



Date December 21, 2015

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM BURNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO DEMOLISH THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 811 CROCKER STREET PURSUANT TO DES MOINES MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 58-70, HISTORIC REVIEW

WHEREAS, Burns United Methodist Church has made an application for a demolition permit to demolish the building located at 811 Crocker Street; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-70, Historic Review, an initial review has been conducted and the Community Development Director has determined that the building is greater than 50 years old, is historically significant and meets the criteria for landmark designation set forth in Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-58; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(d), the application for demolition has been referred to the City Council for review at this regularly scheduled meeting and the owner of the building, Burns United Methodist Church, has been provided the required notice of this City Council review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(d), the City Council must consider comments from all interested parties and determine whether or not to refer the application for proposed demolition to the Landmark Review Board for further study and review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa that all oral and written comments from all interested parties with respect to the proposed demolition of the building located at 811 Crocker Street have been given full consideration.

ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTIONS

- A. The City Council hereby determines that the application for demolition of the building at 811 Crocker Street shall be referred to the Landmark Review Board and, in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(e), the Landmark Review Board is directed at regularly scheduled and/or special meetings of the Board to work with the owner of the building to determine, within 90 days, whether any alternatives to demolition are feasible.



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number


62

Date December 21, 2015

B. The City Council hereby determines that the application for demolition of the building at 811 Crocker Street shall not be referred to the Landmark Review Board and in accordance with Des Moines Municipal Code Subsection 58-70(d), the Community Development Department staff shall provide guidance for the owner to complete the requirements for documenting and photographing the building and for salvaging for re-use as many fixtures and as much material as possible from the building to the satisfaction of the Community Development Director prior to authorizing issuance of the demolition permit.

Moved by _____ to receive and file Council Communication No. 15-_____, all documentation provided by staff and all oral and written comments and documentation from all interested parties, and to adopt Alternative _____ above.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Lawrence R. McDowell
Deputy City Attorney

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COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mayor

City Clerk

62



December 1, 2015

Ms. Joyce Wilks
Burns United Methodist Church
1909 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
Des Moines, IA 50314

RE: Demolition Request – 811 Crocker Street

Dear Ms. Wilks:

The Community Development Department has received your request for the demolition of the church building at 811 Crocker Street formally known as the Burns United Methodist Church. We have conducted our initial review of this request in accordance with Section 58-70 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and have determined that the building is greater than 50 years old and meets the criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 58-58.

Sec. 58-58 Designation Criteria

- (a) For purpose of this article, a landmark or landmark site designation may be placed on any site, natural or improved, including any building, improvement or structure located thereon that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:*
 - (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;*
 - (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;*
 - (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;*
 - (4) 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 may lack individual distinction; or*
 - (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.*

This property is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The areas of significance noted in the nomination are relating to religion, social/humanitarian and African-American history. The building meets criterion 1 and 2 as listed above based on the building’s role in the history of the African-American community in Des Moines and given that it is one of the few surviving buildings from the neighborhood that existed before Interstate 235 was constructed and urban renewal projects occurred.

Per our phone conversation on November 30, 2015, this request will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration in accordance with Section 58-70(d) at their December 21, 2015 meeting. City Council meetings start at 4:30 PM and are held in the Council Chamber on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. At this meet the City Council will determine if the request should be referred to the Landmark Review Board for further study or if no additional evaluation is necessary. You or other representatives of the Burns United Methodist Church will be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Attached is a copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the property along with a copy of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Applicants are asked to consider alternatives to demolition and are required to document the building and provide a salvage plan. Alternatives to consider include, but are not limited to, actively marketing the property for reuse, identifying financial assistance to support rehabilitation such as historic tax credits, or incorporating the building into redevelopment plans for the site. Please see Section 58-70 of the Ordinance for additional information.

Please contact me at 515-283-4147 or at jmvanessen@dmgov.org if you have any questions.

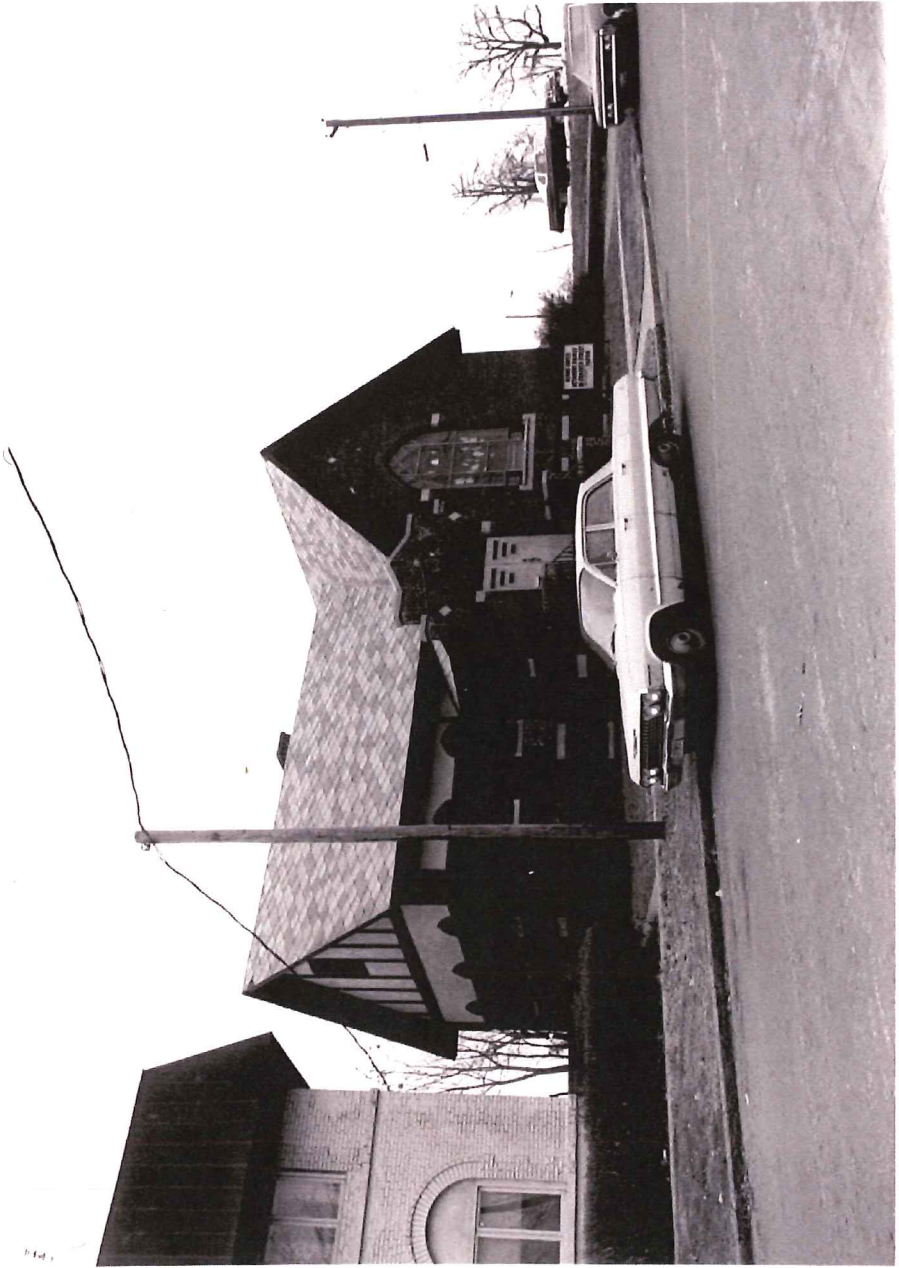
Sincerely,



Jason Van Essen, AICP
Senior City Planner



Burns United Methodist Church
Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa
Credit: Jack C. Porter
520 12th, W. Des Moines, Iowa
Neg. at: Same Date: 1976
View: from southeast
JUN 15 1977 ¹⁰⁶² MAY 9 1977



Burns United Methodist Church
Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa
Credit: Jack C. Porter, 520 12th,
West Des Moines, Ia. 2012
Date: 1976
Neg. at: Same MAY 9 1977
View: looking northeast
JUN 15 1977

PH036093X

DATA SHEET

62

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUN 15 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Burns United Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
811 Crocker Street

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

STATE
Iowa

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY
Polk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
4

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Burns United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER
811 Crocker Street

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

STATE
Iowa

VICINITY OF
Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Des Moines

STATE
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Burns United Methodist Church, built in 1912, is a small (62' x 34'), compact religious structure located on the near northwest edge of downtown Des Moines. The gently sloping land is heavily urban-residential in character, although commercial development is encroaching from the south. It is a changing neighborhood of small, elderly houses and apartment buildings.

The church is one story high, on a raised basement. It is made of brick, laid in eight-course common bond with Flemish variants. The gable roof-sections, covered in composition shingle set in a diamond pattern are at right angles, revealing the interior division into two distinct sections. A shed-roof extension of the east side is similarly functional, covering the rear of a small stage inside. A small, gable-roofed entrance with parapet is set into the angle formed by the two sections of the church, and reached by a short flight of concrete steps.

Windows on the basement level are short, almost square, with flat stone sills and lintels. Main floor windows have stained glass and Tudor arches with brick hoods, except the large window in the sanctuary (front elevation). This shape is repeated in the double-door main entrance, with stained glass filling the arch above the doors themselves. Another Tudor design feature is the half-timberwork of the west section, which begins at the level of the imposts of the window arches and reaches to the eaves.

The exterior of the church conforms closely to the original design, with the exception of small corner pilasters, which appear in the drawings though not on the building itself. A fire in the mid-1940's caused some interior damage; exterior damage was repaired to conform to the original design.

The main floor interior has two basic sections: an auditorium with small stage to the east, classrooms and pastor's study on the west. Flooring is oak, walls and ceiling painted plaster with wood trim. The basement contains kitchen, dining, and living room areas, heating units and washrooms. Some rearrangement of the main floor classroom areas has taken place.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Afro-American History

SPECIFIC DATES built 1912 ~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT Wetherell and Gage, Des Moines

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since 1930, this structure has been the home of the Burns United Methodist Church, which was organized in 1866 as the first black congregation of its denomination in Des Moines. The church was named for Francis Burns (1809-1863), the first black missionary bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church, who served from 1838 in the American-instituted colony for former slaves in Liberia. Its creation by the Second South Annual Methodist Conference was a recognition of the particular problems and needs of black people, and as a means by which the growing black community in Des Moines might find a focus, self-confidence, and self-definition.

The first census which recorded the black population of Polk County was in 1860, and showed only 13 black persons in the county, indicating that the first congregation of the Burns Church must have been extremely small. Black population in the county, particularly in Des Moines, increased substantially during the late 1860's and 1870's, providing additional membership for the church.

From its founding until the purchase of the present church from the German Emmanuel Methodist congregation in 1930, the Burns church had six successive places of worship. This seems to reflect not only the probably extremely limited finances with which the congregation could work, but, more significantly, a tenacity and will to keep together under changing and peripatetic conditions. The first church was housed in a school building in the city, along with the city's segregated school for black children. In 1873 a small chapel was built, but rising membership (largely immigrants from Missouri) forced a move to a larger building between 1885 and 1887. Between 1907 and the purchase of the Crocker Street church, the Burns congregation moved three more times.

Throughout these peripatetic years, and afterward, the Burns Methodist congregation displayed a remarkable cohesion and continuity. Wherever located, the church was a focus of community, as well as religious life, for many members of Des Moines' black population. Literary societies, "musical evenings", group dinners for fun as well as for financial reasons, were regular activities. The Sunday School program and a variety of charitable efforts, particularly on behalf of the elderly, extended church influence to all ages. Proposed purchase of the Crocker Street church occasioned strenuous efforts by the congregation to raise the necessary funds. For two years, during which the Depression began with the 1929 stock market crash, fund raising dinners were held, a quartet formed among parishioners sang around the state, and other money-producing activities were organized, each perhaps small in itself, but together providing the price of a permanent church.

The Burns Methodist Church today continues to perform its historic function in the community. Although the congregation's funds are limited, interest among parishioners is growing to maintain the building's character, and to achieve recognition of the church's long history of service in Des Moines.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Howard, Lawrence C. "The Des Moines Negro and His Contribution to American Life,"
Annals of Iowa (3 Series) 30:3 (Jan. 1950), pp. 211-221.
History of the Burns Methodist Church (compiled by members of the congregation). 102nd
Anniversary (1968). Privately printed.
The Midwestern, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Sept. 1908), p. 89
The Des Moines Weekly Avalanche, Saturday, Jan. 20, 1893.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,4,7,6,6,0	4,6,0,4,6,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southwest corner of block, bounded on south by Crocker Street, and on east by 8th Street,
Des Moines

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack C. Porter, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Foundation for Historic Conservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

520 12th St.

TELEPHONE

515/283-4182

CITY OR TOWN

West Des Moines

STATE

Iowa 50265

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Johnson

DATE

6.15.77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATT

Henry Ward Janda for

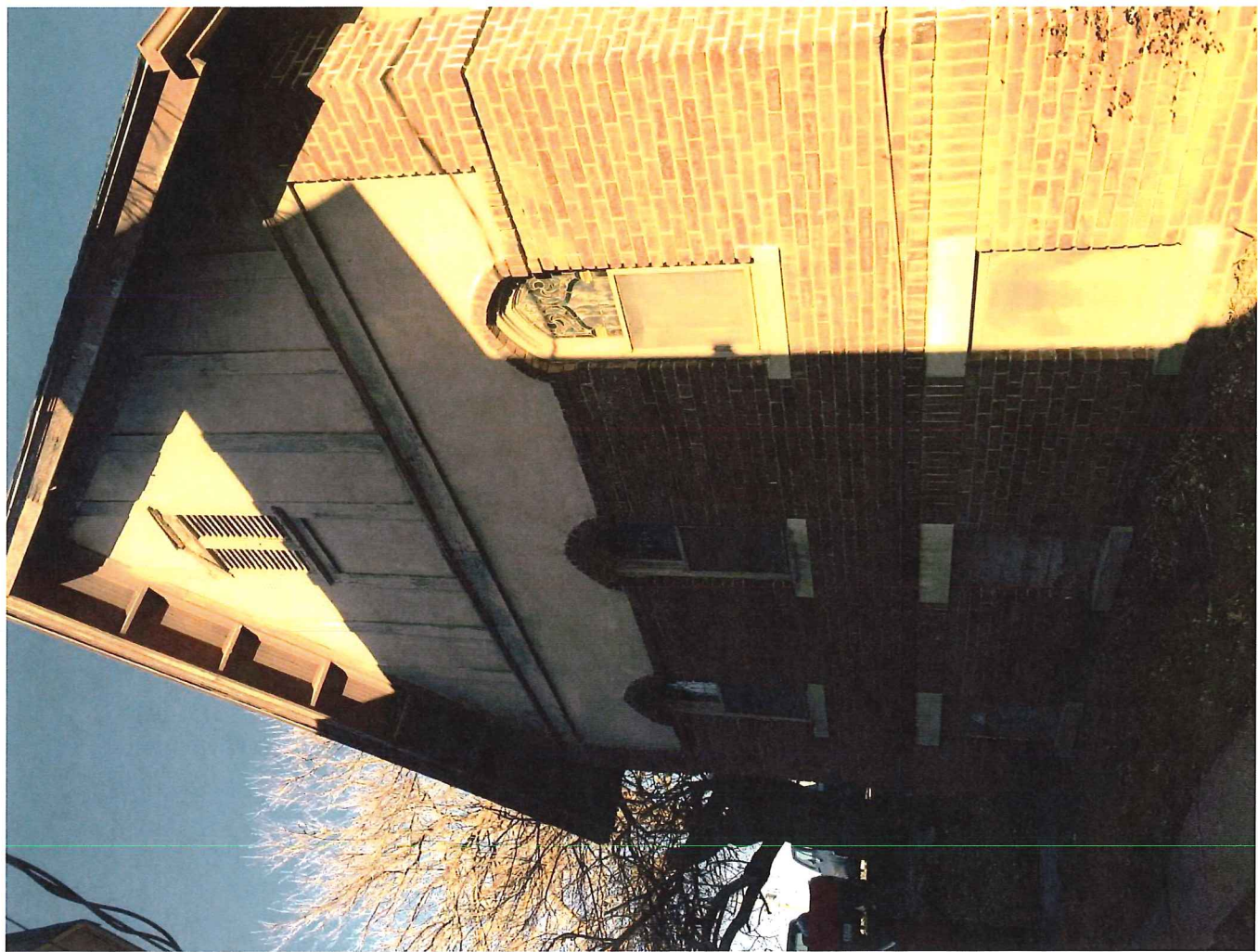
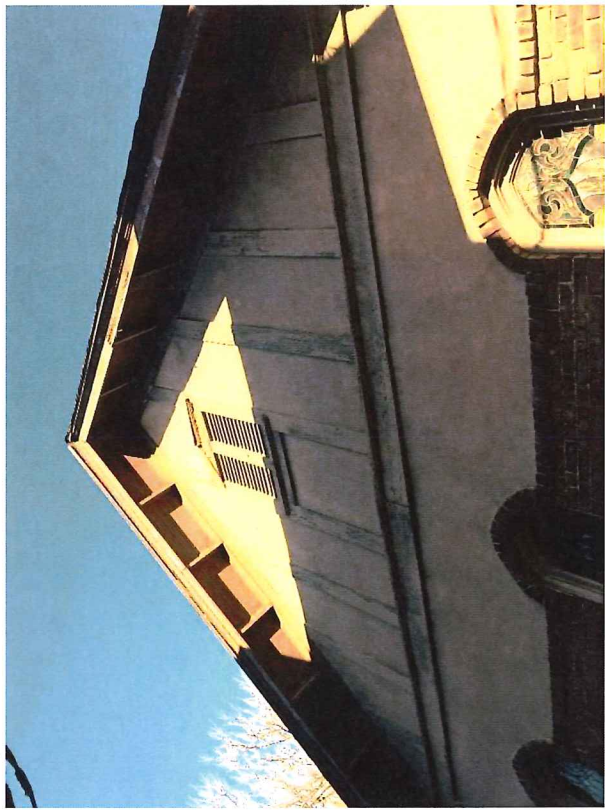
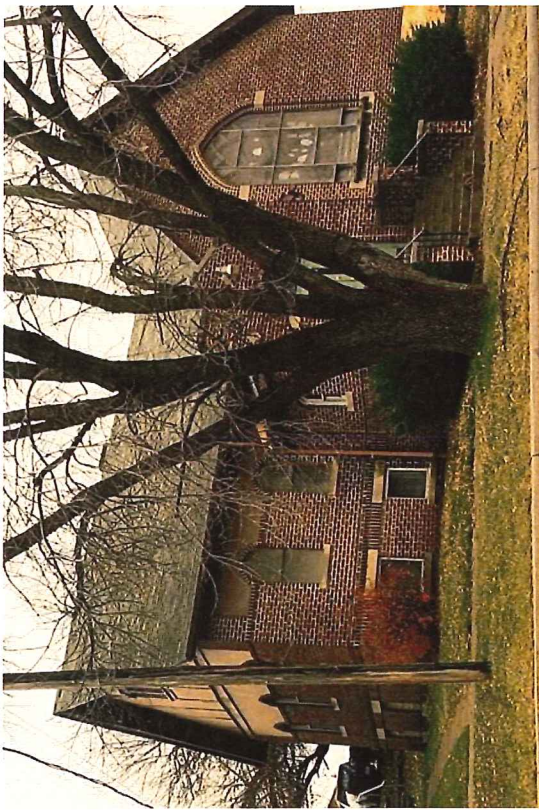
DATE

6.14.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



102



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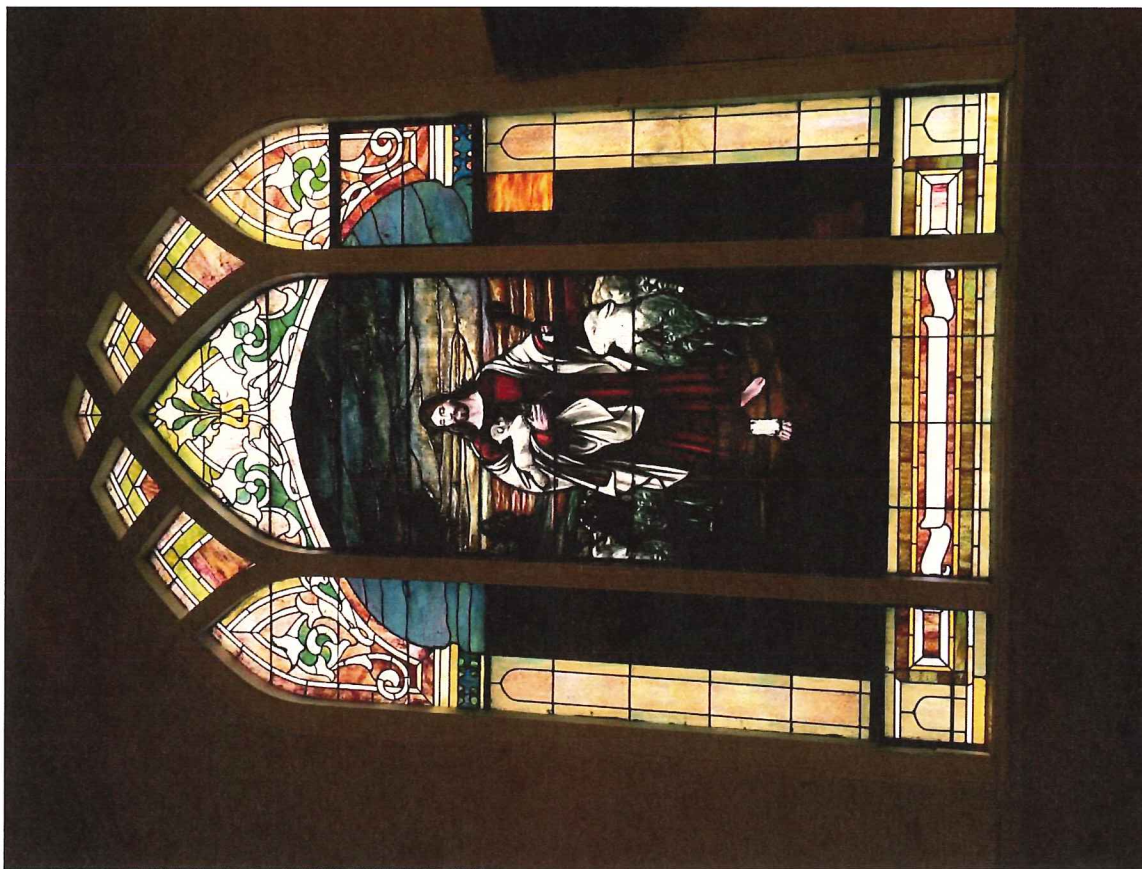
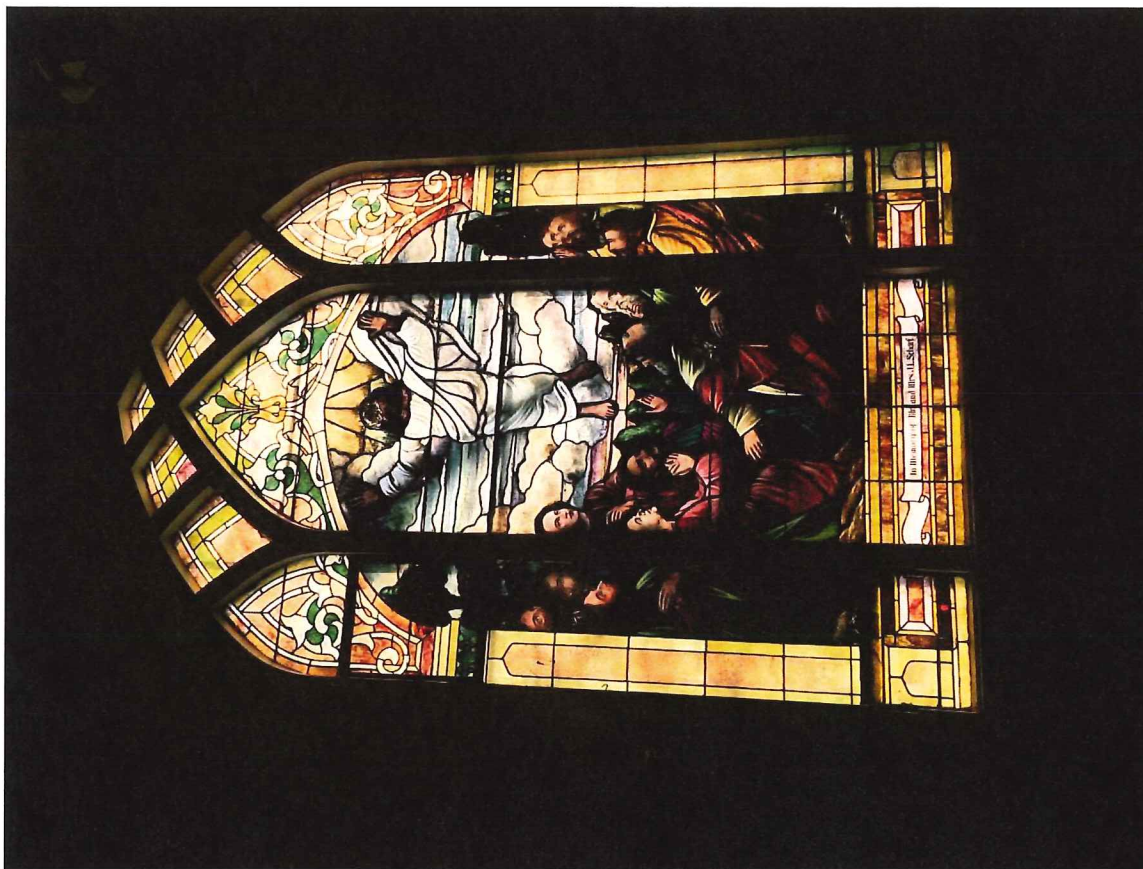




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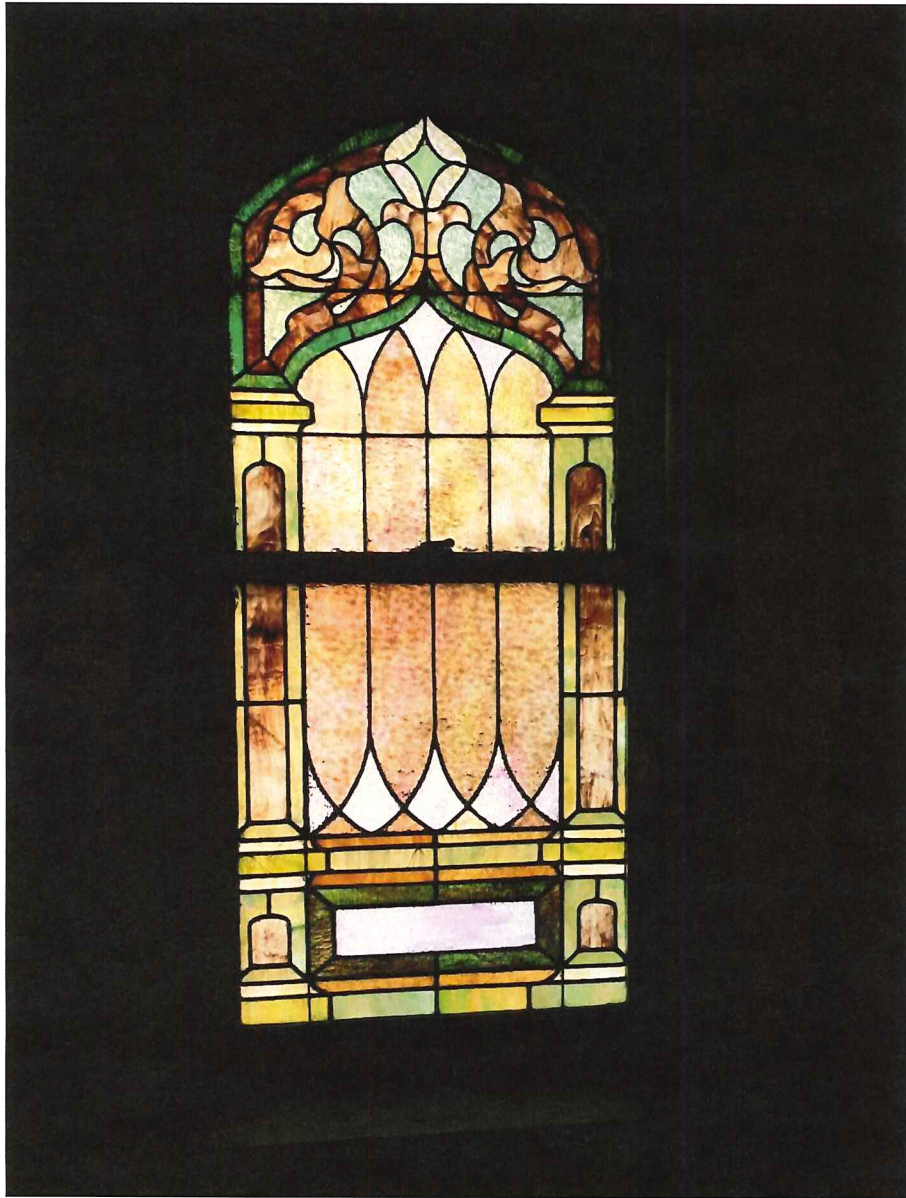


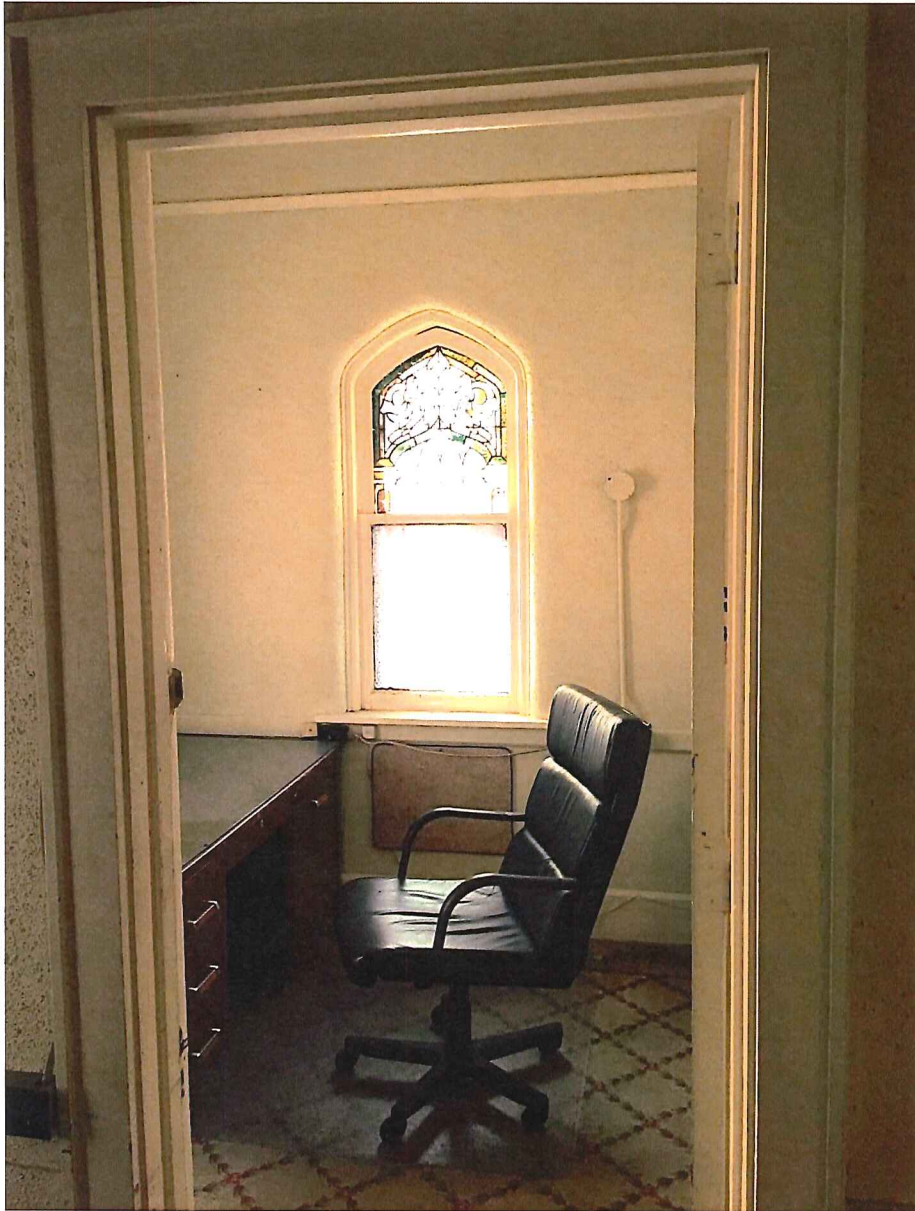
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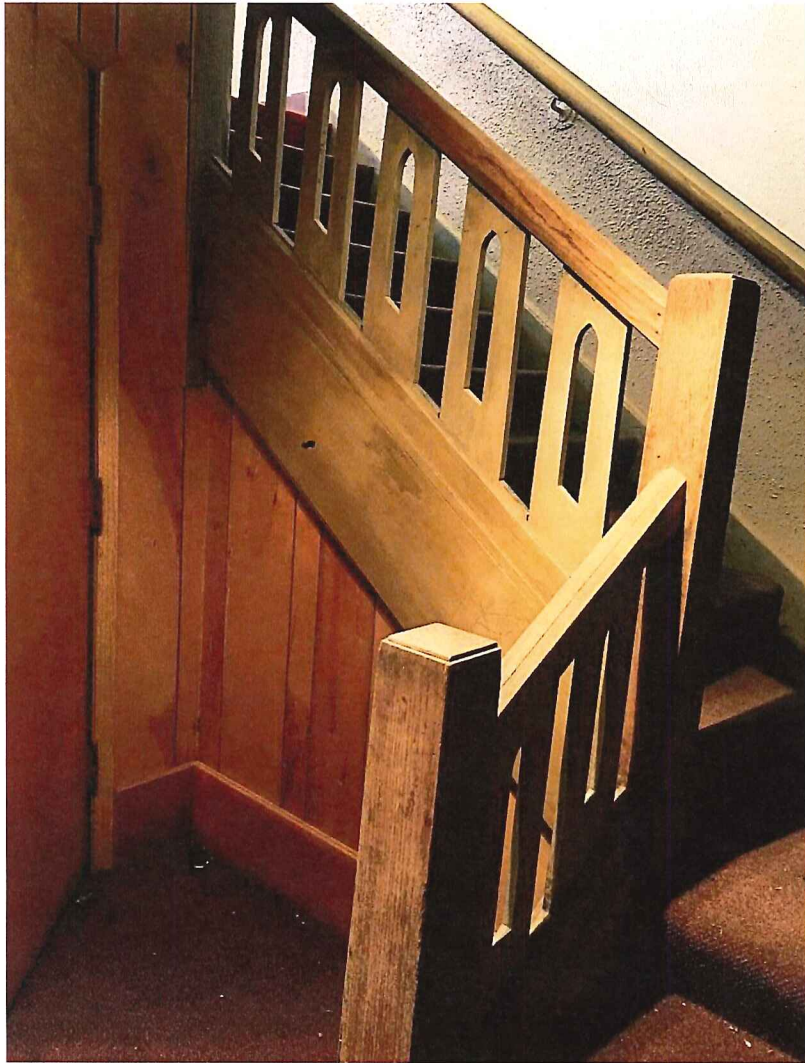




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62