

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 Christian Church
 Other names/site number KHRI # 161-3490-00434
 Name of related Multiple Property Listing NA

2. Location

Street & number <u>115 Courthouse Plaza</u>	NA	not for publication
City or town <u>Manhattan</u>	NA	vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Riley Code RL Zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___ national ___ statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B x C ___ D

Register of Historic Kansas Places, Listed August 7, 2021

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date _____

Kansas State Historical Society
 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:) _____

National Register of Historic Places, Listed March 10, 2022

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: LIMESTONE

walls: LIMESTONE; GLASS

roof: WOOD; METAL; CONCRETE; ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The First Christian Church is located on the west side of downtown Manhattan, Kansas, the state's eighth-largest city (population 55,290). The building is located on a 100' X 150' lot, bounded on the north by Humboldt Street, east by Fifth Street (an abandoned street formerly known as Fourth Street), and west by a parking lot on the south by an alley. The building faces east toward the Courthouse Office Building. The Riley County Courthouse (1905) is just southeast of the building. These buildings, along with the Carnegie Library (south of the Church), were historically designed to be of similar and complimentary styles, and are tied together by the Courthouse Plaza, which was developed in the early 1980s. The original building was built in 1908 from plans by J. C. Holland. It is a rectangular stone building with symmetrical facades on all four sides, designed to coordinate with the Romanesque Revival Courthouse (1905) and Beaux-Arts Carnegie Library (1904). A "Conservative Modern" education wing was built in 1938. A Modern 1962 addition constituted an overall design change, which is reflected on the interior in the sanctuary, halls, new classrooms, and the main entrance to the structure. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity from the 1908 and 1938 structures, and dating to the major renovation in 1962. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

Elaboration

Setting/Background

In 1873, when the First Christian Church built its first building, an east-facing one-story wood-framed structure north of Poyntz Avenue on Fourth (now Fifth) Street, the area was in the western reaches of downtown Manhattan. By 1885, however, the block to the east was on its way to becoming a downtown anchor with the establishment of the long-awaited Moore's Opera House, later the Wareham. The site continued to rise in prominence with the construction of the Carnegie Library (1904) on the adjacent lot to the south and the Riley County Courthouse (1905) on the lot directly east of the library.

By 1905, Manhattan's Episcopalians, Catholics, Methodists, Congregationalists, and German Evangelicals (Lutherans), had all built masonry buildings nearby. The pressure was on for the Christian Church, now surrounded by stately limestone public buildings, to make a statement. So, they hired J. C. Holland, who designed the Riley County Courthouse, to design a limestone church structure that would complement the courthouse and the library.

Over the decades, as the community grew, the 1905 courthouse was no longer big enough to handle county functions.¹ In 1969, with the completion of a new city library, Riley County purchased the Carnegie Library and renovated it for use by the county's Social Welfare Department. In 1974, after the State of Kansas consolidated county welfare programs statewide, the county refurbished the building again; it reopened again in 1975 as offices for the county extension office.

Today, Riley County has offices in four buildings on the Courthouse Plaza: Riley County Courthouse (1905), Riley County Office Building (Wareham Annex), Riley County Courthouse Plaza East, and the Carnegie Building. In 2019, the First Christian Church moved to a new building. In 2020, Riley County purchased the Church's property, thereby establishing control of all the buildings facing the Courthouse Plaza.

Building Evolution

The First Christian Church Building is made up of three principal masses. The first, a Romanesque Revival building with Beaux-Arts massing, constructed in 1908 from plans by J. C. Holland, was located on the site of the congregation's first meetinghouse (1873). Like their first building, the 1908 building faced east toward the courthouse.

¹ Between 1900 and 1980, Manhattan's population grew tenfold from 3,400 to 32,000.

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The 1908 building was rectangular in massing with a hipped roof and symmetrical façade. It had a full basement designed for use as a fellowship hall and a large sanctuary on the raised first floor accessible via a formal stair that rose to a pedimented portico opening to the sanctuary.

In 1938, the congregation added an education wing that extended northward along the west end of the building's original north elevation. This wing was side-gabled, with a truncated lower front gable projecting eastward from the north end of its east elevation.

A third major addition, completed in 1962, constituted an overall design change. This addition, which reshaped the building's front elevation, filled the "L" created by the 1908 building and 1938 addition. On its north were additional classrooms. On the south end, the project called for the removal of the original portico and the addition of a new two-story parlor/narthex that would be accessed via a new entrance lobby. The 1962 addition has a flat roof, with a distinctive Modern folded roof design at the narthex.

East (Front) Elevation

As noted above, the front elevation faces east toward the Riley County Office Building (renovated in the 1980s as part of the Courthouse Plaza project). The front elevation stretches south to north along the sidewalk plane, with the main entrance occupying a centered bay. There are six bays south of the entrance bay: an uninterrupted limestone bay, four window bays with aluminum framing and mullions within limestone piers, and a limestone bay accentuated by a limestone and marble cross detail. The entry bay, which shares a folded roofline with the six bays to its south, houses an aluminum storefront entry with an aluminum window above. North of the entry bay are six additional bays. The first five each feature a window opening on each level. These are aluminum casement windows with two-part transoms. The northernmost bay, which is recessed from the façade, is a glazed stair tower.

South (Side) Elevation

The 1960s addition wraps around to the south. But the south elevation has changed little since its 1908 construction. There are six window bays, each with windows on the basement, first floor, and second-floor levels – the first two and last two bays match. The center two bays are delineated by stone pilasters that rise to capitals that "support" a pedimented roof. Under the pediment are two basement windows, two rectangular first-floor windows, and two arched windows on the second level.

West (Rear) Elevation

From the rear, the original rear elevation and rear elevations of the 1938 and 1962 additions are visible. The rear elevation of the 1962 addition has four window openings, two on each level. The first bay of the 1938 addition has a shed roof that rises to a chimney. There are no masonry openings in this bay. The second bay in the 1938 addition houses covered stacked entrances with stone, stair, and metal railings that appear to date to the 1962 addition. South of this entrance are five window bays dating from the 1938 addition. These have 9/9 double-hung non-historic windows on the first level and an architectural glass block on the raised basement level. The rear elevation of the original building houses a centered chimney that breaks the centered dentilled pediment. South of the chimney is an exterior entrance to the fellowship hall on the lower level. There are only two masonry openings on the first and second levels. The one on the north has a 9/9 double-hung non-historic window. The one on the south has been enclosed.

North (Side) Elevation

From street level on the north, only the north elevations of the 1962 and 1938 additions are visible. The 1962 addition has only one masonry opening on its north elevation, a centered aluminum storefront-type door. There are four bays on the north elevation of the 1938 addition. These have 8/8 double-hung wood windows on the first level and, with the exception of the westernmost bay, architectural glass blocks at the raised basement level. The westernmost bay has a non-historic sash at the raised basement level. The upper story of the north elevation of the original building is visible from the northwest. What remains exposed of the original north elevation remains unchanged, except that the masonry openings have been enclosed.

Interior, Sanctuary, and Fellowship Hall (1908 with 1938, 1962 changes)

Basement - Throughout the building's evolution, the principal uses of the original 1908 space have remained the same. The building was designed with a raised basement, with the idea that if the congregation could not afford to complete the original design in one phase, the basement could be capped off and used as a sanctuary in the interim. The basement continued to be used as a fellowship hall throughout the building's history as a church. It has an open floorplan with an enclosed kitchen on its west end. The space is lit by clerestory windows around the building's

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perimeter. Although the basement retains its historic volume and massing, the finishes remain very simple, with most – including suspended ceilings, carpeting, LVT base, doors, and accordion dividers - dating to the late twentieth century.

Sanctuary – The Sanctuary occupies the entire upper level of the 1908 building. It retains its appearance dating to the 1962 overall design change. Historically accessed via exterior doors on the original stone portico, the sanctuary is now accessed via two pairs of double doors in the 1962 narthex. This space was renovated in both 1938 and 1962. With the exception of a couple of doors behind the baptistry, there are no other elements dating from the building's original 1908 construction. Finishes include asphalt floor tile, 1962 pews, 1962 wood paneling, and a shallow gabled ceiling with square acoustical tiles. There is a simple carpeted stage and centered baptismal on the west end.

Interior, 1938 Education Wing

The 1938 Education wing occupies two levels – a raised basement level and upper floor. The basement houses a long meeting room, lit by window openings filled with architectural glass block (the 1938 windows were removed and glass blocks added in the 1962 remodel). Finishes include plastered walls and ceilings, wood trim, and carpeted floors. The west wall of the meeting room features a large limestone fireplace.

On the upper level, the 1938 wing houses four classrooms, two restrooms, a storage room, and a janitor's closet. These rooms are accessed via a corridor that was modified in the 1962 addition. For the most part, interior finishes in this part of the building date to the 1962 project. They include asphalt tile, plaster, and concrete block walls, wood trim, and carpeted floors.

Interior, 1962 Addition

The 1962 Addition doubled the size of the education wing by adding a second bay of classrooms and offices to the east of the 1938 wing. In addition, it created a new entrance, new lobby, two new interior stairs, and an enclosed narthex/parlor on the east side of the sanctuary at the former location of the 1908 portico. All finishes in this addition, with the exception of updated carpeting and ceiling tiles, dating to 1962. These include plaster and concrete block walls, terra cotta tile floors and bases, and Modern metal/wood stair railings. Ceilings in the lobby, main stair, and narthex reflect the folded roofline design. Other ceilings are suspended acoustical tile.

Lobby/Narthex – The 1962 Addition created a new entrance and lobby. The building's main entrance is centered on the east/front elevation. Aluminum doors open to a lobby on the lower level. Straight ahead from the lobby are doors that open to the corridor that accesses both the 1938 and 1962 education wings. On the southwest corner of the lobby is a narrow stair that leads to the basement fellowship hall. On the southeast corner of the lobby is a wide sweeping stair that rises to the narthex that leads to the sanctuary. The stair turns and continues west to access the education wing corridor.

Education Wing - On the lower level, the 1962 education wing addition included (south to north) three offices, a workroom, library, chapel, and an open stair that provided interior access to the upper level. The 1962 education addition was connected to the 1938 wing via a corridor that stretched from the new entrance lobby on the south to the open stair on the north. On the upper level, the 1962 education addition housed two large classrooms.

Integrity

According to NPS National Register Bulletin: How to Apply National Register Criteria for Evaluation, "A property significant under Criterion C must retain those physical features that characterize the type, period, or method of construction that the property represents. Retention of design, workmanship, and materials will usually be more important than location, setting, feeling, and association. Location and setting will be important, however, for those properties whose design is a reflection of their immediate environment (such as designed landscapes and bridges)."

Below is a summary of each of the seven aspects of integrity, with justification for the integrity of the First Christian Church.

Location –

For properties significant under Criterion C, "Location is the place where the historic property was constructed." The First Christian Church building has occupied its original location since its 1908 construction from plans by J. C. Holland, and subsequent additions have occupied the same location.

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Setting –

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. From the time of its construction in 1908 – and as the building evolved over time – with a 1938 education addition and 1962 addition with design changes – it has continued to occupy a prominent location in the courthouse square. The building was designed to coordinate with the Romanesque Revival Courthouse (1905) to the east and Beaux-Arts Carnegie Library (1904) to the south. The relationships among these buildings remain.

Design –

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The First Christian Church retains design elements from three periods of construction. Although the building's 1908 façade is concealed by a 1962 re-design, original elements remain on its south (side) and west (rear) elevations. Essential features that represent the 1908 Romanesque Revival design include symmetrical massing, massive limestone construction with tooled and rusticated stones laid in courses, a hipped roofline with gabled pediments, arched window openings, and a high water table defined by a horizontal band of tooled limestone. The 1938 addition includes design elements typical during the time period, including multi-pane windows, limestone set in an ashlar pattern, and, on the interior, and a massive limestone fireplace and chimney with irregular cut-stone apron. Design elements from the 1962 addition and overall design change to the façade include regularly coursed limestone facing, flat roof with folded roof detail at the entrance, architectural glass blocks, aluminum windows set in openings with simple sills and lintels, and asymmetrical façade. Interior design elements from 1962 include square terra-cotta tiles, geometric metal and wood stair railings, floating stairways, and streamlined walls covered with blond wood.

Materials –

"Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to a historic property." The materials indicative of the design features identified above are present. The principal exterior material, carried through the building's three major periods of construction, is native limestone. The exposed 1908 elevations feature coursed limestone which alternates between wide and narrow courses. The 1938 addition features limestone laid in an ashlar pattern. The 1962 addition features limestone of equal sizes set in regular courses. Additional historic materials that reflect the building's 1962 design include architectural glass block, aluminum casement windows, terra-cotta tiles, metal and wood railings, and blond woodwork.

Workmanship –

"Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory." The workmanship of the building reveals its various periods of construction over time. The original 1908 building was executed in a formal manner with many variations in the roofline, surface texture, shapes and sizes of masonry openings, and applied classical elements, including a dentiled cornice. The workmanship of the 1938 addition reflects a sparing approach consistent with the depression era. It has a gabled roofline, regularly spaced windows of equal sizes, and no applied ornament. Unlike the 1908 and 1938 sections, the 1962 portions of the building employ a different construction technique altogether – concrete block construction with limestone facing with period details, including a formed and poured concrete folded roofline, architectural glass block, and blond wood panels and floating stairs on the interior.

Association –

"Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property." Although the association is less important than other aspects of aspects of integrity for buildings that are nominated under National Register Criterion C, a direct link is still necessary. A religious property's ability to reflect historic associations relies on the degree to which it physically represents the period of time for which it is significant. Because each period of construction – 1908, 1938, and 1962 – reflects an important period in the congregation's growth and important trends in religious architecture during the time of construction, the building retains the integrity of association from a period of significance that begins at the time of its original construction in 1908.

Feeling –

"Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time." The exterior of the First Christian Church clearly evokes the aesthetic of three periods of time – the 1908 construction, 1938 education addition, and 1962 construction. The main entry, foyer, 1962 education wing, and sanctuary express a Modern aesthetic. The 1938 addition evokes the sparse aesthetic from its depression-era construction.

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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.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908-1962

Significant Dates

1908; 1938; 1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

J. C. HOLLAND (Architect, 1908); A. F. WICKES

A. F. WICKES (Architect, 1938 addition)

RAY LIPPENBERGER (Architect, 1962 addition)

J. M. CORRELL (Builder, 1908); JAY FEALEY

(Builder, 1938 addition); HAROLD MILLIGAN

(Builder, 1962 addition)

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for the First Christian Church is 1908-1962. The period begins with the initial construction of the congregation's first masonry church building in 1908. Character defining features and elements from the 1908 construction are still visible on the exterior facades, and in the interior layouts, corridors, and structure. The 1938 addition created an education wing and also included a remodel of the 1908 sanctuary. The period ends in 1962 after the mid-century design change and additions were added to the structure. These 1962 alterations included remodeling the sanctuary, the main entrance to the structure, and another education wing, and lobby space. All of these elements contribute to the building's architectural significance that evolved throughout the years to provide a more contemporary and attractive structure that met the congregation's needs.

Criteria Considerations (justification): The church is eligible for its architecture and not its religious association.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The First Christian Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture. The Period of Significance begins with the date of the building's original construction in 1908, incorporates a major education addition in 1938, and a 1962 addition and overall design change. The Church retains its historic integrity and character-defining features. It is a great example of the styles and overall design change that came from the mid-century movement to update and become current/modern.

Elaboration

A Brief History of Manhattan

Comprehensive histories of Manhattan, Kansas, and downtown Manhattan are included in the National Register nomination for the Downtown Manhattan Historic District. What follows is a very brief summary:

Manhattan was founded in 1855 by two emigrant groups, one a colony of the New England Emigrant Aid Society and the other a group from Cincinnati. In 1863, Manhattan was chosen as the location of the nation's first land-grant college, the Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State University. In 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad connected the fledgling city to Topeka and Lawrence to the east and Fort Riley to the west. By 1870, the county seat boasted a population of 1,173. Like most Kansas communities, Manhattan saw a period of economic growth in the 1880s, followed by a decline in the 1890s fueled by railroad overexpansion and drought conditions. By the early twentieth century, however, the farming economy had rebounded, and Manhattan was building again.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, when many of the city's set-piece buildings, including the First Christian Church, were built, the city's population grew 66% to 5722. During the 1910s and 1920s, Manhattan benefited from record-high crop prices, wartime expansion of Fort Riley, and the development of new highways. After World War II, the GI Bill attracted to Kansas State University a wave of students, many of whom would become permanent residents. Although the city's footprint expanded markedly in the postwar years, the City, through a 1968 Land Use Plan, committed itself to maintaining and revitalizing the central business district. The city's first major downtown development work began in the late 1970s.

Since 1970, the city's population has doubled from 27,000 to more than 54,000. In 2009, Manhattan was selected by the USDA and U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the new location for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). In 2014, the State of Kansas moved the Kansas Department of Agriculture offices from Topeka to Manhattan. The city's growing agriculture sector, in addition to its roles as a regional trading, military, and education center, has created an economy that is somewhat shielded from major economic disruptions.

First Christian Church and Courthouse Plaza – Timeline²

² The City of Manhattan had designated portions of the downtown as a Certified Local District (CLD) in 1982. A CLD can qualify properties for the federal tax credit program. Churches are not eligible for the federal tax credits as they are not income-producing. However, listing in a CLD does not qualify properties for the Kansas rehabilitation tax credit. Therefore, in 2007 the entire downtown was resurveyed and a nomination prepared. The *Downtown Manhattan Historic District* was listed in the National Register on October 2, 2007. At the time, the preparer and SHPO decided to exclude the First Christian Church because the building was surrounded by parking lots and didn't retain a connection to the commercial area (though it did have a civic connection as the use had changed). However, it was noted that the property is significant though it was not listed in the previous historic district. A nomination has now been prepared to list the building as individually eligible; there was discussion regarding expanding the historic district boundary, but individual listing seems to be a clear.

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A list of comprehensive histories of the First Christian Church can be found in the sources cited in the bibliography in Section 9. These sources can be found at the Riley County Historical Museum. Below is a timeline of church history, including major developments related to the building and site.

- 1855 Manhattan, Kansas founded as a village called "Boston"
- 1864 Christian Church members who settled in Manhattan decided to establish a church
- 1865 JB White was selected as the first pastor
- 1870 Congregation reorganized, meeting for about three years in Brown's Hall
- 1873 Congregation builds its first Church, a wood-framed building, at the location of the present building
- 1889 Congregation built a small addition to its original building
- 1892 Bell tower added
- 1890s Nationwide recession greatly impacted the Church's finances
- 1902 Congregation had accumulated \$500 in debt; but managed to pay it off by 1903
- 1904 Manhattan's Carnegie Library, designed by W. W. Rose, completed
- 1905 Riley County Courthouse, designed by J. C. Holland, completed
- Church membership had reached 213 and leaders began discussing the need for another addition or new building
- 1906 J. A. Koller (who had "no direct heirs") pledged \$1000 toward a new building if the Church could raise \$9000
- Koller, W. T. McLain, J. C. Ewing, and E. M. Hutto were appointed to the Building Committee
- 1908 Church bought a lot on Moro Street to move the wood-framed Church
- Building committee reported that a new 54' X 80' building would cost approximately \$18,000
- Committee recommended that the basement be completed and roofed first to serve as an auditorium in case they were unable to complete the structure as designed
- J. M. Correll awarded contract for new building, designed by courthouse architect J. C. Holland (see bio below)
- 1926 Congregation purchased pipe organ for \$5000
- 1938 Membership reached 500
- Congregation dedicated new education addition, "Keller Hall," on January 9, 1938
- Addition was designed by consulting architect A. F. Wickes (see bio below) and built by Jay Fealey
- 1944 Church paid its debt in full
- 1951 J. A. Arnold retired after serving as the congregation's pastor for 35 years and tripling the membership from 213 to 700

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- 1958 Crestview Christian Church established on the outskirts of town and the Christian Church downtown becomes "First Christian Church"
- 1960 Donald Clingman hired as minister
- Congregation approved \$180,000 building program to "double the size of the educational unit, provide a new narthex for the front of the sanctuary, and remodel the educational facilities
- Local architect Ray Lippenberger (see bio below) designed the addition
- Harold Milligan was awarded the construction contract
- 1961 Groundbreaking for new addition held on August 13, 1961
- 1962 A rapidly growing congregation voted to finish the remodeling in one phase, three years ahead of schedule
- 1963 Remodeled church building dedicated January 13, 1963; This addition was called "Arnold Hall"
- 1969 Public library moved out of Carnegie to new building; county bought Carnegie and moved social welfare offices there
- 1981 *Manhattan Mercury* publishes architect's proposal for Courthouse Plaza launching a multi-phase project to upgrade the courthouse complex
- 1984 Wareham Annex renovated for county offices. Work included a stone façade designed to tie the building to the courthouse, library and First Christian Church
- 1985 Riley County Courthouse received first major renovation since its 1905 construction
- 1986 Riley County completed a major rehabilitation of the Carnegie Library for county offices
- 1987 Carnegie Library listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 2005 Riley County Courthouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 2007 Downtown Manhattan Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 2019 First Christian Church moved to its new 15,000 square foot building in West Manhattan
- Manhattan Presbyterian Church held services in the building until early 2020
- 2020 Riley County purchased First Christian Church Building

First Christian Church Architects

J. C. Holland (1853-1919), 1908 Building

The First Christian Church was built in 1908 from plans by well-known Kansas architect J. C. Holland. The building was clearly designed to coordinate with surrounding buildings, including the Riley County Courthouse and Carnegie Library (by W. W. Rose). With his penchant for massive Romanesque stone structures, many of his designs became instant landmarks. These include the Junction City Opera House (1898), Junction City High School (1904), and Dodge City's Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Depot (1897). During his prolific career, Holland designed at least one other Church, the Burr Oak United Methodist (1912); but he came to be known for his county courthouses. During the period of agricultural dominance that marked the first two decades of the twentieth century, Holland designed a courthouse for

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sixteen of the state's 105 counties, including Riley County. J. C. Holland was born in Lima, Ohio, and educated at Northwestern Ohioan and Cornell Universities. After working as a carpenter and practicing architecture in Ohio, he established a practice in Topeka in 1885, at the beginning of a real estate boom. During the bust that followed, he served as State Architect and "special architect" for the Santa Fe Railroad. He partnered with Frank Squires in 1903. In 1915, his son B. A. Holland joined the firm, which continued after his death in 1919.³

A. F. Wickes (1880-1958), 1938 Addition, also called "Keller Hall"

The 1938 addition was designed by A. F. Wickes. Wickes was an accomplished architect whose productive career spanned many decades. By 1912, he was living and working in Gary, Indiana, where he was lauded as "one of the city's best architects." He was elected President of the Indiana Society of Architects in 1917. Early designs included the Peabody Public Library in Columbia City, Indiana (1919), Bailey Branch Library in Gary, Indiana (1918), Mishawaka Carnegie Library in Mishawaka, Indiana (1916), and Hobart Carnegie Library in Hobart, Indiana (1915). In 1922, Wickes was appointed advisory architect to the Indiana Christian Missionary Society. From the 1920s to 1940s, he was the consulting architect for the Christian Church of the United States, which required him to travel and consult with churches nationwide. Substantial church designs include the Spanish Colonial Revival Church for the University Christian Church in Fort Worth. By the 1930s, Wickes' aesthetic had become more streamlined. He was recognized for his "Conservative Modernism," which he employed for Manhattan's First Christian Church and the Third Christian Church in Indianapolis. As church membership nationwide grew following World War II, Wickes was responsible for an increasing number of designs. In 1945 alone, he "prepared architectural sketches for 52 remodeling jobs and 57 new church structures." After retiring in 1948, he was able to devote time to his hobby of oil painting. He died in 1958.⁴

Ray Lippenberger (1914-1996), 1962 Addition, also called "Arnold Hall"

Ray Lippenberger was born in Warden, Washington, in 1914. In the early 1930s, he attended Kansas State University, where he served as President of the Gargoyle Club, an organization for architecture students. In 1936, Lippenberger was awarded "the school medal of the American Institute of Architects," an award given to the best designer among the nation's architecture graduates. He went on to work in a firm in Denver before completing graduate studies at Harvard University. He also attended training at the Chicago School of Design.

In 1940, Lippenberger was living with his parents in South Dakota, where, according to the census, he was working as a Theology Teacher, apparently alongside his father, a German immigrant who taught Old Testament at the Yankton School of Theology. By October 1940, however, Lippenberger was living in Mobile, Alabama, where he was working for Kenneth R. Giddens, an architect who became better known as a long-time director of Voice of America. Lippenberger was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, at the start of World War II. In December 25, 1941, he returned to Manhattan and married Math Teacher and KSU Graduate Florence Edwards. After serving in the Pacific for nearly two years, he reunited with his wife in Manhattan in December 1945. In 1946, he was employed by his alma mater as an Assistant Professor of Architecture.

After a failed attempt to relocate his young family to Los Angeles, Lippenberger joined the Manhattan firm of F. O. Wolfenbarger, whose Modern Buildings included Peace Memorial Auditorium (1955), Justin Hall (1957), and Lee Elementary School (1953). Lippenberger and his wife Florence remained very active in the Manhattan community, where he was an officer in the Sertoma Club, Chair of the Chamber's Beautification Committee, and a Deacon at the First Presbyterian Church.

Lippenberger had left Wolfenbarger's firm by 1957, when the new firm of Lippenberger and Hutchins designed

³ *Manhattan Nationalist*, 14 July 1899, 2 July 1903, 5 July 1906; *The Student's Herald* (Manhattan, Kansas), 3 May 1900; *Manhattan Republic*, 23 April 1903, 23 August 1906. Sally Schwenk, *Historic County Courthouses of Kansas* MPDF, 2002, E30.

⁴ *The Western Architect* (Western Architect Publishing Company, 1917, v. 26, no. 1), 5; *The Times* (Munster, Indiana), 23 May 1913, 14 May 1915; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6 December 1929; *Indianapolis Star*, 12 October 1930, 1 December 1931, 10 December 1931, 24 November 1934, 5 April 1936, 17 October 1937, 2 July 1938, 24 January 1936; *Indianapolis News*, 7 December 1933, 29 January 1948, 8 December 1948, 20 January 1949; *Hardin County Independent* (Elizabethtown, Illinois), 26 June 1958.

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Manhattan's North View Elementary School. He was hired in 1960 to design the addition for the First Christian Church.⁵

Significance

The First Christian Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Period of Significance begins with the date of the building's original construction in 1908, incorporates a major education addition in 1938, and a 1962 addition and overall design change.⁶

In the years following World War II, as its Centennial approached, the First Christian Church, like many historic churches of the time, faced new challenges. First, both Manhattan and the Christian Church Congregation were growing rapidly. In the two decades following the completion of the 1938 education wing, Manhattan's population had doubled from approximately 11,000 to 22,993. In the six short years it took to pay off the debt from the 1938 addition, the congregation was already outgrowing the expanded building. In fact, by the time pastor J. A. Arnold retired in 1951 after serving the Church for thirty-five years, the membership had grown to 700, with an increasing percentage of young children filling the pews.

As the population and footprint of Manhattan grew, a growing number of auto-dependent suburban churchgoing families suddenly had other options. In 1958, a small group chartered Crestview Christian Church, including leaders from Manhattan Christian College (then known as Manhattan Bible College). Like many suburban congregations, Crestview Christian Church catered to a new generation of protestant congregants. Within just a few short months of its founding, the new congregation had grown to nearly 100 and Crestview announced plans to build a new building in Manhattan's post-war suburb Northview Addition, across the street from Northview Park and a rapidly growing Northview School. Subject to comparisons for the first time in its history, Manhattan's "First" Christian Church was suddenly branded as "the establishment" Church.

Most Protestants are steeped in the long-held belief that a church is more than a church building. Still, Christians understood that buildings were emblematic of their congregations. And in the late 1950s, the First Christian Church in Manhattan needed a building that bucked tradition. In its quest for a Modern image, the First Christian Church had two things Crestview Christian Church lacked: the money to hire a charismatic new minister and the backing needed to execute a Modern architect-designed building.

In 1960, the First Christian Church hired Donald Clingman as its new minister. Five weeks after Clingman's arrival, the congregation approved a \$180,000 building program that would "double the size of the educational unit, provide a new narthex for the front of the sanctuary, and remodel the educational facilities." What designer was best equipped to create a new Modern image that was still architecturally compatible with the surrounding stone buildings? Ray Lippenberger.

Ray Lippenberger was recognized for his design talent before his career even began, earning AIA's national award for "best designer among the nation's architecture graduates" in 1936, the year he graduated from Kansas State University. Between graduation and World War II, Lippenberger taught Theology courses alongside his German immigrant father, who taught Old Testament. Through his work at KSU and in the firm of F. O. Wolfenbarger, Lippenberger kept up on the architectural trends of mid-Century institutional and religious buildings. As an experienced architect, he also understood how, through materials, massing, and rhythms, Modern buildings could be complementary to historic architecture.

⁵ *Manhattan Mercury*, 14 September 1933, 29 November 1935, 11 July 1936, 22 December 1941, 9 December 1943, 20 February 1947, 17 October 1948, 23 December 1951, 26 April 1953, 17 June 1953, 2 April 1957, 7 October 1960, 27 January 1963, 14 July 1996. *Manhattan Morning Chronicle*, 29 September 1934, 11 July 1936, . *Manhattan Republic*, 4 October 1934, 8 July 1943, 19 December 1945, 2 January 1946, 6 March 1946, 17 July 1946, 7 August 1946, 11 February 1948, 26 May 1948, 10 January 1951.

⁶ *Manhattan Nationalist*, 14 February 1907, 18 June 1908, 17 June 1937; *Manhattan Mercury*, 6 October 1936. *A Brief History of the First Christian Church, Manhattan, Kansas 1870-1945*, Compiled for the 75th Anniversary, April 1-8, 1945.

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By juxtaposing traditional and contemporary materials, like native limestone, concrete, glass and aluminum, Lippenberger created a modern design that also complemented nearby key buildings. For the façade, Lippenberger chose an asymmetrical design. The narthex was delineated by linear plated roof forms atop delineating the narthex on the south end of the façade – with tall, narrow aluminum curtain wall windows (voids) between stone-faced piers. In contrast, the north half of the façade featured large expanses of limestone (solid) interrupted only by small, simple aluminum casement windows. In the absence of applied ornament, the form of this Modern building clearly followed function.

Lippenberger's design was not revolutionary for the time, but it did exemplify trends in mid-Century architecture, for which there are few documented examples in Kansas. The folded roofline and curtain walls separated by narrow piers are reminiscent of the suburban commercial architecture of the time. For instance, this technique was used in the Portland Motor Sales Building (1963). It is a simplified version of the technique employed by Walter Nestch at the Air Force Academy Chapel (1962), akin to a treatment used at the First United Methodist Church in Glendale, California (1961).

The mid-Century design elements continued on the interior. In the sanctuary, walls are covered with blond wood paneling that matches blond wood pews. Stair railings are made of alternating wood and metal vertical elements. And the stairwells, lobby, and narthex are flooded with natural light.⁷

The First Christian Church is significant as an example of Mid-Century Modern design in Manhattan. Just as the original building (1908) was designed to complement the Carnegie Library and Riley County Courthouse, so too was the 1962 Addition. In 1981, as the county expanded its presence on the courthouse block, the commissioners hired historic architect Charles Hall (Landmark Architects) to conduct a space study. While the county was examining its space needs, the City of Manhattan was making plans for a major downtown redevelopment project funded by tax-increment financing and urban renewal funds. In June 1981, a proposal for a Courthouse Plaza, with plans to vacate Fifth Street from Poyntz to Humboldt, was made public. This launched a multi-phase project to upgrade the courthouse complex. In 1984, the county completed renovation of the Wareham Annex, which included the addition of a stone façade intended to visually tie the building to the courthouse, library, and First Christian Church. The historic courthouse was renovated in 1985. And in 1986, the county completed a major rehabilitation of the old library. Throughout its 113-year history, the First Christian Church has contributed to the community's architectural character and, in particular, to the area now known as Courthouse Plaza.⁸

⁷ Lippenberger, Plans and Specifications for 1961 Addition, Riley County Historical Society.

⁸ *Manhattan Mercury*, 2 January 1974, 30 September 1977, 28 June 1981, 28 June 1981, 16 October 1981, 28 October 1981, 30 June 1981.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Shortridge, James. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984.

U. S. Census.

Western Architect.

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __KHRI 161-3490-00434

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre.

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)

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Photograph Log

Name of Property: **First Christian Church**

City or Vicinity: **Manhattan**

County: **Riley**

State: **Kansas**

Photographer: **Christy Davis**

Date

Photographed: **May 18, 2021; May 24, 2021**

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

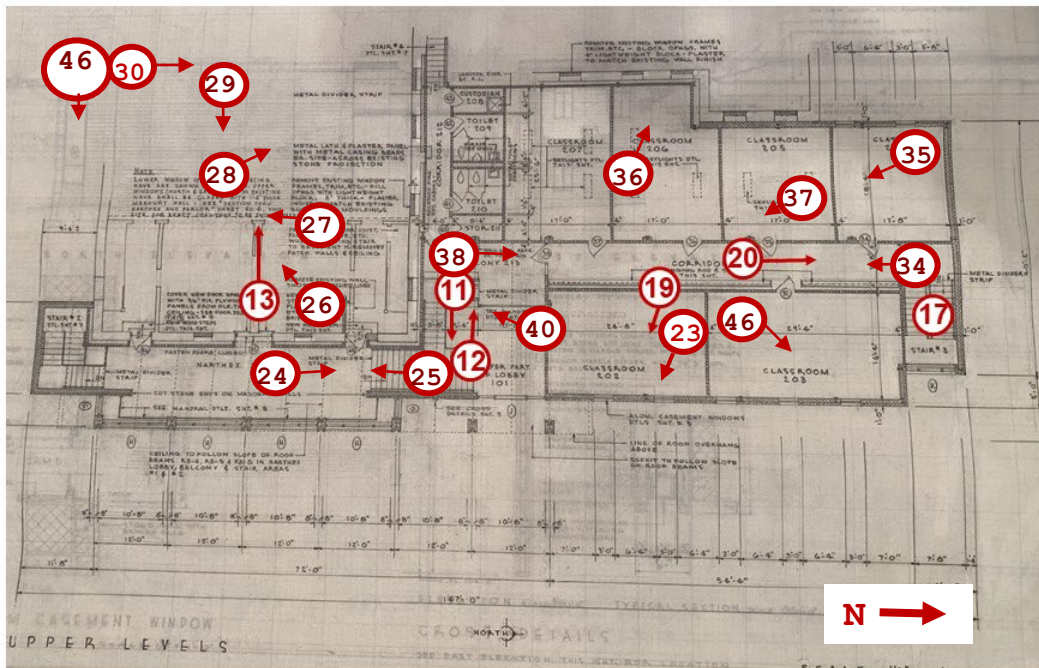
- 1 of 46: Exterior, Front (East) Elevation, Looking S.W., showing 1961 façade.
- 2 of 46: Exterior, Front (East) Elevation, Looking S.W., with 1961 stair tower on right.
- 3 of 46: Exterior, North (Side) Elev, Looking S, showing N elevs of 1961 stair tower (left) and 1938 addition (right)
- 4 of 46: Exterior, North (Side) Elev, Looking S.E., showing W elev of 1961 addition & N elevation of 1938 addition.
- 5 of 46: Exterior, West (Rear) Elevation, Looking S.E., overall view.
- 6 of 46: Exterior, West (Rear) Elevation, Looking E.
- 7 of 46: Exterior, South (Side) Elevation, Looking NE.
- 8 of 46: Exterior, S.E. Corner, Looking N.W.
- 9 of 46: Exterior, East (Front) Elevation, Looking N.W.
- 10 of 46: Exterior, East (Front) Elevation, Looking W toward north end.
- 11 of 46: Interior, 1960s Stair to Narthex, Looking South.
- 12 of 46: Interior, 1960s Stair to Narthex and Upper Level, Looking North.
- 13 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Overall View of Sanctuary, Looking N. (Sanctuary was remodeled 1938 and 1961.)
- 14 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Overall View of Fellowship Hall, Looking N.
- 15 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Looking West toward Stone Fireplace in 1938 Addition.
- 16 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Looking east in north rooms in 1938 Addition.
- 17 of 46: Interior, 1961 Stair Tower.
- 18 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Looking East in Corridor of Education Wing (1938 and 1961).
- 19 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking S.W.
- 20 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Looking East in Corridor of Education Wing (1938 and 1961).
- 21 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Stair from 1908 Construction.
- 22 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Looking East in Corridor of Education Wing.
- 23 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Close-up of historic wood window in 1938 Addition.
- 24 of 46: Interior, 1960s Stair to Narthex and Upper Level, Looking N.
- 25 of 46: Interior, 1960s Narthex and Upper Level, Looking S.
- 26 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Overall View of Sanctuary, Looking NW.
- 27 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, View of Sanctuary Benches, Looking W.
- 28 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, View of Sanctuary Walls, Looking NE.
- 29 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Overall View of Sanctuary, Looking S.
- 30 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Baptismal, Close up.
- 31 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Overall View of Fellowship Hall, Looking S.
- 32 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Stair from 1908 Construction.
- 33 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, View of Kitchen in Fellowship Hall.
- 34 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Classroom Corridor, looking S.
- 35 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking SW.
- 36 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking W.
- 37 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking SE.
- 38 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Classroom Corridor, looking N.
- 39 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking SE.
- 40 of 46: Interior, 1960s Stair to Narthex and Upper Level, Looking SW.
- 41 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Overall View of Classrooms off the Fellowship Hall, Looking W.
- 42 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Overall View of Fellowship Hall, Looking N.
- 43 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Overall View of Fellowship Hall, Looking W.
- 44 of 46: Interior, Sanctuary stairs behind altar, looking SE.
- 45 of 46: Interior, Lower Level, Classroom Corridor, looking E.
- 46 of 46: Interior, Upper Level, Typical 1961 Classroom, looking NE.

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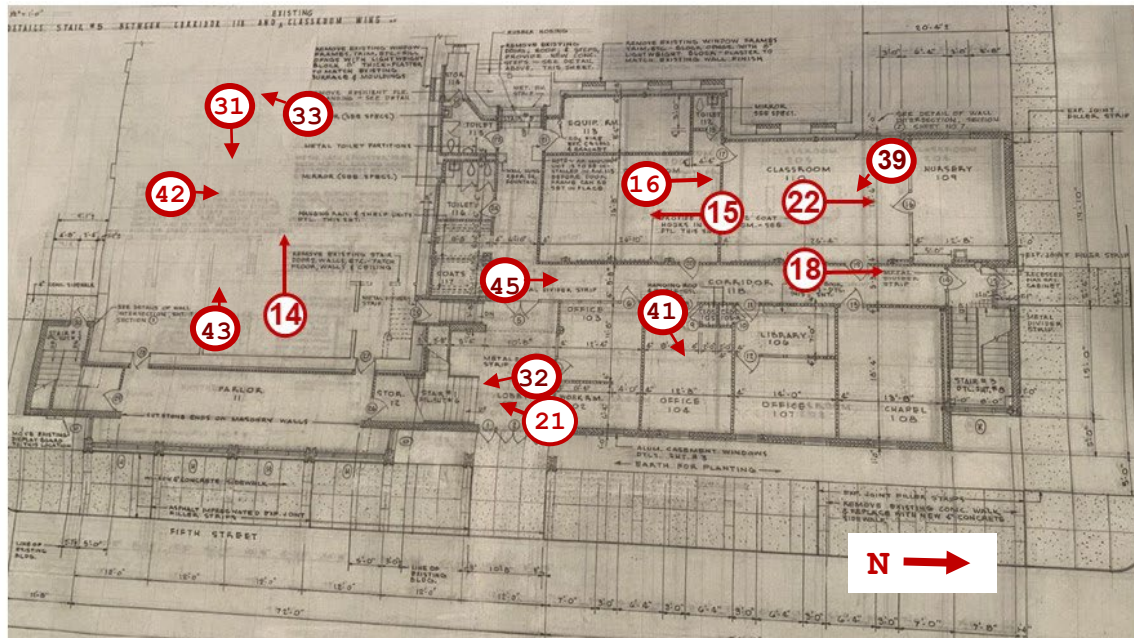
First Christian Church, Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Photo Log, Exterior Photos (1-10)



First Christian Church, Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Photo Log, Interior, Upper Level

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First Christian Church, Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Photo Log, Interior, Lower Levels



Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

- Figure 1: 1885 Sanborn Map, showing footprint and configuration of original frame building (1873).
- Figure 2: 1890 Sanborn Map, showing footprint with 1889 Additions to 1873 building.
- Figure 3: 1905 Sanborn Map, showing more detail of 1873/1889 building.
- Figure 4: 1912 Sanborn Map showing 1908 JC Holland-designed stone building (Carnegie Library to the South).
- Figure 5: 1930 Sanborn Map, Updated in 1947. Showing 1908 Building and 1938 Addition
- Figure 6: 1961 Architect's rendering.
- Figure 7: Architect's Rendering of Proposed Courthouse Plaza (1981).

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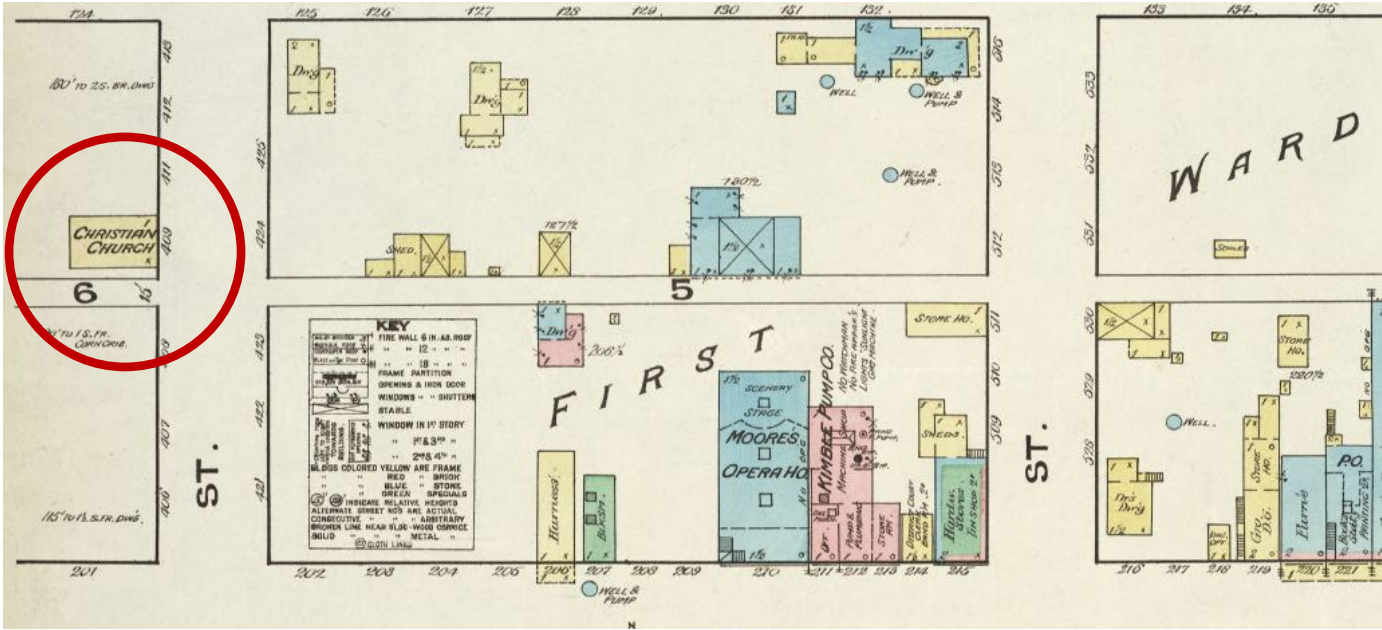


Figure 2: 1885 Sanborn Map, showing footprint and configuration of original frame building (1873).

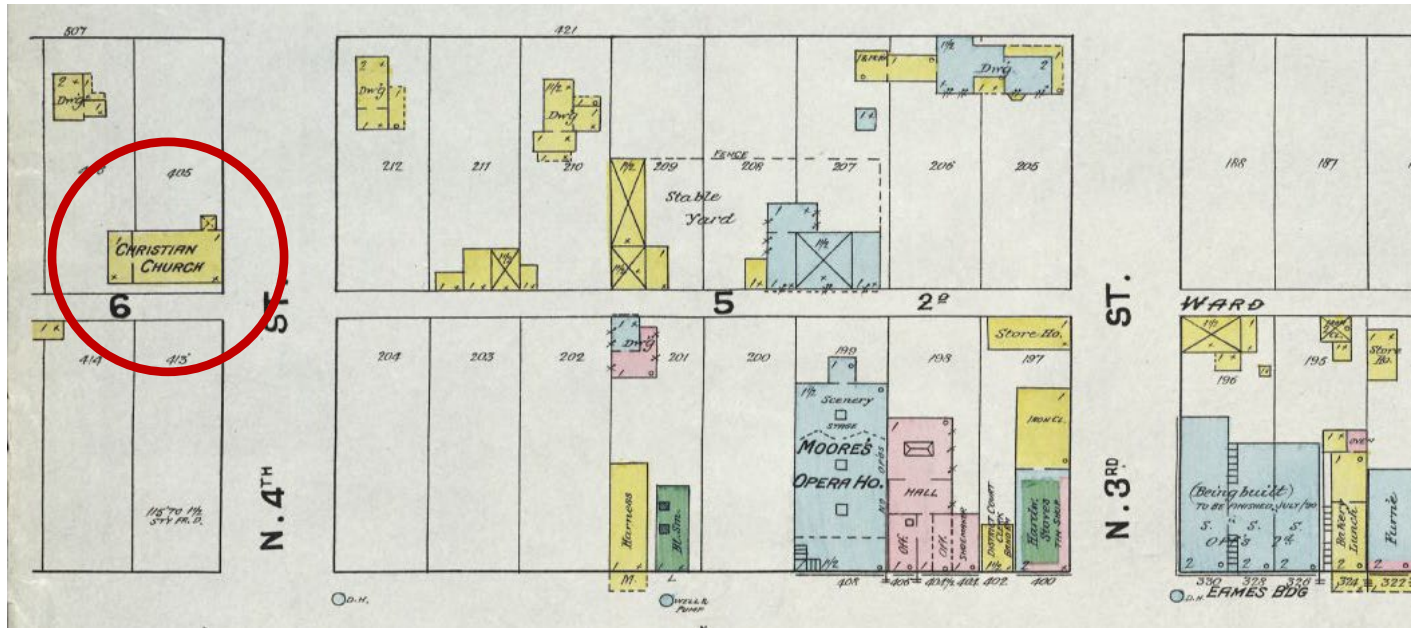


Figure 2: 1890 Sanborn Map, showing footprint with 1889 Additions to 1873 building.

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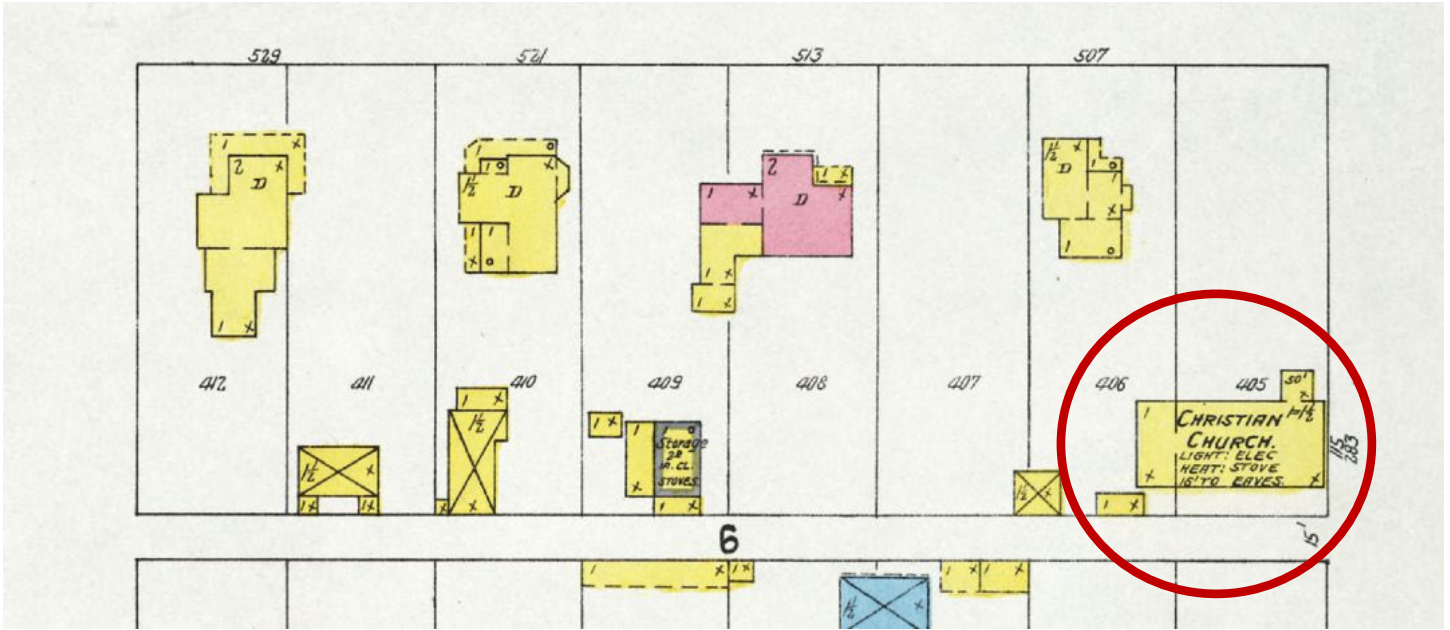


Figure 3: 1905 Sanborn Map, showing more detail of 1873/1889 building.

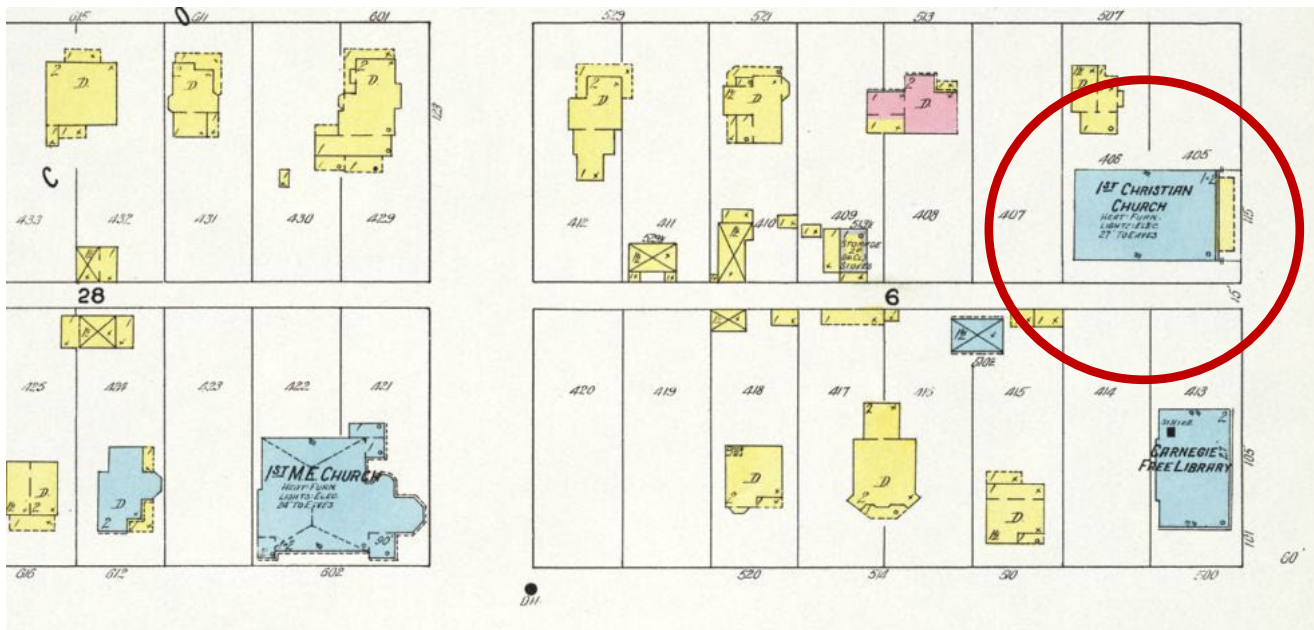


Figure 4: 1912 Sanborn Map showing 1908 JC Holland-designed stone building (Carnegie Library to the South).

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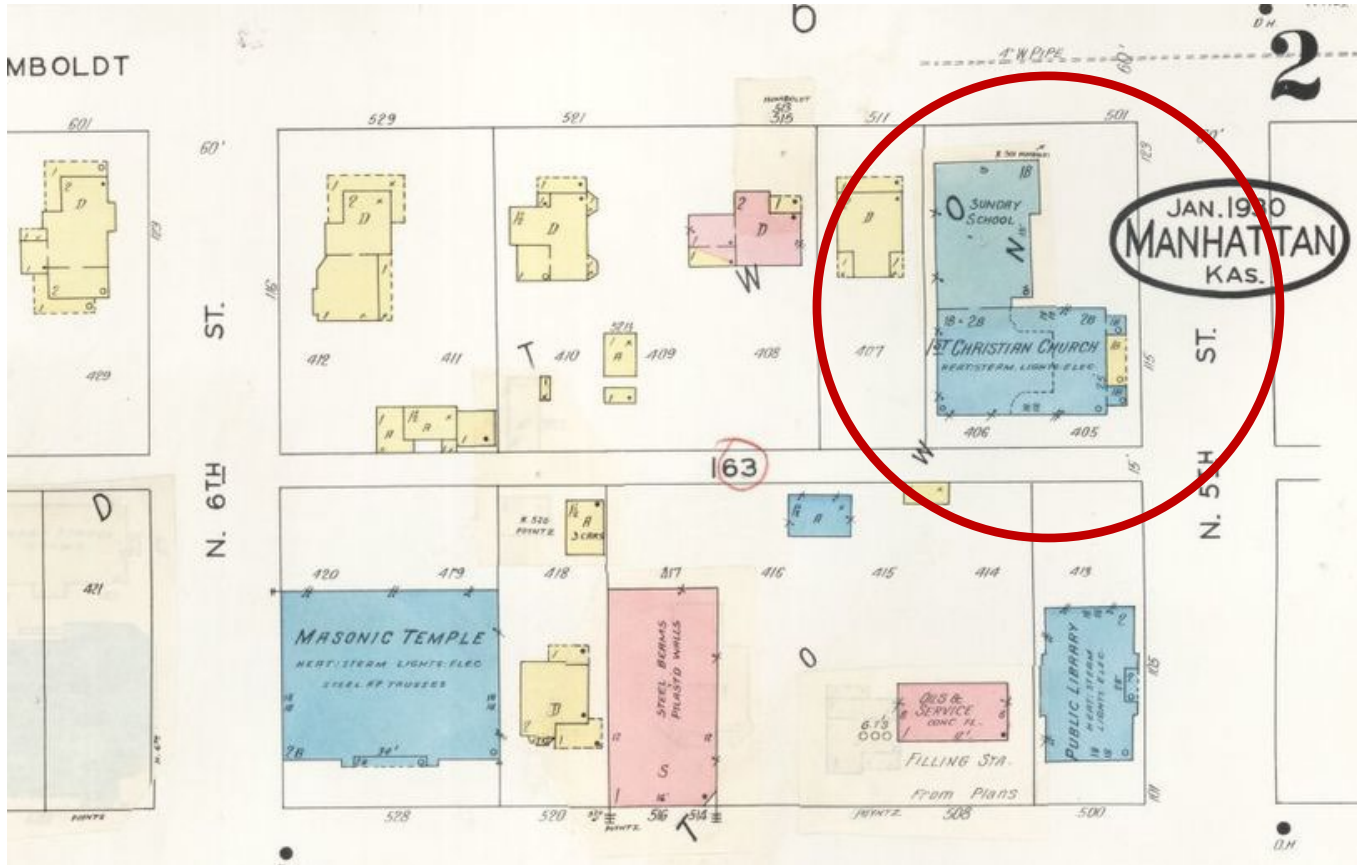
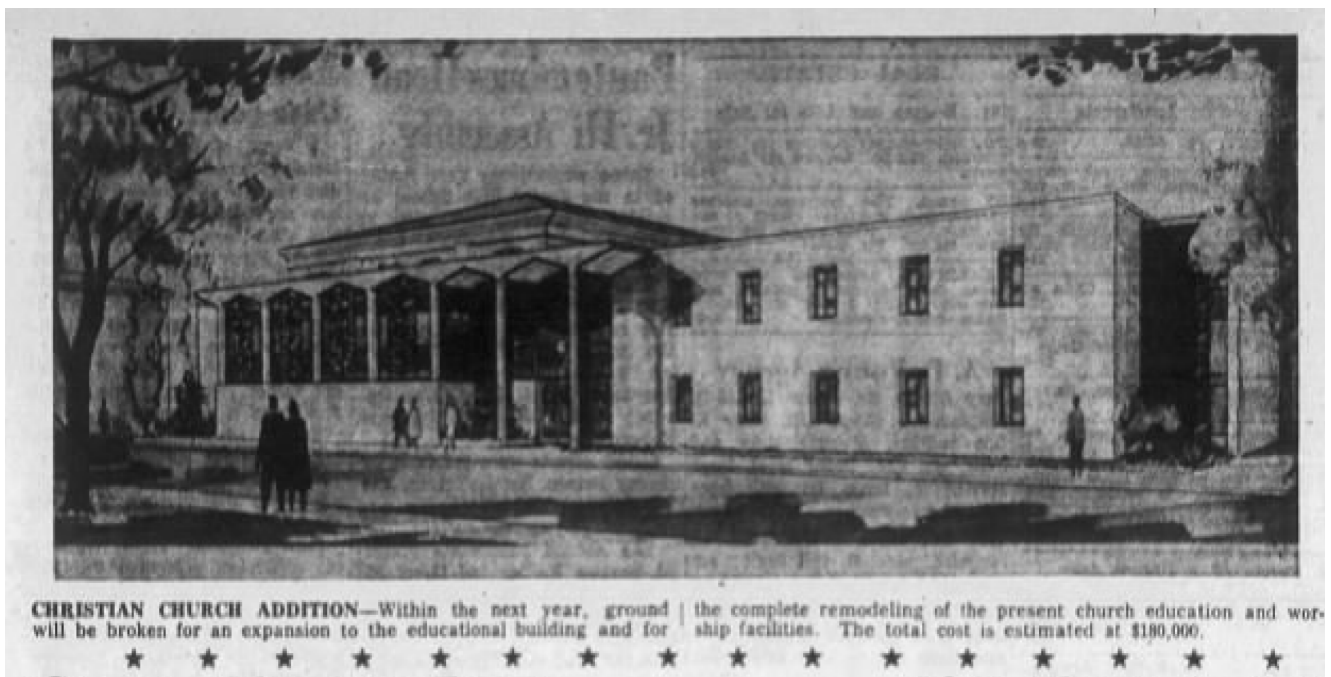


Figure 5: 1930 Sanborn Map, Updated in 1947. Showing 1908 Building and 1938 Addition.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH ADDITION—Within the next year, ground will be broken for an expansion to the educational building and for the complete remodeling of the present church education and worship facilities. The total cost is estimated at \$180,000.



Figure 6: 1961 Architect's rendering.

