

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

**State Inventory No. 09-01448**  New  Supplemental  
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) **09-00961**  
 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 Baptist Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW

city or town Waverly  vicinity, county Bremer County

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name \_\_\_\_\_ Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range No. \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter of Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

(If Urban) Subdivision Wm. Sturdevant's Addition Block(s) Block 5 Lot(s) 3 & 4 & W30' N69' Lot 2

**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:		If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
—	buildings	1	—
—	sites	—	—
—	structures	—	—
—	objects	—	—
—	Total	1	—

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

Title Waverly SW Quadrant Hist. & Arch. Survey

Historical Architectural Data Base Number HADB 09-031

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) **Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

06A01 Religious Facility/Church

06A01 Religious Facility/Church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

09G03 Church/Steepled Ell (2-story)

foundation 04 Stone

15G Late Victorian/Romanesque

walls (visible material) 05E Aluminum

roof 08A Asphalt

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)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | A | Property is associated with significant events.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | B | Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | C | Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | D | Property yields significant information in archaeology or history. |

County Bremer  
City Waverly

Address 201 3rd St SW

Site Number 09-01448  
District Number 09-00961

**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  
1901  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation  
1967, 1992-93

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

**Architect/Builder**

Architect  
Murphy and Ralston, Waterloo, IA  
Builder  
John Gier, general contractor, Conrad, IA

**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 Marlys Svendsen date 8/28/2015  
organization Svendsen Tyler, Inc. for the Waverly HPC telephone 715/469-3300  
street & number N3834 Deep Lake Rd. city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

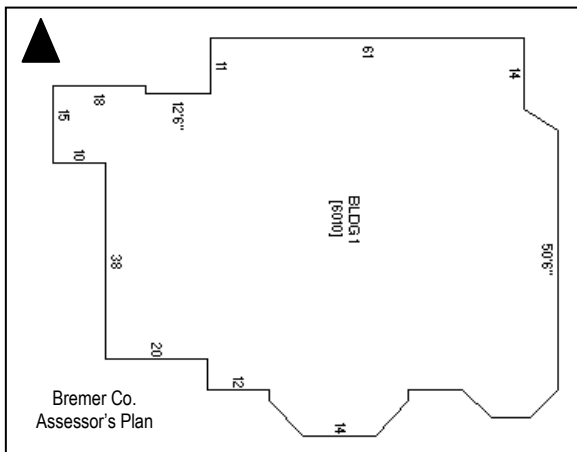
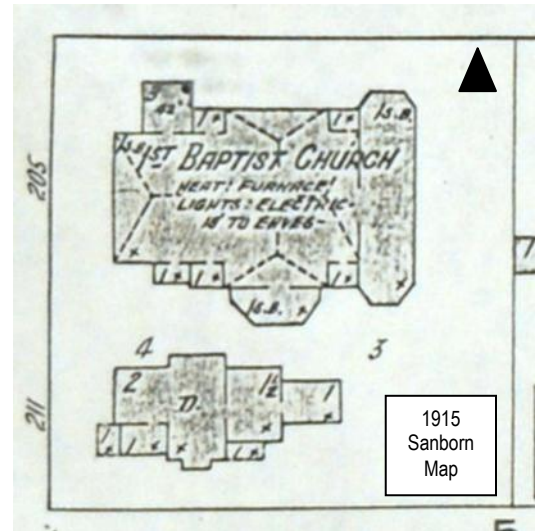
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First Baptist Church	Bremer
Name of Property	County
201 3 <sup>rd</sup> St SW	Waverly
Address	City

## 7. Description

The First Baptist Church at 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW is estimated to have been constructed in 1901 according to the Bremer County Assessor's records. This year is confirmed by numerous historical sources including the church history published in 1980 and the newspaper account for the dedication published in November 1901. The current building footprint first appears on the 1915 Sanborn Company Map (at right) and a current day floor plan for the building from the Bremer Co. Assessor's property report appears below. Property transfer records show the congregation having held the property since before the first church (nonextant) for the congregation was erected in 1867.

The First Baptist Church is located at the southeast corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE and 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW. The form and style are consistent with churches from the 1890s through the 1940s. A lengthy historic description of the building appears at the end of *Section 8. Significance* below.



This frame church is an example of a vernacular church form referred to as a Steepled Ell form that evidences design features from the Late Victorian Romanesque Style. Architects for the church were the firm of Murphy and Ralston of Waterloo and John Gier of Conrad was the general contractor. The building's original extreme measurements were 85 x 65 feet but following a major rehabilitation and enlargement of the north wing and west entrance vestibule in 1992-1993, the extreme measurements were 95 x 75 feet. The original church block has a raised stone block foundation built of Niagaran limestone from the Farley Quarries in Jones County with concrete block used for expansion sections. The main church has an eave height of 18 feet with a steeple height of 42 feet for the 3-story bell tower.

The interior is laid out with a raised basement level, first floor for the sanctuary/auditorium and mezzanine level/second floor for the choir loft. The church has a broad moderate pitched intersecting gabled roof with a matching floor plan. The gables have returning cornices and the front gable (west) has the bell-tower set in the north-west ell. Roof lines on the north wing were modified in 1992-1993 as part of the remodeling of the north wing completed by Brycon Corporation. The wing was extended 10 feet towards 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW at that time. The original gable framework was removed and reinstalled at the end of the lengthened wing with the gable peak and cornice returns preserved. A four-sided tower is set in the ell and originally contained west-facing (nonextant) and south-facing entrances. The steeple originally had groups of three square-topped windows on each façade of the second level that are now covered with siding installed in the 1960s and 1970s. The crenelated finished edge on the top of the tower is now covered with a simple molding.

the large sashes.  
Many of the church's original stained glass windows are retained in the post-1992-1993 remodeling of the main building. They feature a combination of round arches and flat arches in various sizes.

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The steeple has been modified as well. On the ground level, wood entrance stairs on the west and south sides leading to double doors have been removed with two pairs of replacement doors installed on the south façade at grade level – one in the steeple wall and the second pair to the immediate east. The west entrance doors have been abandoned and boarded over. Lowering of the main entrance on the south side of the steeple has left a void above the doors that is now clad in siding. The original Pointed arched stained glass transom above these doors remains in place on the south façade but a similar stained glass transom window has been removed on the west side of the steeple.

Historic View, ca. 1901 (from First Baptist Church photograph collection, 2015)





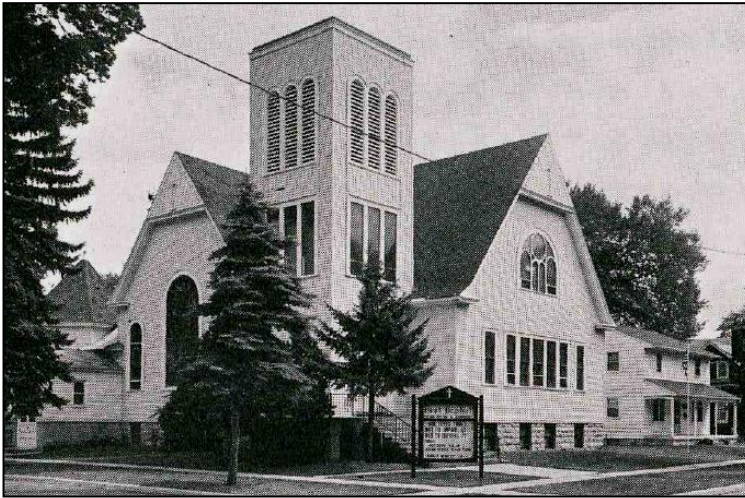
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Historic views, First Baptist Church Collection, 2015.

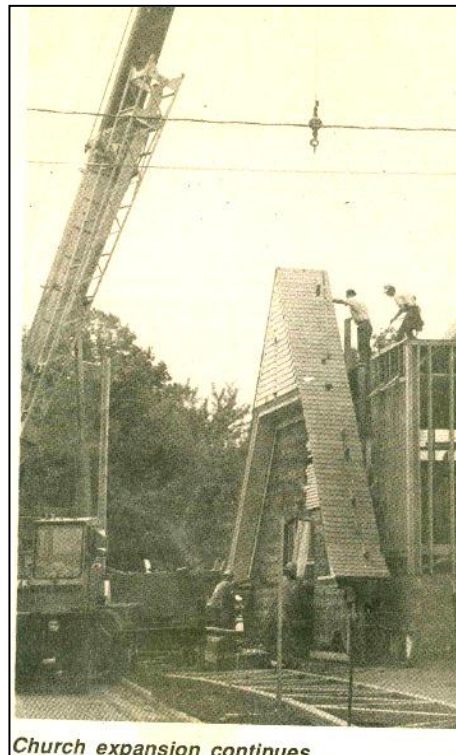
*Top:* post-1961 parsonage construction and post-1964 north entrance construction along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW, looking southeast.

*Middle:* August 1980 after bell tower west entrance construction, looking southeast



*Bottom, left:* After completion of 1992-1993 north wing expansion to sidewalk, tower window closure on second floor, removal of north entrance, and addition of east entrance (not shown), looking southeast.

*Bottom, right:* During 1992-1993 construction.



*Church expansion continues*



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## 8. Significance

The First Baptist Church at 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW is significant as a contributing resource in the Sturdevant SW Historic District under Criteria A and C. The district qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as a well-preserved collection of mid and late 19th century and early 20th century architectural styles and vernacular house forms located in Waverly's southwest residential neighborhood. The neighborhood also contains two important public buildings (both churches) and one commercial/industrial property previously developed by the Farmer's Exchange, an enterprise designed to facilitate business trade between Bremer County farmers and a range of vendors and buyers. The First Baptist Church was designed by the Waterloo architectural firm of Murphy and Ralston in the Steepled-Ell Church form in 1901.

### *Historical Background for Waverly<sup>1</sup>*

Waverly was established in 1853 along the Cedar River in Waverly Township located in southeastern Bremer County. It was designated as the county seat for Bremer County the same year that the county was officially organized and was formally incorporated in 1859. Like most Iowa towns established before the Civil War, growth during the early 1860s was deferred until after the war came to a close. Waverly's first railroad, the Cedar Falls and Minnesota Railroad was extended to Waverly in 1864. Eventually track was also laid for other branch lines and an electric interurban. By 1917 track for branch lines was absorbed by the Chicago and Great Western Railroad and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. Track for the electric interurban – the Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Northern – was laid in 1910 but usage was never as substantial as predicted.

Waverly grew in the manner typical of other Iowa county seats in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its commercial center extended along the east-west route of Bremer Avenue on both sides of the Bremer Avenue Bridge that crossed the L-shaped course of the Cedar River as it passed through the center of town. The county courthouse was located outside of the commercial area on a slight prominence at the east end of Bremer Avenue. Residential districts grew up in the four quadrants formed by the intersecting main street and river. The broad, generally flat profile of both the business district and early residential neighborhoods saw the regular occurrence of flooding resulting in the gradual replacement of most first generation frame building stock. German immigrants were among the largest ethnic group to populate Waverly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century establishing religious institutions with ethnic affiliations such as St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the northwest quadrant, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in southeast quadrant, and the German Methodist Church.

Bremer County and its county seat of Waverly prospered during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century becoming a retail and professional services center for Bremer County and sections of adjacent Butler County. The county's standing as the "Dairy Spot of Iowa," gave rise to a number of dairy industries including a manufacturing plant operated by the Carnation Milk Products Company for the production of condensed milk in the 1920s. Population stood at 16,300 people in 1900 before the growth rate slowed before World War I. By 1930 population topped 17,000. Expansion of a Lutheran seminary in Waverly first located in the community in 1879 through the relocation of Wartburg College to the community in 1939 was a cultural and economic stimulus for the community. Waverly continued to add a 1,000 people per decade until 1950 when the post-

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<sup>1</sup> The historical background information is largely drawn from the *Waverly, Iowa: An Architectural Heritage*, (Waverly, Iowa: City of Waverly), 1977.



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War boom saw growth accelerate to more than 21,000 by 1960. During the past 50 years population has slowed somewhat topping out at 23,325 in 2000.

### *Historical Background for the First Baptist Church at 201 3rd St SW:*

The First Baptist Church at 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW is located in the southwest quadrant of Waverly that includes additions platted by early Waverly settlers, Ira Sturdevant and his son William Sturdevant. The Sturdevant family moved to the unsettled area along the Cedar River in the mid-1850s. Ira received a 40-acre federal land grant based on his military service in the War of 1812. William acquired 80 acres of adjoining land to the north of his father's 40-acre parcel. In 1857 the William Sturdevant's Addition was laid out and in 1860 the Ira Sturdevant Addition was platted. Growth remained relatively slow in these subdivisions until after the Civil War.

From the end of the end of the Civil War forward there was at least one and usually two churches in the Southwest Quadrant Survey area. The original First Baptist Church was constructed for the 12-year old congregation in 1867. Originally it faced Ellsworth St (1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW) but after a fire to the building in early 1901, the congregation planned a replacement building oriented towards 2<sup>nd</sup> St SW but at the same intersection. Waterloo architects Murphy and Ralston were retained to design a building. The partnership of William E. Murphy and John G. Ralston formed in 1897-1898 when both men left employment in Murphy and Wallace, also in Waterloo. Murphy died in 1904 but Ralston continued the practice and by 1912 numbered more than 190 houses and 80 commercial and public buildings for the successor firm of Ralston & Ralston. John Ralston like other Waterloo architects at the time used a variety of architectural idioms his work including the Classical, Colonia Revival, and for the First Baptist Church, the Romanesque Revival. Ralston's designs were found throughout northcentral and northwest Iowa, making the firm an influential regional design force, especially around the turn of the century.

A narrative history for the church and a description of the 1901 church building with a list of furnishings, both taken from the *First Baptist Church of Waverly, Iowa, 1855-1980* appears below and on the following pages:

The following is copied from a book entitled:  
"Semi-Centennial Souvenir of Waverly," dated August 1896.

"First Baptist Church of Waverly, Iowa, was organized in Sept., 1855, with seven constituent members, under the direction and labors of Rev. David Terry, then missionary on this western field. The society was incorporated in the year 1856. During its history this church has had an acceptance of about 512 members, with a diminution of about 321. The present church edifice was built at a cost of \$7000, and dedicated in Sept., 1867. It has a seating capacity of about 400. On the same lots is a very neat and convenient parsonage, erected in 1890, at a cost of \$2500. The church property is in the heart of the city, pleasantly located and beautifully surrounded. The church is now well officered and in a way to do good efficient work. It has a large and interesting Sunday school under the care and direction of an able superintendent, aided by a faithful corps of teachers; has also working societies of bright young people with other missionary organizations, all in harmonious co-operation for the moral culture of the inviting field open before them, with an encouraging outlook for future usefulness.

On the 1st of July this year, Rev. Hugh A. Heath took charge of the pastorate having been brought hither by unanimous call of the church. He is a vigorous and ambitious young gentleman fresh from his studies at the Theological Seminary of Rochester, N.Y., from which he graduated only a month previous to accepting this call. His influence is already felt in the church, and his parishioners are very much pleased with his earnest and eloquent manner of preaching.

Hugh A. Heath was born at Jackson, Minn., Sept. 1st, 1867. In 1873 his parents moved to New Hampton, Iowa, where they yet reside. After leaving the public schools Mr. Heath entered Cedar Valley Seminary, Osage, Iowa, graduating in 1880. He then took the classical course at Des Moines College graduating in 1893 with the degree A.B., and was orator of the class. Entering the Theological Seminary at Rochester, N.Y., the same year, he graduated in June, 1896. A few days later he was married to Flora N. Robinson, daughter of Prof. O.H. Robinson, of the university. He was ordained in 1892. During his years at college and seminary he held two pastorates."

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THE BUILDING

Is complete throughout and is planned on the lines of the requirements of a church of the present time, various rooms being provided for the different departments.

The building fronts the two streets - north and west, with the main entrance in the tower at the northwest corner. The old bell is again in position and once more rings out its cheerful greeting and call to church-goers. Another entrance to main floor is on the North side with another on the southeast corner, and the basement is reached by two doors, one on the north end and another at the southwest corner, the latter leading to the basement parlor.

The main auditorium is 48x48 with pulpit in the south part, back of which are the seats for choir, and under the pulpit is the baptistry. The seats are placed on a sloping floor and are the best made by the Grand Rapids Furniture Co. To the west is the lecture room, 20x27 feet, seated with double folding chairs. Over this room is a gallery that will seat about 100, and between the lecture room and the main entry is a cloak room from which stairs lead to the gallery and basement. On the east of the auditorium is a room similar to the lecture room and is to be used for the primary class. These two rooms may be closed from the auditorium by heavy oak folding doors. A smaller room in the northeast corner, easily accessible from the street, is to be used as a study, and a similar room on the southeast is a Sunday-school class room.

The interior finish is of oak finished in oil with hard plastered walls which are tinted a delicate brown to soften the light and correspond with the finish of wood work. The ceiling is ornamented with a delicate design, consisting of a vine and leaves with a row of palms at upper part of side walls. The ornamental painting was done by an art student from the Chicago Art School, while the rest of the painting, both outside and in, was done by the Michael Paint Co. of Waterloo. The colors chosen are very appropriate and give general satisfaction, except the red gables which have occasioned some remarks, but as no one suggested a better or more appropriate color, they were left as first painted.

The main floor is covered with ingrain carpet of small figure, good quality and color to correspond with furniture and fittings.

The pews are of oak and in carved form with ends finished in Romanesque style and are conveniently arranged with wide aisles.

A large and elegant chandelier hangs in the auditorium and with its twenty-four lights and the single and double lights arranged about the room and throughout the building no one need sit in darkness. The lighting system was put in by our Waverly electrician, H.R. Healey, and is very complete and tasty, a good light being placed outside each door.

The beautiful auditorium is a gem in itself, but the good women, with eyes in love with the beautiful and artistic, and hearts full of cheerfulness and sunshine, brought flowers, palms, fern and chrysanthemums, in profusion, all of which they arranged, simply and cunningly, with excellent results. The Baptist choir had been reinforced by the sweet singers from other churches who joined in the services, and the songs they sung were inspiring. All the surroundings were eloquent.

The men appeared more stalwart than usual, and the women were lovelier than ever. Dr. Claypool of the M.E. Church made the opening prayer fervently. Rev. J.H. Bauernfeind of the Evangelical church read a chapter from the good book. The choir sang. Then there was another prayer by Rev. J.E. Brereton of the Congregational church. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Myron D. Haines of Chicago. His theme was Christ among the lilies of the field, a most beautiful theme for the occasion. His discourse was thoughtful, spoken in words and sentences that were simple and eloquent.

After the sermon Dr. Haines explained that it was necessary to raise \$3,500 before the church could be dedicated free of debt. In an hour the amount was raised with more than a hundred dollars to spare. People of all denominations and of no denominations freely pledged good sums to help in the good cause, and members of the church who had already subscribed heavily, again came to the front and assumed the heaviest part of the burden. The outcome is gratifying to all concerned and again verifies the truth that the Lord helps them who help themselves. A beam of satisfaction shone from many a face when the splendid result was announced.

The fine \$11,000 Baptist church was dedicated free of debt. Dr. Haines is called upon oftener to dedicate churches than any other preacher of the Baptist denomination in this country, and he said he never dedicated such a splendid church edifice, that was so perfect all round, as this one, that did not cost more money.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon there was another service conducted by the pastors of the other churches. The exercises of the day closed with the services in the evening which were attended by a large congregation. And the day is one that will long be remembered with loving gratitude and satisfaction by the people of Waverly.



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The following is copied from a newspaper article of 1901, concerning the dedication of the present church building on November 17th, 1901. The article included a picture of the previous building and the new building:

**"THE NEW BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATED**

A Beautiful Structure, the Pride of Those who Claim It as Their Church Home, and a Credit to the City

\$3641.75 Given and Subscribed at the Morning Service, Permitting the Edifice to be Dedicated Free of Debt.

Last Sunday marked an epoch in the history of the Baptist society of Waverly, witnessing the dedication of their fine new church building just completed at a cost of \$11,500, and what made the occasion more than ordinarily a gratifying one was the fact that ere the morning service was completed every dollar required to pay the cost of the handsome structure and its less handsome appointments had been provided for. And the money was given with no grudging hand. It came as from the horn of plenty and was given willingly and even eagerly, all classes and conditions of people joining in the contributions, but the members of the church being especially generous in their giving.

Long before the hour for the beginning of the services arrived the building was filled to overflowing. No services were held in the Methodist, Congregational and Evangelical churches, which fact greatly augmented the attendance. The ministers of these churches had places on the platform, as had also several other clergymen from neighboring towns.

Rev. Claypool gave the invocation which was followed by scripture reading by Rev. Bauernfeind and prayer by Rev. Brereton. Rev. P.M. Smock, the Baptist pastor, then introduced Myron W. Haynes, D.D., pastor of the Belden Ave. Baptist church of Chicago, a talented orator and a gentleman of considerable renown as a church debt raiser. Rev. Haynes took for his subject the "History of the Lillies," a theme out of which he got many beautiful lessons, and while it had no reference to the main object in hand, that of supplying a \$3500 deficiency in the church exchequer, it must have put his hearers in a generous mood, for when the time came for receiving subscriptions, the clerks appointed to receive them were on occasions wholly confused on account of the rapidity with which they came. The ladies' society led off with a subscription of \$500, and to this was quickly added \$300 from the B.Y.P.U. and \$200 from the Sunday school. Then ten members each of whom had previously given most generously, subscribed \$100 more each, and as many others \$50 more each. Then lesser sums down to five dollars were received, and in such great number that when the clerks concluded their footings it was found that upwards of a hundred dollars more than the required amount had been received.

This church built in 1867 did service until the winter of 1901, when a fire carried from a burning building caught in various places on the roof, and, although the building was saved, it was rendered unfit for use. Previous to this the members had felt the need of more comfortable and commodious quarters and appointed a building committee as follows: C.H. Tondro, Dr. F.A. Osincup, Fred Wile, A.B. Coddington and Elmer Reeves. This committee, with the active and efficient aid of the Rector, Rev. P.M. Smock, proceeded with the work in hand.

The plan of remodeling the old building was carefully considered, but it was found that the cost of changing a building of such dimensions would preclude the idea of making use of it and new plans were made and the old building sold and removed. After looking over various buildings, plans to suit were decided upon and the firm of Murphy & Ralston of Waterloo engaged as architects. Under their plans a contract was let to John R. Gier, of Conrad, Iowa, for \$8000. This contract included the necessary excavating, foundation, walls and the building complete.

Other items of expense were, for seats, \$800; windows, \$300; hardware, \$150; furnaces, \$800; electric lights, \$325; carpets, \$200; sewer, \$100; cement walks and curbing on the north and west of the church lots, painting of parsonage, insurance and other incidentals brought the entire cost up to eleven thousand dollars. Of this amount \$7500 had been secured in cash and pledges, so that \$3500 remained unprovided on the day of dedication. Realizing that a church debt is one of the curses which afflict in various ways, it was decided to make an appeal to the people on the day of dedication.

**DEDICATION DAY**

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1901, was looked forward to by this faithful band of Baptists with a good deal of anxiety. While watchful eyes, and industrious and skillful hands were busy putting everything in the best shape possible for this important event in the history of the society in Waverly, the big heart of the good people was prayerfully hoping that the Great Weather Clerk would give us a good day. Their prayers were answered and their hopes were more than realized. The day dawned gloriously. It was a perfect autumn day. It was one of God's sure enough good days. Everything was calculated to make their hearts happy and thankful. At the appointed hour people came from all directions to the new Baptist church. A large audience assembled. Most of them found good seats, some stood through the exercises, and many went away after learning that there was no more room within. Services at the Congregational, Methodist, Episcopal and Evangelical churches had been dismissed in honor of this event.



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We can at this time gratefully acknowledge the kindness of the Congregational brethren, in a time of need, and it is by fair to say that they have always manifested the same spirit, thus helping to reach the time when denominations shall forget their different opinions and practices in the united effort to better the world.

The house built in 1867 was 40x70 feet and of a solid oak frame that is still perfectly sound although somewhat warped. The cost of this structure was \$7,000 and the expending of that amount at that time was a greater burden than the greater cost of the present new building at this time.

Rev. Bush was pastor until April, 1859, when Rev. H.H. Burrington was called and remained as pastor until the fall of 1864. Soon after Thos. F. Thickstein became pastor and it was largely through his efforts that the church was successful in their building enterprise and also built up in various ways. Rev. Thickstein was so well beloved by his people that he has been twice recalled as a supply when the church was without a pastor.

Following Rev. Thickstein, who resigned in June, 1868, the church has had fourteen pastors, some of whom remained but a short time as a supply. They came in order as follows: A.T. Cole, J. Hall, F.A. Marsh, H.W. Brown, Robt. Leslie, Thos. J. Keith, Wm. C. Pratt, W.M. Simons, Penn Edward Moore, Woodley W. Campbell, E.M. Jones, Hugh A. Heath, A.L. Candee and P.M. Smock.

Many earnest workers for Christ were among the members and friends during these early years and they built well the foundation of a spiritual church. Among the most zealous can be numbered Mrs. Dr. Burbank who still lives in Waverly, and as long as strength permitted was among the foremost in all good work. Also the first deacons, A.S. Lawrence and Jiles Mabie, neither now living. Miss Lydia Lawrence, now a missionary among the colored people of Tampa, Florida. Space will not permit the mention of more, but suffice it to say that in all departments of the church work there have always been faithful ones and many now taking active and honorable part in various parts of the world have received instruction and inspiration from the pulpit and in the Sunday school of this church. Often it seemed that the best workers left for other places but where ever they located their work is carried on so the influence of our little band reaches far beyond the boundary of Waverly.

There was early organized a 'Ladies' Aid Society,' the members meeting to sew and by selling the articles made they helped in bearing the expenses of the church. On sewing days each brought their own dinner. About 1865 the plan was adopted of inviting in the male members of the community to an evening of enjoyment and serving refreshments for which ten cents was charged. This idea has grown into the present plan of serving suppers at the church where a bountiful meal is provided at a very nominal cost to the party who does the eating, and is a supertuous affair compared with the first mite society supper which consisted of bread, currant sauce and cookies. Then as now the social features of these gatherings were the main object in view.

In the course of his remarks Rev. Haynes paid a glowing complement to the building committee, saying that in all of his experience he had never seen a more complete and handsomer structure erected for so comparatively small cost, and no one can inspect the building and doubt the veracity of his statement.

Rev. Claus, of Shell Rock, pronounced the benediction dismissing the vast audience. During the service an unusually strong choir rendered fine selections.

In the afternoon a sort of congratulatory service was held, Revs. Brereton, Claypool and Bauernfeind each making congratulatory speeches, to which, fitting response was made by Rev. P.M. Smock, and in the evening another sermon was preached by Rev. Haynes, the building being taxed to the limit of its capacity, and many being turned away.

The society which now enjoys this splendid house of worship was organized in September, 1855, with seven constituent members, through the efforts of Rev. David Terry (father of Adin and Eri Terry and Mrs. M. M. Watkins) who was then a home missionary in the western field. The old church which the present one had displaced was completed and dedicated in September, 1867, and was at that time the most pretentious church edifice in the city. It was well built, and for all ordinary purposes could have been made to serve the society much longer than it did. But a couple of years ago the pastor and leading members became embued with a spirit of progress, and the present new church is the result. The first proposal was merely to put in an inclined floor and install new pews, and out of this grew a project for the general remodeling of the structure. A building committee was appointed consisting of C.H. Tondro, A.B. Coddington, Fred Wile, Elmer Reeves and Dr. Osincup, plans procured and bids advertised for. The architect had represented that the cost of the remodeling should be \$3,000, but when it was found that no one would undertake the work for less than \$5,000, one fine day the committee threw all previous plans aside and determined that nothing less than a brand new structure would satisfy them. It was not an entirely easy matter to bring a majority of the church members to their way of thinking, but they gradually won over, and it was not long ere all were working hand in hand, harmoniously and enthusiastically, toward a common end, and that end the completion of a new, modern, up-to-date church home. That their highest ambitions in this direction have been fully realized may be seen from the accompanying illustration and following description:

The new building is a frame structure, the extreme dimensions of which are 85x65 feet. In it the architects, Messrs. Murphy & Ralston, of Waterloo, seem to combine in a perfect manner the two fundamental principles of successful church architecture, beauty of appearance and convenience of arrangement. In design the bulding is an adaption of the Romanesque and the square tower; rich paint colors and metrical

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coursing stone from the Farley quarries, make it a veritable "thing of beauty." The main entrances are from the north and west into a vestibule 12x12. Passing under an arch and through double swinging doors, the attendant is standing inside the main auditorium facing the pulpit and choir platform on the south. This room is 48x48, with a seating capacity of 300. The pews are from the factory at Grand Rapids, Mich., and being built of white oak, highly finished, with curved backs and bottoms, will prove a delightful change from the straight back, low-seated, pine pews used for so many years in the old building ere it was cast aside. The floor of this room is built on the incline, and covered with a Lowell carpet. With beautiful frescoed walls and ceiling, a brilliant electric chandelier of 32 incandescent lights, and windows made of pure opalescent glass, the worshipper is given at least a dream of the glory of that temple which the Gallilean carpenter taught or that earlier one, a vision of which made Sheba's queen declare, "The half has not been told."

The prayer meeting on the west side is 20x30 feet over which is the gallery of like dimensions. This prayer room, together with a kindergarten room on the east 16x24, is connected with the main auditorium by means of folding doors. Both rooms can be shut off from the main one when not needed, and used with no inconvenience on extra-ordinary occasions. The capacity of the church is thus enlarged to 650 sittings. To the right of the pulpit is a library room, to the left a robing room, in the northeast corner a pastor's study 16x16 and in the southeast corner a Sunday school class room which is 16 feet square.

There is a basement under the entire building with a nine foot ceiling in the clear. Here is found a fire-proof ash room, a convenient fuel room with cemented floor, a furnace room in which are set two Gilt-Edge furnaces, a reception parlor 20x30 feet, a kitchen 16x24 containing a Majestic Range, convenient cupboards and supplied with hot and cold water, a dining room 48x24 feet thus giving surplus room for the hungry epicurean to test his faith in the blessings of personal expansion; a ladies' toilet on the east and gents' on the west are each supplied with laboratories and hot and cold water, and two convenient cloak room complete with the description of the building."

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**Additional Information:**

Waverly Southwest Quadrant Historical and Architectural Survey Map (Bremer County Assessor's Department).



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Photograph: 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, Pictometry Image®, Bremer County Assessor's Website; available online at: <https://beaconbeta.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=330&LayerID=3621&PageTypeID=4&PageID=3347&KeyValue=0902156001>; accessed 8/19/2015.





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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, looking southeast and east, **5/15/2014**, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.





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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, looking west from parking lot and north, **5/15/2014**, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.





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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, looking northwest from parking lot (above) and northeast from 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW (below, left), and foundation stone detail (below, right) **5/15/2014**, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.





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**Photograph:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, sanctuary/auditorium detail, looking south, 5/15/2014, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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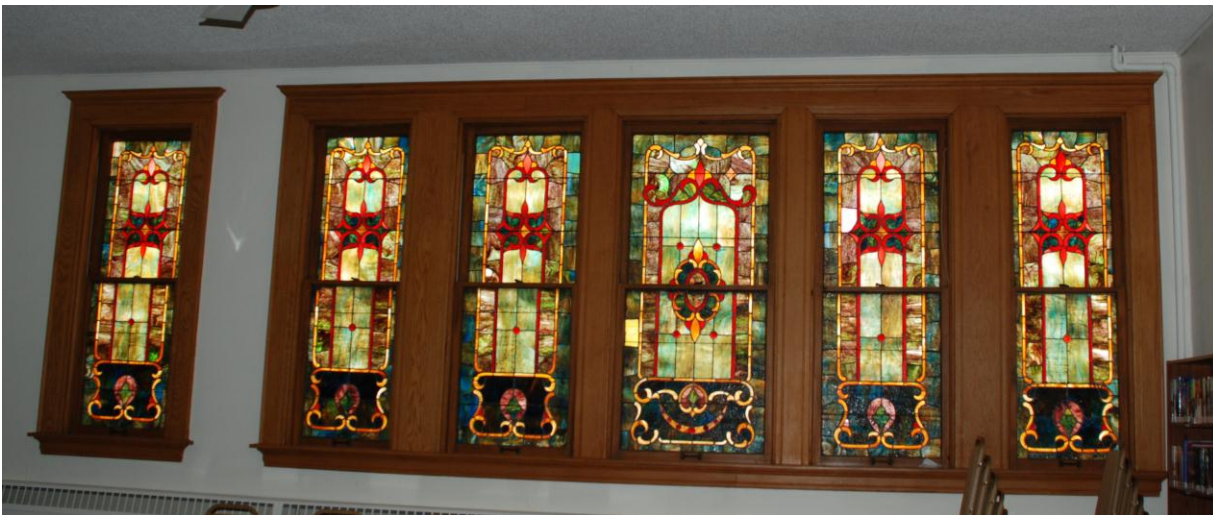
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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, sanctuary/auditorium and stained glass detail, looking west, 5/15/2014, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.





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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, sanctuary/auditorium north wing and stained glass detail above ceiling, looking north, 5/15/2014, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.





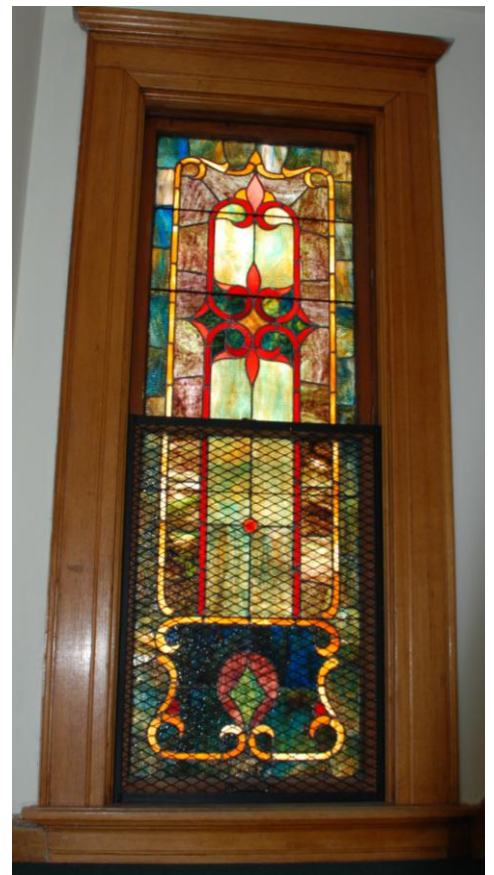
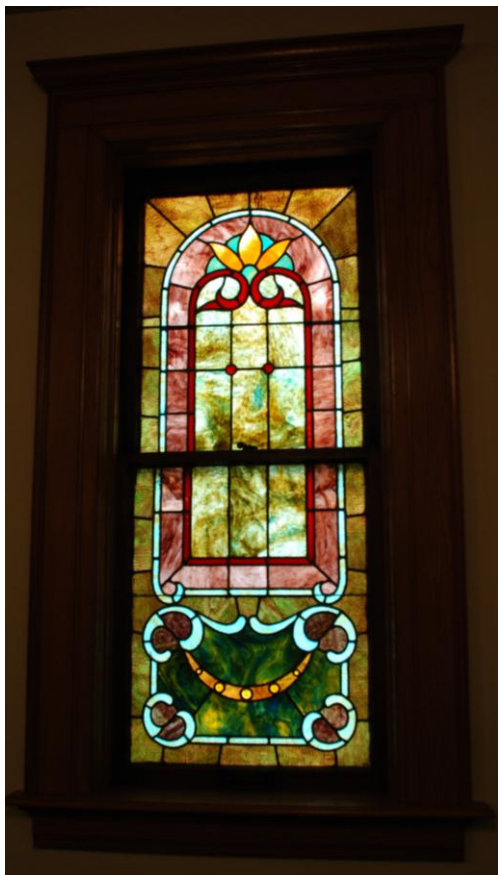
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**Photographs:** 201 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW, representative stained glass window details, 5/15/2014, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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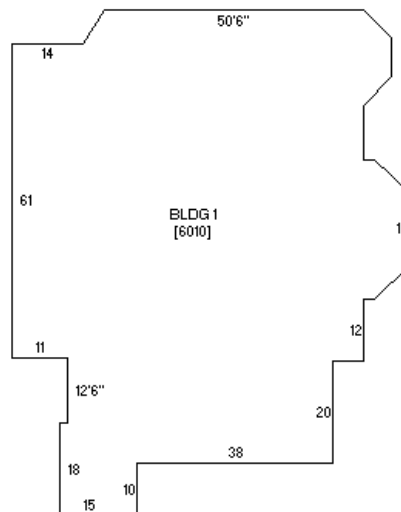
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**Plan:** Bremer County Assessor website photograph and map available at: <https://beaconbeta.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=330&LayerID=3621&PageTypeID=4&PageID=2342&Q=562010849&KeyValue=0902156001>; accessed 8/19/2015.



B-1901  
DWLG ?  
SHED ?  
GARAGE ?



Sketch by [www.camavision.com](http://www.camavision.com)