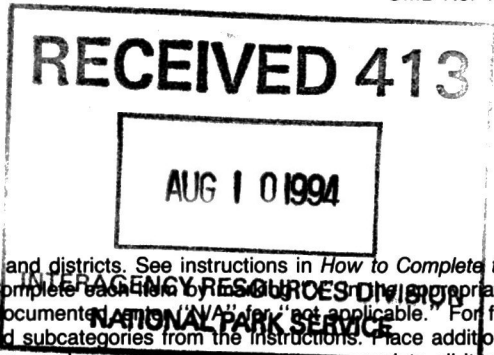


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each of the appropriate boxes or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" if not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Presbyterian Church

other names/site number 029-029-51171

2. Location

street & number 215 Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Aurora N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Dearborn code 029 zip code 47001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick R. Ralke 8/5/94
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9-9-94
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 Entered in the National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

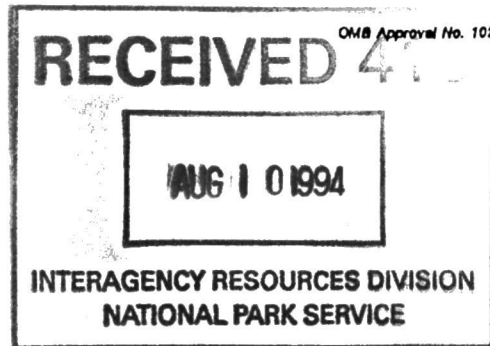
other METAL: tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

Narrative Statement of Description

The Aurora First Presbyterian Church, designed by John R. Hamilton, a Cincinnati architect, is a rectangular shaped, two story, gable front, Greek Revival ecclesiastic structure. Its white temple form, location on a hillside site on the southeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets, makes a striking and imposing appearance as one moves up Main Street from downtown Aurora.

The front facade, which faces north, has a symmetrical three bay facade. The structure is approximately 45' x 75'. The walls are red brick in a common bond pattern, currently painted white, and rest on a rough cut limestone foundation. A stone band course separates the first and second floors. The second floor windows nearest the corners are in recessed panels which are created by corner pilasters and a slightly projecting central bay. The pilasters have no base, which is somewhat awkward, and sit directly on the stone band course. The pilasters have stepped brick capitals. Pilasters also create recessed panels on the east and west facades.

First floor facade contains a centrally located entrance with wooden replacement, double doors with five horizontal lights. There is no porch, but a wide cut stone stoop and stone door sill. On either side of the entrance there are five pane sidelights and a four pane transom. The door opening is flanked by two square wooden pilasters with simple wooden bases and capitals. The capitals meet the stone band course. Attached to the pilasters are two small 20th century, cast iron, electric lights. The entrance is topped by an entablature with a wide frieze and cornice with dentils.

Flanking the door are two recessed voids or panels which were intended to simulate window openings and maintain the symmetry of the building, but were probably always covered. Behind these areas are the internal stairs to the second floor sanctuary. The second story contains three large rectangular-shaped stained glass windows with a slight reveal and stone sills and lintels. The stained glass windows date from the early 20th century and contain a pale green pediment at the top which extends down the sides to an illusionary base. Other colors include caramel, dark green, purple, and lavender.

Above the pilaster capitals there is a brick, stepped, band course in the frieze area and an enclosed low pitched pediment facing Fourth Street. Centered in the gable is a date/

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

inscription stone which reads, "FIRST / PRESBYTERIAN / CHURCH. / FOUNDED, 1850." Originally, the building had extended eaves and probably boxed gutters, but these have been cut back and currently there are no eaves and modern gutters. The roof is made of asphalt shingles and there are corner downspouts.

The steeple tower, which doubles the height of the structure, is composed of four sections: base, belfry, clock, and steeple. All four sides or faces of the tower contain the same features. The tower has a stepped base covered in tin. A small four-pane window is located in the base on the south side. The belfry has horizontal ship-lap siding, corner pilasters, and a vertically-shaped round arched vent with horizontal slats and extended hood molding containing a key stone. The clock section is stepped back and shorter, but repeats the materials and patterns from below, with a round clock face in place of the vent. The clock section is topped by a very low pitched, enclosed raked pediment and topped by a square platform. Above this is an octagonal or eight sided, tin covered, spire with a small onion dome shaped finial and decorative wrought iron weather vane.

A rusticated stone retaining wall is located along Fourth Street and runs a short distance on Main Street. The wall is topped with vertical stones of alternating heights. A decorative cast iron double gate with elaborate posts is directly in front of the main entrance. Past the gate there are several steps to a small yard in front of the building.

The east and west facades originally matched with five bays of recessed panels created by pilasters on the second floor. All the recessed panels are the same size except for the one nearest the northwest and northeast corners which are slightly narrower than the location of the internal stairs to the sanctuary. These narrower sections have recessed voids to simulate window opening that probably were never installed, but were important to the building's symmetry. The four openings on either facade contain stained glass windows that match those located on the front facade. The openings have stone sills and lintels. The stone band course between the first and second floors and the stepped brick band course in the frieze area extend down the east and west facades.

The first floor of the east facade has a recessed void or panel near the northeast corner. A small, non-original, bottom hinged, window has been inserted into the center of this panel.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

There are two ten-over-ten, double hung, wooden sash windows. Probably there were originally four windows on this facade. At the southeast corner there is a two story, concrete block addition, 57' x 40', which dates from 1957 and obscures part of the historic building. It covers the bottom two-thirds of two of the second floor stained glass windows on this facade. The addition has a flat roof, aluminum windows with cut stone sills, and a projecting clapboard covered stair hall to the north. A yard is in front of this section and a limestone wall runs along Main Street.

The first floor of the west facade, which faces Main Street, also contains the recessed window void or panel with small, non-original inserted window at the northwest corner. There is a wooden replacement door, two 10-over-10, double hung, wooden windows, and directly under the fifth pilaster from the northwest corner is a small window and door which are probably later additions. A limestone retaining wall with smooth cut stone cap runs along Main Street creating a walk way below grade near the building.

The rear or south facade is a plain gable end and backs up to a city alley. The pilasters capitals and stepped frieze course return the corners. There is a small wooden, gabled enclosure which serves as the rear entrance to the sanctuary located near the northwest corner. One exterior brick chimney is evident, plus a small off-center square vent in the gable, two star-shaped tie rods, and plain closed verges.

Several historic photographs owned by the Presbyterian Church show the few exterior alterations which have occurred since the building was completed in 1856. Originally, there was a slightly recessed front entrance, approximately three feet deep, with paneled doors that has since been enclosed to create an airlock or vestibule. Prior to the current stained glass windows, there were rectangular-shaped, double-hung, wooden sash windows with stained glass patterned to resemble a pointed arched opening. An interior chimney with terra cotta pots was located on the west side at the third pilaster from the northwest corner, it is assumed that there was a similar chimney on the east facade and these were used for heaters in the sanctuary. Also, photographic evidence indicates that the church has not always been painted white and that numerous color schemes were used around the turn of the twentieth century.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

The building contains two floors, the first floor is primary utilitarian space and the second floor is ceremonial. During the years these needs influenced the number of alterations made to the building. A small, non-historic, interior air lock or vestibule is located at the front of the building which is created in the original recessed entrance. There is a hallway running across the front of the building. On the south wall of the hall there is a pair of wooden contemporary double doors which lead into the Bethany Room. This room and the kitchen behind it have been altered and do not retain historic fabric or significance. Flanking this opening in the hall are taller openings which have been covered and most probably the original doors to the Bethany Room. The original door trim remains. The hall contains wide woodwork with a decorative top molding. Located in the center of the ceiling directly in front of the main entrance there is a cast plaster ceiling medallion.

The hall contains an east and a west staircase on either side of the main entrance which lead to the second floor sanctuary. There are round turned newel posts and spindles which are painted white with a stained handrail. A decorative applied bracket is below the stair treads. The stairs are slightly flared at the bottom and winds around the outer wall. Under the stairs, which were enclosed to accommodate restrooms in the early twentieth century, there are indications, such as the original woodwork which continues into this space, that the stairs were originally cantilevered from the outer walls. Materials to simulate wood panels is used to create this space under the stairs, to cover the two original opening to the Bethany Room, and to create wainscotting up the stairs. The bottom steps are flared at the foot of the stairs, eleven stairs are along the north wall, there is a landing and the stairs turn, three stairs to another landing, another turn with one step to the landing which enters the sanctuary. Dividing the two stairs on the second floor is the original choir loft which is entered by proceeding up four more stairs. The choir loft, later converted to a Sunday School room, is raised several feet above the sanctuary, is separated from the sanctuary by hinged, paneled shutters, has a rounded ceiling, and only half of the exterior stained glass window is left exposed. Located on the west landing at the sanctuary is a doorway to the ladder for the bell tower and town clock and on the east landing located behind a door are the ropes for ringing the church bells. All the woodwork in the stair hall is painted white except for the trim surrounding the stained glass windows which face the north.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

The sanctuary is a large room with a slightly forward sloping hardwood floor. There is wide woodwork (1' 2 1/2") above which there is stained wainscot with a narrow vertical recessed area between the boards and a black painted top molding which serves as the window sill. The wainscot is 2' 11" high to the north and 4' 2" high to the south end of the sanctuary to accommodate the sloping floor which enhances the sight lines of those in the pews. There is a center aisle and side aisles. On either side of the central aisle there are eleven full rows of pews and one half row near the front. Each full-length wooden pew has a divider at the center, paneled ends and small entrance gate.

The walls of the sanctuary are plaster. The ceiling is divided into twelve sections by dropped, enclosed, paneled beams with plaster work supported by large wall brackets. The ceiling is divided with three sections running east to west and four sections north to south. The two center panels contain large cast plaster ceiling medallions with large elaborate gasoliers, attributed to Mitchell, Vance & Co., circa 1875. The gasoliers have six arms on the bottom tier, three arms on the upper tier, and contain Parian bust of Mary in the north fixture and Jesus in the south fixture. Gas could have been installed in the building as early as the 1860s and was replaced with electricity in 1914. Six twentieth century lighting fixtures are located in the three outer ceiling panels along the east and west walls toward the south wall.

The stained glass windows on the east and west walls have openings at the bottom and top which are swivel hinged at the center. The windows are surrounded by a composite trim which is painted white and topped with large plaster window hoods supported by decorative vertical brackets. The north wall contains two, six paneled, stained doors with porcelain knobs, brass keyhole covers, topped by plaster hood moldings. Located in the center, between the two doors, is a large round arch opening which contained the original raised choir loft. The opening is surrounded by flat pilasters, simple capitals with applied decorative plaster below, and a plaster, raked, round arch with center keystone.

The south wall contains the same round arch decoration as that which surrounds the choir loft; however, there was no room located behind it. This round arch decoration framed the original pulpit. This area is now covered by the wooden cabinet

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

and large pipes of the pipe organ. The pulpit has been moved forward. A raised platform, reached by several small steps, contains the choir and pulpit. This alteration dates from the early twentieth century. The new choir area has a paneled serpentine front with an low extended wall and the altar or pulpit has an alternating curved front. The organ console is to the east of the pulpit and there is a wooden, paneled door at the southwest corner which allows handicap access from the alley behind.

The Aurora First Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of an architect designed, mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival religious structure in a small mid-western town along the Ohio River. Its classical shape and proportion, as well as its hillside site, convey the building's importance to the community.

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.
- 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:

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1855

Significant Dates

1855

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hamilton, John

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Church files, First Presbyterian Church, Aurora

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Dearborn Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	681920	4324700
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rev. Melissa Bane Sevier, Pastor

organization First Presbyterian Church date September 28, 1993

street & number 215 Fourth St. telephone 812-926-2183

city or town Aurora state IN zip code 47001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name First Presbyterian Church

street & number 215 Fourth St. telephone _____

city or town Aurora state IN zip code 47001

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page summary paragraph First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

The First Presbyterian Church of Aurora is a locally outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture, and it meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. Well-known Cincinnati architect John Hamilton designed the church, which was completed in 1855. Through the years, the church has been altered to accommodate its congregation, however, it retains much of its mid nineteenth century character. Criterion Consideration A is met because of the church's architectural significance.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The First Presbyterian Church building is significant because of its excellent mid-19th century Greek Revival architecture which is prominent above the city of Aurora. The church has a rich history with the community and its residents. The Presbyterian Church is the second oldest religious structure in Aurora, and is located on a residential street two blocks from downtown Aurora and the Ohio River.

In 1826, the Rev. Lucius Alden of the American Home Missionary Society started a Presbyterian seminary in Aurora, Indiana, which existed only two years. This paved the way for Presbyterianism in Aurora. Alden had also preached in other surrounding communities, and a Sabbath School had been started in Aurora.

The First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, Indiana, was organized without its own building by ten charter members in 1844, and called the Rev. Windsor A. Smith, who also served the Lawrenceburg church, to serve as part-time pastor. One of the charter members was Margaret Gaff, Scottish Presbyterian and mother of Thomas Gaff, builder of Hillforest. The other founding members were Jacob and Sarah Hancock, Miss Margaret Gaff, Charles and Melinda Cannon, Miss Rebecca Kennedy, Esther Lotham, Miss Emeline McConnell, and Sarah Witherow.

In April of 1848 the church obtained land just a few hundred feet from the Ohio River and began excavation for the current building. The Rev. Levi Booth was called as pastor.

The first floor of the church was completed in 1850, and services were held there beginning December 8. The date of 1850 is carved on the gable date stone of the building, presumably in reference to the first services held at this site, even though the church was really organized in 1844.

In The Aurora Standard, August 24, 1854, there appears a notice that the Presbyterians intended to complete their building: "...As soon as the edifice is completed, a town clock is to be placed upon the tower of the Church, which, as the edifice stands in a central and elevated position, will be a source of great convenience to our citizens."

The second floor was not completed until 1855. This floor includes the church sanctuary. The town clock of the city of Aurora was installed in the church steeple by the city on December 26, 1855. It is believed that Thomas Gaff, local distillery owner, also contributed significantly to the purchase of the clock. This clock is still operational.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

The completed church building, designed by Cincinnati architect John R. Hamilton (18__ - 1905?), was formally dedicated on January 20, 1856. Hamilton, born in England, arrived in Cincinnati around 1852, and had moved to New York City by 1859. Prior to coming to the United States, Hamilton had designed numerous church and institutional buildings in England. In Cincinnati, he and his partner James C. Rankin designed the H.W. Derby Building (3rd Street), the National Theater (Sycamore Street, 1857), and remodelled the D.S. Major House near Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Hamilton and another partner, James W. McLaughlin, designed the Masonic Hall in Cincinnati (3rd and Walnut). Hamilton submitted designs for the Henry Probasco mansion in Clifton, and the Henry Clay monument in Lexington, Kentucky. He possibly was the designer of the Woodward High School, which is believed to have been one of the first U.S. buildings with terra cotta decoration on its exterior.

In 1854, during the time of construction, the Rev. Amzi Freeman was installed as regular pastor. Freeman had also been a missionary on the frontier, and in the mid-1850s traveled by steamer from Cincinnati to Louisville, passing Aurora. He was so taken by the loveliness of the town, as seen from the river, that he determined to visit on his return trip. There he learned that the Presbyterian church was under construction and in need of a pastor, a position for which he readily applied.

A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana (1880) lists Freeman as an educator as well as a minister, from a long line of Presbyterians. His entire career was spent in Indiana, beginning with Covington. He pastored the church in Aurora for over twenty years, and was a major cause of the dispute which eventually split the church in 1877. Freeman stayed in Aurora most of his life, later becoming the superintendent of schools.

In 1860 a flatboat transporting a pipe organ to St. Louis, Missouri, was wrecked on the shore of the Ohio River where it curves at Aurora. The church purchased the organ, which was purported to be the first pipe organ in Dearborn County. The pipes were all wooden, and the bellows were pumped by hand.

It has been rumored for many years that prior to and during the Civil War, the First Presbyterian Church building was used as a way-station in the Underground Railroad, easily accessible by the Ohio River. The rumors hold that a small, windowless storage room in the basement was where people were temporarily hidden. The church records hold no mention of this.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

In the 1870s two gas chandeliers were installed in the sanctuary. These were custom-made and attributed to the Mitchell, Vance, and Co. Each contains a small bust, one of Mary and one of the adult Jesus. When the sanctuary was electrified, so were the chandeliers.

In 1874 Mrs. Freeman (wife of Amzi) organized with about a dozen other women the first Women's Missionary Society in southeastern Indiana. This organization raised funds to support missionaries overseas and mission projects in the United States.

A period of open dissension began in 1877 and was not resolved for six years. A group of church members asked for dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Whitewater Presbytery ordered the relationship dissolved, and the Rev. Freeman was dismissed to the Congregational Church. He and the members who were loyal to him barred the recognized Presbyterians from the building, who began meeting in the YMCA Hall. The case could not be resolved and was taken to civil court. On April 8, 1883, the recognized Presbyterian congregation returned to the building by order of the Supreme Court of Indiana. During those years of division, there were two groups of Presbyterians by the same name meeting in the city of Aurora in different locations. A 1926 letter by the Rev. A.M. Chapin, pastor of the recognized Presbyterians during the divided years, claims that the split occurred because the Gaffs were too involved with "whiskey money" and too involved with the church at the same time, and that the recognized Presbyterians did not think that these two things went well together.

A series of pastors followed over the years.

In 1905 a new organ was installed (which is still in use), constructed by the Marshall-Bennett Company of Moline, Illinois. It was placed against the church arch on the south side of the sanctuary. At this time the choir loft was built, on either side of the organ, and the pulpit was moved forward, in front of the organ. The room at the north end (the back) of the sanctuary, where the organ and choir loft had been, was enclosed as a classroom. Folding doors were installed above the rails, to open the room as an overflow area.

The new organ was hand pumped for two years until an electric motor was installed. Even then, the city sometimes forgot to start up the power plant before worship, so hand pumpers would start the organ while someone was sent to the power plant. The power was turned off again at noon, so a long sermon meant more hand pumping of the organ.

The present stained glass windows were purchased in the early part of the century, up until the 1930s. On March 4, 1928, the stained glass windows were dedicated.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

The church purchased a manse on Fifth Street in 1915. It was later sold in 1978.

During the famous flood of the Ohio River in 1937, most of Aurora was under water. The Presbyterian Church, at its elevated level, served as a refugee center through the duration.

The Christian Education building, attached to the original structure, was built in 1959. Extensive repairs of the original building were also needed because of termite damage. The floor of the narthex, the stairs, the second floor, and the tower were all infested. It was believed the tower was actually in danger of collapse.

In 1970 the church organ was remodeled, and the console was moved from the center of the chancel to a location on the main floor and off to the east side.

The City of Aurora donated the belfry clock to the church in 1981. Until that time the clock was maintained by the city. Before electrification it had been wound and oiled weekly by a city employee.

The original structure has been maintained very well, and most of the original furnishings still are in place in the sanctuary.

The Aurora First Presbyterian Church is an outstanding example of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival ecclesiastic architecture. Its classical shape, proportion, and detailing, plus its site, gives distinction and prominence to the structure.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

Major Bibliographical References

Books

Aurora Sesquicentennial. Aurora, Indiana: Aurora Sesquicentennial Historical Committee, 1969.

A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana. Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Co., 1880. Vol.1, p.24-25.

Dearborn County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1983.

History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana. Indianapolis: F.E. Weakley & Co., 1885.

Langsam, Walter E. A Biographical Encyclopedia of Architects Who Worked in the Greater Cincinnati Area Before World War I. Unpublished, 1992.

Shaw, Archibald. History of Dearborn County, Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1915.

Newspapers

The Aurora Standard. August 24, 1854.

SECTION 10-GEOGRAPHICAL DATA-VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 167 and 168 in the City of Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is the historic property boundary.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

First Presbyterian Church
Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana
John L. Sutton, photographer
April 1, 1993

Negatives: John L. Sutton, Box 236, Aurora, IN 47001

photo #1
Exterior facing southwest

photo #2
Exterior facing northeast

photo #3
Steeple. Camera facing east.

photo #4
Stained glass window. Camera facing east.

photo #5
Stair. Camera facing northwest.

photo #6
Stair. Camera facing northeast.

photo #7
Stairhall from second floor. Camera facing northeast.

photo #8
Sanctuary. Camera facing south.

photo #9
Sanctuary. Camera facing southeast.

photo #10
Sanctuary. Camera facing south.

photo #11
Sanctuary. Camera facing southeast.

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Section number Photos Page 2 First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn Co., IN

photo #12

Sanctuary. Camera facing north.

photo #13

Sanctuary. Camera facing southwest.

photo #14

Lighting fixture. Camera facing northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: INDIANA, Dearborn

DATE RECEIVED: 8/10/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/23/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/08/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/24/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001116

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.8.94 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM. /CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

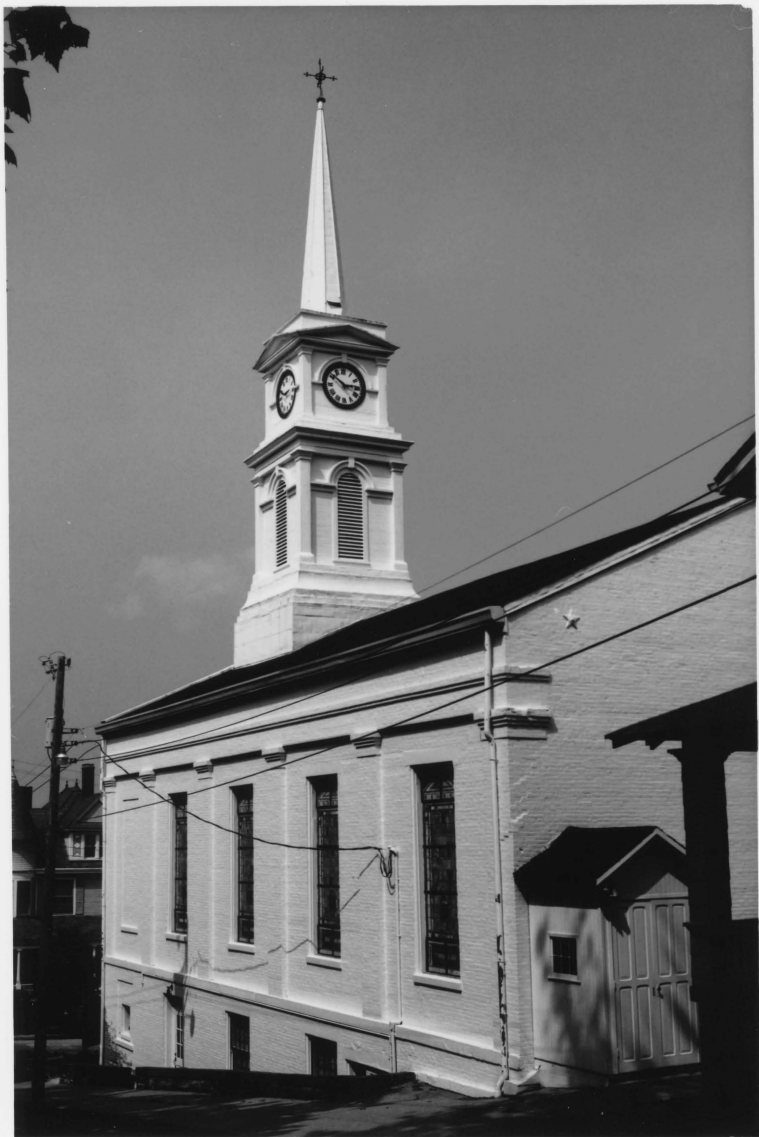
Signed _____ Date _____



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, IN

Photo #1



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #2





First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)
Dearborn County, Indiana
Photo F3





First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, IN

Photo # 4



First Presbyterian Church - (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #5





First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo # 6





First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #7



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #8



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #9



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo # 10



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo # 11



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #12



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

Dearborn County, Indiana

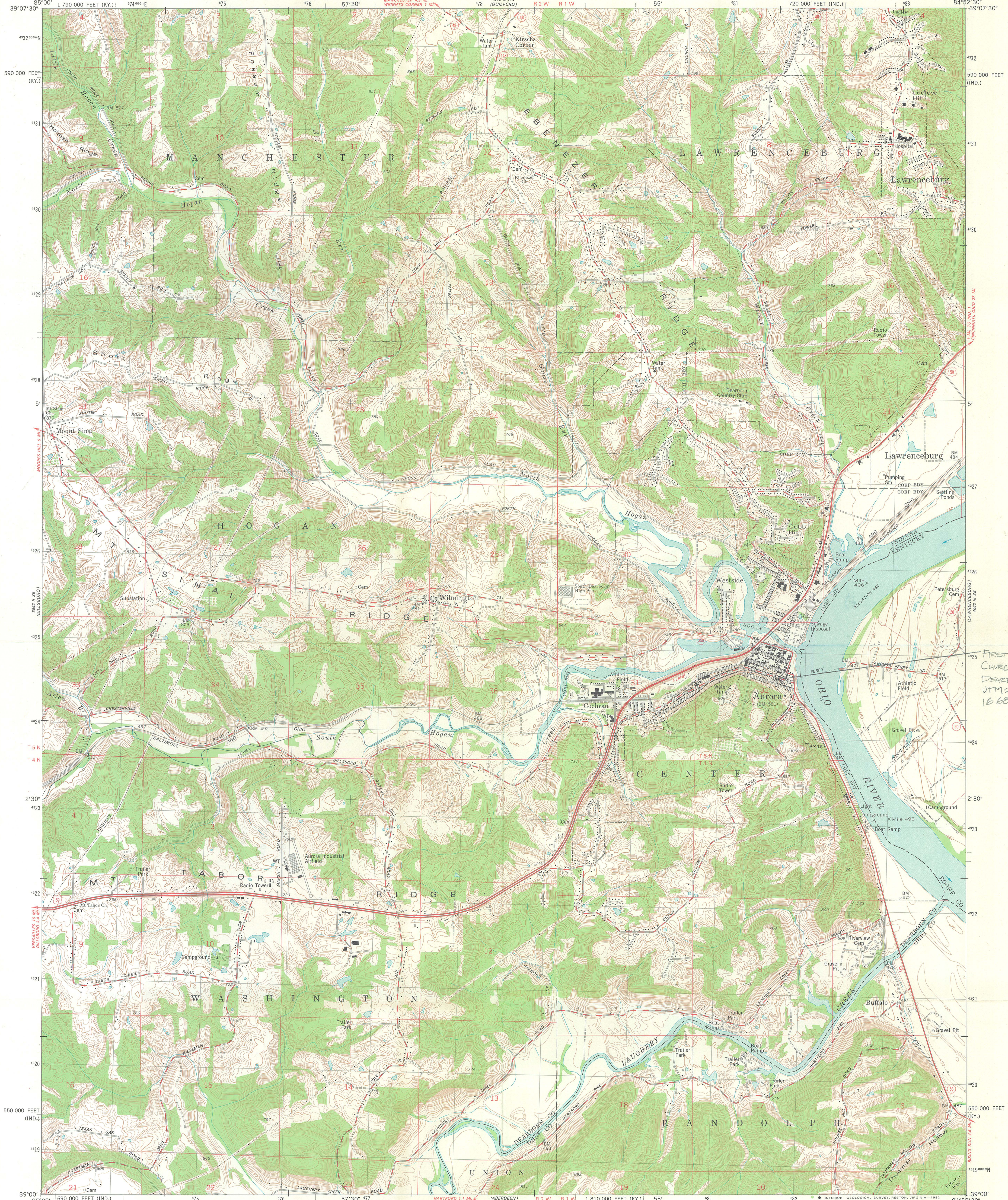
Photo # 13



First Presbyterian Church (Aurora)

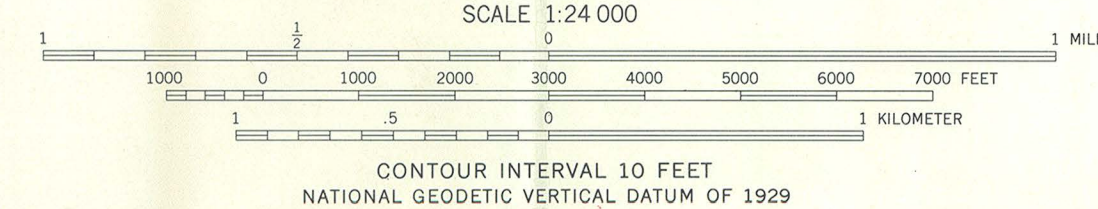
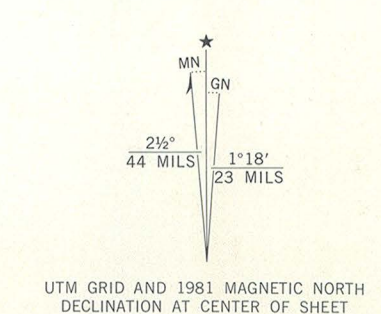
Dearborn County, Indiana

Photo #14



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH
 DEARBORN CO., IN
 UTMS
 16 681920 4324700

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with Indiana Department of Natural Resources and revised in cooperation with Kentucky Geological Survey Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission.
 Topography in Kentucky by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949. Field checked 1951. Topography in Indiana by planimetric surveys 1940. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981.
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Indiana coordinate system, east zone, and Kentucky coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16 1927 North American Datum.
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and 4 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked.
 The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the low water line as determined from U. S. Corps of Engineers Ohio River charts, surveyed 1911-1914, and supplementary information.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

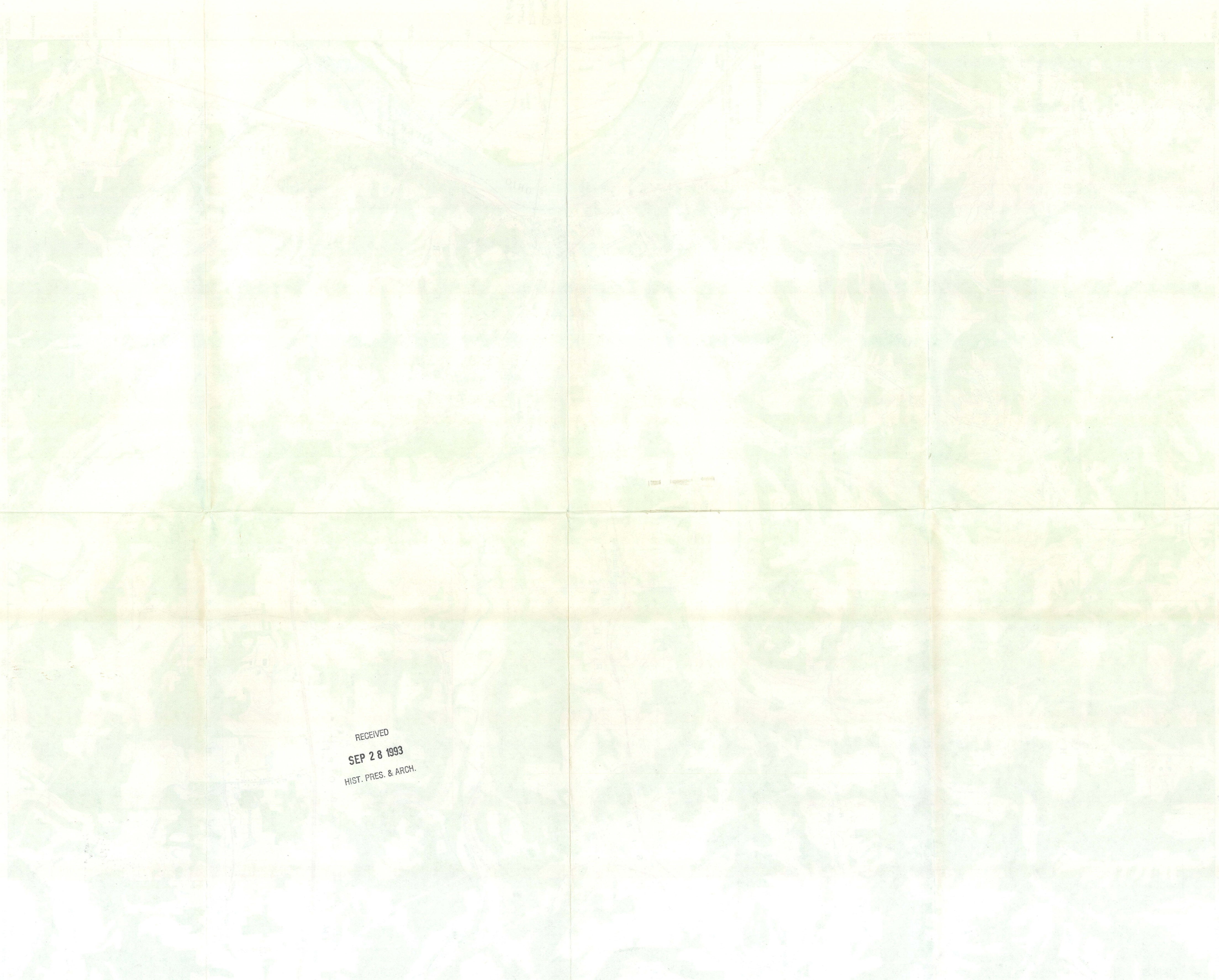
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204, KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506, AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AURORA, IND.-KY.
 SW/4 LAWRENCEBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3900-W8452.5/7.5
 1981
 DMA 4062 III SW-SERIES V851

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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SEP 28 1993
HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PATRICK R. RALSTON, DIRECTOR

Division of Historic Preservation
and Archaeology
402 W. Washington St., Rm. 274
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
317-232-1646



August 4, 1994

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register Branch
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed is a National Register nomination for First Presbyterian Church,
Dearborn County.

The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the
nomination and voted to recommend its inclusion in the National
Register.

Very Truly Yours,

John L. Carr

for Jack Costello
Deputy Director, Bureau of Lands and
Cultural Resources

JC:FDH:pcd

doc:towashington

PRR:FDH:pcd

Enclosure

doc:towashington

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"



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