

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Listed
June 27, 2014

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 Congregational Church

other names/site number United Church of Christ; KHRI# 077-0180-00010

2. Location

street & number 202 North Bluff Avenue not for publication

city or town Anthony vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Harper code 077 zip code 67003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national statewide x local

SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Title _____ 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 _____

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		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic
Revival

foundation: Brick/Cement Mortar
walls: Brick

roof: Composite Shingles
other: _____

Narrative Description

Summary

The First Congregational Church is located at the northwest corner of West Steadman Street and North Bluff Avenue near downtown Anthony, Harper County, Kansas. The church was constructed in 1909 and completed in 1910. It is a tri-tower brick building representative of the Gothic Revival architectural style. The building has a brick veneer exterior over wood balloon-frame construction, typical of buildings built in the Midwest in the early part of the 20th century. The building was and continues to function as a place of worship, invested in its neighborhood setting. The church is on the periphery of a residential neighborhood. A U.S. Post Office is across the street to the east, and a small area of commercial structures is to the south.

Elaboration

Exterior

Architecturally, the building is an excellent representation of Gothic Revival-style architecture. The cornerstone was laid Wednesday evening June 23, 1909 and the completed structure was dedicated on a Sunday, November 22, 1910.¹ The building has a hipped roof with intersecting gables on the east, south, and north sides. The roof has composition shingles. Brick corbelling representative of dentils can be found at the roofline on all sides of the building. There are three crenellated towers at the southwest, southeast, and northeast corners. The tallest and most prominent tower is at the southeast corner. Each tower has a crenellated parapet capped with cast stone and has modest raised brick detailing. The building has its historic wood windows, many of which include stained glass.

East (Primary) Elevation

The east façade faces North Bluff Avenue. The building's tallest and most prominent tower is at the southeast corner. Eleven concrete steps flanked by stair-stepped wingwalls with cast stone coping lead to the building's primary entrance. The double-door entrance, which leads to a vestibule outside the sanctuary, is topped by a Gothic-arch stained glass transom window that identifies the building as the First Congregational Church. Above the transom window, at the roofline, is a band of three stained glass windows sharing a single cast stone lintel and sill. Above this, near the top of the tower, is a pair of louvered pointed-arch openings with a single cast stone sill. These openings' arches are accented by a band of raised brick.

A second tower at the northeast corner has many of the same details. Ten concrete steps flanked by stair-stepped wingwalls with cast stone coping lead to this second entrance. The double-door entrance, which leads into a vestibule outside the sanctuary, is topped by a Gothic-arch stained glass transom window that identifies the building as the First Congregational Church. Above the transom window, at the roofline, is a pair of stained glass windows sharing a single cast stone lintel and sill.

Centered on the east elevation between the two towers is a gabled bay that includes one of the building's two impressive sanctuary windows. The Gothic-arch window features a cast stone sill. The window details create the decorative polychromatic pattern common to this style. Above the window centered within the gable is a small circular stained glass window. The gable roof is capped with cast stone coping. This centered bay is defined by two brick pier buttresses. On either side of the central bay is a tall and narrow pointed-arch window with stained glass. The basement story includes four 1-over-1, double-hung windows at ground level.

South Elevation

The east façade faces West Steadman Avenue and includes six bays. The building's tallest and most prominent tower is at the southeast corner, and it projects forward slightly from the rest of the south facade. The south face of the tower includes a single pointed-arch stained glass window. Above this, at the roofline, is a band of three stained glass windows sharing a single cast stone lintel and sill. Above this, near the top of the tower, is a pair of louvered pointed-arch openings with a single cast stone sill. These openings are accented by a band of raised brick.

The building's third tower projects slightly from the south façade near the west end of the building. It includes a secondary entrance into the building. Three concrete steps lead from the sidewalk to a double-door entrance. It is

¹ Harald Wisegarver, *Anthony and Those Congregationalists, 1878-1979* (N.P. 1979), 8.

topped by a pointed-arch stained glass transom window. Above the transom, at the roofline, is a pair of stained glass windows sharing a single cast stone lintel and sill.

Dominating the central portion of the south façade is an intersecting gabled bay, which includes the second of the two impressive sanctuary windows. Like its counterpart on the east façade, the Gothic-arch window features a cast stone sill. The window details create the decorative polychromatic pattern common to this style. Above the window centered within the gable is a small circular stained glass window. The gable roof is capped with cast stone coping. This gabled bay is defined by two brick pier buttresses. On either side of the gabled bay is a tall and narrow pointed-arch window with stained glass. The basement story includes four 1-over-1, double-hung windows at ground level.

The westernmost bay includes a 1-over-1 double-hung stained glass window with a cast stone sill and lintel on the first story and a 1-over-1 double-hung window at basement level.

West Elevation

The west side of the church features seven 1-over-1, double-hung stained glass windows with cast stone sills and lintels. They are centered and equally spaced along the west wall. The basement story has six 1-over-1, double-hung windows with frosted panes. Each window has a cast stone sill.

North Elevation

The north elevation includes the side of the tower at the building's northeast corner. This north face of the tower includes a single pointed-arch stained glass window. Above it, at the roofline, is a pair of stained glass windows sharing a single cast stone lintel and sill.

The central portion of the north facade is an intersecting gabled bay, which is largely featureless except for two circular stained glass window centered within the gable. The gable roof is capped with cast stone coping. This gabled bay is defined by two brick pier buttresses. The larger of the two windows was dedicated in memory of Alice Bennett, a long-time member of the church who, with her husband, founded the city's first hotel, the Bennett House.² To the left (or east) of the gabled bay is a 1-over-1, double-hung stained glass window with cast stone and lintel. To the right (or west) of the gabled bay are two secondary entrances into the building – one accessed by a wood staircase leading into the main level and the other accessed by concrete steps leading down to a basement door. A group of three 1-over-1, double-hung windows is to the left (east) of the 1-story door. To the right of the door is a single 1-over-1, double-hung window with stained glass.

There are six basement windows (1-over-1, double-hung) at ground level. One window has been covered.

Interior

The interior plan is an example of the Akron Plan, a church design originating in Akron, Ohio that incorporated educational and recreational spaces into church designs of the nineteenth and early 20th centuries. (See Section 8 for more on the Akron Plan.) The first floor interior largely consists of an open sanctuary and a classroom separated by a moveable partition. Today, this partition is a heavy curtain, but historically this likely was a more substantial folding or rolling partition made of wood. The sanctuary is accessible from the exterior through two entry vestibules at the northeast and southeast corners of the building. The square amphitheater-style auditorium features pews arranged in a semicircular pattern on a floor that slopes downward toward the pulpit at the northwest corner of the space. These are the original pews, though seat pads have been added.³ There are three sections of pews allowing for two central aisles. The wood floor of the sanctuary is carpeted. The chancel was put in behind the pulpit in 1962 bearing a nine foot tall cross made of oak and grass cloth.

The sanctuary has two prominent stained glass windows – one each on the south and east walls – that are memorials to the founders of the church and town. The window on the east wall is often referred to as “The Jennings Window,” since it recognizes founders Obadiah and Katharine Jennings. The window depicts the landscape of Jerusalem, above which a robed, full-figure Jesus Christ looks down over the city. The base of the window includes three panels: the center panel says “Jennings,” the left panel says “Katharine L.,” and the right panel says “Obadiah.” The window on the south wall is called “The Window of Hope,” and it was donated by church member and physician Arthur Walker. Walker operated the Anthony Sanatorium, which opened in 1907, across the

² First Congregational Church Brochure. 2004.

³ BarBara Wright, interviewed by author, February 17, 2014. Notes in possession of the author.

street from the church. The window depicts a guardian angel watching over two children above which is an anchor set within a circle. The base of the window includes three panels: the center panel says "Walker," the left panel says "sister," and the right panel says "son."

There is a circular window on the north wall known as the Alice Bennett Memorial Window." Bennett, a long-time member of the church, founded the city's first hotel, "The Bennett House." The window depicts an angel looking downward set within a multi-chromatic ring.

The sanctuary ceiling conforms to the shape of the roof structure, with the center portion being flat and sloped areas near the gables on the east, south, and north walls. Rows of light bulbs line the ceiling at the angles. Reportedly, parts of the ceiling, which is painted, are covered with canvas from the covered wagons that brought the Jennings and Steadman families to the area in 1878.⁴

Adjacent to the sanctuary (on the west) is a classroom/workroom space that likely once served as overflow for the sanctuary. This space is located in the southwest corner of the building. Four stained glass windows (1-over-1, double-hung wood sash) line the west wall. This area, too, features carpeted floors and bookcases have been added.⁵ There is a door on the north wall that leads to a study, at the northwest corner of the building.

A door at the southwest corner of the sanctuary leads to a stairwell that leads to the basement and accesses an exterior door. At the base of the stairwell in the basement are bathrooms and multi-functional spaces. The basement was remodeled in 1957 to include Sunday school classrooms.⁶ Wood paneling and kitchen modifications were made in the 1970s.⁷

Integrity

The building retains a high degree of integrity because it remains in its original location, its setting and environs are largely intact, the church continues to be used for its historic function, and it has traditional construction materials. With the exception of sandblasting many years ago, the exterior of the church retains a high degree of integrity. The building footprint is unaltered and the original windows remain intact. Similarly, the interior retains excellent integrity, with most of the changes occurring in the basement.

⁴ First Congregational Church Brochure. 2004.

⁵ Wright.

⁶ Church Archives, Trustee *Notes from 1957*. Retrieved February 17, 2014.

⁷ Wright.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1908-1910

Significant Dates

1908-1910

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The building's period of significance begins in 1908 with the planning for the construction of the church building and ends in 1910 with the building's completion and dedication. Its primary significance is derived from its architecture.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

The First Congregational Church in Anthony, Kansas has always been used for religious purposes since it was built in 1909-1910. The building meets the registration requirements for Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from its architecture. The property does not derive its primary significance from associations with religious doctrine.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The First Congregational Church in Anthony is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its local significance in the area of architecture. The Gothic Revival-style building was completed in 1910 and was the congregation's second house of worship, replacing an older wood church built in 1880. This building is one of two remaining Gothic Revival churches in Anthony.

Elaboration

The Kansas Legislature approved the organization of Harper County in 1878, and its county seat community was named Anthony in honor of then-governor George T. Anthony. As was common in many Kansas counties during the late 19th century, Anthony competed with area communities for railroad business and other commercial opportunities. The Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889 and the subsequent land openings in Oklahoma Territory likely had an impact on the transiency of the population in Harper County. Nevertheless, the city reported a population of 2,669 in 1910 – an increase of 490 in the 1900 census – the same year the First Congregational Church building was completed.⁸ This 1910 building was the church's second house of worship.

Two Congregational laymen, Obadiah Jennings⁹ and Benjamin H. Steadman,¹⁰ in 1878 formed a company to found a town out on western prairie land that, in their eyes, held great potential. The Anthony Town Company took shape in Wichita, Kansas with the purpose of building a town named in honor of the then-governor George T. Anthony, a Leavenworth newspaper editor. The company had 24 stockholders, each of them holding one share. Jennings was the president, St. Clair Gray served as the secretary, and Steadman was the treasurer. The town of Anthony was officially founded on April 8, 1878, and became the seat of Harper County's government.¹¹

Jennings (formerly of Pennsylvania) and Steadman (formerly of Massachusetts) were Congregationalists and within a short period they and others had organized a congregation – the first organized church in Anthony. The church was officially formed August 3, 1879 when nine worshippers presented their letters of transfer of membership.¹² In 1879, the congregation totaled 19 members. Its first pastor was Reverend W. A. Hobbs, who came from Oberlin School of Theology in Ohio at the request of Jennings and Reverend Sylvester D. Storrs, superintendent of the Topeka-based Kansas Congregational Home Missionary Society.¹³ The first services were held in the old courthouse before removing to a schoolhouse.

With \$350 in financial assistance from the Congregational Church Building Society, the congregation erected a small wood-frame building in 1880.¹⁴ (Figure 3) The building materials were transported on wagons from Wellington, the nearest railroad station, 42 miles.¹⁵ The building was located on two 50-foot lots at the northwest corner of Steadman and Bluff streets, the same location of the present church. Early in its history, the church was affiliated with the Union Sabbath School led by Obadiah Jennings.¹⁶ Other congregations formed within a few years, and by 1883 Anthony included a Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Church, and Baptist Church.¹⁷

Much was happening in Anthony during the few years preceding the construction of the church. The impressive Harper County Courthouse, designed by architect George Washburn, was completed in 1908 (NRHP). The Anthony

⁸ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, vol. 1* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 78-79.

⁹ For biographical information on Obadiah Jennings, see *A Biographical History of Central Kansas, vol. 2* (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1902), 825-827.

¹⁰ A slight variation in the spelling of his name (Stedman) is found throughout the historical record.

¹¹ William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883), 364-365.

¹² Wisegarver, 5.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 4.

¹⁴ Wisegarver suggests the original church cost \$1,500, but William Cutler's *History of Kansas* says it cost \$1,700.

¹⁵ Wisegarver, 4.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Commercial Club organized on January 1, 1909 in an effort to maximize and strengthen business opportunities and promote growth and development.¹⁸ And, the citizens of Anthony approved to adopt a commission form of government in February 1909.¹⁹ This frenzy of activity and development, including the construction of two houses of worship, was highlighted in a 1910 promotional booklet entitled *Anthony, Kansas: New and Nifty, May 1910*²⁰ and in a lengthy article published in the *Anthony Bulletin* on May 27, 1910.

Reverend B. F. Buck came to the congregation in 1908 and led the worshippers through the process of erecting a new church building.²¹ Reverend Buck also served as the president of the local Commercial Club during this period.²² In addition to Buck, the building committee consisted of W. P. Olmstead, Dr. A. E. Walker, Paul C. Burnett, C. S. Deming, Mrs. J. R. McKee, Mrs. B.F. Smith, and Robert McGowen.²³ The committee visited churches in other communities and was particularly interested in the newly built Presbyterian Church in Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas. (Figure 4). In the meantime, the women of the committee led efforts to raise funds for the construction of the new church.²⁴ One such project involved “making a bed-quilt that will net the church fund more than two hundred dollars.”²⁵

The Congregational church members had decided it was time to replace the older wood building with a new, bigger brick structure. The new building was to provide more room for church classes, as well as for worship services and social activities.²⁶ (Figure 5) The wood building was relocated to make room for a new building at the same location and was disassembled upon the completion of this building and sold to a Mr. Jeffries who shipped the lumber to Manchester to be used in the construction of houses.²⁷ The new building’s cornerstone was set on Wednesday evening, June 23, 1909. According to the June 25, 1909 edition of the *Anthony Republican*, the ceremony recalled the early history of the church and community, and a few items were sealed in a box and placed in the cornerstone. Several items were published in the *Anthony Bulletin* over the next several months providing updates on the progress of construction.

A photograph shows the building under construction (Figure 6), but surviving church records provide no indication of who designed or oversaw the construction of the building. It is certainly possible the plan for the building was adapted from typical church plans used by other Congregational churches, but this is not known. A few names of those who participated in the construction are known: Robert D. Hilts participated in digging the basement and Hurley Martin assisted in completing the building’s roof. The *Anthony Bulletin* noted that the installation of the stained glass windows was delayed because several had been broken at the factory.²⁸

The completed structure was dedicated on a Sunday, November 27, 1910.

Obadiah Jennings did not live to see the construction of a new church building. He died April 29, 1906, four years before the completion of the church. Jennings and his wife Katharine’s importance to the founding of the church and town is evident in the memorial window that graces the building’s east wall. At the time of the completion of the new church, the only charter member who remained in Anthony was Mrs. William Phelps.²⁹

The congregation purchased a frame building west of the church to serve as the parsonage from 1912 to 1959, when a Ranch-style house was built in that location to match the church. It was dedicated October 7, 1959.³⁰

¹⁸ B. F. Buck, “Anthony, Kansas,” In *The Kansas Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 5 (May 1909): 69-72.

¹⁹ Blackmar, 78-79.

²⁰ *Anthony, Kansas: New and Nifty, May 1910* (N.P.: n.d.). (KSHS Archives: K/978.1/-H23/Pam.v.1/no.6).

The pamphlet included images of the courthouse, commercial buildings, high-style residences, the Christian and Congregational churches under construction, the fairgrounds, city park, etc.

²¹ Harper County Religious Heritage Committee, “A Historical Collection of Harper County Churches,” (Anthony, KS: Republican Print, 1961), 30.

²² B. F. Buck, “Anthony, Kansas,” In *The Kansas Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 5 (May 1909): 69-72.

²³ *Anthony Bulletin*, 2 October 1908, page 1.

²⁴ *Anthony Bulletin*, 2 October 1908, page 5.

²⁵ *Anthony Bulletin*, 4 December 1908. The article describes the quilt in detail.

²⁶ Wisegarver, 8.

²⁷ *Anthony Bulletin*, 18 March 1910.

²⁸ *Anthony Bulletin*, 9 September 1909. A later article dated 16 September 1906 goes into greater detail about the windows and their significance.

²⁹ *Anthony Bulletin*, 25 June 1909.

³⁰ Harper County Religious Heritage Committee, 30.

The building continues to function as a house of worship, though the number of members is declining.

Gothic Revival Architecture

The Gothic Revival style gained prominence in the United States in the early- and mid-nineteenth century. The heightened popularity of the style can be traced back to the 1852 publication of architect Richard Upjohn's book of church architectural planning guide entitled, *Upjohn's Rural Architecture*. Some of this country's greatest examples of enduring, picturesque-style, Gothic Revival buildings were built prior to Upjohn's publication, including Alexander Jackson Davis's New York University building (1832-1837), and Richard Upjohn's Trinity Church, also in New York (1839-1846). Gothic Revival buildings were popular with residential buildings before the Civil War and declined after the war but still remained a favorite for designers for religious buildings well into the 20th century. Although high-style religious buildings were typically made of stone, the use of wood, known as the Carpenter Gothic style, was common, particularly in smaller religious buildings.³¹

There are many variations of Gothic Revival-style church architecture in Kansas. Examples range from unadorned wood-frame Carpenter Gothic buildings to high-style masonry structures with soaring spires and elaborate detailing. In Kansas, the style is found most often in religious architecture, but variations like Collegiate Gothic can be seen in schools and public buildings. Features found in most variations include pointed-arch windows, a bell tower or spire, at least one large sanctuary window, and a steeply pitched roof.

The First Congregational Church reflects the Gothic Revival style in its pointed-arch windows and the crenelated towers. There is just one other Gothic Revival-style church building in Anthony – the Grace Episcopal Church at 401 North Anthony Street. This stone church was built in 1889.³²

The Akron Plan

The interior plan of Anthony's First Congregational Church exhibits the hallmarks of the Akron Plan, or more accurately a later derivative of the Akron Plan, with its square-shaped sanctuary and diagonal amphitheater-style seating.

In her book *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*, historian Jeanne Halgren Kilde discusses societal transformations taking place in the nineteenth century and their effects on Christians and their places of worship. She argues that profound socioeconomic and technological changes influenced the movement away from traditional church architecture to the auditorium church. The Sunday school movement in the mid- and late-nineteenth century, for example, reflected changing societal attitudes toward education and children that were then reflected in church building construction throughout the country. The Akron Plan is a direct result of these evolving attitudes.

According to Kilde, "The Akron Plan – originally conceived by lay minister Lewis Miller and builder Jacob Snyder of Akron, Ohio – was a functional solution to a space problem. The plan, developed in the 1860s, called for a ring of Sunday school classrooms around a central auditorium. Partitions could separate the spaces, allowing for both 'togetherness and separateness.'"³³ However, according to Kilde, "The characteristic of this new plan that became most universally replicated was not the ring of classrooms but the use of recessible walls and rolling partitions to separate Sunday school spaces from sanctuaries. This feature of recessible walls seems to explain the universalization of the term Akron Plan in the twentieth century to mean almost any church sanctuary with an attached room separated by a recessible wall... Popularized by architect Warren H. Hayes, the diagonal plan

³¹ Language adapted from previous nominations. Sources: Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993), 53-60; John C. Poppeliers, et. al., *What Style is It?* Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 2003.

³² Harper County Religious Heritage Committee.

³³ Jeanne Halgren Kilde, *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 177.

effectively integrated the sanctuary with an Akron Plan Sunday school.”³⁴ The plan gained increasing popularity from the 1880s to 1910s, particularly among Methodist, Congregational, and Episcopal congregations.

The members of Anthony’s First Congregational Church, particularly as a result of the early efforts of Obadiah Jennings, who organized the first Sunday school in Harper County, emphasized the importance of religious education. Jennings taught and served as a Sunday school superintendent for many years.³⁵ A primary reason for erecting a new church building in 1909-1910 was to provide more space. Although we may never know why the Anthony congregation chose this particular style and plan of building, we know its design was intended to emphasize education- and church-related activities.

Summary

Completed in 1910, the First Congregational Church in Anthony is nominated for its local significance in the area of architecture. Not only does it exhibit Gothic Revival characteristics, but its interior plan is an important reflection of popular trends in church design in the early 20th century. As of this writing, there are nine Congregational church buildings in Kansas listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places and/or National Register of Historic Places.

³⁴ Ibid., 177 and 179.

³⁵ *A Biographical History of Central Kansas, vol. 2, 826-827.*

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anthony Bulletin, 2 October 1908; 4 December 1908; 4 March 1910; 18 March 1910; 17 May 1910; 25 June 1909; 9 September 1910; 16 September 1910; 30 September 1910; 14 October 1910; 11 November 1910; 18 November 1910; 25 November 1910; 2 December 1910;

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Anthony Republican, 25 June 1909.

Anthony Republican and Anthony Bulletin, 7 July 1960.

A Biographical History of Central Kansas, vol. 2. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1902.

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Bucher, Ward. *Dictionary of Building Preservation, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1996*.

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Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Olmstead, Mrs. William P. "Congregational Church History," *Anthony Bulletin*, 2 December 1910.

Poppeliers, John C., et. al., *What Style is It?* Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 2003.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993.

Wisegarver, Harald. *Anthony and Those Congregationalists, 1878-1979*. N.P. 1979.

Wright, BarBara. Interview by author, Saturday, February 17, 2014. Notes on file with the author.

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: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

1	<u>37.153459</u>	<u>-98.031779</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes the building and the land on which it sits, which is described as follows: Lot 12 and S 35' of Lot 9, Block 20, Anthony, Harper County, Kansas.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated property includes the property historically and currently associated with the First Congregational Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brande Vogele (Additional Research by Rick Anderson; KSHS staff edits)

organization _____ date 02/17/2014

street & number 1918 Walnut St telephone 620-243-3357

city or town Harper state KS zip code 67058

e-mail brande.vogele@gmail.com

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**
- **Additional items:** (Historic images, maps, etc.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: First Congregational Church
City or Vicinity: Anthony
County/State: Kansas
Photographer: Sarah Martin
Date of Photos: 25 February 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 14 Southeast corner of church, camera facing NW
- 2 of 14 South façade of church (along W Steadman Street), camera facing N
- 3 of 14 West façade of church, camera facing SE
- 4 of 14 Rear entrance to church along north wall at west end of building, camera facing SW

- 5 of 14 Northeast corner of church, camera facing SW
- 6 of 14 East façade of church, camera facing W
- 7 of 14 Sanctuary window on south façade, camera facing NW
- 8 of 14 Interior, entrance at SE corner, camera facing SE
- 9 of 14 Interior of sanctuary, photo taken from pulpit and shows primary entrance at SE corner of building
- 10 of 14 Interior of sanctuary, photo taken from SE entrance showing pulpit at center and overflow area at left, camera facing NW
- 11 of 14 Interior of sanctuary; secondary entrance at left, overflow space at center, and pulpit area at right, camera facing W
- 12 of 14 Interior of sanctuary, facing east toward window honoring town and church founders
- 13 of 14 Interior, overflow space west of sanctuary, camera facing NW
- 14 of 14 Interior, basement meeting space

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name First Congregational Church (Attn: Greg Cleveland)
street & number PO Box 287 telephone 620-842-5436
city or town Anthony state Kansas zip code 67003

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.).

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.

Figure 1: Contextual Aerial Image. Google, 2014.



Figure 2: Close-in Aerial Image. Google 2014.



Figure 3: First Congregational Church, circa 1880-1900. Source: Harald Wisegarver, *Anthony and Those Congregationalists, 1878-1979*. (N.P. 1979), 9.

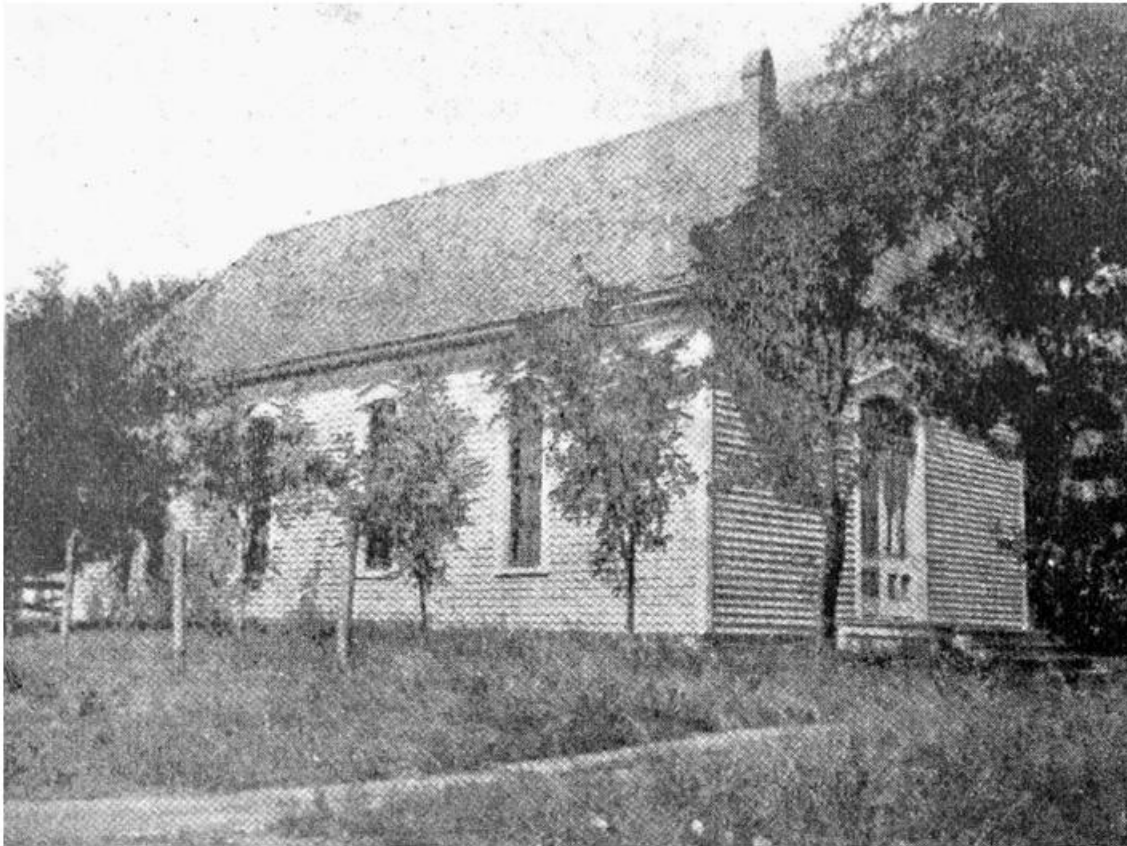


Figure 4: Undated postcard. Presbyterian Church, Caldwell, Kansas. Members of Anthony's First Congregational Church building committee visited this church in 1908 to gather information as they planned for the construction of their church. It burned in the mid-20th century.

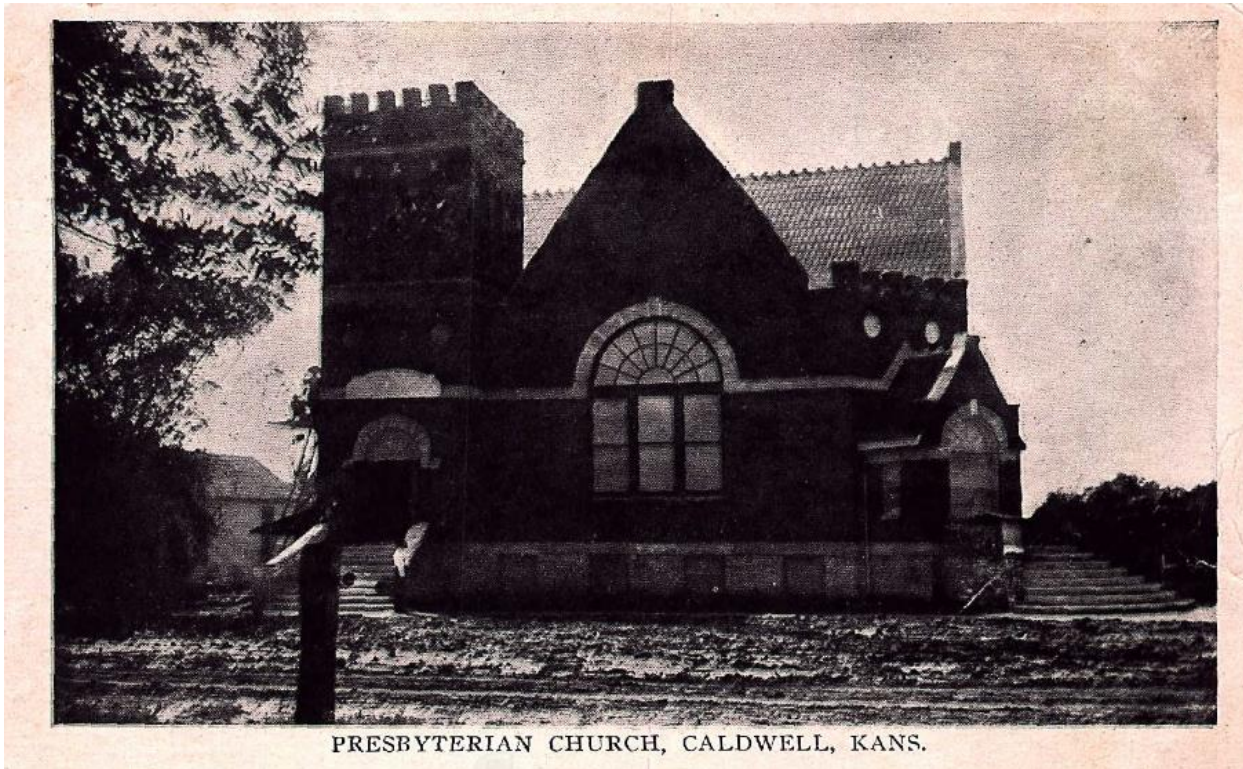


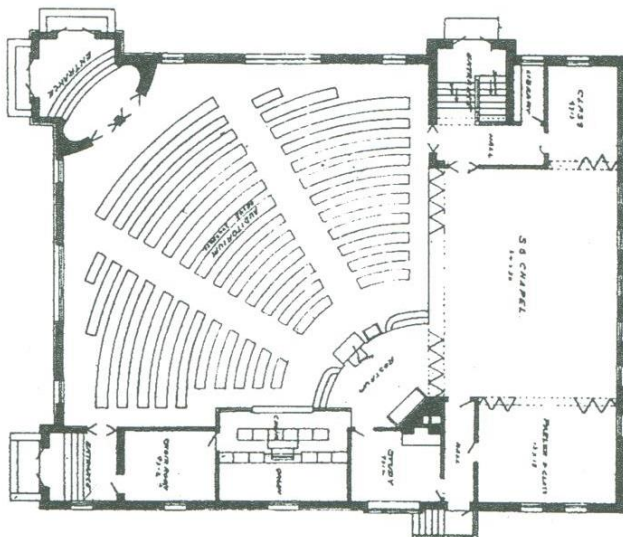
Figure 5: Church Plans published in the *Anthony Bulletin*, 6 November 1908.

New Church Building!

The Following Zinc Etchings of Plans for the new Congregational Church were Received by Rev. B. F. Buck this Morning.



East front of new Congregational church to be built in Anthony



Interior plans for main auditorium

The *Anthony Bulletin*; Anthony, Harper County, Kansas
November 6, 1908 p. 5.

Figure 6: First Congregational Church, under construction in 1909-1910. Source: Harald Wisegarver, *Anthony and Those Congregationalists, 1878-1979*. (N.P. 1979), 9.

