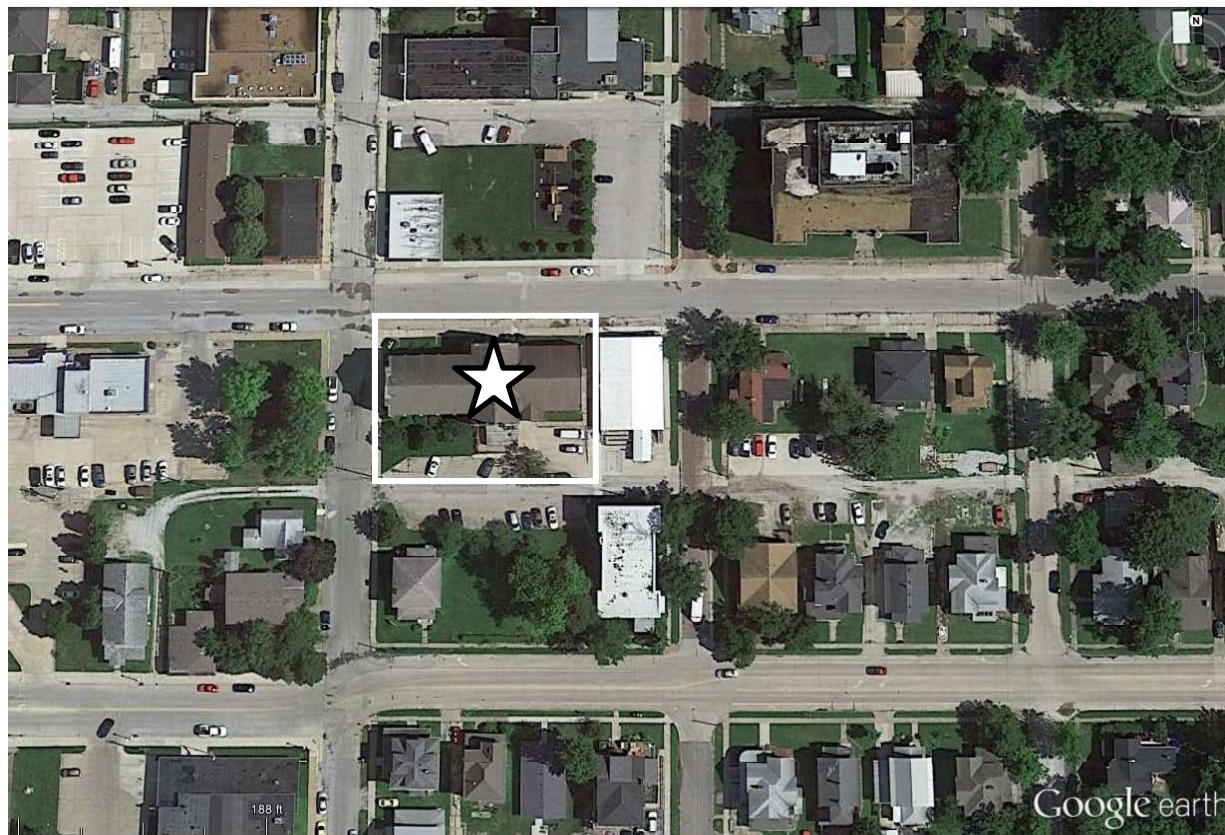
**Boundary Justification**

This nomination includes the three lots currently with the First Presbyterian Church, 201 South High Street, Kirksville, Missouri.

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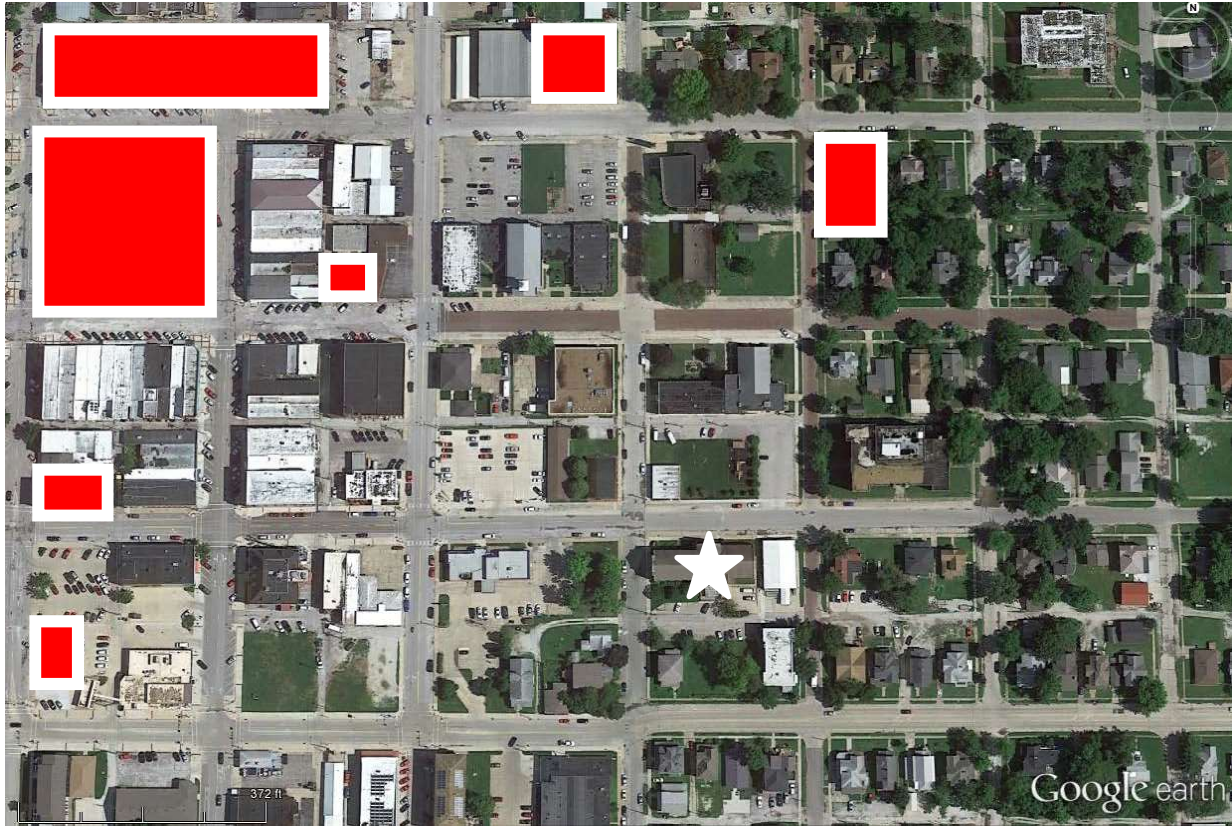


**Figure A** Site Map. Aerial photo of Linder and Mulnix Addition, Block 10 from Google Earth, with Co-ordinates. Accessed 16 December 2016. First Presbyterian Church is indicated with white outline and star. Co-ordinates set to 40.193715" N and -92.580596" W.

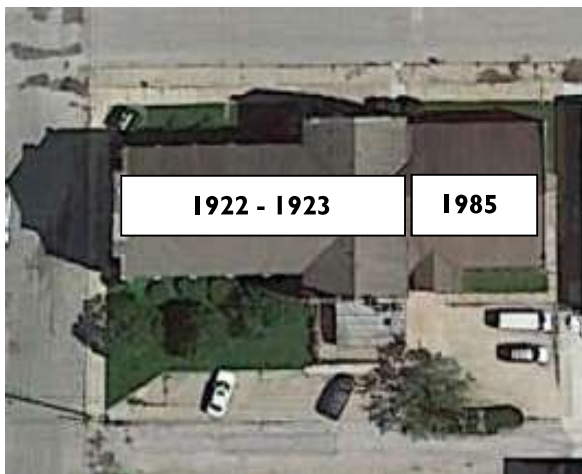
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**Figure B** Context Map. Aerial photo of contextual map from Google Earth. Accessed 23 November 2016. First Presbyterian Church marked with white star. Nearby sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places are outlined in white. Co-ordinates set to 40.193715" N and -92.580596" W.

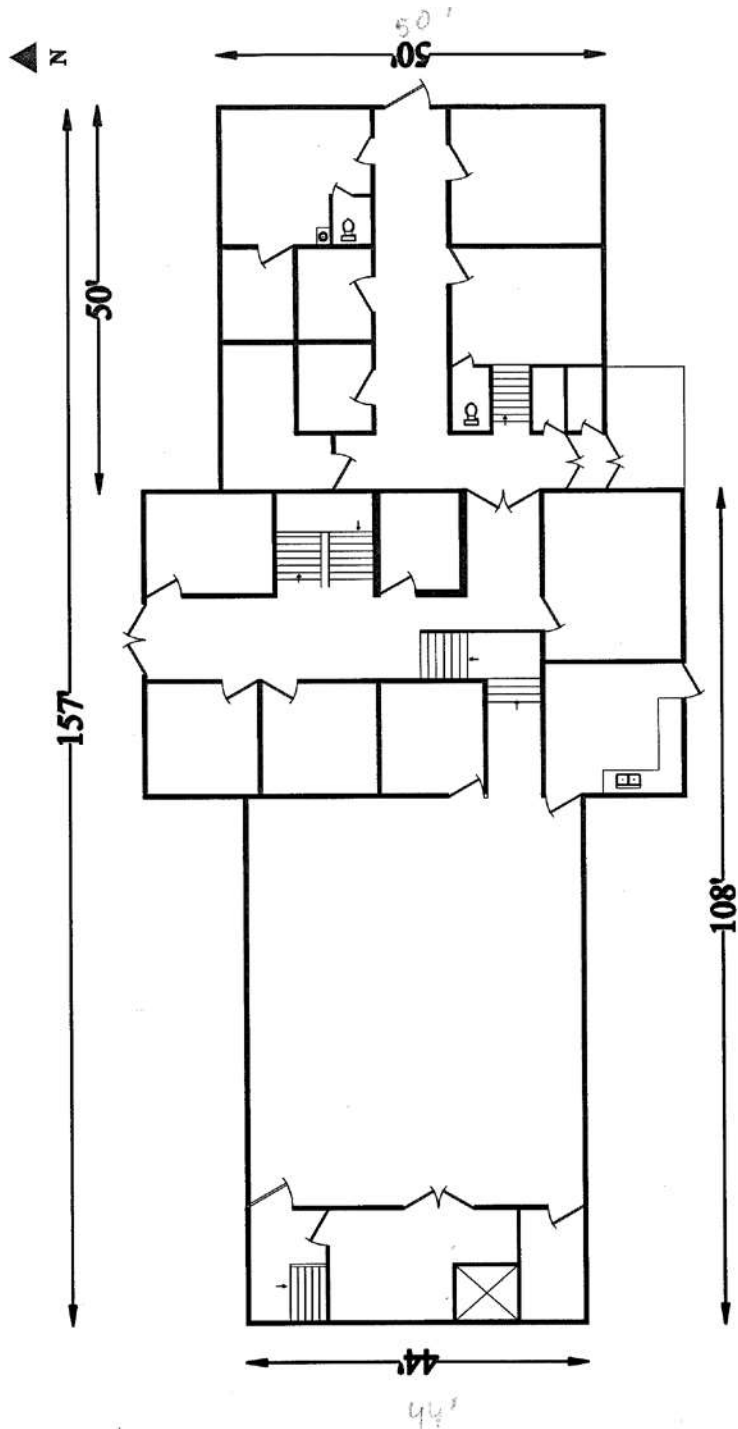


**Figure C** Construction Dates (Lat/Long screen shot from Google Earth).

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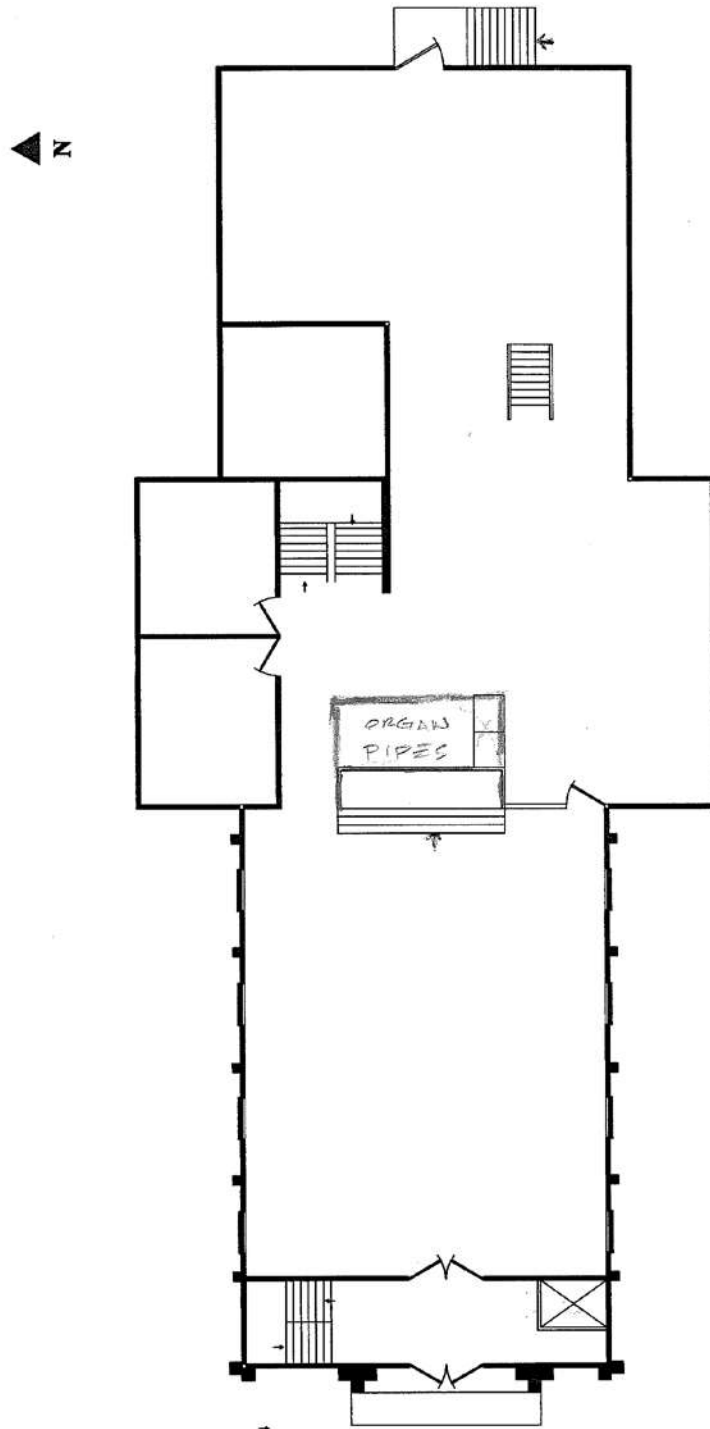


**Figure D** First Presbyterian Church. First Floor Plan (Basement, front. Main floor, rear. Current. Not to scale).

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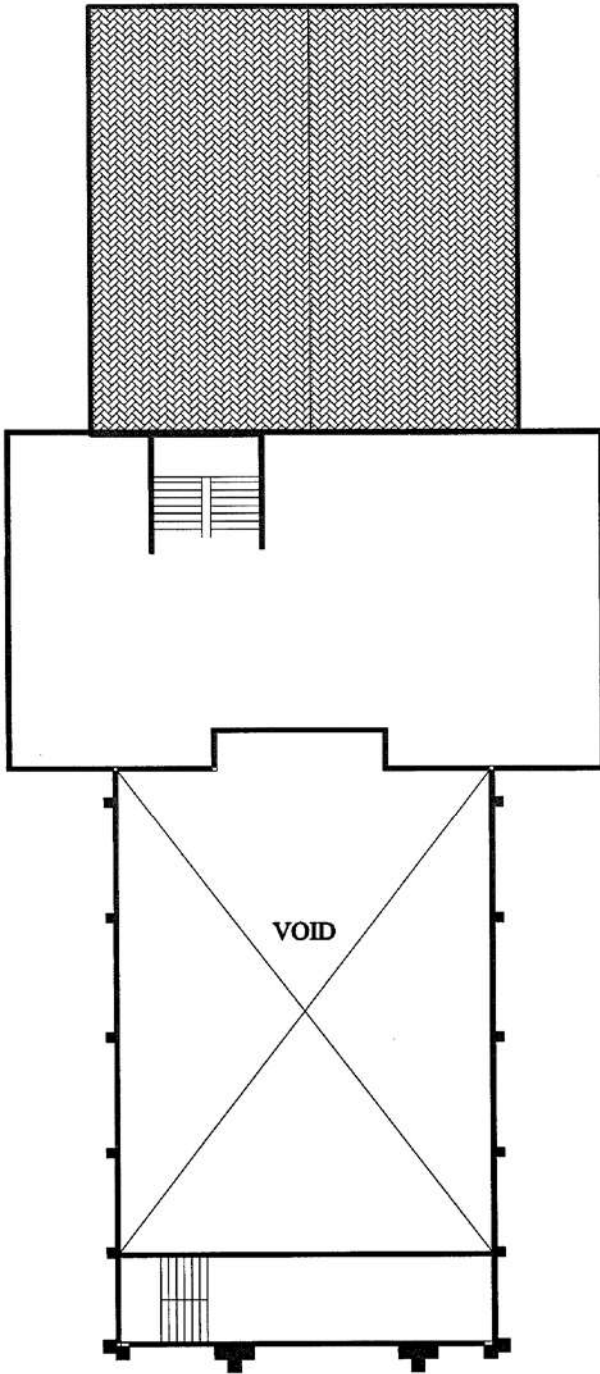


**Figure E** First Presbyterian Church. Second Floor Plan (Sanctuary. Current. Not to scale).

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**Figure F** First Presbyterian Church. Third Floor Plan (Current. Not to scale).

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**Figure G** Stained glass window at landing between first and second floors. Looking north. Private photograph.



**Figure H** Fellowship Hall. Looking east. Private photograph.



**Figure I** Second Floor, Foyer. Looking west. Private photograph.

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**Figure J** Detail of remodeled chancel showing 1940 murals. Private photograph.



**Figure K** West Window, detail. Private photograph.

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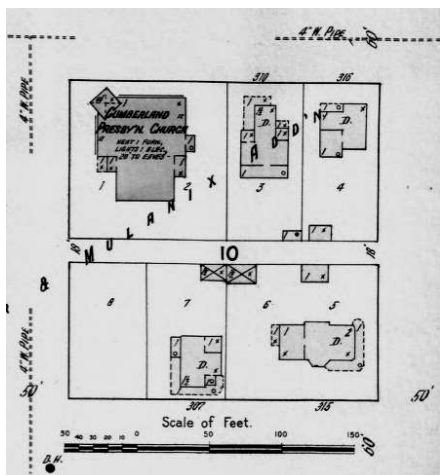
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**Figure L** Cumberland Academy (c. 1860-1867), Truman State University.



**Figure M** Old School Presbyterians Church (1893-1915), Private Photograph.



**Figure N** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kirksville, Missouri, (1914), 7.

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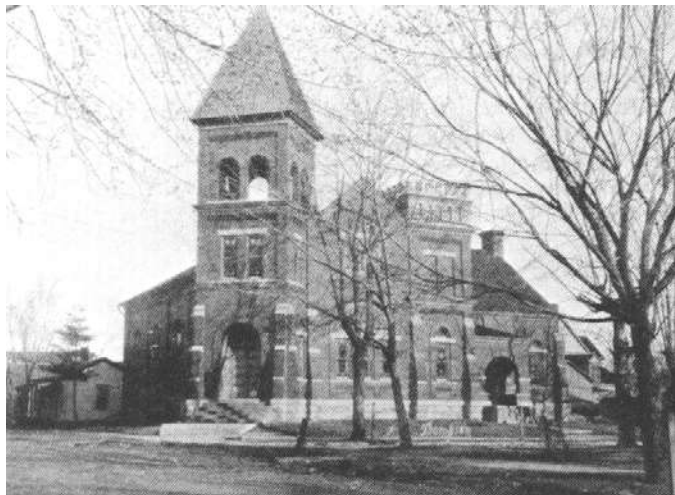
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**Figure O** Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1872–1922), First Presbyterian Church.



**Figure P** Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sanctuary (1872–1922), First Presbyterian Church.



**Figure Q** Adair County Courthouse (1898), Truman State University.

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**Figure R** U.S. Post Office (1905), Adair County Historical Society.



**Figure S** Kirk Building (1922), Truman State University.



**Figure T** Grim Building (1905), Private Photograph.

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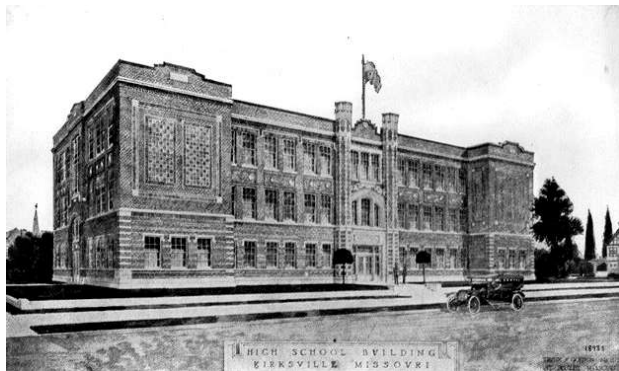
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**Figure U** Kirksville High School (1914), Truman State University.



**Figure V** Trinity Episcopal Church (1917. NR Listed 01/02/08), Private photograph.



**Figure W** Trinity Episcopal Church, Nave. Looking north (1917. NR Listed 1/02/08), Private photograph.

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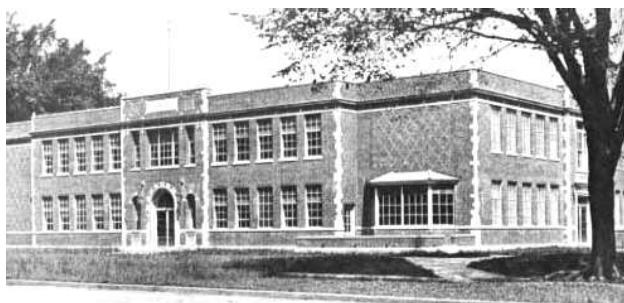
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**Figure X** Postcard of the First Presbyterian Church, c. 1929. Adair County Historical Society.



**Figure Y** Washington Elementary School (1924-1925). Adair County Historical Society.



**Figure Z** Mary Immaculate Church (1946-1947). Private photograph.

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**Figure AA** Mary Immaculate Church, Interior (1946-1947). Private photograph.



**Figure BB** United Methodist Church (1950-1953). United Methodist Church.



**Figure CC** United Methodist Church, Interior. Private photograph.

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**Figure DD** Masonic Temple (1930).



**Figure EE** Greenwood Elementary School (1934-1935).



**Figure FF** First Baptist Church (1951). Truman State University.

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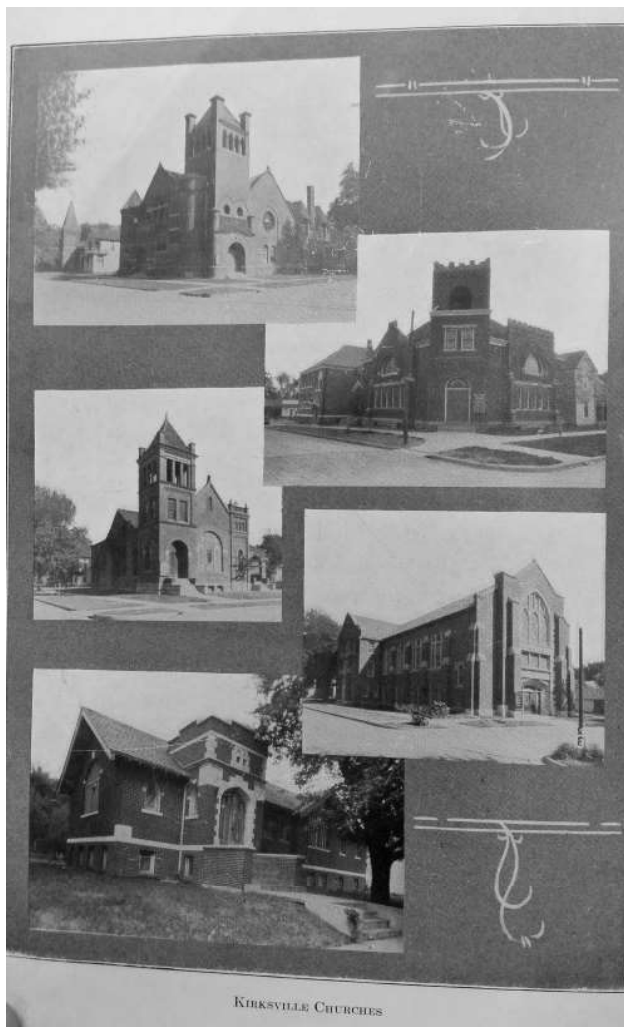
County and State

N/A

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**Figure GG** First Christian Church (1971). Private photograph.



**Figure HH** "Kirksville Churches", *Photographic Description of Kirksville, Missouri*. Issued by Chamber of Commerce, 1928, 18. Top to bottom the five photographs show: 1) Methodist Church South and Methodist Church; 2) First Baptist Church; 3) First Christian Church; 4) First Presbyterian Church (nominated property); and 5) Trinity Episcopal Church (NR Listed).

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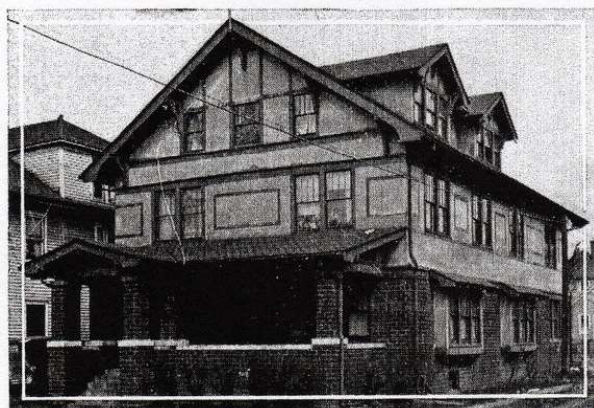
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**Figure II** Princess Theatre (1915). Adair County Historical Society.



**Figure JJ** Sojourners Club (1916. NR Listed 03/11/14). Truman State University.



**Figure KK** Acacia Club (1916). Adair County Historical Society.

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**Figure LL** Citizens National Bank (1924. Princess Theatre at far left). Truman State University.



**Figure MM** Baxter Miller Apartment Building (1926. NR Listed 05/21/09). Truman State University.



**Figure NN** Kennedy Theatre and Apartments (1926). Truman State University.

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Figure OO Truit House (1940). Private photograph.



Figure PP Rieger Armory (1938). Private photograph.



Figure QQ Macon Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, Macon, Missouri (1938). Private photograph.

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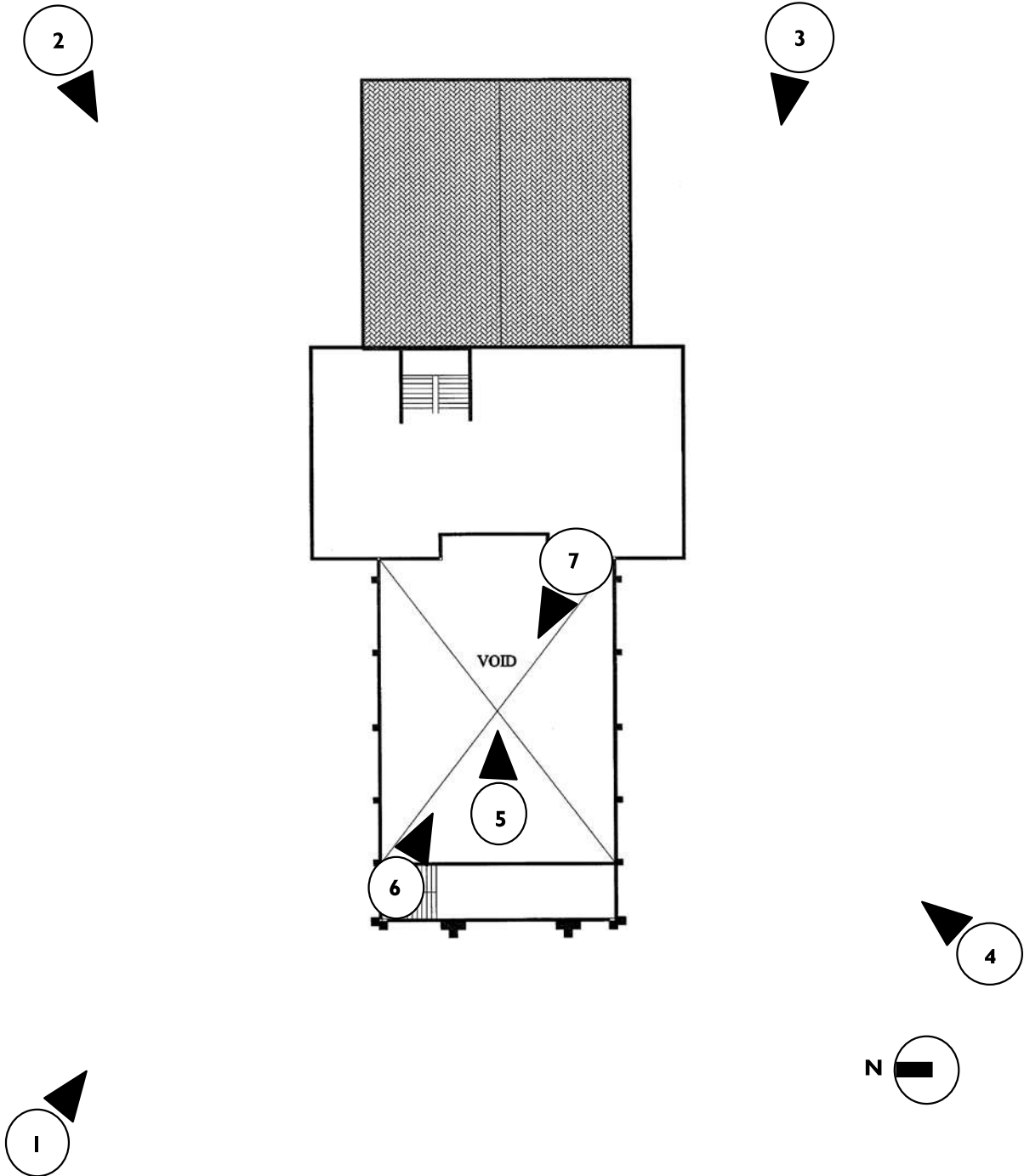


Figure RR Photo Key



St. Peter's Church  
WELCOME TO ALL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00

SPEED LIMIT 30





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1994-2010





