National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name First Congregational Church

Other names/site number Congregational Church of Independence; KHRI # 125-334

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 400 North 9th Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Independence ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Montgomery Code 125 Zip code 67301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **x** nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B x C ___D

SEE FILE
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Eclectic

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The First Congregational Church was built in 1910-1911 at 400 North 9th Street in Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas. It is a tri-tower brick building exhibiting Eclectic architecture, with elements of the Gothic Revival style. The church faces west and is located on a corner lot two blocks west of downtown Independence along U.S. Highway 75 (Chestnut Street) as it winds through the city. Early 20th century residences are located north, south, and west of the church.

Elaboration

Architecturally, the building is a challenge to classify, as it is not a textbook example of a style popular in the early 20th century. It does, however, exhibit characteristics of Gothic Revival, a style often used in church architecture of this period. Gothic Revival is exhibited in the crenellated towers and flattened Gothic arch windows. The red-brick building has a front-facing gable roof with intersecting cross gables on the north and south sides. The roof has asphalt composition shingles. There are three crenellated towers at the southwest, southeast, and northwest corners. The tallest and most prominent tower is at the southwest corner. Each tower has a modest raised brick detailing above which a crenellated parapet is capped with cast stone. The building retains its historic wood windows, many of which have stained glass, though the basement windows were replaced in 2000. Windows generally feature cast stone sills and lintels. The 9,240 square-foot building has a concrete foundation and a raised basement.

West (primary) Elevation

The west façade faces North 9th Street. The **two corner towers**, which project forward from the building, dominate this façade. The tallest and most prominent tower is at the southwest corner, and its west face includes centered openings at the basement, first, second, and tower levels. The single basement window is a newer fixed sash, the first story has a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with stained glass, the second story has a pair of flattened Gothic arch wood windows with stained glass, and the tower level has two tall louvered openings. (This same fenestration pattern is repeated on the south face of the tower, which faces Chestnut Street.) A second tower is located at the northwest corner. The west face of this tower includes a ground-level entrance, which now serves as an elevator, that projects forward from the base of the tower and a pair of flattened Gothic arch wood windows with stained glass on the second story. (The north face of this tower includes a single basement window opening that has been covered, a pair of one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass on the first story, and a pair of flattened Gothic arch wood windows with stained glass on the second story.)

A **one-story porch** supported by square brick pillars is located between the two projecting towers. The raised porch is accessed by a central staircase with eleven concrete steps flanked by brick wingwalls with cast stone coping. The staircase includes a pipe handrail on each side. The porch has a concrete floor and a balustrade made of brick topped with stone coping. Within the porch space, there are three one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass along the west-facing wall. The south wall of the porch includes one five-panel wood door with a sign that says “choir room.” The north wall of the porch has a double-door (five-panel wood doors) entrance with a sign that says “entrance.”

Centered above the porch is an impressive **sanctuary window** - a flattened Gothic arch window with seven fixed frames with stained glass. The window is trimmed with cast stone in a stair-step pattern similar to that of the quoining at the towers’ corners. Centered above this window and tucked near the peak of the gable is a flattened Gothic arch louvered opening. It features a cast stone lintel with a similar stair-step pattern. The gabled roof has a slight overhang and it is trimmed with a wide fascia.

South Elevation

The south façade faces Chestnut Street (U.S. Highway 75). This side of the building includes the southwest corner tower, described above and which projects forward, a lower cross gable with **buttress piers** flanking a large sanctuary window, a secondary entrance, and a smaller tower emerging up through the gable roof near the southeast corner. The first story of the central bay with the cross gable includes four one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass – two on either side of the large sanctuary window. The **sanctuary window** is tall and extends up into the peak of the gable. The bottom portion is made up of three one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass. These are topped by smaller fixed transoms above which is a fixed tripartite stained glass window. The window is trimmed with cast stone in a stair-step pattern similar to that of the sanctuary window on the west facade. The east one-third of this façade includes a projecting entrance bay with a flat roof and a **crenellated tower** that pierces the main gable roof. **The entrance bay** includes a single-door entrance topped by an ornate tripartite transom with a flattened Gothic arch and stained glass. It is accessed by a stoop with three concrete steps off the public sidewalk passing alongside the building. Adjacent to this entrance is a fixed tripartite window identical to the nearby transom. It, like the transom, is trimmed with cast stone lintel in a stair-step pattern. There are eight basement windows along the south side of the building.

East (Rear) Elevation

The rear wall of the building features no projecting or indenting bays and the fenestration is symmetrical. There are four basement windows. The four first-story windows and three second-story windows are one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass. There is a round-arch louvered opening in the peak of the gable.

North Elevation

This side of the building includes the north face of the northwest corner tower, described above and which projects forward, and a lower cross gable with buttress piers flanking a large sanctuary window. The first story of the central bay with the cross gable includes four one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass – two on either side of the large sanctuary window. Like its counterpart on the south elevation, the **sanctuary window** is tall and extends up into the peak of the gable. The bottom portion is made up of three one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass. These are topped by smaller fixed transoms above which is a fixed tripartite stained glass window. The window is trimmed with cast stone in a stair-step pattern similar to that of the sanctuary window on the west facade. The east one-third of this façade includes three one-over-one double-hung wood windows with stained glass and three additional buttress piers.

Interior (See Figures 6 through 8)

The first floor interior largely consists of an open sanctuary and a classroom separated by a moveable partition. The partition occupies much of the east wall of the sanctuary and is designed to roll up into the ceiling to join the spaces. If rolled up completely, a second-floor loft space is revealed to the sanctuary. This space has been mothballed in recent years and is not used.

The **sanctuary** is accessed through three points: the primary double-door entrance via an entrance vestibule at the northwest corner, a single-door entrance at the southeast corner, and through a door via the choir room at the southwest corner. The square amphitheater-style auditorium has a seating capacity of approximately 250 and features pews arranged in a semicircular pattern facing a raised stage at the southwest corner of the building. The sanctuary ceiling conforms to the shape of the roof. Historic globe light fixtures hand from the ceiling on long chains. Newer electric fans also hang from the ceiling. The ceiling beams, window and door trim, and windows and doors are historic. The wood floors beneath the pews are exposed, but the aisles and other walkways have been carpeted.

The large stained glass window on the south wall of the sanctuary was sponsored by Harry Sinclair, founder of Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation, in memory of his father John Sinclair, whose name appears in the top center window.

The **classroom/overflow** space is located east of the sanctuary. Some modifications have been made to this space, which include a dropped ceiling, some subdivision of the space into smaller rooms, and carpeted floors. This area also includes an office.

There is a **staircase** along the south wall just outside the sanctuary that leads to the exterior secondary entrance, the basement, and the second-floor loft space. This large stairwell features Gothic arch stained glass windows with wood trim, plaster walls, and the original wood staircase banister.

The building has a full **basement**, the majority of which has functioned as a meeting room and dining hall. This space has experienced some modification over the years, but has remained largely intact. The floor is concrete. The metal support beams remain. Some walls feature a non-original wood paneling. The east one-third of the basement space is comprised of an area for additional seating and two classrooms.

Integrity

The building retains a very high degree of architectural integrity – both on the interior and exterior. The following are known modifications to the building:

November 1962: Installed elevator
September 1995: New bathroom on main floor
December 1996: Installed ceiling fans in sanctuary
December 1996: Pulled walls back in place
May 1997: Tuckpointing outside walls
December 1999: HVAC for sanctuary
March 2000: Replaced basement windows
November 2001: HVAC for east end of church
February 2004: New ceiling in sanctuary & bracing rods
April 2004: Sump pump in basement
December 2007: Repair roof & rafter in northwest tower
October 2011: Repairs made to upper right panel of the large stained glass window on south wall of sanctuary
March 2013: Stone fell from Southwest turret

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910-1911

Significant Dates

1910, 1911

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: George W. Ashby

Builder: Clements & Lavery Contractors

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance begins with the construction of the church in 1910 and ends with its completion and dedication in 1911.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
The building has always been used for religious purposes since it was built in 1910-1911. The building meets the registration requirements for Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from its architecture. The property does not derive its primary significance from associations with religious doctrine.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The First Congregational Church in Independence is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the area of architecture. Completed in 1911, this building is exhibits a rather unique interpretation of the Gothic Revival architectural style, which was commonly used in church architecture of this period. Chicago-based architect George W. Ashby designed the building, and it was constructed by Clements and Lavery Contractors.

Elaboration

Prior to the organization of Montgomery County in 1869, the area had belonged to the Osage Indians, who had ceded lands in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas to the United States during the first half of the 19th century. Montgomery County had been a part of the Osage Diminished Reserve, the tribe's "one remaining tract of land, a fertile 4.8 million acres in southeastern Kansas..."[1] Despite this area remaining with the Osage Indians, settlers crept closer, with many settling on Indian lands causing tensions to rise. "On May 27, 1868, the Osages signed what would become known as the Sturges Treaty, named for William Sturges, president of the LL&G [Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad]," which "provided for the sale of the Osage Diminished Reserve to the LL&G for $1.6 million."[2] Although Congress had yet to ratify the treaty, the Osages began relocating to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma, and Montgomery County was organized in 1869.

Euro-Americans began settling in the Independence area in the late 1860s, and the area's first schools and churches were founded during this period. The City of Independence was established in July 1870. After "a hotly contested election in Nov., 1870, Independence received the largest number of votes and became the permanent county seat."[3] According to an early church history written by Mrs. Joseph Chandler, parts of which were printed in the March 7, 1894 *South Kansas Tribune*, a meeting was held at the Baptist church on October 8, 1871 to discuss the formation of a Congregational church. A church council consisting of eight people met in the spring of 1872 to officially incorporate the church: Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Leonard; Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Moore; Miss Morna Moore; Mrs. and Miss Bronson; and George Walker. Reverend Robert M. Tunnel served as the first pastor.[4]

According to notes compiled by church historian T.H. Owen, on May 22, 1872, the church Board of Trustees accepted an offer by Frank Dicus to purchase property at the southwest corner of 8th and Myrtle streets for $500. The congregation's first house of worship was erected at this site and furnished for a total cost of $3,945.50. It was dedicated November 2, 1873. This property was later sold at auction on March 18, 1911 to Pease & Bogue for $146.[5]

The congregation made plans for the construction of a new church at a different location in 1910. According to the notes of the church building committee, they hired Chicago-based architect George W. Ashby to design the building. Their notes suggest that they were visited by architects from Ohio and Joplin and had received correspondence from several more. The committee expressed the desire for an architect "who had planned and built a number of churches." Their notes go on to say that Ashby "is very highly recommended as a competent man and who has given the very best of satisfaction where he has done work."[6]

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[1] Penny T. Linsenmayer, "Kansas Settlers on the Osage Diminished Reserve: A Study of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie," *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 24 (Autumn 2001): 169.

[2] Ibid., 173.

[3] Frank W. Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, vol. 2* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 230-233.

[4] *South Kansas Tribune*, 7 March 1894.

[5] Owen, T.H. (church member). Compilation of Historical Notes, unpublished, n.d. Filed in church archive. The U.S. Post Office was built on the location of the former church at 123 N. 8th Street in 1911-1912. See KHRI # 125-2670-00170.

[6] First Congregational Church, Building Committee Notes (Undated [circa 1910]). Copy on file with nomination.

A notice appeared in the *South Kansas Tribune* on September 28, 1910 announcing that an Oklahoma-based contractor had been selected to erect the new building. The construction was expected to cost $25,000. The contractor went unnamed, perhaps intentionally, but is known to have been Clements and Lavery Contractors.[7] The newspaper reported: "An Oklahoma bidder, out of work there, was able to underbid our home people, as has been the case in other contracts." Church treasurer records dated February 12, 1914 provide more information on the construction of the church. Bills were recorded as paid to the Chicago Plumbing Company for $258.80; The Fond du Lac Church Furniture Company for $779.73; and the Kansas City Stained Glass Works Company for $559.03.[8] It is not clear in the records why these companies were chosen, but Ashby likely had prior dealings with them.

The front page of the Monday evening edition of the *Independence Daily Reporter*, dated May 8, 1911, included an article recalling the dedication and opening of the church and that large crowds attended morning and evening services at the new building. It was noted that $1,500 of the $6,000 debt was raised, apparently during the morning service "made up largely of the church congregation…The remainder of the debt on the church, however, was raised at the union services in the evening." In attendance at the services were Dr. D.W. Newell, secretary of the Congregational church building fund, of Chicago, who delivered the morning service; and Reverend J.C. Gould, state superintendent of the Congregational Church, of Topeka, who delivered the dedicatory sermon at the evening service. Representatives from all the local churches joined in the day's activities.[9]

Regular church services continued throughout the remainder of the 20th century. In the last decade, however, the membership has dwindled to less than 10. At the time of nomination, there are no regular services held at the church, though a committee of three trustees care for and maintain the building.

Eclectic Architecture

The building reflects a unique interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, which was commonly used in churches of this period. The Gothic Revival style is exhibited in the crenellated towers, steeply pitched roof, and flattened Gothic arch windows.

The Gothic Revival style gained prominence in the United States in the early- and mid-nineteenth century. The heightened popularity of the style can be traced back to the 1852 publication of architect Richard Upjohn's book of church architectural planning guide entitled *Upjohn's Rural Architecture*. Some of this country's greatest examples of enduring, picturesque-style, Gothic Revival buildings were built prior to Upjohn's publication, including Alexander Davis's New York University building (1832-1837), and Upjohn's Trinity Church, also in New York (1839-1846). Gothic Revival buildings were popular with residential buildings before the Civil War and declined after the war but still remained a favorite for designers for religious buildings well into the 20th century. Although high-style religious buildings were typically made of stone, the use of wood, known as the Carpenter Gothic style, was common, particularly in smaller religious buildings.[10]

There are many variations of Gothic Revival-style church architecture in Kansas. Examples range from unadorned wood-frame Carpenter Gothic buildings to high-style masonry structures with soaring spires and elaborate detailing. In Kansas, the style is found most often in religious architecture, but variations like Collegiate Gothic can be seen in schools and public buildings. Features found in most variations include pointed-arch windows, a bell tower or spire, at least one large sanctuary window, and a steeply pitched roof.

The eclectic First Congregational Church in Independence, with its crenellated towers, steeply pitched gable roof, and flattened Gothic arch windows, falls on this broad spectrum of Gothic Revival architecture found in Kansas.

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[7] This firm constructed the National Register-listed Terminal Building in Coffeyville, built in 1915.

[8] First Congregational Church, Treasurer Records (12 February 1914). Copy on file with nomination. According to the Stained Glass Association of America, which is based in Raytown, Missouri, the Kansas City Stained Glass Works Company was in business from 1902 to 1928, and then consolidated with St. Joseph Art Glass Works, which was in business from 1908 to 1937.

[9] *Independence Daily Reporter*, "Church Opened," 8 May 1911, page 1.

[10] Language adapted from previous nominations. Sources: Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993), 53-60; John C. Poppeliers, et. al., *What Style Is It?* (Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 2003).

Other examples of Gothic Revival-style churches found locally include the First Presbyterian Church at 201 South 5th Street and the Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church at 412 East Main Street. The 1928 Presbyterian church exhibits a high-style interpretation of Gothic Revival, with its smooth stone exterior and soaring Gothic arch windows.[11] The 1907 A.M.E. church is a smaller and less ornate Gothic Revival church with a red-brick exterior, corner tower entrance, and a large Gothic arch window.[12]

Interior Plan[13]

The interior plan of Independence's First Congregational Church features a square-shaped sanctuary with amphitheater-style seating arranged diagonally. Minnesota-based architect Warren H. Hayes popularized the use of the diagonal auditorium plan in churches in the late nineteenth century. His plan is a derivative of the earlier Akron Plan.

In her book *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*, historian Jeanne Halgren Kilde discusses societal transformations taking place in the nineteenth century and their effects on Christians and their places of worship. She argues that profound socioeconomic and technological changes influenced the movement away from traditional church architecture to the auditorium church. The Sunday school movement in the mid- and late-nineteenth century, for example, reflected changing societal attitudes toward education and children that were then reflected in church building construction throughout the country. The Akron Plan is a direct result of these evolving attitudes.

According to Kilde, "The Akron Plan – originally conceived by lay minister Lewis Miller and builder Jacob Snyder of Akron, Ohio – was a functional solution to a space problem. The plan, developed in the 1860s, called for a ring of Sunday school classrooms around a central auditorium. Partitions could separate the spaces, allowing for both 'togetherness and separateness.'"[14] However, according to Kilde, "The characteristic of this new plan that became most universally replicated was not the ring of classrooms but the use of recessible walls and rolling partitions to separate Sunday school spaces from sanctuaries. This feature of recessible walls seems to explain the universalization of the term Akron Plan in the twentieth century to mean almost any church sanctuary with an attached room separated by a recessible wall… Popularlized by architect Warren H. Hayes, the diagonal plan effectively integrated the sanctuary with an Akron Plan Sunday school."[15] The plan gained increasing popularity from the 1880s to 1910s, particularly among Methodist, Congregational, and Episcopal congregations.

Architect George W. Ashby (1860-1933)

Aside from their satisfaction with George W. Ashby's work history, it is not known why the building committee of the First Congregational Church selected Ashby. It is possible they learned of Ashby through their connections with the Congregational church organization in Chicago or other connections in the Midwest. Few Kansas buildings have been attributed to Ashby, although he published many house designs while with Radford Architectural Company and was known for his designs of schools.[16]

Ashby was a native of LaFayette, Indiana, and received his architecture training at Purdue University. He apprenticed with William LeBaron Jenney. In 1903, he joined the Radford Architectural Company and co-authored many of their publications and designed house plans and building specifications the company sold. Radford's

[11] See Kansas Historic Resources Inventory record 125-2670-00003.
[12] See Kansas Historic Resources Inventory record 125-2670-00113.
[13] This church shares many similarities with the National Register-listed First Congregational Church in Anthony, Harper County, Kansas. It was completed in 1910 and features the Gothic Revival style. It, too, has three crenellated towers, impressive sanctuary windows, and a similar amphitheater-style sanctuary on a diagonal plan. Much of the following discussion of the interior plan is adapted from the Anthony church nomination.
[14] Jeanne Halgren Kilde, When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 117.
[15] Ibid., 177 and 179.
[16] Just one National Register-listed property in Kansas is attributed to Ashby – the Guldner House in Wichita. See Kansas Historic Resources Inventory record 173-5880-06483.

Artistic Homes (1908) lists G.W. Ashby as the vice-president of Radford Architectural Company. He published his own book, Ashby's Design of Schools and Libraries in 1909.[17]

Summary

The First Congregational Church in Independence is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the area of architecture. Completed in 1911, it reflects a unique interpretation of the Gothic Revival style in its crenellated towers, steeply pitched roof, and flattened Gothic arch windows.

[17] Kathy L. Morgan, "Guldner House" National Register of Historic Places nomination (Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 2010), 6-7.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, vol. 2.* Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883.

Ferguson, Mina (church secretary). *Memorials in the Church*. Prepared for 110th Anniversary, November 22, 1981.

First Congregational Church. Building Committee Notes. Undated [circa 1910]. Copy on file with nomination.

First Congregational Church. Treasurer Records. 12 February 1914. Copy on file with nomination.

Harper, Paul F. *The Temple of Fame: A Personal Biography of Lyman Underwood Humphrey*. Newton, KS: Mennonite Press, 1995. (Paul F. Harper served as a pastor at this church.)

Independence Daily Reporter, 8 May 1911.

Independence News, 5 October 1996.

Linsenmayer, Penny T. "Kansas Settlers on the Osage Diminished Reserve: A Study of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie." In *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 24 (Autumn 2001): 168–185.

Morgan, Kathy L. "Guldner House" National Register of Historic Places nomination. Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 2010.

Owen, T.H. (church member). Compilation of Historical Notes. Unpublished, n.d. Filed in church archive.

South Kansas Tribune, 28 September 1910.

Taggart, Nellie. Church History, 1946. Church Archive.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__x__State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ___N/A_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.21 acres

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

First Congregational Church & Society of Independence
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

1	37.226818	-95.708961	3		
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2			4		
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The nominated property includes the church and the lots with which it is currently associated, described as follows: ORIG PLAT, S30, T32, R16, LOT 6; S 6' LOT 7 BLK 8; Lot Width: 066.0 Lot Depth: 140.0.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The above-noted boundary description includes the property historically associated with the First Congregational Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Annette Tucker (KSHS edits)

organization First Congregational Church & Society of Independence date

street & number 400 N 9th Street telephone

city or town Independence state KS zip code 67301

e-mail

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name First Congregational Church & Society of Independence

street & number 400 N 9th Street telephone

city or town Independence state KS zip code 67301

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photograph Log

Name of Property: First Congregational Church

City or Vicinity: Independence

County: Montgomery State: KS

Photographer: Sarah J. Martin

Date Photographed: February 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 14: Overall view of church, camera facing NE
2 of 14: West (front) façade, camera facing E
3 of 14: West (front) façade, showing close-up of porch, camera facing E
4 of 14: Northwest corner of building, showing elevator tower, camera facing SE
5 of 14: Northeast corner of building, camera facing NW
6 of 14: Overall view of church, camera facing NW
7 of 14: Sanctuary window on south wall of church, camera facing NE
8 of 14: Date stone at SW corner of building, camera facing NE
9 of 14: Overall view of sanctuary interior (choir entrance at left corner, main entrance at right corner), camera facing west wall
10 of 14: Overall view of sanctuary interior (sanctuary widow on north wall at right), camera facing NW
11 of 14: Overflow sanctuary space/sitting area on main floor, camera facing N
12 of 14: Stairwell at secondary entrance, camera facing SE
13 of 14: Interior, basement meeting space
14 of 14: Second floor loft area (mothballed and closed off), camera facing NW

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Figure 1: Contextual Map, Google.com 2014.

Figure 2: Close-in Map, Google.com 2014.

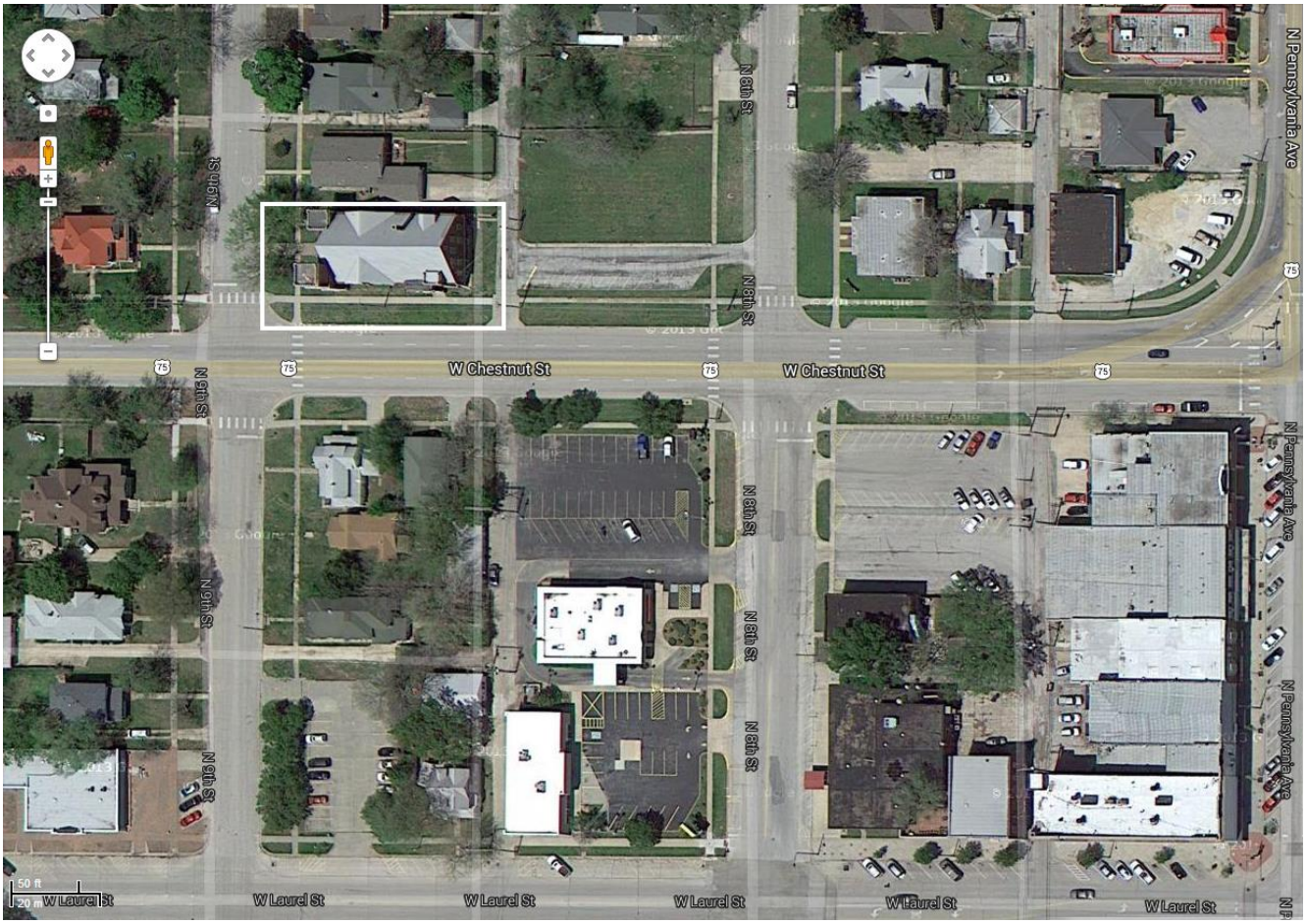


Figure 3: Map produced prior to construction of nominated building showing location of original church.
John P. Edwards. Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Kansas (Philadelphia, PA: F. Bourquin Printer, 1881), 23.
Source: http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/224026

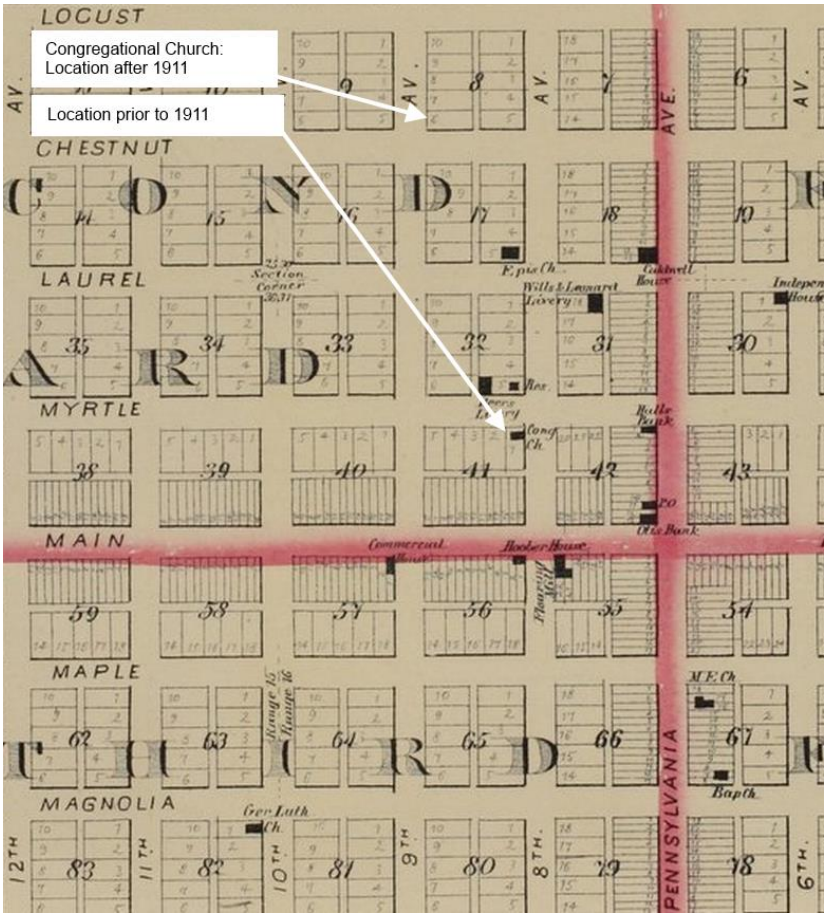


Figure 4: Map shows First Congregational Church at northeast corner of 9th and Chestnut streets. The Kenyon Company, *Atlas and Plat Book of Montgomery County, Kansas* (Independence, KS: H. J. Richmond, 1916), 41.
Source: http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/224027.

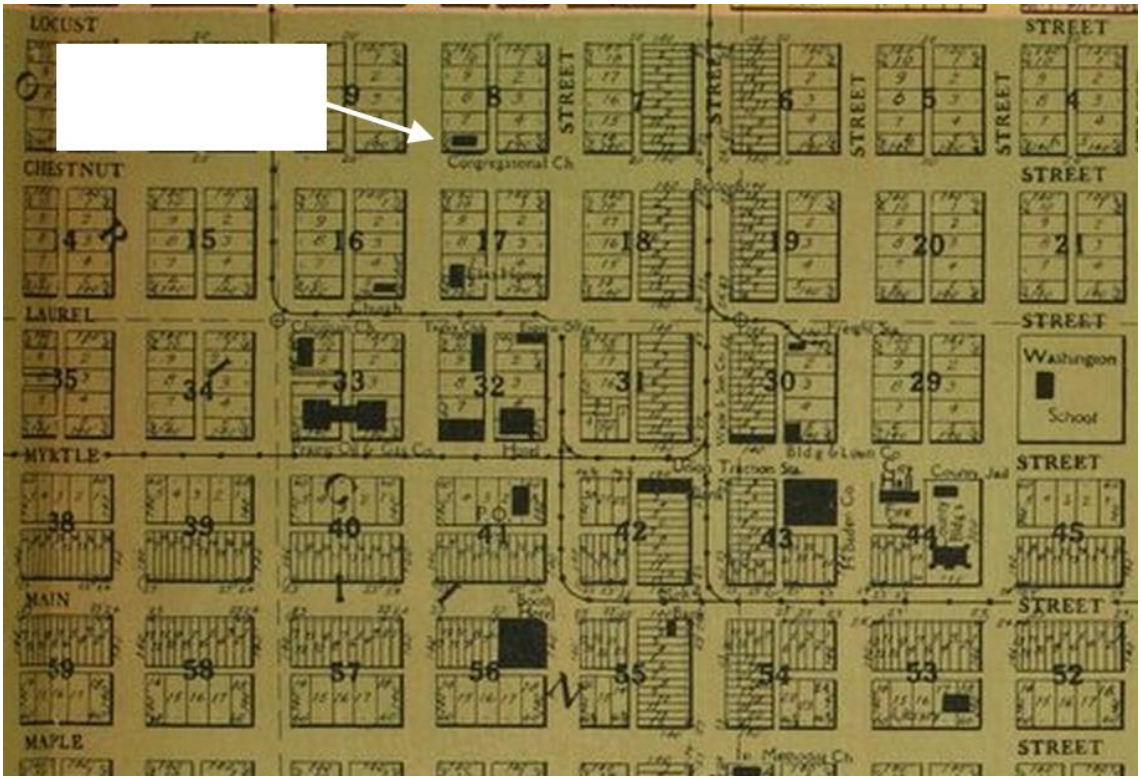
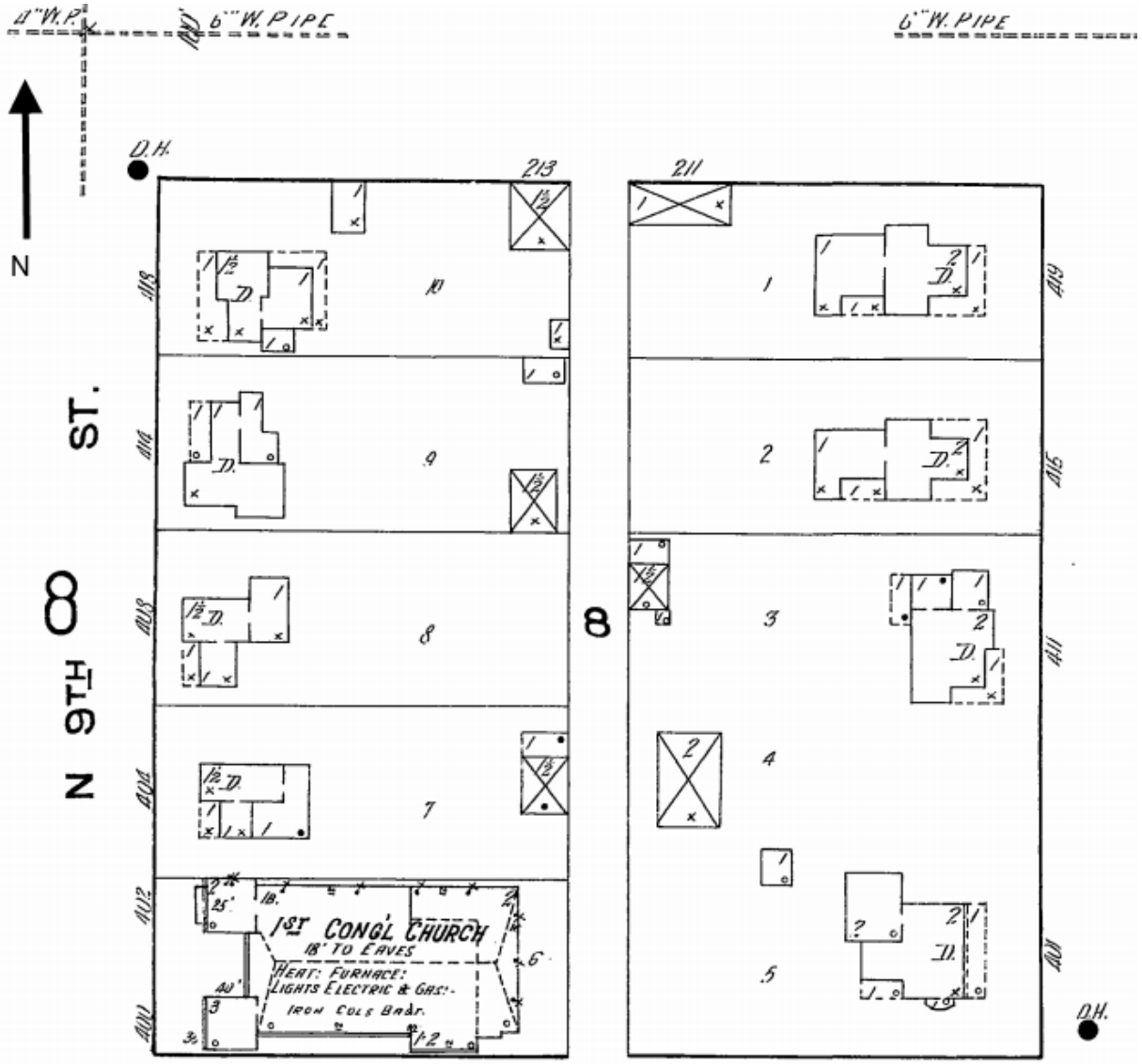
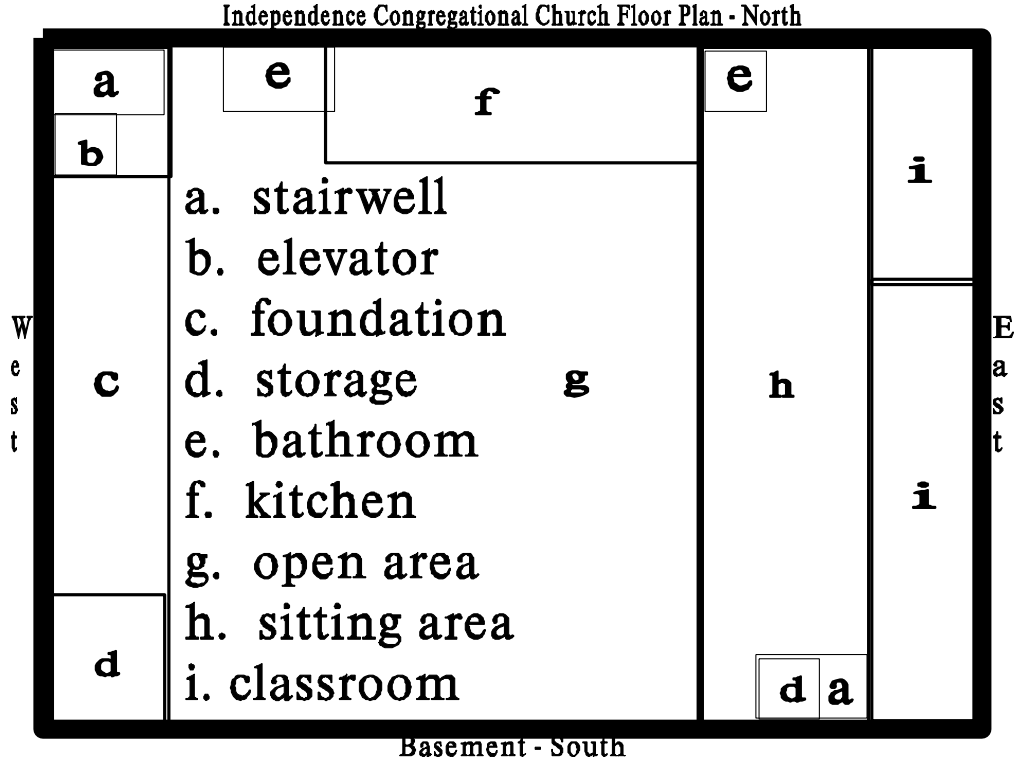


Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Independence, KS. 1916, page 9.



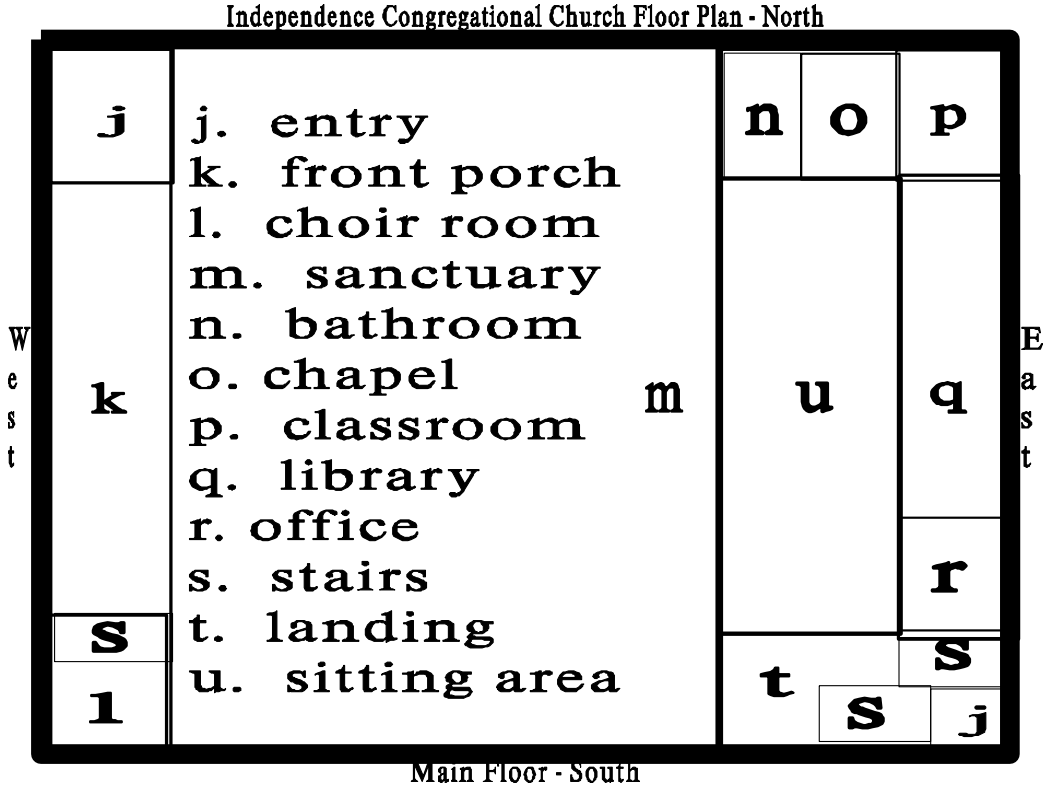
Figures 6 & 7: Interior plans, **NOT TO SCALE**

Independence Congregational Church Floor Plan - North



Basement - South

Independence Congregational Church Floor Plan - North



Main Floor - South

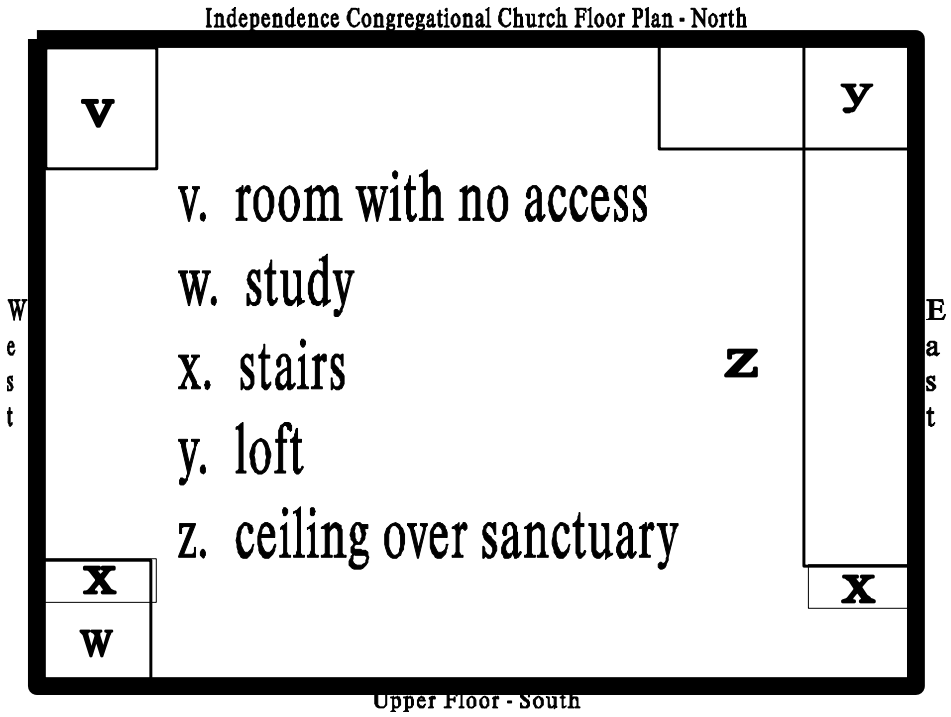



Figure 8: Interior plan, **NOT TO SCALE**