

City of Auburn

Local Landmark
Designation Application

For Staff Use Only

Building Site District
 Structure Object Multiple Property

Approval Date _____

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Historic Name First Presbyterian Church of Auburn

Other names/site number The Calvert Presbyterian Church

Address 1322 19th Street Auburn, NE 68305

Historic address _____

2. PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS

Name First Presbyterian Church of Nebraska

Street and number 1322 19th Street

City Auburn State Nebraska Zip 68305

Phone (H) (402) 774-3531 (w) _____ Email _____

3. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

Name/title Richard W. Kerpford

Organization History of Nebraska class: Peru State College

Street and number 600 Hoyt Street

City Peru State Nebraska Zip 68421

Phone (308) 850-9734 Email rikerpford@campus.peru.edu

Date prepared _____

Signature Richard W. Kerpford

Name of Property First Presbyterian Church of Auburn

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for Significance
(mark one or more boxes for the appropriate criteria)

- (1) Historical importance or cultural significance, or association with a significant person
- (2) Architectural and engineering importance
- (3) Geographic importance
- (4) Archeological importance

Area(s) of Significance
(See Attachment A for list of categories)

Period of Significance
1883 - Present

Significant Dates
first church - 1883
Present church construction - 1905
Present church dedicated - 1907

Significant Person(s)
Rev. Dickey
~~Rev~~

Cultural Affiliation/Historic Period

Builder
Stoddard, Shadley, & Cline

Architect
Eisenbunt, Pottenger, & Colby

Narrative Statement of Significance
Explain the significance of the property as it relates to the above criteria and information on one or more continuation sheets. Include biographical data on significant person(s), builder, and architect, if known.

10. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

ATTACHMENT A – Areas of Significance for Local Landmark Designation

A particular site, structure, or area may be designated for preservation as a landmark or historical district if it has:

- (1) Historical importance or cultural significance, or association with a significant person
 - Historical importance or cultural significance, interest or value as part of the development, history, heritage or culture of the City, state or nation;
 - Associated with the life of a person significant in the past;
 - Site of an historic event, or exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, educational, social or historic heritage of the community;

- (2) Architectural and engineering importance
 - Architectural and engineering importance, portraying the historical setting or environment of a distinctive characteristic of an architectural or engineering type, period, style, or method of construction;
 - Work of a resident, builder or designer whose individual work is significant in the development of the City;
 - Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship of distinctive quality, or which represents a significant innovation;

- (3) Geographic importance
 - Geographic importance, by being a part of or related to a city center, park or other distinctive area, which should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif;
 - Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City; or

- (4) Archeological importance has yielded or is likely to yield information regarding the history of the area prior to the establishment of the City.

First Presbyterian Church of Auburn

The First Presbyterian Church of Auburn was originally known as the Calvert Presbyterian Church. The current church has been standing since 1906. The original church began 1882 and first began at the present day location in 1883. The original building was 32 feet by 50 feet and was built by Mr. J Berger at a cost of \$1786.58. The first church building was dedicated on July 22nd, 1883. Reverent Dickey served as pastor in the first years. With the help of the “Ladies Industrial Society” a parsonage was build in 1885. In the decades to follow it would be realized by the congregation that a new church was needed. With the help of inspirational sermons by the pastor and several large donations the church now had the financial ability to erect a new church. The ground for the current church was broke September 19th, 1905. The first services held at the foundation of the new church were May 9th, 1906. Under the guidance of Reverend Pringle the firm of Eisenbrant, Pottenger, and Colby of Sioux City, Iowa were hired as the architects of the new church. The contract for actually building the church went Stoddard, Shadley, and Cline. The Church was dedicated on March 10th, 1907. The First Presbyterian Church of Auburn was considered one of the finest architectural Churches in Auburn and Southeast Nebraska. The First Presbyterian Church is one of the few and key examples of the Gothic Revival style. Evidence of its Gothic Style is the Church’s large, brick edifice situated at the northeast corner. The church exhibits a pair of castellated bell towers, stone accents and pointed-arch fenestration openings. Between the years of 1920-1923 a dining room, kitchen, and parlor were finished and the garage was built. Sometime between 1924-1927 the Church installed its first pipe-organ. In 1946 under Rev. Joseph Johnston the church was re-shingled, and the dining rooms and kitchen were renovated. In 1947, the Church’s Sunday School Room and other parts of the interior were repaired and redecorated. In 1947 the Church’s

organ was disposed of and replaced. The First Presbyterian Church of Auburn has many old photographs, many checks and receipts, and many newspaper clippings. The Church has been one of the many symbols of Auburn for over a hundred years. It is also a very large and beautiful example of Gothic Revival, something that is seldom seen in the area. It is because of the church's long standing and consistence presence in Auburn that the First Presbyterian Church of Auburn is worthy of historical recognition. The Church is already registered on the National Historic Registry.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See Instructions In *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn (NH01-86)
and/or common First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn

2. Location

street & number 1322 19th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Auburn N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district First
state Nebraska code 031 county Nemaha code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First United Presbyterian Church
street & number 1322 19th Street
city, town Auburn N/A vicinity of _____ state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Nemaha County Courthouse
street & number Courthouse Square
city, town Auburn state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date On-going federal state county local
depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society
city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First United Presbyterian Church in Auburn, Nebraska (1970 population 3,650), occupies a prominent location at the northeast junction of 19th and "N" Streets. Brick surfacing has been retained on both streets; immediately to the west is the Nemaha County Courthouse Square.

Constructed between 1906-07, the church is a modified rectangular building of brick construction with a foundation and exterior trim of limestone. The arrangement of parts -- covered by roof sections of varying shapes -- articulates the interior order.

Serving as salient parts are two square towers of analogous design: a three-story tower at the southwest containing the principal entrances and housing a belfry and foyer; and a two-story tower on the west containing an auxiliary entrance and housing a staircase that leads to the basement. Both towers are treated with arched openings with corresponding overhead stone bands, corner buttresses set at right angles, and continuous crenelated parapets.

Gabled walls on the south and west are treated identically: in the center of each is a pointed-arch Saracenic window with roughly-textured brick and stone trim; beneath the large fenestral opening is a tripartite arrangement of rectangular windows flanked on either side by a two-tiered buttress and a lancet window; in the gable peak is a blind arched opening with brick and stone trim; and visually defining the gable are return cornices and two rows of rough bricks along the rakes.

A one-story apsidal projection is on the east gabled wall, and at the north is a hip-roofed section measuring approximately 47' x 35' that makes exclusive use of rectangular openings. A one-story, hip-roofed section abuts the north wall of the shorter tower, and a flat-roofed shelter that protects steps leading to the basement is at the southeast.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1906-07 Builder/Architect Eisenbrant, Pattenger and Colby

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1906 First United Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as a notable late Gothic Revival building in the community of Auburn, Nebraska. Further significance is rendered through the church's seating arrangement -- and auditorium-type configuration that originated in the 1860's as the "Akron plan."

Synodical Missionary George L. Little organized the First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn in 1887 under the name, The Calvert Presbyterian Church. A frame church building was erected ca. 1882 and was later sold to a local Lutheran congregation for removal from its site at 19th and "N" Streets. The second and present church edifice, designed by the Sioux City, Iowa, firm of Eisenbrant, Pattenger, and Colby -- a firm about which little is known.

The "Akron plan" was developed shortly after the Civil War by Lewis Miller, founder and first president of the internationally noted Chautauqua Association. Miller's concept for the plan came from the idea of a natural amphitheater, and originally it was intended to meet the needs of Sunday schools alone:

The first such arrangement consisted of a large room in the form of a semi-circle arranged something like an opera house, having but one gallery, with the space above and below divided into compartments or alcoves by partitions from floor to ceiling. All of these dividing partitions radiated from the center of the platform, with doors or portiers at the opening or face of the subdivisions. When these doors are opened the occupants are practically all together in a semi-circle -- the best form for an audience -- all thus being able to see and hear perfectly, and to sing and read together (Thirty-Second Annual Report).

Naturally, the plan was modified to meet the needs of different congregations, and as was the case with numerous other churches, the Presbyterians of Auburn adapted the Akron plan for more general usage, i.e., Sunday School rooms off the church auditorium instead of school rooms off a central Sunday School space.

Nebraska architectural historian Keith Sawyers has written the following: "The Auburn Presbyterian Church is a good example of the Akron plan and exhibits the characteristic exterior features, the most prominent of which are a prominent block exhibiting gabled walls containing wide pointed windows and two square towers marking the auditorium and Sunday School entrances. . . For the most part, the building remains remarkably close to its original condition and is one of the finest examples of this type to be found in the state (Auburn and Southeastern Nebraska, pp. 66-67).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Auburn, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	2	5	8	6	1	10	4	4	7	4	2	3	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 3 and 4, Block 22, Reed and Gilmore Addition, City of Auburn, Nemaha County, Nebraska, including all of the historically associated real estate.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dan Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date December, 1980

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone 402/471-3850

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marvin D. Knott

6/10/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

7/15/82

Kepler of the National Register

Affect

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

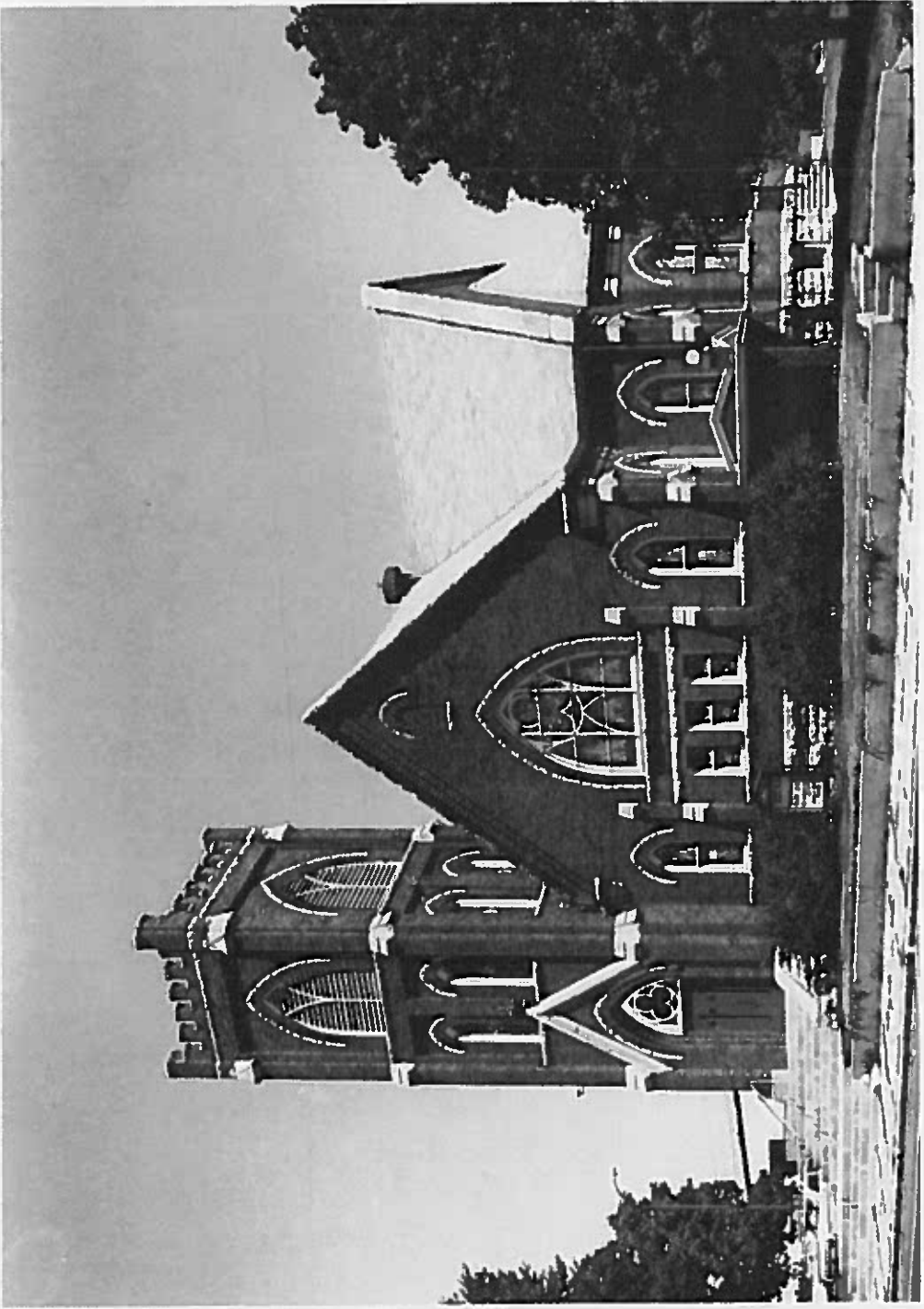
Fiftieth Anniversary: First Presbyterian Church, Auburn, Nebraska,
Auburn: First Presbyterian Church, 1931.

Letter to Daniel Kidd, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office,
Lincoln, from the Rev. Bonnie Sue Sheldon, First United Presby-
terian Church, Auburn, Nebraska, Oct. 22, 1980.

Commemorating the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary (1887-1956). First
Presbyterian Church, Auburn, Nebraska, Auburn: First Presbyterian
Church, 1956.

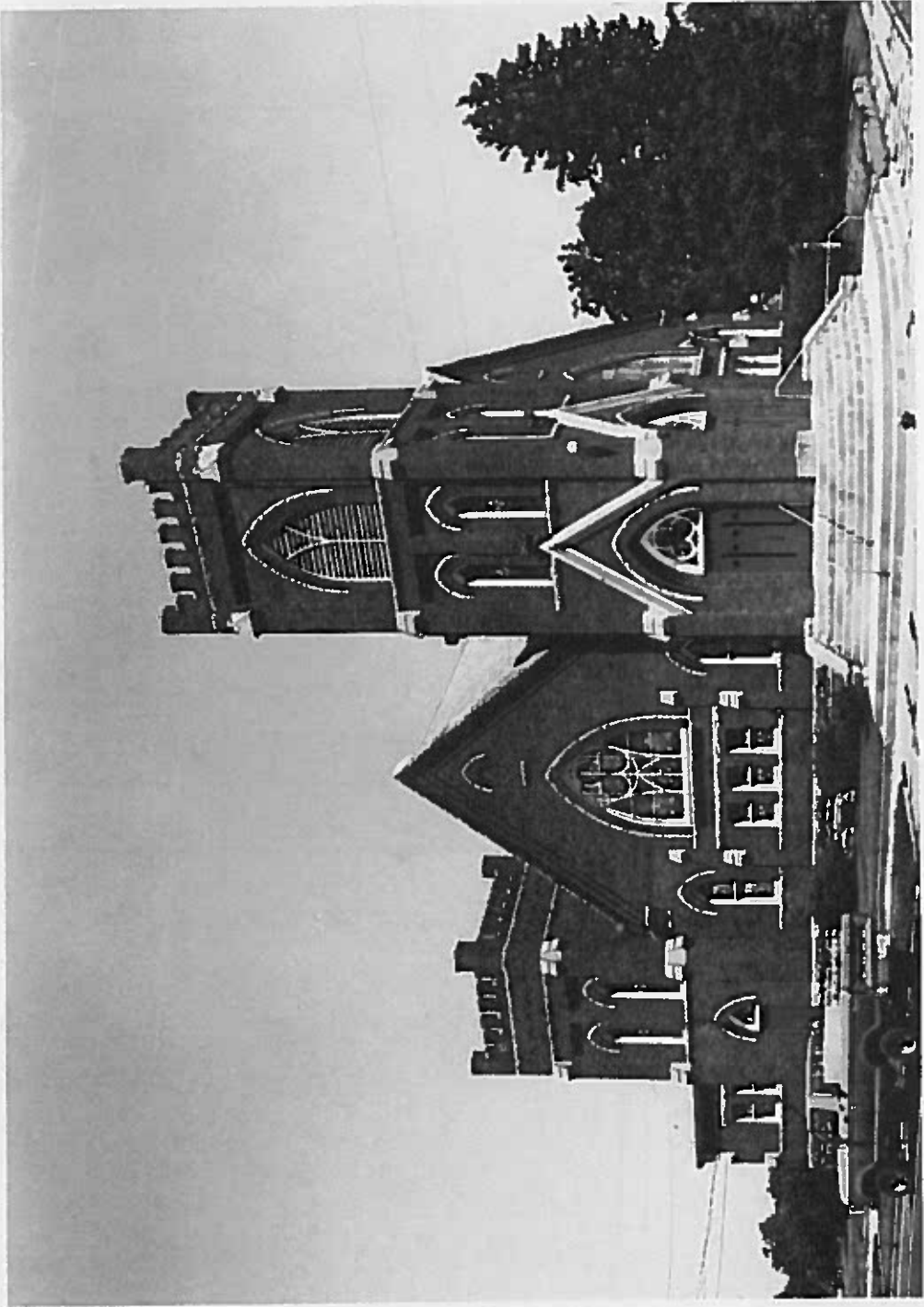
Information Supplied by John Schmidt, Architect-in-Residence, Brownville,
Nebraska, February 10, 1980, and July 30, 1980.

Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Extension of the Methodist
Episcopal Church, South: also, Eighth Quadrennial Report, place
of publication unknown, 1913-1914.



PL-2-21 57

Photo #1 of 3
First United Presbyterian Church of
Auburn (NH01-86)
Northeast corner 19th and "N" Streets,
Auburn, Nemaha County, Nebraska.
Exterior view; photographer facing northwest.
David Murphy, Nebraska State Historical
Society, July, 1976.
Negative filed at Nebraska State Historical
Society, NH03/607/42145



NH03

7607/15:18

AP 3 - 11

Photo #2 of 3

First United Presbyterian Church of Auburn (NH01-86)

Northeast corner, 19th and "N" Streets, Auburn, Nemaha County, Nebraska.

Exterior view, photographer acting northeast.

David Murphy, Nebraska State Historical Society, July, 1976.

Negative filed at Nebraska State

Historical Society, #NH03 7607/15:18

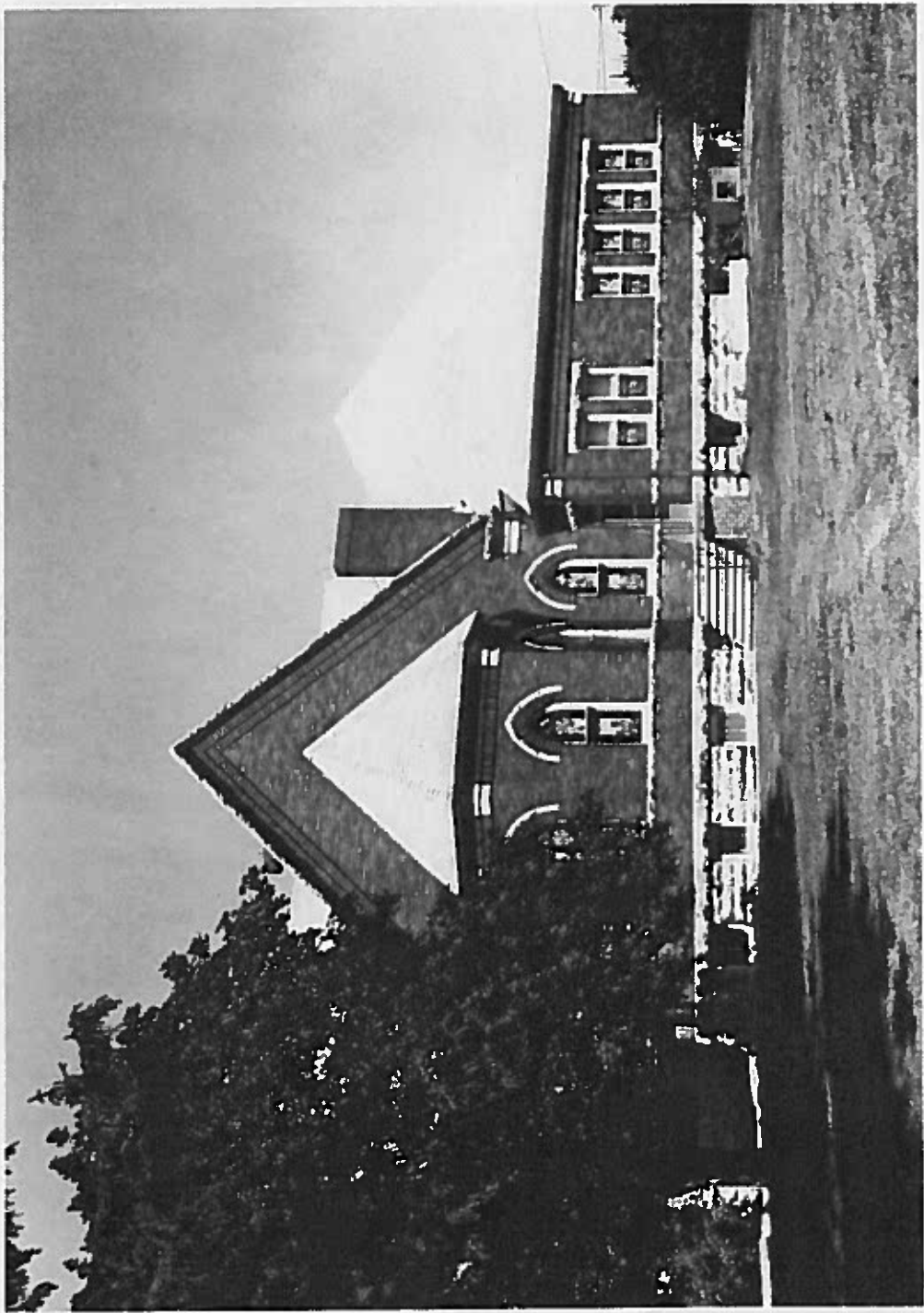
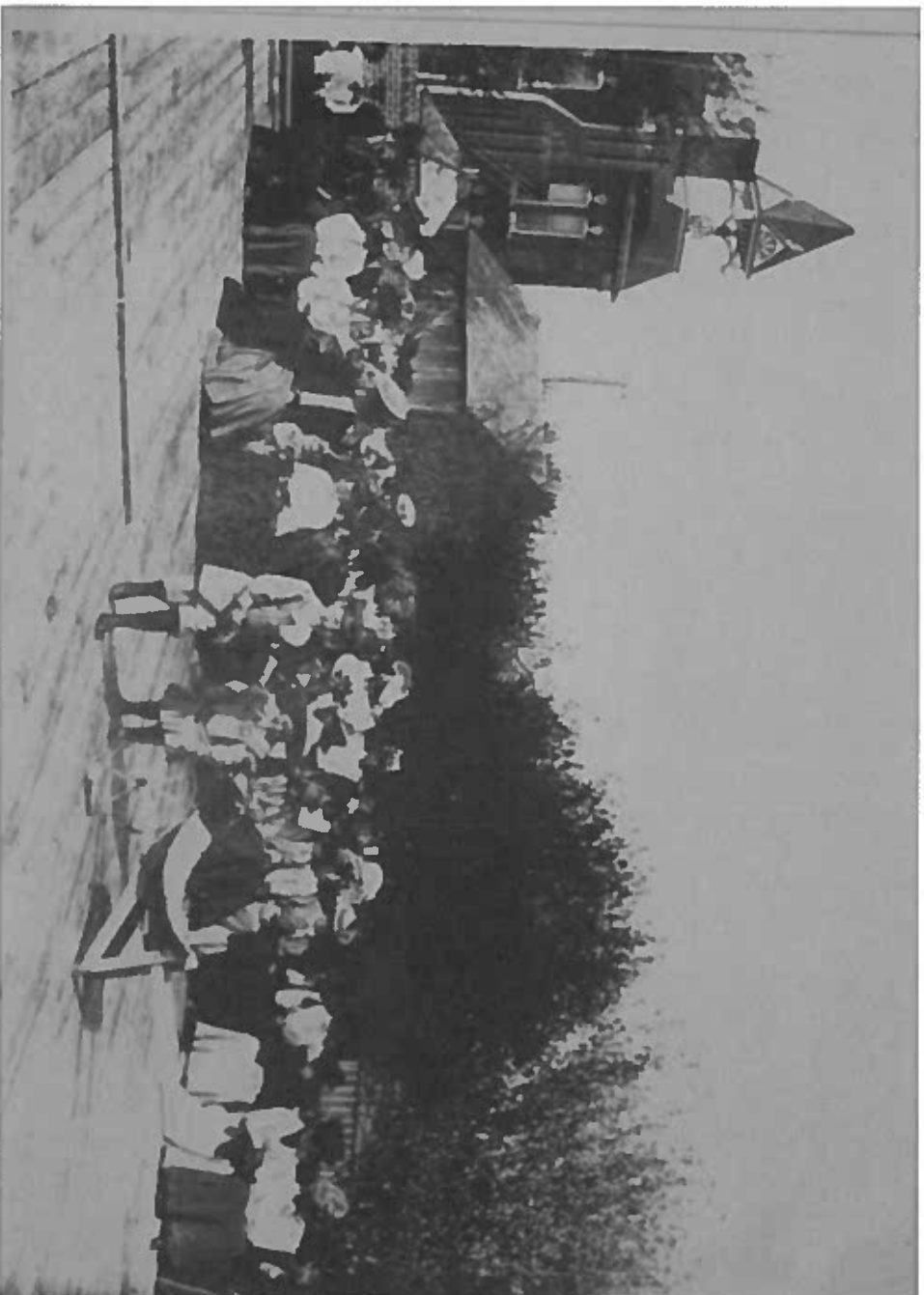


Photo #3 of 3
 First United Presbyterian Church of
 Auburn (NH01-86)
 Northeast corner 19th and "N" Streets,
 Auburn, Nemaha County, Nebraska.
 Exterior view, photographer facing west-
 northwest.
 David Murphy, Nebraska State Historical
 Society, July, 1976
 Negative filed at Nebraska State Historical
 Society NH03 7606/14:26

- Originally known as the Calvert Presbyterian Church.
- The original church began 1882 and first began at the present day location in 1883.
- The first church building was dedicated on July 22nd, 1883. Reverent Dickey served as pastor in the first years.
- In the early 1900's the need for a new building would be realized.

- The ground for the current church was broke September 19th, 1905.
- The first services held at the foundation of the new church were May 9th, 1906.
- The firm of Eisenbrant, Pottenger, and Colby were hired as the architects of the new church.
- The contract for actually building the new church went to Stoddard, Shadley, and Cline.

Floor of the new Presbyterian Church Spring 1906



- The Church was dedicated on March 10th, 1907.
- The First Presbyterian Church is one of the few examples of the Gothic Revival style in Auburn.
- Evidence of its Gothic Style is the Church's large, brick edifice situated at the northeast corner. The church exhibits a pair of castellated bell towers, stone accents and pointed-arch fenestration openings.

- Between the years of 1920-1923 a dining room, kitchen, and parlor were finished and the garage was built.
- Sometime between 1924-1927 the Church installed its first pipe-organ.
- In 1946 under Rev. Joseph Johnston the church was re-shingled, and the dining rooms and kitchen were renovated.
- In 1947, the Church's Sunday School Room and other parts of the interior were repaired and redecorated.
- Later in 1947 the Church's organ was disposed of and replaced