NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

JAN 1 1 2006

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 item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth

Other name/site number

2. Location

Street & number 407 Walnut Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Leavenworth ☐ vicinity

State KS Code KS County Leavenworth Code 103 Zip code 66048

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.)

11/21/05

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or 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 commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

☐ 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:)

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		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)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: BRICK
Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

Other: STONE; METAL; GLASS; TERRA COTTA

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register

- ☐ **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 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 it 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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ART

Period of Significance

1907-ca. 1935

Significant Dates

1907-09

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Feth, William Pratt (architect);
Yoakum, Robert B. & Yoakum Walter C. (builders)
Tiffany Studios & Lamb Studios (stained glass)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth
Name of Property

Leavenworth County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 0.67 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	335080	4353110
2			
3			
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 J. Daniel Pezzoni

Organization Landmark Preservation Associates Date August 26, 2005

Street & number 6 Houston Street Telephone (540) 464-5315

City or town Lexington State VA Zip code 24450

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Congregation of First Presbyterian Church c/o Karen L. Moore, Pastor

Street & number 407 Walnut Street Telephone (913) 682-6891

City or town Leavenworth State KS Zip code 66048

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

Summary Description

First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, is a Classical Revival edifice built in 1907-09 at 407 Walnut Street overlooking downtown Leavenworth, Kansas. The stretcher-bond brick building features an Ionic portico on the main east elevation on Fourth Street, light-colored stone trim, and a two-story education wing with a bowed south end. The principal windows are contained in round-arch openings, some with pilastered inner surrounds. Exterior alterations have included the addition of the second story to the education wing in the 1930s, the addition and then removal of a belfry, and the addition of buttress-like concrete shores on the north side elevation in 1959. The interior is dominated by the sanctuary with its barrel-vaulted ceiling supported by massive arched spans. The principal decorative treatments are the six large stained glass windows in the sanctuary and the many smaller stained glass windows elsewhere. Several windows were made by Lamb Studios; at least one was made by Tiffany Studios. Movable partitions allow some spaces to be combined or subdivided; historically the entire interior could be opened up this way. A corridor on the first floor of the education wing provides access to a radiating suite of classrooms. First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, occupies a parcel of just over a half acre in extent. The church stands in an urban setting surrounded by important institutional buildings including the Leavenworth County Courthouse and the Carnegie Library, both listed in the National Register.

Exterior

First Presbyterian's façade is dominated by a portico with two monumental Ionic columns in antis surmounted by a pediment with modillions and an oculus window. The smooth column shafts, low bases, and capitals with angled scamozzi volutes and anthemions between the volutes are carved from a light buff limestone described in an early account as "Arkansas white stone." The same stone is used on the exterior for water tables, quoins, keystones, and other details, and as a banded treatment derived from quoining on the antae that flank the columns. The inscription blocks in the entablature (which read "First Presbyterian Church" flanked by paterae), the blocks of the cornices in the portico pediment and on the building proper, and other trim elements are unglazed terra cotta colored to match the stonework. The pediment modillions have recessed panels on their undersides; the oculus has a grille and a thick corbelled brick surround with four keystones at the compass points. A similar pediment tops the north side elevation.

Inside the portico are a coffered ceiling and side entrances in classical surrounds with projecting cornices on scrolled consoles. The entrances originally had double-leaf doors with glass upper panels and turned ornaments; these were replaced in the late twentieth century by glass panel doors with anodized aluminum frames. The back wall inside the portico has three tall stained glass windows inside round-arch openings flanked by brick pilasters. The molded pilaster caps and the molded arches with

scrolled keystones are terra cotta, as are the cross beams that define the ceiling coffers. Concrete steps rise to the portico, flanked by plinth-like cheeks with recessed panels. The lamps on each cheek are replacements. On the south cheek is a plaque dated 1986 that gives the history of the church. To each side of the portico are lower wings that contain vestibules for the entrances inside the portico. The wings have quoins and complex round-arch windows with brick, stone, and terra-cotta trim. The half-round upper parts of the windows have black painted panels in place of the original stained glass. The lower square-headed sections retain their historic stained glass and have terra cotta lintels with voussoir divisions on their faces and pendant guttae-like ornaments at their ends. Each wing has low brick parapets. The south wing parapet differs from the one on the north wing in that it is slightly taller and is paneled. This is the wing that formerly supported the belfry, added to the building before 1936; the differences in its parapet probably reflect partial reconstruction when the belfry was removed in the early 1960s. At the base of the north wing is a cornerstone that reads "Jesus Christ the Chief Cornerstone 1907."

In 1959 three stepped concrete shores or buttresses were added on the north elevation to correct a structural deficiency. The center shore rises through the center of a false or blind portico created with brick pilasters. The shore bisects a round-arch window like the ones on the wings that flank the portico as well as a decorative brick frame above the window. The undecorated west rear elevation has three tall stained glass windows (directly opposite the front ones) and a modern shed-roof vestibule of anodized aluminum and tinted glass. A concrete handicap ramp and steps rise to the vestibule; next to it is a plaque inscribed "Captain John Frederickson Memorial Hall Troop 177 Boy Scouts of America." The two-story education wing, which extends from the south side of the church, has a bowed south wall and large square-head windows with replacement sashes. The second story of the education wing was added sometime between 1930 and 1935. The elevations of the education wing are slightly recessed with corbelling at the top and limestone belt courses that run at the bases of the windows. Basement windows survive on the front east side of the wing; those on the south side have been bricked up and their window wells concreted over. The east side of the wing has a basement entrance with a ca. 1960s aluminum and plate glass door.

Behind the church are a parking lot and a small modern memorial garden. The garden has a center bed in the plan of a quatrefoil and a bench with a plaque dedicated to the memory of Kenneth and Lolita Wiley. The east and north borders of the lot have a modern retaining wall of precast concrete panels with a cross motif. Along the top of the wall at the northwest corner of the lot is a metal fence. First Presbyterian shares its block with three other architecturally and/or historically significant buildings: the former Leavenworth High School (1932, more recently known as Leavenworth East Middle School), First Methodist Church, and the Carnegie Library (the latter listed in the National Register). Across the intersection of Walnut and Fourth Streets is the National Register-listed Leavenworth County Courthouse at 300 Walnut.

Interior

Typical interior treatments include plaster on masonry or plaster on lath walls and ceilings, and wood, carpeted, or composition tile floors. The woodwork is typically stained dark brown and varnished. Many doors have faceted brass knobs and ornamental solid or glazed panels (the glazed panels occasionally have beveled glass).

The principal space is the sanctuary or auditorium, which has a high paneled wood wainscot and which is furnished with non-original modernistic pews of light-colored wood. The sanctuary's barrel-vaulted ceiling is supported by massive arched iron spans (encased in concrete and/or plaster) with ca. 1960s paper tiles between the arches and original cast-metal ventilation grilles of circular form and ornate design. Suspended from the ceiling are two chandeliers with milk glass globes, supplemented by other suspended milk glass light fixtures. The altar dais at the north end of the sanctuary fronts a large curved concavity similar to a band shell containing an organ by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut. The actual organ is screened by gilded false organ pipes that rise above a paneled wood base with chamfering, molded brackets, and other refinements. A plaque is inscribed "Willson Memorial Organ in Memory of Edward Payson Willson 1832-1910." A plaque on the keyboard reads "Austin Organs, Inc. Hartford CN USA #389 1912 New Console 1950." A brass plaque is signed Tiffany & Co. On the altar dais are east and west pulpits identified as being in memory of E. Paul Lessig, 1986. The altar rail has paneled half-wall sections, reticulated wood railings, and square terminal posts. A plaque identifies the altar rail as being in memory of Captain Byron H. Mehl.

On the side walls of the sanctuary are six tall stained glass windows, three to a wall, depicting scenes from the life of Christ. Beginning with the window on the left (north end) of the east wall and moving clockwise to the north window on the west wall, the subjects of the windows are as follows: 1) the Nativity, 2) Christ Calling the Little Children, 3) the Resurrection, 4) Christ and the Rich Young Ruler, 5) Christ's Come Unto Me, and 6) the Transfiguration, modeled on Raphael's painting of the Transfiguration. The east windows 1 and 3, which were made by J & R Lamb Studios, have arched stained glass surrounds representing twining branches with foliage and fruit, whereas window 2's arch is decorated with grape vines. The surrounds of the west windows are more architectonic, with the sides treated as columns. The columns and arched portions of windows 4 and 6 are identical, with the arches decorated with foliage and fruit-like elements. The columns and arches of window 5, which was made by Tiffany Studios, differ from windows 4 and 6 and have grape vines in the arch. According to a 1979 brochure, windows 4 and 6 were reversed during a past refurbishing (perhaps ca. 1960 when work on the windows was undertaken).

Likewise there are differences and similarities among the window panels under the arched sections, which have paired rectangular stained glass panels with operable lower sashes. The six east panels have

identical triple-arch upper sections and decorative operable sections (four of the center panes of the operable sashes are mottled green in color; two panes have been replaced with clear glass). The paired rectangular panels of the west windows have single-arch designs with columns, liked the arched windows above. The panels of windows 4 and 6 are virtually identical, except that the window 4 panels depict the Bible and Mosaic tablets in their arches and the window 6 panels depict crowns; also there are some color variations in the operable sashes. The panels of window 5 are basically similar to those of windows 4 and 6 except for their colors and details of their design, the alpha and omega characters in the arches, and the use of bejeweled crosses in the main panels. There are several other, smaller figural windows in the church, and others of more geometric design referred to as "Art Glass" windows in a 1909 dedication program.

Doors to the left and right of the altar area lead to a former pastor's study in the northwest corner of the building and a choir room in the northeast corner. A doorway at the northeast corner of the sanctuary, under a clock in a wood frame, leads into the Chapel of Inspiration, converted from the former north vestibule in 1984. The chapel has a paper tile ceiling, plaster walls, a carpeted floor, and a wood altar with chamfered rails and stiles. The back or south wall of the sanctuary features a proscenium-like frame with beaded tongue-and-groove infill and plate glass windows in place of the original sliding doors. The windows and two accompanying accordion doors date to ca. 1970 when the space behind—which originally functioned as a Sunday School auditorium (also known as "the main assembly room of the Church School")—was converted to a reception area called the "living room," with paneled walls and pockets for a curtain that can be used to divide the space in two. At the top of the sanctuary's back wall is an arched set of five recesses, the middle three with modern aluminum vent covers. It is possible these openings held windows, or were intended for windows, before the second story of the education wing was added.

The first floor of the education wing is taken up largely by the living room (described above) and a corridor that wraps around its perimeter to provide access to what were originally six Sunday School rooms. As constructed the front walls of these rooms had horizontal tongue-and-groove partitions that could be lifted up into pockets so that the rooms could communicate directly with the former Sunday School auditorium and the sanctuary beyond. The lift-up partitions are permanently anchored in place, with doors cut through some of them. One partition has been removed. The rooms behind have been converted to a nursery, an Adult Bible Discovery Class, a reading area, and restrooms. A stained glass window in the bowed south wall of the nursery depicts Christ; one in the bowed south wall of the Bible classroom depicts a boy in sixteenth century dress that may represent John Knox. Another room at the east end of the corridor, now used as an office, has a corridor wall consisting of hinged panel doors that could be folded back to open the room to the former Sunday School room auditorium. A movie/projector screen mounted near the corridor ceiling can be pulled down in front of the doors ("projectoscopic" presentations were made in the church in the 1930s). Other spaces in the first floor of

the education wing include the John H. F. Nunn Memorial Library Annex, dedicated in 1996, a pastor's office with a Craftsman brick mantel with corbelling under the shelf, store rooms, foyers, and stair halls.

The east and west stairs that lead to the second story of the education wing and the basement underneath have square newels and complexly turned balusters. The detail on the west stairway is more ornate than that on the east, suggesting this stair was constructed at a different time. It may be that this stair and the adjacent pastor's office are 1930s additions to the building (it is known that the west stair provided direct access to the exterior in the early 1930s). The bottom of the east stair is similar in detail to the west stair, however, suggesting the east stair was extended down to the basement level about the same time the west stair was constructed, and perhaps an indication that the basement under the education wing was originally unfinished. The second story has two large classrooms with plaster wall and ceiling finishes and wood floors. The doors have upper and lower panels; some of the upper panels have textured glass instead of wood.

The basement fellowship hall is interrupted by metal poles to support the floor above, and it has multi-paneled doors and a checkered green and black composition tile floor. Set into the floor with white composition strips are original shuffleboard triangles and squares for the game of four-square. The green and black floor extends into the kitchen at the west end of the hall, which has ca. 1950 cabinets, a food pass-through, and a Dutch door to the stair hall. The unfinished partial basement under the sanctuary has concrete floors and piers, segmental-arch doorways through brick walls, a store room, and a coal room with a chute. A four-panel door with a black ceramic knob leads into a small room with a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling that contains the motor for the organ.

Summary

First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the areas of art and architecture for its resplendent stained glass windows, at least one of which was made by Tiffany Studios, and as a prominent work of accomplished Leavenworth architect William Pratt Feth. The Classical Revival brick church, built in 1907-09, features an Ionic portico, stone and terra cotta trim, and a two-story education wing. Inside, the barrel-vaulted sanctuary with its Austin organ is illuminated by six large stained glass windows depicting scenes from the life of Christ. In the education wing are roll-up partitions and other features that once allowed the interior to be opened into one space. First Presbyterian survives as a prominent work of the prolific W. P. Feth, Leavenworth's leading architect of the end of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. The church is one of the few buildings in Kansas with stained glass made by Tiffany Studios, the renowned creator of stained glass and other artistic objects and furnishings (other windows were made by Lamb Studios). The property is eligible for the period 1907 to ca. 1935, covering the years of initial construction and the enlargement of the education wing from one to two stories in the early or mid-1930s. First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, is eligible at the local level of significance.

Acknowledgements

A number of individuals and organizations assisted with the preparation of this report. Foremost among them was the owner of the property, the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church, and Pastor Karen L. Moore. Parishioner Sally Dorr Hatcher supported the nomination in many ways and assisted with research and reviews. Assistance was also provided by Patrick Zollner, National Register Coordinator with the Kansas State Historical Society; John Hatcher; Bernice Buchanan; Kathy Kenton; Steve Becker; Steve Finch; Jane Turner; Jane Gies; First Presbyterian Church, Topeka; the staff of the Topeka Room, Topeka Public Library; and the staff of the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Historic Context and Architectural Analysis

Leavenworth's First Presbyterian Congregation was organized on January 1, 1856, less than half a year after Leavenworth's incorporation by the territorial legislature as the "First City of Kansas." The troubles of the 1850s and 1860s interrupted the development of the church; nevertheless, a first church (a frame building) was erected on Main Street in 1856 and dedicated July 19, 1857. A second church was built on Delaware Street in 1871 during the pastorate of William R. Brown. An interesting family association connects the 1856 and 1871 churches and the building erected in 1907-09. The 1856 church

was built by Washington C. Yoakum, the 1871 church by his son W. T. Yoakum, and the 1907-09 church by his grandsons Robert B. and Walter C. Yoakum.[1]

Growth of the congregation was presumably the main motivation for the construction of a larger, third church. The congregation acquired the present building site on February 28, 1906, using part of a gift of $25,000 from parishioner and industrialist E. P. Willson. Standing on the lot was the 1856 Clark-Carney House, a large brick house described as Leavenworth's first mansion. Once the home of Kansas's second governor, Thomas Carney, the house was moved back to the location of the present parking lot when the present church was built. The house was torn down in 1959 after serving as the church manse for many years. The cornerstone for the present First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, was laid November 18, 1907.[2]

The congregation relied on local design and construction talent to realize its dream of a new building. Robert B. Yoakum (b. 1869) and Walter C. Yoakum (b. 1875) of the firm R. B. Yoakum, Contractor, were both members of the congregation. According to a 1921 county history, "They are experts in their line of work and do a large business in the city, but the majority of their work is confined to Fort Leavenworth." Prominent commissions of the firm as of 1921 included Leavenworth High School (which stands next to the church), St. John's Hospital, the city's Lutheran church, and the main building of the Great Western Stove Company. For its architect the congregation chose William Pratt Feth (1866-1959). Feth, who was the son of early Leavenworth builder Philip Feth, studied architecture in Chicago and practiced in Chicago and Denver before establishing his practice in Leavenworth in 1895. Feth's Chicago years coincided with the heyday of Louis Sullivan, which may in part explain his fondness for complex Romanesque-inspired arches such as used by Sullivan. (The complex arched windows on the front of First Presbyterian may relate to Feth's early Romanesque focus). Over the course of a prolific career Feth designed another church in Leavenworth, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, as well as the William P. Feth Duplex and the Leavenworth County Courthouse, both located across the street from First Presbyterian. Feth was also involved in the design of the adjacent (former) Leavenworth High School.[3]

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[1] "Restoration Program;" "First Presbyterian Church;" "Program of Dedication;" Hall and Hand, *Leavenworth County Kansas,* 443-444; *Leavenworth Times*, January 8, 1931, and April 23, 2000.

[2] Leavenworth County Deed Book 187, page 606-607; *Leavenworth Times,* December 30, 1908; "Program of Dedication;" "The Old Manse."

[3] Hall and Hand, *Leavenworth County Kansas,* 443-444; Pezzoni, "Union Park Historic District," 18-19. Some church records and newspaper articles incorrectly list Walter C. Yoakum as W. Y. Yoakum.

The completed First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, was dedicated January 3, 1909. The dedication program describes the church as follows:

> The architecture is of classic design and the materials red vitrified brick with Arkansas white stone trimmings. The church proper is 82 by 72 feet. The Sunday-School building [education wing] is 100 by 44 feet. The seating capacity of the main auditorium [sanctuary] is about 450. This is separated from the Sunday-School auditorium by sliding doors. The two auditoriums, when combined, will seat about 900 people. The building is strictly modern in every respect. Among its many special rooms are [a] Ladies' Parlor, Library room, Christian Endeavor chapel, Bible Class rooms, Primary Class rooms and kitchen. The total cost of building with the Manse is about $70,000.

An article in the *Leavenworth Times* from several days earlier noted that the sanctuary was finished "in mission style" (perhaps a reference to the original pews or to the extensive paneling in the wainscots and under the organ pipes) and the electric lights were installed by W. H. Fellows, who was a member of the building committee. The article added that "seventy-eight 4-candle lights are arranged in two semi-circles on arches over the pulpit platform" (this dramatic light scheme is no longer extant).[4]

The six large sanctuary windows were apparently in place by the date of dedication. The east windows were a gift of Mrs. James Logan Abernathy in memory of her late husband, a Leavenworth furniture manufacturer and mayor. The west windows were memorials to various prominent manufacturers and merchants. According to a 1979 brochure, all six windows were produced at the Tiffany Studios. The brochure also states that the east windows "were designed by J. and R. Lamb using as a model Hoffman's conceptions of the themes" they depict. The information contained in the brochure is contradictory. J & R Lamb Studios of New York City and later Clifton, New Jersey, was separate from Tiffany Studios and presumably a competitor. Lamb Studios was established in 1857 and regards itself as the "oldest continuously operating stained glass studio in the United States" with 15,000 windows to its credit. The "Hoffman" identified in the brochure was likely German religious artist Heinrich Hofmann.[5]

From Tiffany Studios records it is known that the "Come Unto Me" window on the west wall of the sanctuary (window 5, a memorial to foundry owner John Wilson) was made by the studio. Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) was a leading American producer of stained glass and other art objects

[4] "Program of Dedication;" *Leavenworth Times,* December 30, 1908.

[5] *Leavenworth Times,* December 30, 1908; "First Presbyterian Church;" Lamb Studios website.

during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He established a Church Department at his New York glass studio in 1899, and by 1910 Tiffany Studios had produced hundreds of stained glass windows for public clients (mostly churches) throughout the United States. A 1910 list of Tiffany's windows identifies First Presbyterian in Leavenworth and Trinity Church in Atchison as the only buildings in Kansas (at the time) with Tiffany windows. Tiffany windows were also made for First Presbyterian Church, Topeka; these were unveiled in October 1911, which explains why they are not included in the 1910 list. Although there is coordination in the design of all six sanctuary windows in First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, the Come Unto Me window is least like the others. Had the flanking windows 4 and 6 been made at Tiffany Studios, it seems they would have been more like it in design. Therefore, with respect to the three sanctuary windows that were not made by the Lamb Studios, presumably only the Come Unto Me window was made by Tiffany Studios. The curved niche with scalloped half dome that forms Christ's setting in the window is non-Gothic in character and is more in line with the Romanesque, Byzantine, and Ravennese traditions that Tiffany Studios cited among the sources for its window designs in an 1899 press release. Considering many churches were designed in styles other than Gothic after the popularization of classical architecture by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Tiffany's strategy to offer alternatives to Gothic was well timed. The classical character of the Come Unto Me window reinforces the Classical Revival style of First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth.[6]

Another early feature of note is the Austin organ in the sanctuary. The organ was made by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, founded by John Turnell Austin in the 1890s. Austin patented the "Universal Air Chest system," which was, according to a company history, "an enormous breakthrough" in organ design. "It was a large, air-tight, walk-in room, with the chest action on the ceiling. Since the chest could be entered with the wind on, all adjustments and maintenance were easily accomplished." First Presbyterian was not the only church in Leavenworth with an Austin organ—the First Methodist and First Congregational churches and St. Mary's Academy had them too—however First Presbyterian's was apparently the first in town. A sheet posted in the organ's basement motor room entitled "Care of Organ Generator and Motors" notes that First Presbyterian's organ was opened by Edw. Kreiser on June 13, 1912, and dedicated three days later. Presumably Kreiser was the company's installation specialist.[7]

[6] De Rosa, "Louis Comfort Tiffany," 28-29; *Partial List of Windows,* 56; First Presbyterian Church, Topeka, *Tiffany Windows*. It may be that the failure of the 1910 Tiffany Studios list to mention other windows at First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, was an oversight, but unlikely, since multiple windows are listed for other churches. According to the author of First Presbyterian, Topeka's documentation, which relies on a 1947 history of the church, Louis Tiffany visited the Topeka church during construction in order to plan its windows (p. 32). The plaque identifying Tiffany Studios and mounted in the altar area of First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, may indicate that some of the altar fittings were ordered from the firm.

[7] Austin Organs Inc. website.

Photographs of First Presbyterian taken shortly after completion show a one-story education wing. Church member Bernice Buchanan, who attended Sunday School in the wing in the early 1930s, recalls that it was one story in height at the time. A 1931 article in the *Leavenworth Times* referred to "the addition to the Sunday School" made in memory of Mrs. R. FitzWilliam Abernathy, possibly a reference to the added second story. The second story is documented by the end of 1935, since it is depicted in a photograph that accompanied a January 1, 1936, article on the church in the *Kansas City Star*. Sanborn maps are unhelpful in determining the date of the second story. The first map to show the church, dated to November 1913, labels the wing and the church proper as one-story buildings with basements, an identification that remained the same through the map of April 1949. Nor do the maps indicate the addition of the belfry, known to have taken place before 1936. The belfry was sympathetically designed, with a modillion cornice and double-arch louvered openings in round-arch recesses that repeated the arched vestibule window below. Possibly the belfry was added at the same time as the second story of the education wing.[8]

By the late 1950s First Presbyterian was in need of repairs. A typewritten historical account of the former manse noted that "over $60,000 was spent [on the church] in 1959 for fixing the foundation, pointing of the masonry work, roof repair, and exterior painting and landscaping [and] complete interior re-decorating." The 1959 work included the addition of the concrete shores on the north elevation. A special "Restoration Program" from the era called for "reconstruction of footings and foundations to prevent further settling and shifting of the building," "realignment or replacement of interior structural members where needed," and "refurbishing of leaded windows." In 1960 Leavenworth architect W. Lawrence Snail prepared specifications and drawings for additional repairs. Snail recommended removal of the belfry, repairs to the parapets, and the replacement of the asphalt shingle roofing with new asphalt shingles. The exterior brickwork was also apparently sandblasted at the time, although it remains in good condition. Another change, slightly before the more major renovations, was the upgrading of the fellowship hall dining room and kitchen in the early 1950s; a 1955 report referred to the redecoration and repair of these rooms as having been made recently. The last major alteration to the church was made about 1970 when the living room was created from the former Sunday School auditorium according to a design by architect Sven Erik Alstrom.[9]

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[8] Bernice Buchanan, communication with Sally Dorr Hatcher; *Kansas City Star*, January 1, 1936; *Leavenworth Times,* January 8, 1931; Sanborn maps; "Restoration Program."

[9] "Old Manse;" "Restoration Program;" Snail, "Specifications for First Presbyterian Church;" "First Presbyterian Church of Leavenworth."

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is identified by City of Leavenworth tax parcel number 077362027001, the parcel on which First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, stands. The parcel measures 140 by 210 feet and occupies the northeast corner of Block 22 in the Clark & Rees Addition at the corner of Walnut and Fourth streets.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is the parcel on which First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, stands. The nominated area exclude surrounding resources that are not the subject of the nomination.

Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs

1. First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth
2. Leavenworth County, KS
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni
4. April 2005
5. Original negative in the possession of First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth
   Copies on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

Photo #1: East or front elevation of church. View looking southwest.

Photo #2: East or front elevation of church. View looking west.

Photo #3: East or front elevation of church. Column close-up.

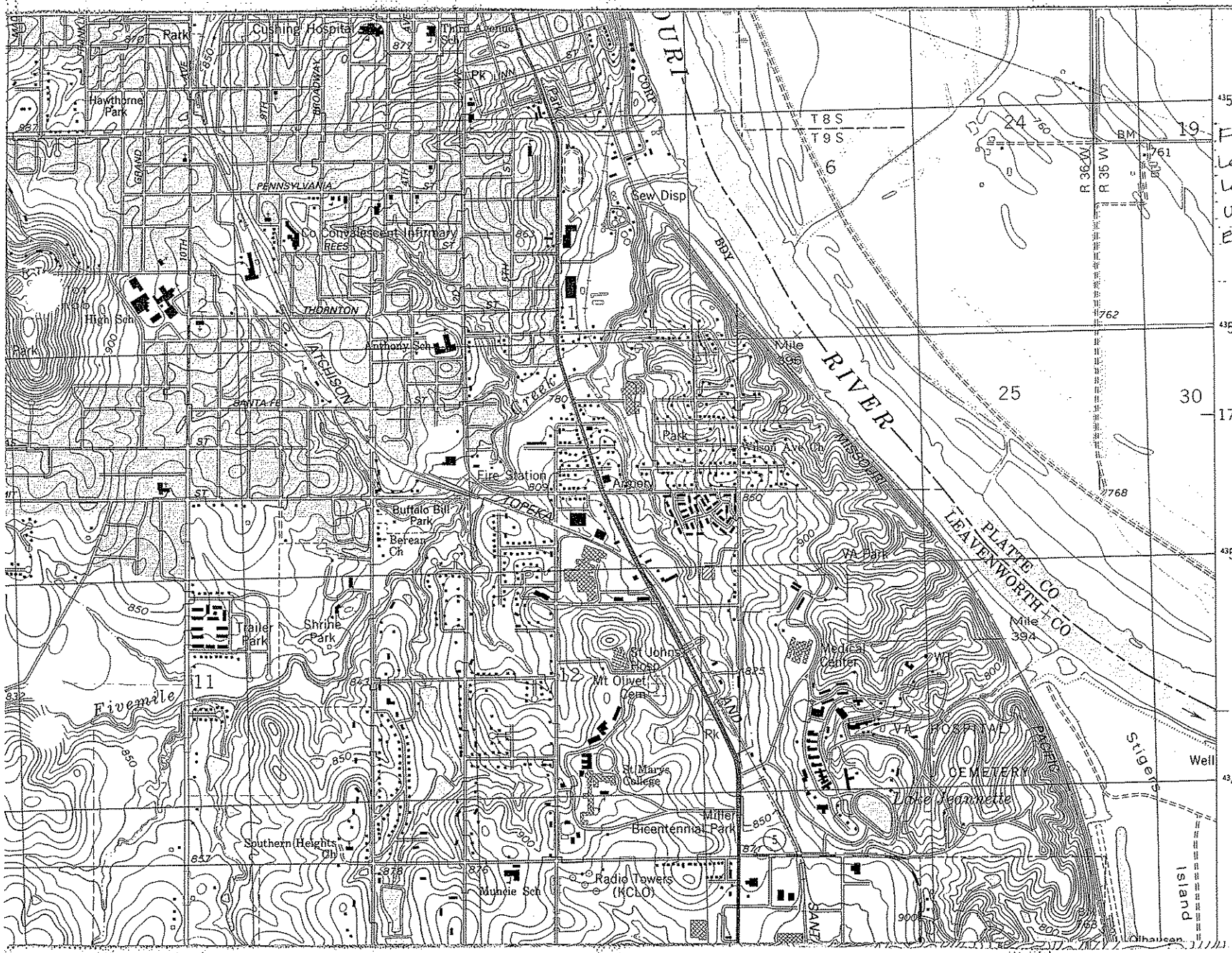
Photo #4: North or alter end of sanctuary.

Photo #5: North or alter end of sanctuary. Close-up.

Photo #6: Windows on east side of sanctuary.

Photo #7: Staircase.

Photo #8: Classroom hallway.



First Presbyterian Church
Leavenworth
Leavenworth Co., Kansas
UTM reference (zone 15):
E.335080 N.4353110