

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

State Inventory No. 50-00709

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 First Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number First Methodist Church; First United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 210 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 Plat

Block(s) 11

Lot(s) 5-6

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)

06C LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY/Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

04 STONE

walls (visible material) 04C STONE/Limestone

roof

15C01 SYNTHETICS/EPDM

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 210 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Site Number 50-00709
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
1915 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
1951 1952 1970 1987 1990 1991-92

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect
Thorson & Thorson
Builder
W. W. Smith

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
organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission
street & number 101 W. 4th St. S.
city or town Newton state IA date 06-01-12
telephone 641-792-2787 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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First Methodist Episcopal Church	Jasper
Name of Property	County
210 N. 2nd Ave. E.	Newton
Address	City

5. Classification, cont'd.

First Methodist Episcopal Church is considered a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

7. Description

Site Description

First Methodist Episcopal Church is located at the eastern fringe of the historic downtown of Newton, IA in Jasper County. The church is sited on a tight parcel of land in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of N. 2nd Ave. E. and E. 2nd St. N. A large parking area is located on the north side of the building and a public sidewalk provides access to the building on the south and the west.

Property Description

First Methodist Episcopal Church is a church edifice with Bedford limestone facing constructed on a stone foundation. The building is visually defined by its monumental scale, additive massing, centralized dome, and Greek architectural lines. The church features a temple front (south) complete with a wide staircase leading to the raised podium and associated portico, the fluted columns with Ionic capitals, and a deep, unadorned tympanum. The church's historic name is inset at the top of the south façade within the entablature. The temple motif is repeated on the west elevation as a framing device for a large, stained glass window. (A corresponding window on the east side was enclosed by the later addition of an educational wing.) The centralized dome is sheathed in copper.

The church form is generally a Greek cross, although later additions have confused the historic shape. Obvious additions have been made on the rear and to the southeast corner; each is sympathetic in material and scale, but does contribute to the visual confusion noted. Pedestrian entrance has been rerouted from the south side of the building to the north door.

Integrity Considerations

First Methodist Episcopal Church retains a generally good level of historic integrity. Of particular importance is the retention of the elements which define its Classical inspiration, namely the centralized dome, temple front, and sense of monumentality. The additions do detract from the historic integrity, particularly as they create a level of visual confusion in regard to the building's historic form.

8. Statement of Significance

First Methodist Episcopal Church is considered a contributing building to the Newton Downtown Historic District. The resource is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of Classical Revival architecture. It meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A as a religious property that does not derive its primary significance from its function as such.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

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, including the Methodist Episcopal Church (1915), 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.

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, 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.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

Property History

First United Methodist Church (present name), 210 N. 2nd Ave. E., is the fourth house of worship this congregation has had since its formation July 4, 1848. The previous church edifices were at 302 S. 2nd Ave. E., where Magnum Automotive now is, in 1856-1882, and at 309 E. 3rd St. N., the present site of First Lutheran Church (ELCA), in 1882-85 and 1886-1915.

As early as 1911, when Rev. William H. Perdew was pastor, there was talk of building a new church, as "at the present day the building has proved altogether insufficient and inadequate for the growing work" (*The Newton Journal*, January 10, 1912).

The building of a new church and parsonage was authorized by the 1912 Newton Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1913-16, plans were made and carried out, and the present building erected in 1914-15 at a total cost of \$86,000. W. W. Smith was the builder and the superintendent of construction was N. A. Price.

The cornerstone was laid in March 1914. The last services at the third church were "deeply impressive," *The Newton Daily News* reported on January 24, 1915. They were "a sort of climax to the long years in which the old church has been used." Dr. Frank Edward Day was then pastor. On Sunday, January 31, 1915, the church was ready for dedication. Visiting Bishop William A. Quayle was in charge of the dedicatory services.

The new structure was 76 feet by 112 feet in size, built of Bedford (IN) limestone and surmounted with a copper-covered dome. The basement was elegantly adapted to the social activities of the church. It had a large dining room, a completely furnished kitchen, social room, coffee room, boys' club room, shower bath, toilets, etc. and a boiler room in the rear.

On the main floor was the auditorium (as the newspapers of the day referred to the sanctuary) with a seating capacity of 450 and a Sunday School room in the rear, which could be partitioned off by means of accordion doors. This, with the galleries (balconies) and other rooms, gave a total seating capacity of 1,250. Also on this floor were the ladies' parlor and the Epworth League room, both of which could be used for Sunday School classrooms.

A total of twenty separate classrooms made the church "admirably suited for Sunday School purposes." There were galleries on all four sides, the front one being used for a choir loft.

The beautiful stained glass windows were done by the Ford Bros. Glass Co., of Minneapolis, which also did the work on the Muscatine M. E. Church. Foremost among these is "The Three Marys" on the west side, which is based on "Finding the Empty Tomb," by the German painter, illustrator, and lithographer Bernhard Plockhorst (1825-1907).

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

First Methodist Episcopal Church has a connection to Frederick Louis Maytag (1857-1937), founder of The Maytag Company and community benefactor. His brother, Theodore Henry Maytag (1864-1931), was active in the work of the church starting in 1905. T. H. Maytag was a member of the resource's building committee as well as a trustee of the church. In 1926, he challenged the membership to erase the indebtedness of the church, and promised "to pay for the redecoration of the church if enough was raised to take care of the mortgage." "The response was gratifying, and on August 28th, 1926, Mr. Maytag had the great honor of burning the mortgage at the altar of the newly decorated church," Mrs. Guy Lambert and Miss Blanche Maytag wrote in 1934.

In 1952, the church dedicated the Christian education wing, designed by the architectural firm of Thorson & Thorson and erected by Hannon Construction Company at a total cost of \$145,349.52. The 3-story addition measured 44 feet by 108 feet, 10 inches, with 14,124 square feet of floor space. Its 27 rooms included a chapel, Fellowship Hall, library, parlor, youth parlor, and offices. This was during the pastorate of Dr. Edwin A. Briggs.

Remodeling to make the narthex was done in 1970. Dr. Edwin W. Frohardt was the senior minister at that time.

The formation of the Long-Range Planning Committee, ca. 1982, caused the church "to take a hard look at our beautiful but aging building and to consider the steps necessary to preserve, renew and improve it for present and future service." This was during the pastorate of Dr. Richard A. Bentzinger.

It was 1987 before the first phase of a long-term proposal, designed by architect Joe Kobes, was commenced, projects of which included construction of a new entrance on the north side of the church to serve as the primary entrance for access to the sanctuary and installation of an elevator at the south entrance.

In 1990, during the pastorate of Rev. Jerry D. Brown, the second phase of the church remodeling project began. This included refinishing the back of the sanctuary and the narthex, new carpeting, refurbishing Fellowship Hall and the educational wing, and painting of the dining room.

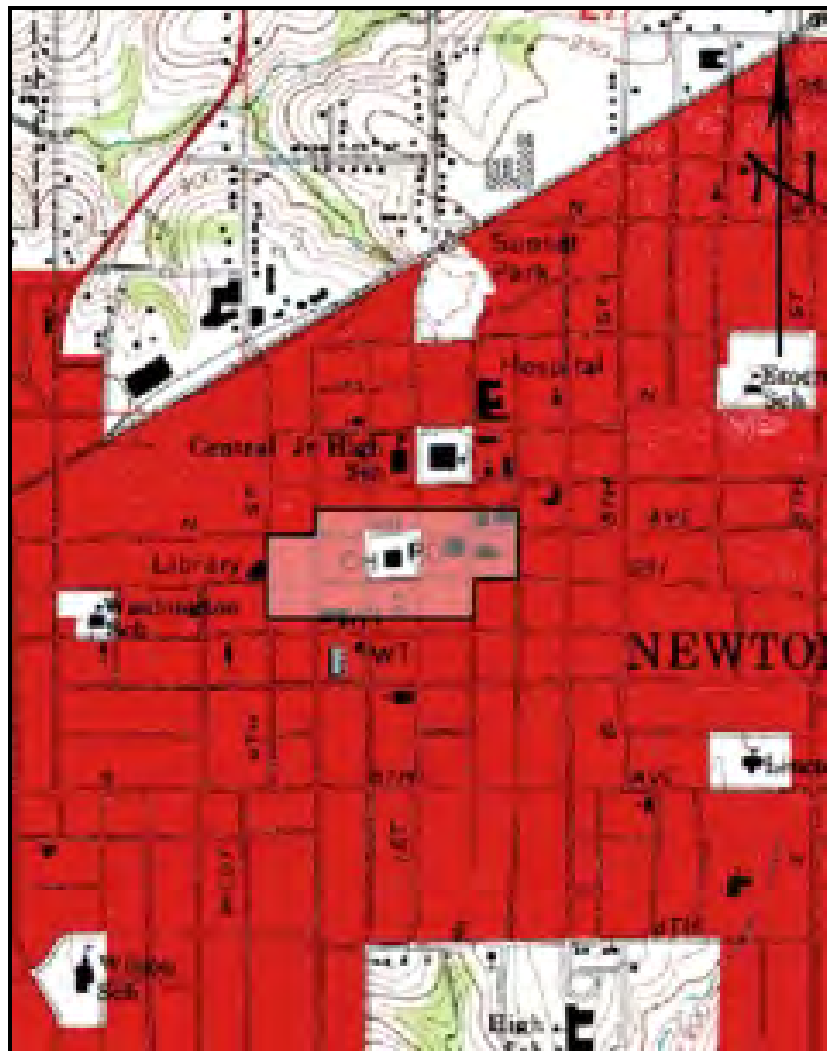
In 1991, the Long-Range Planning Committee proposed a plan "to complete the work we have begun by fixing up our parking lot." Early in 1984, it was revealed that the house which stood on the corner of the parking lot became a gift to the church from Max W. and Marjorie Kreager. It was removed, making way for the extension of the parking lot and proposed landscaping. The contract for doing the work was let to Mid-States Construction Inc., of Baxter. Manatts did the asphaltting and Larchwood Florist Inc. the landscaping. Total cost of the 1991-92 construction and landscaping was \$40,000.

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11. Additional Documentation – Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP – NEWTON - 1965



(MAP SOURCE: www.trails.com)

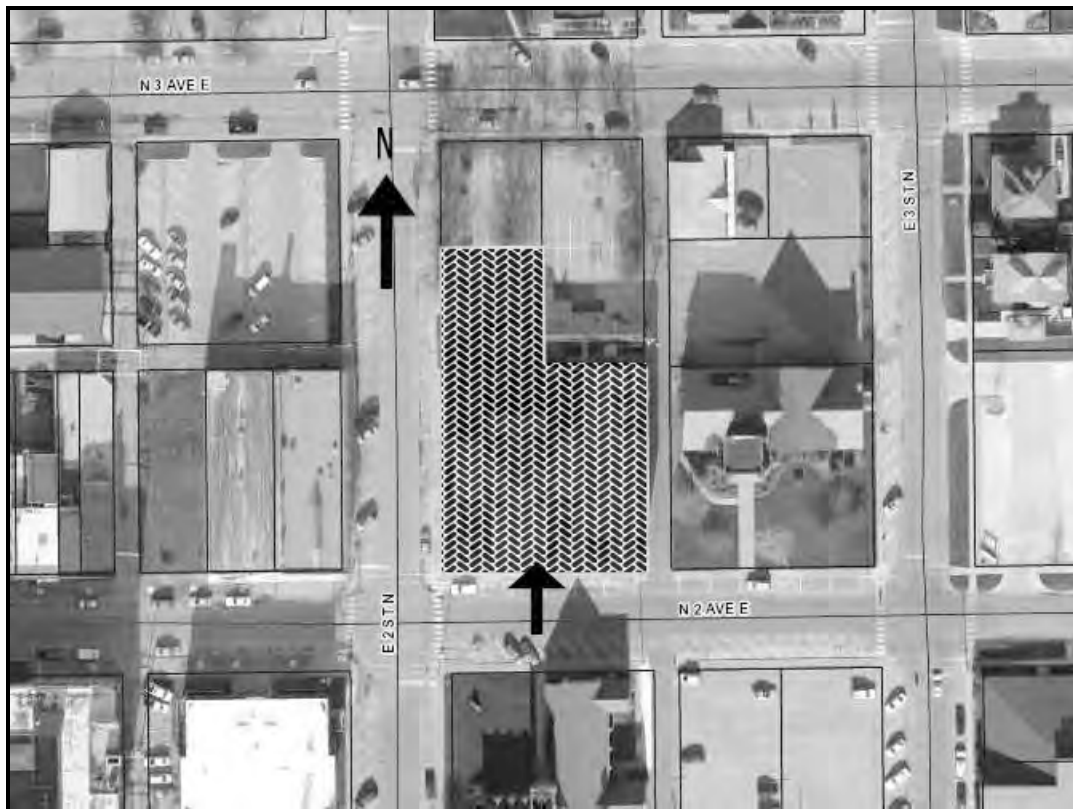
The location of the Newton Downtown Historic District, to which the resource is considered a contributing resource, is indicated.

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11. Additional Documentation – Maps

PARCEL MAP – 2011



(MAP SOURCE: Jasper County Assessor)

The location of the resource is shaded and indicated by an arrow.

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11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

PHOTOGRAPHS



(IMAGE SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – September 21, 2009)

View of the church looking northeast across the intersection of N. 2nd Ave. E. and E. 2nd St. N.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



(IMAGE SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – September 21, 2009)

Detail view of the portico column.

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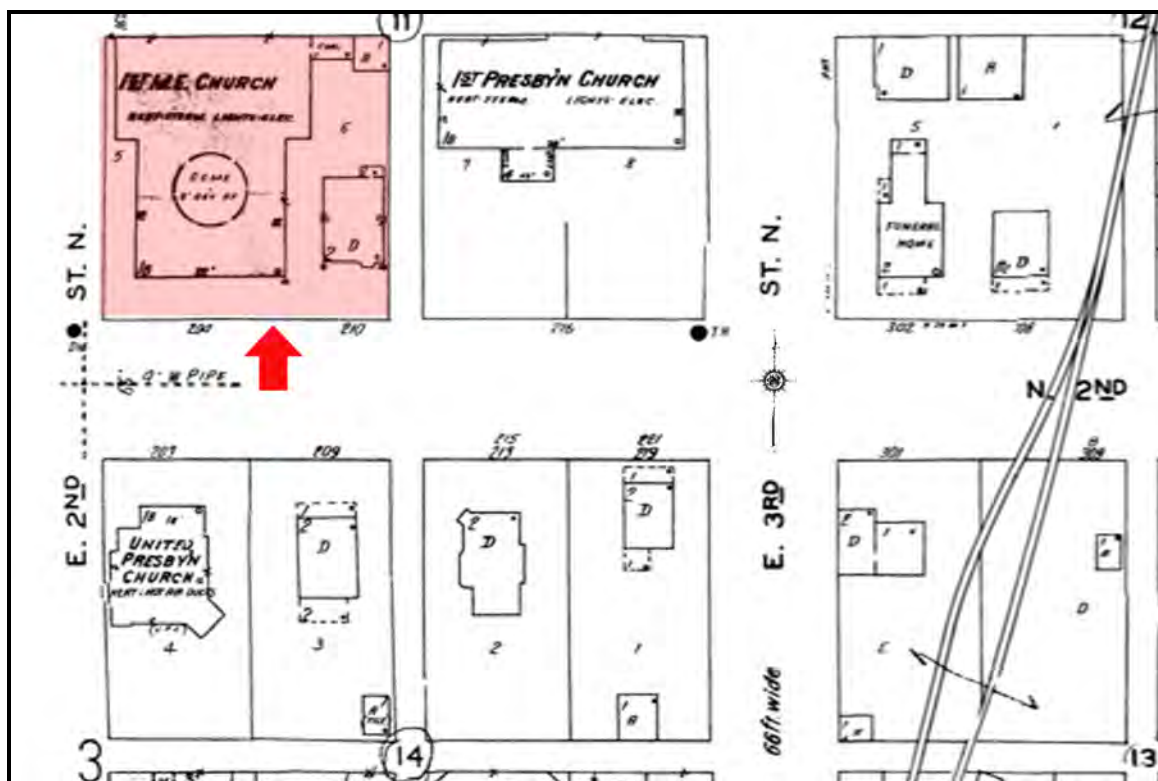
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11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1927



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

The arrow marks the location of the building at 210 N. 2nd Ave. E.

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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1914



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

This postcard photograph by L. L. Cook, of Lake Mills, WI shows the new First Methodist Episcopal Church at 210 N. 2nd Ave. E. looking northeast ca. 1914.

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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1915



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

This postcard photo shows the main floor auditorium (or sanctuary) of the new First Methodist Episcopal Church at 210 N. 2nd Ave. E. The east and west galleries (or balconies) are also visible. L. L. Cook, of Lake Mills, WI, took the picture.

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First Methodist Episcopal Church

Jasper

Name of Property

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210 N. 2nd Ave. E.

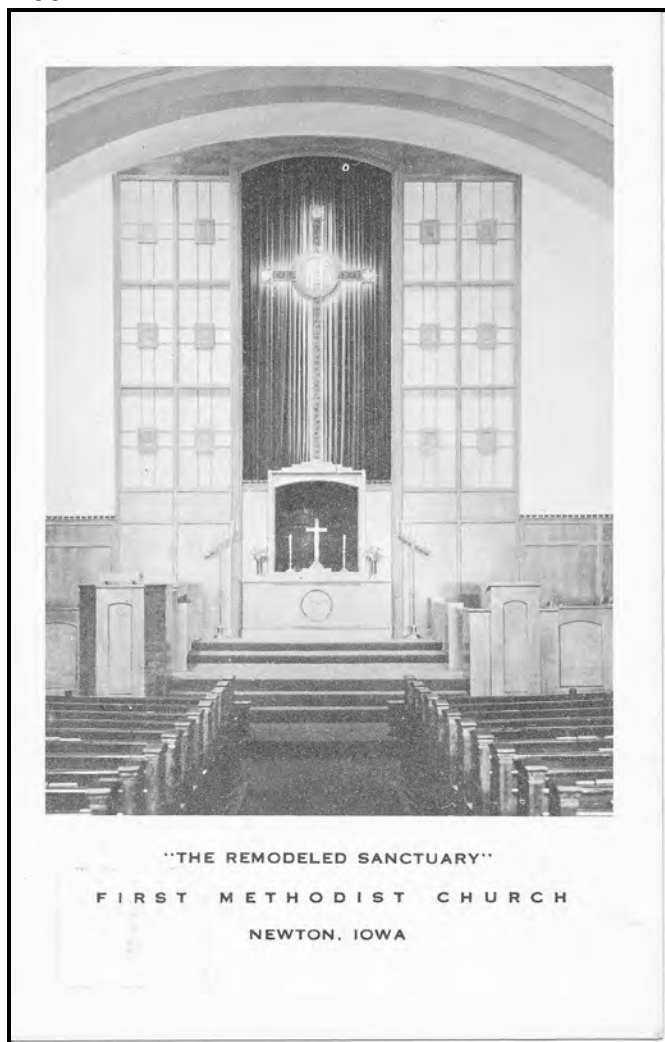
Newton

Address

City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1951



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

The remodeled sanctuary of First Methodist Church (as it was then known) at 210 N. 2nd Ave. E. These improvements were accomplished at a cost of about \$18,000.

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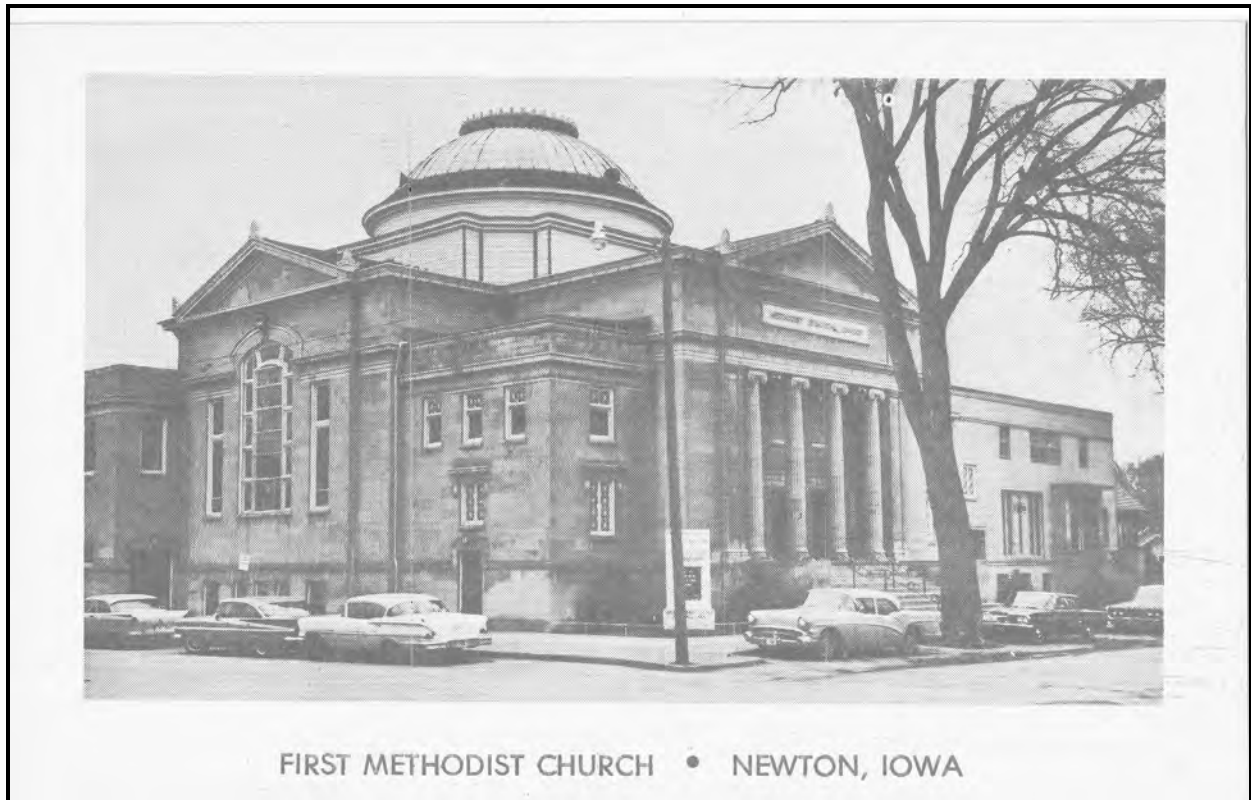
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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1952



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

First Methodist Church with the newly-added Christian education wing visible at far right.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

John Daehler, comp. *The Maytags: A Collection of Family Historical Material*. Booklet one. 1982.

First United Methodist Church Album Directory. Skokie, IL: Le Mann & Associates, 1976.

First United Methodist Church, Newton, Iowa. Matthews, NC: Church Family Albums by PCA International, Inc., 1985.

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.

Larry Ray Hurto. "What Do These Stones Mean?": *A Sesquicentennial History of First United Methodist Church, Newton, Iowa, 1848-1998*. Montezuma, IA: Sutherland Companies. [1998]

1916 City Directory, Newton, Iowa. Newton, IA: Eyerly Printing Co., 1915.

Smith's Directory of Newton and Jasper County, Iowa for 1920. Dorchester, MA: Edgar Smith, 1920.

Edmund H. Waring, D. D. *History of the Iowa Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*. [1910]

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, January 24, 1915; February 1, 1915; December 18, 1926; March 1, 1935; August 10, 1957; October 20, 1978.

The Newton Journal, January 10, 1912.

Internet Resources

Jasper County Assessor www.iowaassessors.com

National Register of Historic Places www.nps.gov

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

Database of Iowa resources www.iowahistory.org
Berry Bennett, Inventory & Information Management

Topographic Maps

Source for USGS Topographic maps www.trails.com