

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Congregational Church of Sterling

other names/site number First Congregational United Church of Christ

2. Location

street & number 311 Second Avenue  not for publication

city or town Sterling  vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Whiteside code 195 zip code 61081

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Akel / SHPO 9-26-95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

11-7-95  
Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/church school

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/church school

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asbestos

other

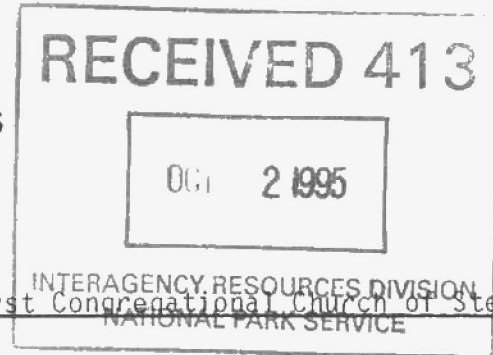
Narrative Description

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

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Section number 7 Page 1



First Congregational Church of Sterling

### 7. DESCRIPTION

The First Congregational Church is a one story sandstone and brick structure with a basement designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Built in 1897-1898, this massive structure stands on the southwest corner of Second Avenue and East Fourth Street in downtown Sterling; its address is 311 Second Avenue. Sterling, Illinois, an industrial city on the north bank of the Rock River, is 60 miles northeast of the Quad Cities. It is nationally known as a producer of builders' hardware. In 1895 when the congregation realized the need for a new building, its old church was on the site of the present Education Building; the Excelsior Livery Stable rented the northern portion of the property. The Episcopal Church was directly behind the stables to the west on First Avenue; the Baptist Church was two blocks east near Central Park and the Sterling High School was under construction, three blocks away. Across Second Avenue to the east was an agricultural implements store and feed store. Immediately south on Second Avenue were small businesses. The livery stable was asked to move when the decision to construct the present church was made. Two hardware manufacturing companies would shortly begin operations along the Rock River only three blocks away.

Today the First Congregational Church's neighbors are the Sterling Daily Gazette, two financial institutions, a travel agency, a sporting goods company and a jewelry repair shop. The nearby churches were razed, a Hardee's restaurant occupies the former high school site and the Post Office is on the old Baptist Church lot. The First Congregational Church remains in the heart of Sterling's downtown.

An Education Building to the south was erected in 1959 to accommodate the growing Sunday school classes and to provide more efficient space for offices and ministerial needs. Its northwest room is connected to the southwest corner of the church and forms an enclosed corridor between the Education Building and the church.

Rectangular in shape, the church's frontage on Second Avenue (east) is 87 feet and on Fourth Street (north), 111 feet. The red Portage sandstone from Wisconsin used on the entire foundation

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First Congregational Church of Sterling

of this building varies in height, often reaching to the bottom of the windows on the east and north facades. Red pressed brick from St. Louis was used for the east and north faces with common brick for the west (alley) and the south sides. The slate for the original roof came from Vermont; in 1953 the entire steeply pitched hipped roof was replaced with asbestos shingles. At that time the triangular gabled dormers on the bell tower and roof were covered. Identical projecting gables enclose large arched windows on the east and north. The east gable is topped with a variation of the Celtic Cross. On the west and south sides are smaller projecting gables, which are clad with gray asbestos shingles in a coursed pattern.

The square furnace chimney rises from the southwest corner of the roof and is decorated with two soldier brick belt courses. A smaller rectangular chimney with a single rough hewn brick belt course services the fireplace in the fireplace room (originally ladies parlor). This chimney sits at an angle on the northwest corner.

The windows of the church are thought to be the most magnificent in Sterling. In fact, Rev. Loyal Wilkinson (1945-1972) claimed that it was sometimes just known at the "church with the windows," by townspeople. The large east and north windows are bordered with heavy sandstone round arches and are of painted stained glass. These present day ones are 1953 replacements cut to fit in the same space as the originals.

In 1948, the parents of two of the church's WWII veterans presented a new choir window on the south side which depicts Christ in Gethsemane with the four Evangelists below shown in single panes, to celebrate their sons' safe return. This grouping fit into the original space. The single semicircular bright colored one just to the left of the choir loft also was a 1953 replacement.

All of the smaller outside windows are either singular, one-over-one, or paired with rounded tops. Many have sandstone arches, lintels and sills to decorate the reveals. With practicality always in mind, these smaller outside windows had pastel colors so that the outside light would help illuminate the inside and save on the new electricity bills.

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The dominating square bell tower rises 100 feet in the northeast corner of the church. It has a pyramidal hipped roof. At the base of the tower on the east and north sides are three ribbon windows with a sandstone transom bar separating the semicircular ones above. Halfway up the tower, just below the rough hewn brick belt course, are paired recessed windows. The tower is reinforced on three corners by brick buttresses. The top section of this bell tower has four rounded arch openings with an arcaded corbel table above. Its roof has a fleur-de-lis finial. A smaller round tower connects the east and south facades of the church. Its rough hewn brick with its smooth brick belt course accents its conical roof. The three tall single rounded top windows in this tower have sandstone arched lintels and sills.

The eastern and northern facades are similar. They share the bell tower and the large projecting gables. Both main entrances have two sets of double oak cross and bible doors. Over them are two flat roofs set off by the heavy red sandstone decoration. Red cement steps with cement side walls lead to a cement stoop, both of which are now carpeted. Permanent iron railings are set in the center of each set of steps. A handicapped access ramp was added at the southernmost door on the east side in 1981, where there are no basement windows. On the north side five openings are at ground level.

On the north side of the church, to the west of the principal entrance doors is an identical single set of cross and bible doors. Above this entrance is a small tower with a pyramidal hipped roof. Four ribbon windows above this entrance and a single semicircular one on which is painted "1st Congregational Church" highlight the Sunday School entrance. Single windows extend from this entryway to and around the west facade.

The west and south facades have vertical brick surrounds encircling the windows rather than the sandstone ones. Eight large one-over-one windows are the centerpieces of the west side. The center five are arched, with brick surrounds. The others have sandstone lintels and sills. Five small basement windows are obscured by bushes. On the south facade, five first floor windows were covered when the Education Building was built. The choir grouping and the tall

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semicircular window next to it are visible on this face. The south window in the small tower also shows from the south. There are four basement openings. On the alley side there is a single door which leads directly to both the church and education building. An identical one opposite it leads to the courtyard between the two buildings. There are no doors on the south side of the church. At the northwest corner a small delivery door leads to the basement.

Like the exterior, the interior has a high degree of historical integrity. The architect, Wesley Arnold, the son of a Methodist minister, used the then-popular Akron plan for his interior design. The shape of the sanctuary is octagonal. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley had adopted the octagon for Methodist preaching-houses in the 18th century.

On April 25, 1898, the day after the dedication ceremonies the Sterling Standard described the interior thusly: "The main entrance to the church is in the center of the east front, though equally accessible entrances are placed in the north front, all opening into the corridors which extend along both sides of the building. The main audience room is in the front of the building, its form being an irregular octagon, measuring in the square, from wall to wall, fifty seven feet. It has three wide entrances from the corridor, two on the north side and one on the east. The floor slopes gently toward the pulpit platform in the southwest part of the room, and the pews, with a seating capacity of 450, are arranged in an arc, with the pulpit as the center. There is no carpet on the handsome red oak floor in the pews. The continuity of the walls of the room is broken by three Tudor arches in the rear, while over the pulpit and the choir loft two round arches meet, and are supported by a handsome Gothic column of polished oak, standing between the choir and the pulpit. The ceiling springs from the side walls at an obtuse angle, as the top of a tent, and reaches its highest point in the center, thirty-four feet above the floor. The ceiling is divided into panels by polished oak beams, which break the surface. The artificial lighting is by 160 incandescent electric bulbs set in the ceiling in groups and under the spring of the arches about the walls. The lecture room, or Sunday School room, is situated in the rear of the building and is forty feet square. Great doors hung on weights, which lift them out of sight into the attic above separate the room from the main auditorium, or make it practically one large room according to need. On the north side of the lecture room is the ladies parlor, twenty-four by thirty feet in size.

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This room can also be opened by a large door, built on the same plan as that between the lecture room and the auditorium. Directly opposite, on the south side, is the room for the primary Sunday School class. The pastor's study is immediately in the rear of the pulpit."

Changes have been few on this floor. In 1948, the circular tower area at the southeast corner of the building, originally designed to contain a stairway to a gallery which was never added, was enclosed and the ceiling suspended to provide a much needed office for the minister. The original study had been converted into a storage area many years ago. The Sunday School rooms are now used as the lecture fellowship room, the fireplace room and the kitchen. Structurally, the ceilings in the Sunday School area were suspended in 1971 and the original dumb waiter which was in the southwest corner of the former ladies parlor (fireplace room) was removed. The south windows in the former primary room were covered to provide space for the present kitchen cabinets. The fireplace is no longer wood burning. To the left of the kitchen a small powder room was built. With the addition of the Education Building in 1959, these changes were possible. After the 1959 renovations the dining room in the basement included a new ceiling and several new storage spaces as well as a Boy Scout room. At that time new stairs to the basement were installed. In 1969 the choir loft was enlarged by moving the organ console to floor level below the choir and the entire loft was lowered to provide space for an enlarged chorus.

The one story Education Building was built in 1959 and is separated from the church by a courtyard. On both sides of this are gated columned entrances which lead to both buildings. Centered at the front (east) is a large, deep red, wooden cross which is supported by the dividers above and around it, all of which rest on a low stone wall. The church and a neighboring bank built the brick wall which is at the south property line. The west enclosure is a high red brick wall which hides the alley behind it and also connects the two buildings. This edifice is of concrete block and faced on the east, north and the interior west side with ornamental light-colored stone. The concrete block roof is covered with white synthetic material. Large windows open onto the courtyard. Seven rooms and an enclosed patio provide excellent facilities for the Sunday School functions and offices. This addition, small in scale compared to the massive church and situated on the southernmost section of the property, does not detract from the significance of the First

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Congregational Church.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Sterling merits listing in the National Register of Historic Places for Criterion C for architecture as a locally significant example of a Richardsonian Romanesque religious building. The interior of the building incorporates the innovative Akron Plan, a roughly semi-circular auditorium surrounded by segmented Sunday School classrooms on one and sometimes two floors. The First Congregational Church of Sterling's auditorium is roughly octagonal in shape. Popularized in Akron, Ohio in the late 1860s, the Akron Plan was spread by pattern books and mail-order catalogues which featured church designs. Its period of significance is 1898 when the building was completed and dedicated. The First Congregational Church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties.

Romanesque architecture as interpreted by Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) created a sense of quiet mass, simplicity and a richness of texture. He used both the rough stones so prevalent in his adopted New England and brick for walls. The heavy stone foundations seem to rise from roots sunk deep in the subsoil and represent solidity, stability and security. Sometimes asymmetrical in shape, Richardson's buildings were characterized by their huge round arches, well-proportioned dominant towers, high roofs, graceful transomed ribbon windows, bold contrasting trims and decorated squat columns. Richardson's windows were an integral part of the interior of a building, placed where they were needed inside rather than installed where they would look best from the outside.

The most famous of his seven church designs is Trinity Church built on Copley Square in Boston between 1872-1877. Richardson called it a "free rendering of the French Romanesque" and it made him world famous for there was nothing like it in Europe. Indeed the style, Richardsonian Romanesque named after him, was established between the dedication of Trinity Church and his untimely death in 1886 at the age of 48. during this time Richardson strictly adhered to this single style. A poll of 75 architects was taken by The American Architect and Building News in 1885 to name the ten best building designs in the United States. Richardson's Trinity Church was first with 84% of the votes. Four of his other designs were in the top ten.

Richardsonian Romanesque architecture became popular in the late 1880's and early 1890's especially in Chicago, Boston and Pittsburgh where Richardson's monumental achievements

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1898

**Significant Dates**

1898

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Arnold, Wesley, Architect

Van Horne, P.J., Builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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were on display. In Chicago, the Marshall Field Wholesale Store, completed after his death, in the southwest part of the Loop and the Glessner House on the near south side on Prairie Avenue, were prominent. (The Wholesale Store was torn down to make room for a parking garage.) Louis Sullivan is said to have made changes in his plans for his Auditorium Building after seeing the Field Wholesale Store.

Wesley Arnold (1850-1900) graduated from Syracuse University in 1879. Armed with a degree in architecture, he came to Chicago in 1882 after the death of his first wife where he began to work as a draughtsman for the Chicago and North Western Railroad.

Industrial Chicago, p. 626, 1891, said of him, "An architect possessing rare skill and ability, who devotes himself principally to the designing and erection of residences and pays particular attention to churches and other large structures both public and private, is Wesley A. Arnold, M.A., 912, 218 LaSalle Street, a well-known, popular and prominent gentleman who has, during the past eight years, won an enviable reputation as being a thoroughly qualified architect. He furnishes plans and specifications and estimates for buildings of all kinds, etc., and has designed and superintended the construction of many dwellings and business blocks to seen on our thoroughfares. Mr. Arnold was educated and graduated at a well-known college at Syracues, N.Y."

Between 1893 and 1896, Arnold was in Clinton, Iowa where he was listed in the 1893 city directory as a draughtsman, no doubt because of the Panic of 1893, which caused a depression in all industrial trades. It continued for several years and its effects were felt throughout the country.

In his annual summation of 1894, on May 12, 1895, Rev. Theodore Cowl while speaking to his First Congregational Church flock mentioned that "the Church's financial report was not discouraging in spite of the prevailing business depression", and concluded by urging that it was time "to build a new Church building." There followed months of work soliciting funds, especially by the women members who planned and presented many fund-raising events. These activities were reported in the newspapers with regularity. On May 15, 1896, the Clinton Weekly Age announced that "the Congregationalists of Sterling will build a church," and on July 1 the Sterling Gazette reported that Mr. Arnold's design had been selected over many other submissions. The chairman of the Church's Building Committee was Mayor James F. Platt, "Sterling's first architect," who had designed the Academy of Music, among others, before turning his attention to the Sterling Manufacturing Company where he was vice president and superintendent. He announced that the new church would be Romanesque in

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style and would cost \$15,000. (The final costs were almost \$25,000.) Wesley Arnold's design of the First Congregational Church replicated the features of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Elements of the style found in the First Congregational Church include the heavy sandstone foundation and the combination of smooth and rough-faced brick which creates decorative wall patterns. Wide round-topped arches occur over rows of windows, many of which are recessed. Some of the windows have small squat columns on each side. Also characteristic of Richardsonian Romanesque designs are the church's two dominate towers which highlight the building. The smaller round one on the southeast corner with its conical roof and taller square bell tower rising on the northeast corner can be seen from afar.

During the Richardsonian Romanesque period, variously dated between 1887-1900, many churches were built in the same style, especially in the Midwest. Many have been demolished to make room for the ever-changing demands of progress. In downtown Sterling, the Richardsonian Romanesque influenced Fourth Street Methodist Church was destroyed two years ago for that reason.

The First Congregational Church of Sterling is the only one of its kind in the two cities of Sterling and Rock Falls. A recent tour of all the churches in Whiteside County, using those listed by the county assessor's office, found none comparable in the county's 682 square miles. This church is an exquisite example of the Richardsonian Romanesque, an American style of architecture. Such examples in Whiteside County are rare indeed.

The Akron Plan was conceived by Lewis Miller, superintendent of the Akron, Ohio, school system, and Jacob Snyder, an Akron architect. In 1868 they collaborated on an innovative plan for Akron's First Methodist Episcopal Church. Their idea which was perfected by architect George Kramer, came to be known as the Akron Plan or Sunday School Plan. In an Akron Plan church, alcove classrooms at the back of sides of a roughly semicircular auditorium can be closed off from the sanctuary by sliding or folding doors. To seat a large crowd at a service, the doors can be opened, expanding the sanctuary into the classroom space. The Akron Plan became widely used by Protestant churches in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The First Congregational Church of Sterling has an Akron Plan with its octagonal sanctuary and Sunday School rooms to the west with large doors that can be slid up allowing more seating space for large services.

History

A Congregational Church in Sterling was envisioned by several newly-arrived citizens from

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First Congregational Church of Sterling

Indiana in 1856. After numerous discussions and meetings, on June 21, 1857 the First Congregational Church was publicly organized with 30 members. There was no regular pastor until 1859 and services were in meeting rooms of the Boynton Hotel and the Central Block, which were downtown and close to Block 27, lot 10 which the congregation purchased for \$250 in July 1863. A frame church was ready for services in 1864 but its "tasty cupola" was not added for two years. By 1870 the building had to be enlarged and in 1882 lots 11 and 12 were purchased. Reverend Crowl became the minister in 1894 and just a year later urged the members to build a new church. Presently the 300 - member congregation looks forward to honoring the faith and fortitude of its forebearers as it celebrates the 100th anniversaries of the cornerstone laying in 1997 and the dedication services in 1998.

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Burchard, John and Albert Bush-Brown. The Architecture of America: A Social and Cultural History. Boston: Little Brown, 1961.

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National Park Service

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First Congregational Church of Sterling

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Mumford, Lewis.

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Van Rensselaer, Marianna Griswold. Henry Hobson Richardson and his Works. (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1888; repr., Chicago: Prairie School Press, 1967).

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Protestant Worship and Church Architecture: Theological and Historical Considerations. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.

### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The First Congregational Church of Sterling, Illinois is located on block 27, lots 10, 11 and 12

First Congregational Church, Sterling  
Name of Property

Whiteside, IL  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 276160 4629670  
Zone Easting Northing

3                    
Zone Easting Northing

4                  

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Whaley, member

organization First Congregational United Church of Christ date July 7, 1995

street & number 710 W. LeFevre Rd., Apt. 407 telephone (815) 626-8312

city or town Sterling state IL zip code 61081-1072

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional Items

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

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees, First Congregational United Church of Christ

street & number 311 Second Avenue telephone (815) 625-5112

city or town Sterling state IL zip code 61081

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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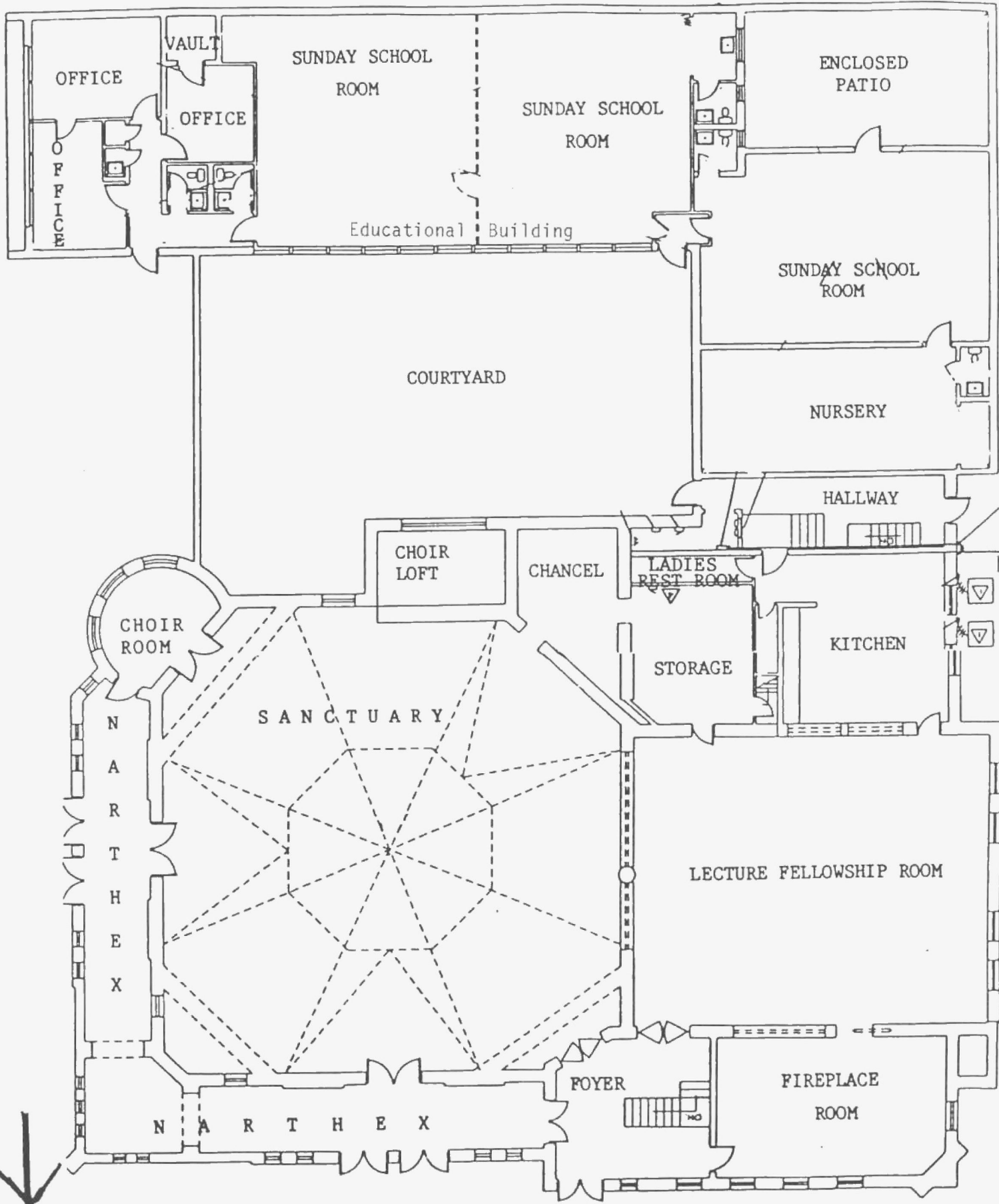
First Congregational Church of Sterling

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West of Broadway in Sterling, Il. (first purchase made in July 1863.)

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and surrounding lots that have been part of the church property and that maintain historic integrity.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STERLING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Congregational Church of Sterling  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Whiteside

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/17/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/02/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/16/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001234

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11-7-95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995  
church vault

Camera facing west; east facades  
of church, courtyard and education bldg.

#1

EAST FOTO 38 358 8222 N N N-1 2



2

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church Vault

Camera faces west; close view of east  
facade

#2

2 001 0101 86 358 0222 N N N 2







4

FAST FOTO 86 356 0222 N N N N 2

Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces west; detail of east  
main entrances

#4



5

Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church Vault

Camera faces west, close view of  
east facade showing porch & steps,  
handicapped entrance & window  
detail.

#5

2 24 N N 2778 995 76 0106 158-



6

FAST FOTO 02 350 0222 N N N N 2

Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church Vault

Camera faces west; closeup of round  
tower at south end of east  
facade

#6







8  
FAST FOTO 27 358 8222 N N N-1 2

Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church Vault

Camera faces west, closeup of 100 ft.  
"bell tower at north east corner  
of church.

#8



9  
Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces south; view of north  
face of church which shows fireplace  
room chimney at right.

#9

8 1-N N N 2222 008 27 0105 1985



CONGREGATIONAL  
FIRST CHURCH

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces south; closeup of westerly entrance on north side of church.

Originally the Sunday School entrance

#10

1995 JUL 01 17 550 0222 N N N 2



11 Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 6, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces south, Sunday School entrance  
showing windows at right of picture,  
Fireplace room angled chimney showing  
belt course.

#11

AST PHOTO 38 356 0222 N N N-1 2



ERECTED  
A. D.  
1897.

12

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces southeast; view of north  
side of church showing foundation  
rising to reach bottom of windows,  
Cornerstone at left.

#12

2 1-N N N 7228 052 95 0104 188



B Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces east; view of entire west  
(alley) side. Fireplace room chimney  
at left of picture. Shows education  
bdg. at right side of picture. Furnace  
Furnace chimney in distance

#13



14 Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, Ill.

Joe Shearer

July 9, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces east; detail of west face  
showing brick surrounds on  
five lecture-fellowship room windows

#14

PHOTO 06 350 0222 N N N41 2



15 Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces north; south side of church  
showing, at left, the five windows  
which were covered when education  
bldg built in 1959

#15

7 N N N N 2728 828 12 0104 1995



16 Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces east; shows courtyard  
between south facade of church and  
north face of education building. Cated,  
columned entrances to courtyard and  
the large cross are shown at east end  
of courtyard.

# 10

7 2+K N N 2770 091 70 0104 156:



17

FAST FOTO 14 350 0222 N N N-1 2

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera facing west; top of furnace chimney on southwest side of bldg.

Shows soldier brick belt course.

#17



2  
NO PARKING  
EXCEPT  
FOR  
LOADING  
UNLOADING  
OR  
DELIVERY

18 Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces west; shows east face of  
education bldg. Directly behind the  
east windows are ministers and  
church offices.

#18

2 010 66 358 0222 N N N N



EXIT

19

Sterling Congregational Church  
Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 1, 1995  
Church vault

Camera facing east; shows interior  
hallway connecting church <sup>and</sup> education  
bldg

58150 91 158 0222 N M H+2 2

#19



20

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 5, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces southwest view of chancel. Gethsemane  
chair window at left and closed  
weighted door closed during church  
services at right.

#20

2 241 N N 222 N N 2 2



21 Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL.

Joe Shearer

July 5, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces northeast; view from chancel.  
showing large north and east windows.

The oak beam supports are visible.

The two large white balls are part  
of the sound system.

#21



22

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

July 5, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces east; taken in lecture-fellowship room showing chancel. Shows weighted door raised. To right, a smaller door is raised with kitchen in rear. Ceiling has been lowered

#22

F48T F010 28 358 8222 N N H+2 2



A bulletin board on the left wall, displaying several notices and posters. One prominent poster has a dark background with white text, possibly a health or safety notice. There are also smaller circular and rectangular items pinned to the board.



A long banner or display board on the right wall. It features several posters and a large banner with the text "You should be first in your..." and "SAFETY". There are also smaller posters and notices pinned to the board.

23

Sterling Congregational Church

Whiteside, IL

Joe Shearer

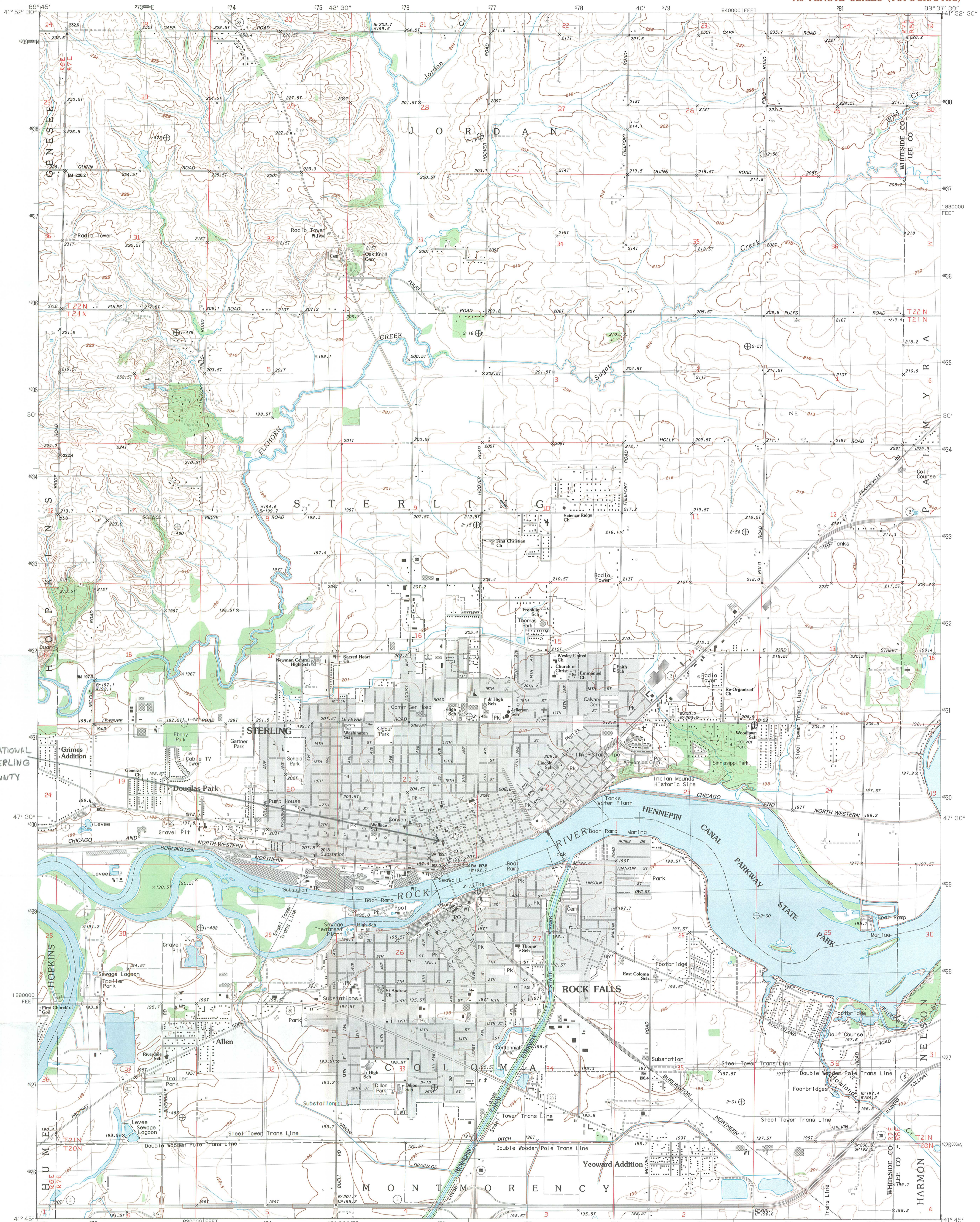
July 1, 1995

Church vault

Camera faces east; nursery in education  
bldg. Door at left leads to church.

#23

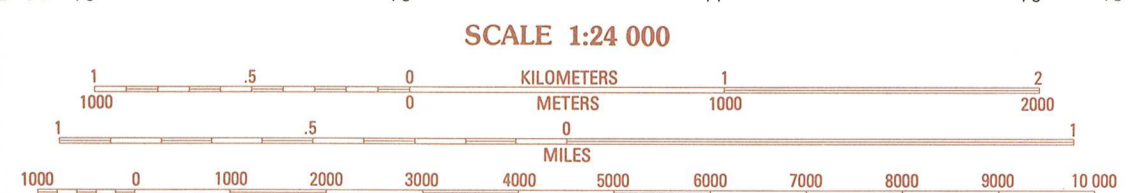
2 N N N N 0222 N N N 2



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF STERLING  
WHITESIDE COUNTY  
ILLINOIS  
ZONE 16  
E 276160  
N 4629670

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1977 FIELD CHECKED 1981. MAP EDITED 1983 PROJECTION UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR 10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS ILLINOIS, WEST ZONE UTM GRID DECLINATION 1786 WEST 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 130 EAST VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983, move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks (2 meters north and 9 meters east) There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any Federal and State reservations shown on this map Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original manuscript drawings. Information shown as of date of field check.



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 1.5 METERS  
CONTROL AND FIELD ESTABLISHED ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES  
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS

ROAD LEGEND

- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trail
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

STERLING, ILLINOIS  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

41089-G6-TM-024



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

September 28, 1995

Ms. Beth Boland  
National Register Program  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

RECEIVED 4

OCT 2 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find nomination materials for the following properties that were recently recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Warren Commercial Historic District, Warren  
First Congregational Church of Sterling, Sterling  
Green Bay Road Historic District, Lake Forest  
Buffalo Township Public Library, Polo  
Eldorado City Hall, Eldorado  
Hotel Roodhouse, Roodhouse  
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Depot, Marseilles  
Oak Hill Cemetery, Lewistown  
Bell Miller Apartments, Springfield

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow  
Survey & National Register  
Coordinator

encl.