

First Baptist Church – Waverly Historic Register nomination

The First Baptist Church building was constructed in 1901 that replaced their original structure built in 1867 and damaged by fire that deemed it unsafe. The form and style of the newer building was consistent with churches from the 1890's through the 1940's.

This frame church is an example of a vernacular church form referred to as a Steepled Ell form that evidence design features from the Late Victorian Romanesque Style. The architects for the church were the firm Messrs, Murphy and Ralston of Waterloo and John Gier of Conrad was the general contractor. The church block has a raised stone block foundation built of Niagaran limestone from the Farley Quarries in Jones County. The main church has an eave height of 18 feet with a steeple height of 42 feet for the 3-story bell tower.

The Baptist society was organized in 1855 two years after the town of Waverly was established making it the oldest religious institution in the town. This church organization has had a great impact on the lives of the members it served and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.