

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 30 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

**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
~~*~~~~*~~ King Memorial Chapel
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Cornell College *campus* NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Mt. Vernon VICINITY OF 2 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Iowa CODE Linn COUNTY CODE 113

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Board of Trustees, Cornell College
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Mt. Vernon VICINITY OF Iowa STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Linn County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Cedar Rapids Iowa STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The King Memorial Chapel is a cruciform-plan structure built in the high Victorian Gothic style. It is constructed of undressed yellow dolomite, laid in a random ashlar pattern. The structure is marked by three towers. One is square-sided, with louvred, pointed-arched openings on each side; the four-sided spire bears four clocks and a mansard spire topped by a decorative iron railing. Another is round, in four sections divided by stringcourses. The lower three sections are pierced by pointed-arched openings, the fourth by circular windows. The round spire is surmounted by a molded tin pinnacle. A third tower at the rear is square-based and also pierced by pointed-arched lights.

Windows throughout the building exhibit Gothic tracery and are filled with stained glass, including the transom over the entry.

Two of the three chimneys have pressed tin decorative pinnacles above the flue openings. The gable roof is covered in composition shingle resembling slate.

The interior has undergone some alteration, but still contains much fine woodwork, including beamed ceilings. Exterior changes have been limited to the removal of decorative wrought-iron roof cresting, replacement of main entrance doors, removal of a flagpole and the original slate roof, and the addition of a spiral fire escape.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1875-76

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cass Chapman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, King Chapel is an excellent example of the high Victorian Gothic style. In addition, the chapel has served as a cultural center for Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, and a wide geographic area. The 19th-century Iowa colleges were part of a movement to spread culture among the people. The Iowa gentry supported such efforts, and colleges became the spearhead of the movement. Corness and the chapel played a role in this effort, offering lectures, concerts, and performances which were open to the public. These activities brought together town and gown, farmer and gentleman, all seeking cultural enrichment.

Providing seating for over 1000 persons was an asset. The admission fees gained from a large audience enabled the college to negotiate with a variety of artists and famous people. Among those appearing at King Chapel over the years were William Howard Taft, Amelia Earhart, Carl Sandburg, Frank Lloyd Wright, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Walter Giesecking.

As a house of worship, the chapel has a unique history, having never been the home of a formal and established congregation. Religious services were originally required as part of the educational experience provided by the college, and in later years the building has served as a worship place for meetings of the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and for special meetings of other denominations.

While the predominate use of the chapel is currently as an auditorium, the symbolism found in the cruciform plan and the windows continues to give the building an essentially religious character. It is perhaps the largest such religious structure in the state which is not supported by an active congregation of adherents.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial History of Mount Vernon, Iowa. Centennial Committee, Hawkeye Record Press, Mt. Vernon, 1948.

King, William F. Reminiscences. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915.

The Cornellian, Cornell College, 17 April 1931; 17 October 1952; 16 January 1967.

"Laying Corner-Stone of the Chapel," 22 June 1876 program for the event.

Cole, Arrola B. The King Memorial Chapel. Cornell Press, 1953.

The Mount Vernon Hawk-eye October 1875-February 1899.

The Palimpsest, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City. April, 1953, April 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

700

A	1 5	6 3 0	7 0 5	4 6 4	2 4 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard H. Thomas, Associate Professor of History

ORGANIZATION

Cornell College

DATE

28 January 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Mt. Vernon

STATE

Iowa

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, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/8/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/2/76

Property King Memorial Chapel

State IOWA Working! Number 4.30.76.3265

Linn
+6000 782

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
5.7.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Luce
10/22/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
m. g. Luce
10-26-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

active
BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Coll
10.29.76

KEEPER

Wm
11/2/76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered NOV 7 1976
Federal Register Entry 12-7-76 Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

WILLIAM FLETCHER KING MEM.
CHAPEL, Cornell College
Mount Vernon, Iowa Linn Co.

looking south at the north
and west facades.

Credit: Public Relations Office,
Cornell College

Negative Filed at: Same

Date: 1975

APR 30 1976

NOV 7 1976



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Credit: Public Relations Office
Cornell College
Negative Filed at: Same
Date: 1975

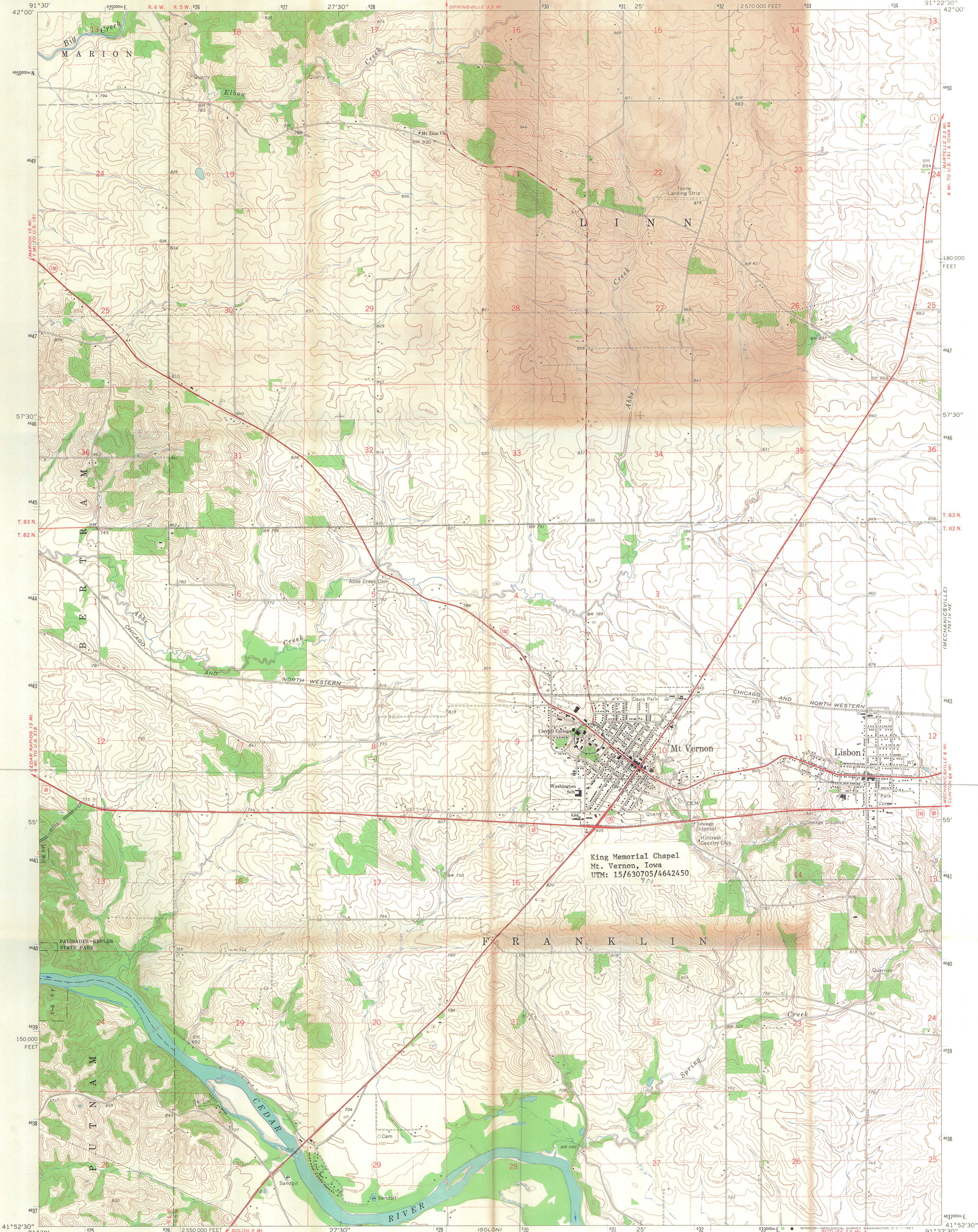
APR 30 1976

WILLIAM FLETCHER KING MEM.
CHAPEL, Cornell College
Mount Vernon, Iowa Lino Co.

looking west at the east
facade.

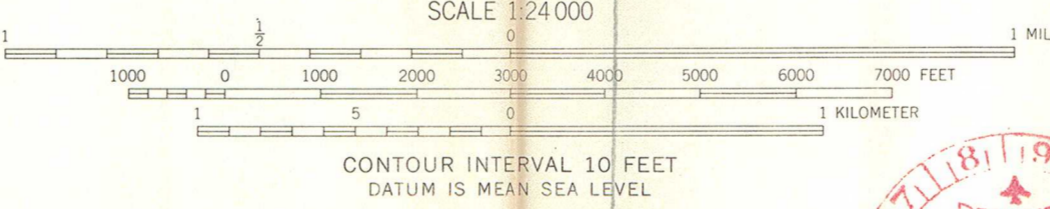
By: Public Relations Office
CORNELL

NOV 7 1976



King Memorial Chapel
Mt. Vernon, Iowa
UTM: 15/630705/4642450
7.00

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Iowa Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs
This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20509
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MT. VERNON, IOWA
N4152.5—W9122.5/7.5
1965
AMS 7767 IV NW—SERIES V876

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
129 So. Capitol St.
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
1°03' 19 MILS
5° 59 MILS

NOV 7 1976

STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date: 26 April 1976

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Having received approval by Iowa's State Nominations Review Committee,
please find enclosed completed National Register nomination forms
for the following historic property:

King Memorial Chapel, Mt. Vernon, Linn County, Iowa

This is submitted for review by your staff in accordance with procedures
for entering properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
Attached is a copy of the procedures used by this Division to meet
requirements pertaining to public notification and comment as requested
by the National Park Service.

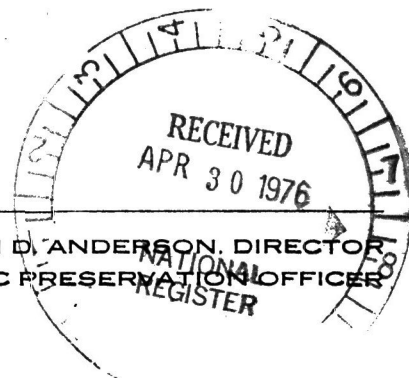
Sincerely,



Adrian D. Anderson, Director



STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
NATIONAL REGISTER

SUBJECT: Procedures Concerning Nominations of Historic Properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Nomination forms submitted to Division.
2. Division staff edits nomination forms to prepare them for consideration at quarterly meetings of State Nomination Review Committee.
3. Public notification of meeting in paper of greatest circulation (Des Moines Register) 10 days prior to meeting. Property owners notified of meeting date and opportunity to comment approximately 10 days prior to meeting date. Copies of nomination forms forwarded to Review Committee members approximately 10 days prior to scheduled quarterly meeting date.
4. Nomination Review Committee reviews nominations and comments received, and recommends approval or rejection of nominations. Property owners notified of Committee's decision and given an opportunity to comment (20 days).
5. Twenty days after notification of owner concerning the Committee's decision, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall sign nomination forms for State and transmit them to the National Register of Historic Places.
6. N.R. staff review nominations and approves or rejects; federal register will publish notification and opportunity for comment.
7. National Register will notify State Historic Preservation Officer of its decision, and SHPO will notify Board and Property owner and person nominating the property.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE IOWA
Date Entered NOV 7 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Floral Hall	Tipton vicinity Cedar County
Shot Tower	Dubuque Dubuque County
Thedinga, J. H., House	Dubuque Dubuque County
Western Hotel	Holy Cross vicinity Dubuque County
King Memorial Chapel	Mt. Vernon Linn County
Elkader Keystone Bridge	Elkader Clayton County
College Hall	Fayette Fayette County
Carter House	Elkader Clayton County

Also Notified

Hon. Dick Clark
Hon. John C. Culver
Hon. Michael T. Blouin
Regional Director, Midwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director, State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B-13 MacLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

880 MMott/row 11/11/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 10/22/76
 Reviewer: WRE
 NR
 DOE NOV 7 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: King Memorial Chapel

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: Cornell College Campus

STREET & NUMBER: [blank]
 CITY, TOWN: Mt. Vernon CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2

STATE: Iowa VICINITY OF: 19 COUNTY: Linn code: 113

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): [blank] FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME): [blank]
 NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1
 unknown - 4
 not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2
 unknown - 5
 not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3
 unknown - 6
 Not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
 GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
 FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
 Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME: [blank]

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME: [blank]

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
 then- church
 now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

High Victorian ~~Revival~~
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gothic (High Victorian?)

architect/m-builder: Cass Chapman

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional Cornell College

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1875-76^{IX} - 1876

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

cruciform plan structure - undressed yellow dolomite in random ashlar pattern - cross gable roofs. 3 towers - 1 round with 4 stories with conical roof. 1 square with mansard roof and 1 smaller square tower, gothic windows

Random ashlar, ^{CROSS-} cruciform shape, cross-gabled roof, front corner round and square towers tower with conical cap; front corner square bell tower with mansard roof, double-door entrance, and louvered windows, pointed- and segmental-arched windows; interior seats 1000. High Victorian Gothic. Provides facilities for religious services as well as educational and cultural events for Cornell College; notable speakers have included William Howard Taft, Amelia Earhart, Carl Sandburg, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

King Chapel, although used for religious services has never been the home of a formal, established congregation. It has provided religious services, and more importantly an auditorium for speakers and cultural events for Cornell College and has hosted notables including William Howard Taft, Amelia Earhart, Carl Sandburg, Frank Lloyd Wright and Martin Luther King, Jr.