

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 50-01664

New Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 50-01703

Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing

Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries

National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____

Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name United Presbyterian Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 209 N. 2nd Ave. E.

city or town Newton

vicinity, county Jasper

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____

Township No. _____

Range No. _____

Section _____

Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town

Block(s) 14

Lot(s) 3-4

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property

Enter number of:

— buildings
 — sites
 — structures
 — objects
 — Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Contributing Noncontributing

1 buildings
 — sites
 — structures
 — objects
1 Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title

Downtown Newton, Iowa

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

50-010

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

06A01 RELIGION/church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

06A01 RELIGION/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

06E 20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 10 CONCRETE

walls (visible material) 03 BRICK

roof 08 ASPHALT/Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Jasper
City Newton

Address 209 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Site Number 50-01664
District Number 50-01703

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

02 ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

Construction date
1952 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect
Edward F. Jansson
Builder
Milo Wood & Son

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Ray Hurto, Commissioner date 06-01-12
 organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission telephone 641-792-2787
 street & number 101 W. 4th St. S. city or town Newton state IA zip code 50208

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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Continuation Sheet**

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Related District Number 50-01703

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United Presbyterian Church	Jasper
Name of Property	County
209 N. 2nd Ave. E.	Newton
Address	City

5. Classification, cont'd.

The United Presbyterian Church is considered a building and is counted as a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

7. Description

Site Description

The United Presbyterian Church is situated at the southeast corner of E. 2nd St. N. and N. 2nd Ave. E. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's north and west entrances. On-street parking also is located on those sides of the edifice. A private parking lot occupies the balance of the block east of the alley on the church's east side, where there is also a third entrance. The east entrance is considered the primary entrance.

Property Description

The United Presbyterian Church is an L-shaped building of Late Gothic Revival design with the longer nave wing to the north, the shorter office wing to the west, and a tower where the wings join. The exterior walls are in red brick with limestone ashlar masonry trim. Red brick was also used to construct buttresses that support the exterior walls of the nave. Ashlar trim forms rounded arches for the windows of the nave and west wing as well as the recessed main entrance at the north face of the central tower. The main entrance features a pair of carved panel doors. The tower is constructed with battlements, rounded arch and louvered openings, and cruciform penetrations wherein a carillon was installed with the original construction. The west wing of the church houses offices, the pastor's study, the nursery, and a restroom. It has first floor double casement windows with ashlar trim and second floor wall dormer windows. Gray blend asphalt shingles cover the steeply pitched gable roof over the nave. The north end of the nave roof shows an intersecting gable design. Concrete block construction was used for the interior walls and partitions. Exposed heavy timber trusses form the high open ceiling in the nave. The woodwork in the nave, chancel, narthex, and fellowship hall is white oak with a finish to match that of the pews. Stained glass windows were installed in the chancel and nave.

Integrity Considerations

The United Presbyterian Church retains a high level of integrity as it relates to design, materials, and workmanship. The building retains its original decorative details that define its wholly unique visual character.

As it relates to integrity of location, association, and setting, the building retains a high level of integrity and contributes to the integrity of feeling created by the generally intact commercial district found in Newton.

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8. Statement of Significance

The United Presbyterian Church is considered a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District. The building is eligible under Criterion C as an example of mid-twentieth century, Gothic Revival style in a sacred building. The property's construction date coincides with a period of significant growth in Newton, the impact of which is evident in the downtown commercial district as a whole.

The United Presbyterian Church is identified with several members of the Denniston family, senior partners of the Denniston & Partridge Co. (1894-1989), long prominent in the history of Newton as a supplier of a full line of building materials over a wide trading area. This was also the home church of Tim J. Campbell, Sr. (1883-1963), a longtime Newton attorney. A prominent churchman, Dr. Campbell was moderator of the denomination in 1950. He was elected president of the National Young Peoples Convention in 1910. Miss Kate Alexander Hill (1875-1960) from the Palo Alto congregation of this church served with the pioneer missionaries in India for nearly fifty years. Among other positions, she was administrator of American Mission Memorial Hospital for Women and Children in Sialkot City, Punjab.

Historical Background

Newton was platted as the Jasper County seat in 1847. The commercial district grew up around the courthouse square with the earliest buildings, which commonly housed both commerce and dwellings, constructed of wood. The development of the downtown from its platting in 1846 to c.1890 is tied to its status as the county seat and the 1867 arrival of the Mississippi-Missouri Railroad. The character of the commercial downtown is recorded in images of the contiguous brick commercial Italianate buildings surrounding the courthouse square.

Beginning in the 1890s, it was industry, specifically the washing machine industry, that drove Newton's economy and the commercial success of its downtown. Due to the success and longevity of the Maytag Company, its history presents the greatest impact on Newton's downtown commercial district. From 1890-1920, a period in Maytag history marked by the company's incorporation and the development of the first electrically powered washing machine, a number of significant buildings were constructed in the Newton Downtown District. The addition of these buildings (and others) introduced a 20th century architectural sensibility to the district; moving the visual character away from the Late Victorian era Italianate style that had previously dominated the streetscapes.

During the decade of 1920 to 1930, Newton's population nearly doubled. The period is marked by the Maytag Company's ascension to the nation's leading manufacturer of washing machines. The economic prosperity brought by the company's success is reflected in the Newton Downtown Historic District with the construction of some of its most important buildings including the First Newton National Bank (1920) and the Maytag Hotel (1926). Both buildings lend a sense of importance to the downtown district.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

The visual character and composition of the downtown district remained generally constant through the Depression era and war years – a period when industry and commerce (including the Maytag Company) were focused on surviving and on supporting the war effort. The boom that came in the wake of Maytag's 1946 introduction of the automatic washing machine was apparent in the Newton Downtown Historic District by the mid-1950s. Between about 1954 and 1963 the downtown buildings underwent dramatic alteration, a nearly wholesale removal of the Italianate façades and replacement with those reflecting a mid-20th century Modern aesthetic. Buildings altered during that period line the streetscapes of the district. In addition to the Victorian era buildings that were re-faced during this time, a number of new buildings were constructed (including the United Presbyterian Church), their stylistic character reflective of the era.

Although the washing machine industry in Newton is now a thing of the past, its mark on the Newton Downtown Historic District is undeniable.

Property History

On September 10, 1864, the cornerstone of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Newton was laid by a group of New School Presbyterians, which had organized in 1855. Rev. Comfort Israel Slack (1835-1865), missionary pastor of the church since 1863, fell sick and died while soliciting aid for the building of Westminster Church, and it was never completed.

In 1866, a Universalist society bought the lot with the unfinished church building on it for \$1,000. It was completed as the First Universalist Church at a cost of \$2,000 more. (The church can be seen on the northeast corner of Olive and McDonald Sts. on 1868 and 1871 maps.) Independent services were also held in the Universalist Church by a liberal Union Church (ca. 1876-1881) and the Independent Congregation of Spiritualists (1881-1882). Additional improvements and "quite extensive repairs" were made to the church in 1878. These "greatly improved" the "internal appearance" of the edifice. "The old gallery has given place to a neat and light structure, the plastering overhead has been replaced by ceiling, and the walls are papered very handsomely. Outwardly, the church has not been improved in appearance so much, but the changes made were more for utility than beauty. The steeple was a leaky and damaging affair, and it was taken off."

After the Universalist Society "went down," the property was sold to the United Presbyterians on March 11, 1886, for \$1,500. In time, they tore the old church down and in 1897 built a brick church where the old frame Universalist church stood. The lot and construction of this "neat" church cost its members and friends \$4,500 by the time of dedication on April 3, 1898.

The 1897 church was noted for its "small sanctuary of unusual grace." The Centennial Church history says it was remarkable for its excellent acoustics and attractive windows. "It was arranged so that the minister, choir, and congregation seemed to be one." After 45 years of use, it became apparent that this building was inadequate to care for the needs of the congregation.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

A church building fund was established in April 1940. Miss Mary Miller, "a faithful pioneer member of the congregation" and Sabbath School teacher, provided the seed money. After that the goal was "Ten Cents Per Week Per Member."

The purchase of the First Methodist Church parsonage next door east assured a quarter block for the new building. It stood where the present sanctuary of the church now stands, at 209 N. 2nd Ave. E., and the First Methodist Church sold it to the United Presbyterians with the understanding that the new church would be built on this land. World War II intervened to put a stop to building plans at that time.

On April 12, 1945, at a called meeting of the congregation, a building committee was formed, and in 1949 this group, headed by Homer W. Denniston (1895-1986), began to move forward toward selection of plans for the construction of the new church home.

On April 30, 1949, Edward F. Jansson, of Chicago, was engaged as architect for the building. General plans were approved in a year and the fund raising campaign was launched by mail on October 8, 1949.

\$50,000 had been gathered in the building fund. When the building campaign had reached \$140,000 in contributions and pledges, it was decided to go ahead with building and Milo Wood & Son, of Newton, was awarded the general contract on July 23, 1951. Ground was broken September 4, 1951, by W. E. Denniston (1868-1951), chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Winter interfered but construction work was resumed and on June 1, 1952, the cornerstone was laid. The new L-shaped edifice made it possible for the old (brick) church to remain in use during construction. The latter was finally razed in April 1953. The approximate cost of the present building, including furniture, came to \$330,000. The church was dedicated on May 3, 1955.

The vacant residence immediately east of the church (213 N. 2nd Ave. E.) came up for sale in 1961 for \$17,000. A few years later (ca. 1966?) the Linderholm property, 219 N. 2nd Ave. E., came up for sale. It was sold to a businessman, who later offered it to the church at a price of \$29,000. These properties were purchased in order to gain control of the block and to complete the amount of property available for future expansion. The area was made into a parking lot.

Members of the church paid off the mortgage on their church building, the manse (constructed in 1969), and the parking lot in August of 1979.

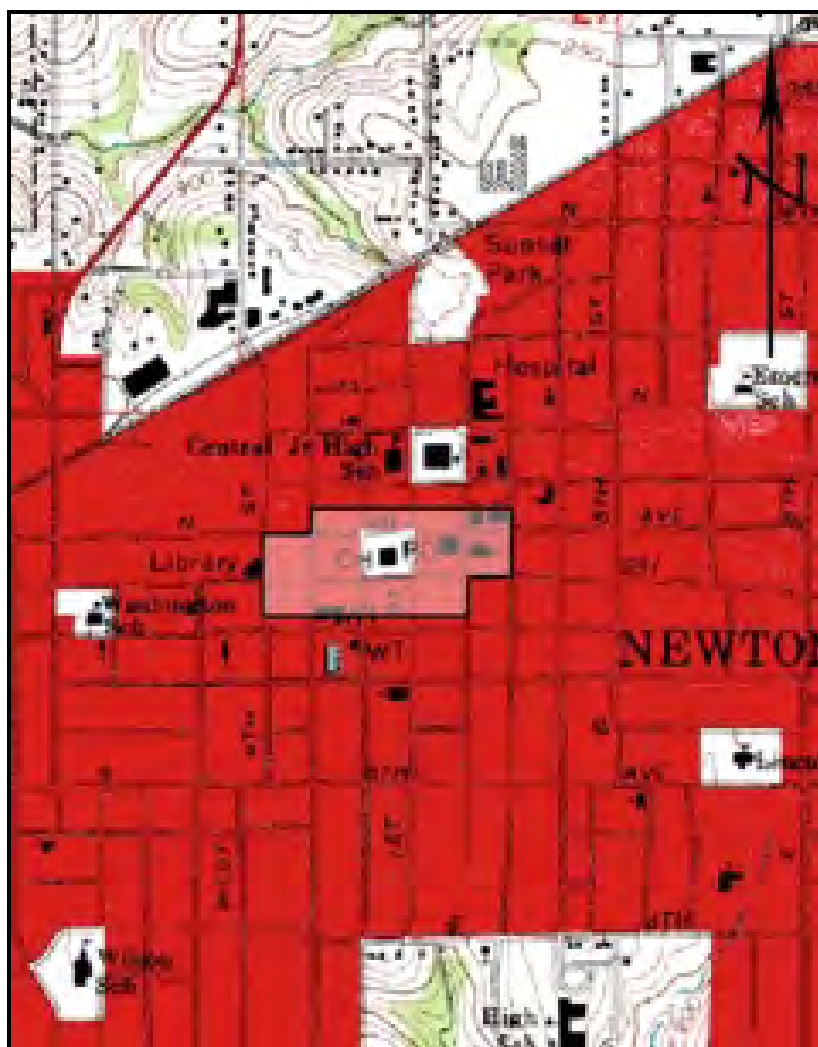
The merger of 1958 joined the Newton congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of North America with the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. In 1983, the northern Presbyterians united with the southern church, and the new merged church is now named the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.). Neighboring First Presbyterian Church (q. v.) is part of the same denomination.

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11. Additional Documentation - Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - NEWTON - 1965



(MAP SOURCE: www.trails.com)

The Newton Downtown Historic District, to which the United Presbyterian Church building is considered a contributing resource, is indicated.

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11. Additional Documentation - Maps

PARCEL MAP - AERIAL VIEW - 2011



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.beacon.schneider.com>. Accessed Sept. 2011.)

The location of the building is marked with a downward arrow.

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

PHOTOGRAPHS



(IMAGE SOURCE: Sue Smith - June 30, 2011)

View of the west façade of the church and central bell tower looking southeast.

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

PHOTOGRAPHS



(IMAGE SOURCE: Sue Smith - June 30, 2011)

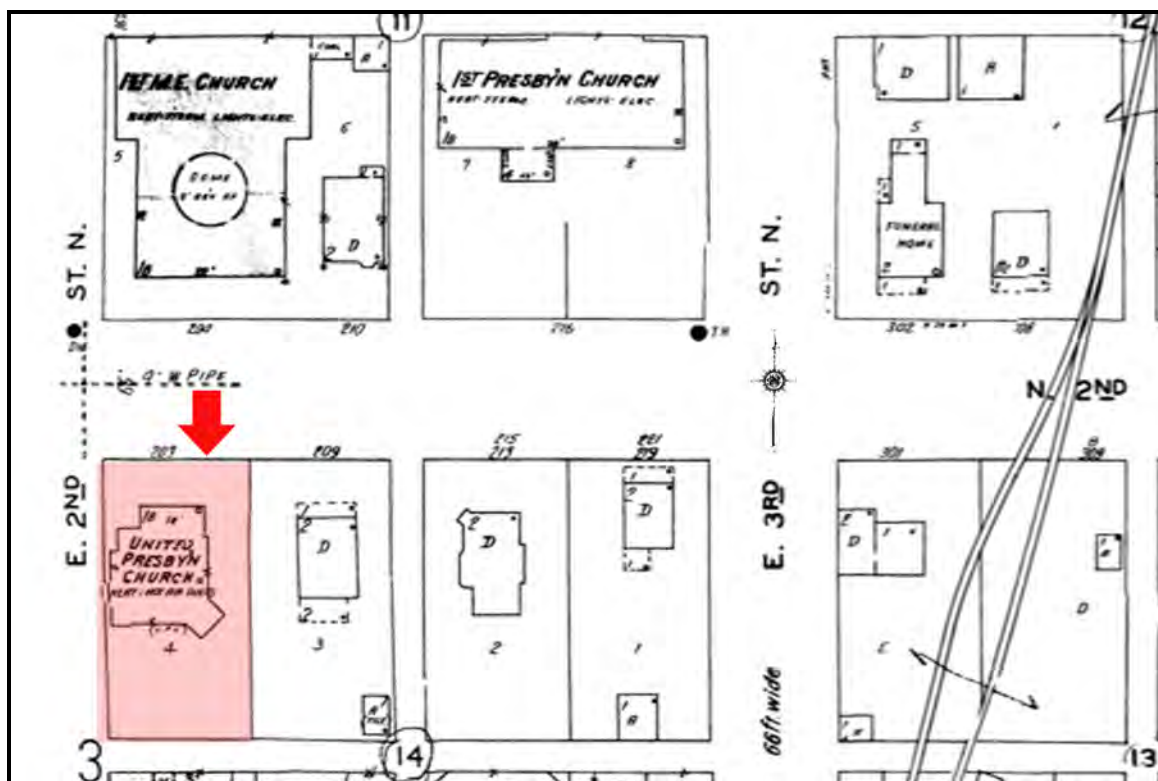
View of the east façade of the church looking west from the adjacent parking lot.

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FIRE INSURANCE MAP - 1949 Revision of 1927



(MAP SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1949 Revision of 1927)

The location of the 1897 church building is indicated by the downward facing arrow.

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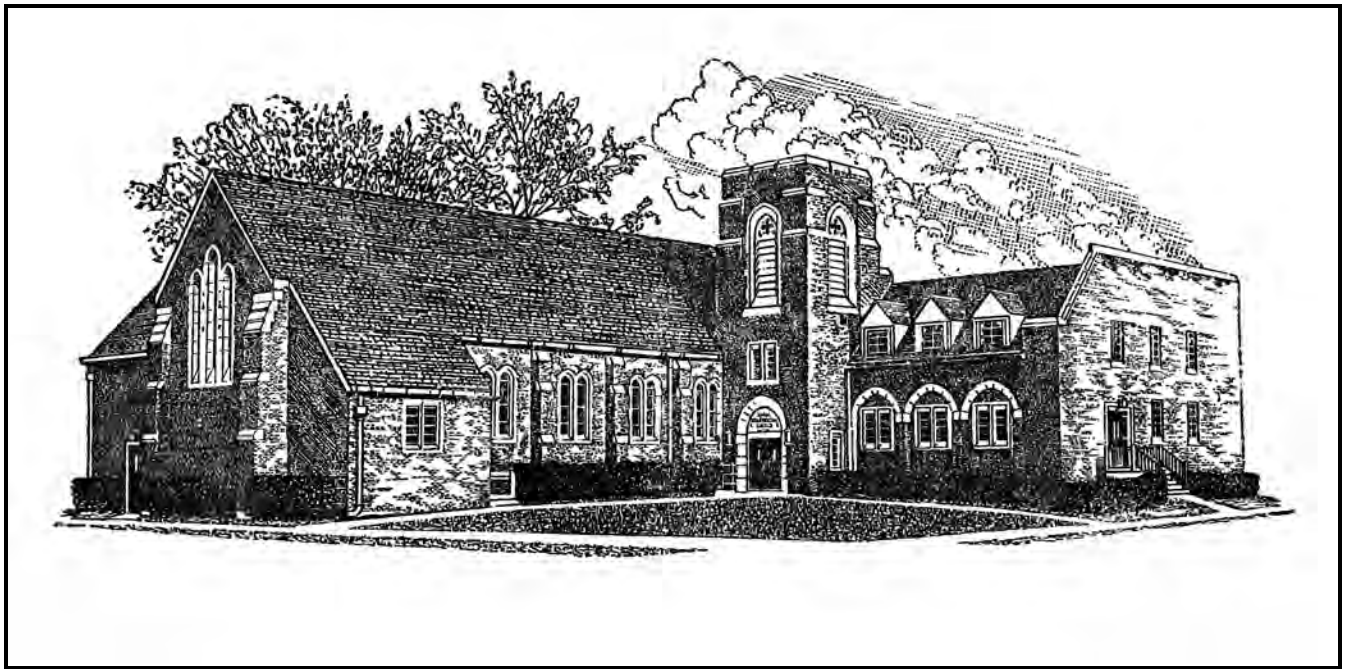
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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1953



(IMAGE SOURCE: Jasper County Genealogical Society)

The United Presbyterian Church as it appeared on the cover of the May 1953 dedication program.

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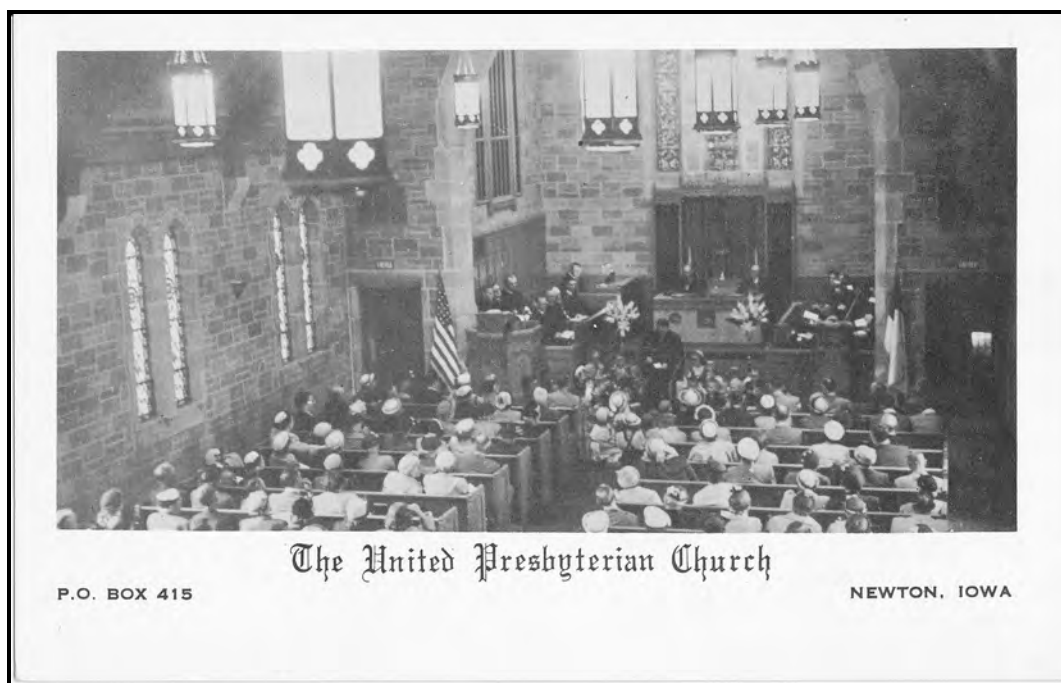
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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1953



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

Postcard photo lithographed by Spalding Publishers, Chicago, Illinois shows the congregation at worship in the new United Presbyterian Church, 209 N. 2nd Ave. E.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

The Dedication, May, 1953, United Presbyterian Church, Newton, Iowa.

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Miss Jessie Herron. *History of the United Presbyterian Sabbath School of Newton, Iowa*. 1930.

Rev. J. F. Hinkhouse and Rev. W. M. Evans, eds. *One Hundred Years of the Iowa Presbyterian Church*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Printed by Laurance Press Company, 1932.

The History of Jasper County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1878.

Larry Ray Hurto, comp. and ed. *A History of Newton, Iowa*. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1992.

The Iowa Press Association's Who's Who in Iowa. Des Moines: Published by Iowa Press Association, 1940.

Polk's Newton (Jasper County, Iowa) City Directory 1961. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1961.

United Presbyterian Church Album Directory. Skokie, IL: Le Mann & Associates, 196?.

The United Presbyterian Church, Newton, Iowa, Centennial History, 1870-1970.

Gen. James B. Weaver, ed. *Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa*. 2 volumes. Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Company, 1912.

The Newton Daily News, December 18, 1926; February 15, 1980.

Newton Journal, September 26, 1878.

The Newton Journal, January 1, 1880; July 1, 1885.