

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 09-00648

New Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 09-00621

Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing

Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries

National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____

Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name First Evangelical Church

other names/site number German Evangelical Church; German Evangelical Association; Faith United Methodist Church; Cornerstone Church

2. Location

street & number 124 3rd Ave NW

city or town Waverly vicinity, county Bremer

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Harmon & LeValley Add. Block(s) 32 Lot(s) Lot 5

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property
 Enter number of:

— buildings
 — sites
 — structures
 — objects
 — Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:
 Contributing Noncontributing

1 — buildings
 — — sites
 — — structures
 — — objects
1 — Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title Waverly's NW & SE Neighborhoods Historical & Architectural Survey

Historical Architectural Data Base Number 09-028

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

06A01 Church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

70 Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09G02 Steepled Ell

06E Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 04 Stone (block)

walls (visible material) 05E Aluminum

roof 08A Asphalt/Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes No More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Bremer
City Waverly

Address 124 3rd Ave NW

Site Number 09-00648
District Number 09-00621

Criteria Considerations

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

02 ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

Construction date 1902 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc. date 9/2013
organization for City of Waverly, Historic Preservation Commission telephone 715/469-3300
street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

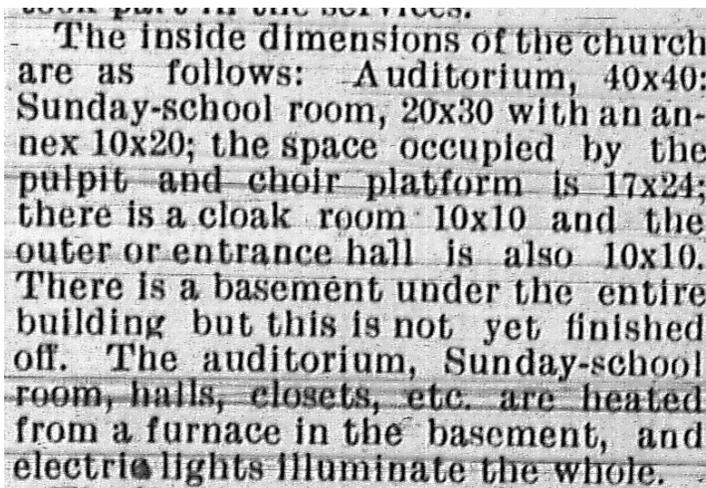
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First Evangelical Church	Bremer
Name of Property	County
124 3 rd Ave NW	Waverly
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7. Description

This church building is estimated to have been built in 1902 according to Bremer County Assessor records. The form and style are consistent with churches from the 1890s through the 1940s. Property transfer records show the Trustees of the Evangelical Association of America acquiring this parcel from J.B. Olds in June 1902. Newspaper accounts from the *Bremer County Independent* confirm that cornerstone was laid in July 8, 1902 and the completed church was dedicated November 23, 1902. The church was erected nine years after the Evangelical Association built a parsonage immediately to the south across 3rd Ave NW but facing 2nd St NW in 1893.

This frame church is an example of a vernacular church form referred to as a Steepled Ell form that evidences design features from the Late Gothic Revival Style. In this case the building's substantial size includes a tall stone block foundation for part of the basement level and a tall 1-story first floor with gabled interior ceilings. The church has a broad moderate pitched combination hipped roof and intersecting gabled roof with a gable-front-and-wing plan. The gables have returning cornices and the front gable (south) has an extended flared east end. A four-sided tower is set in the ell and originally contained west (nonextant) and south-facing entrances. The steeple had an exposed belfry originally and has a four-sided spire, the latter remaining intact. The church steeple also has small gabled wall dormers facing north and east with the east wing having an angular wall. The primary façade of the church faces south. The original wood clapboard walls are currently clad in wide aluminum clapboard-style siding. The outside dimensions for the building measure 55 by 62 feet. The original interior dimensions for the church spaces on the main level were provided in the November 27, 1902 *Bremer County Independent* article regarding the church's dedication shown at right.



...FROM PHOTO BY THE SOCIETY.
The inside dimensions of the church are as follows: Auditorium, 40x40; Sunday-school room, 20x30 with an annex 10x20; the space occupied by the pulpit and choir platform is 17x24; there is a cloak room 10x10 and the outer or entrance hall is also 10x10. There is a basement under the entire building but this is not yet finished off. The auditorium, Sunday-school room, halls, closets, etc. are heated from a furnace in the basement, and electric lights illuminate the whole.

Fenestration has been altered in the current church based on a comparison with historic photographs. The church originally had large Pointed or Gothic arched sash above three tall sash, all with stained glass, centered beneath the south and west gables. Narrower Pointed stained glass windows flanked the large sashes. Sometime after the church merged with the First United Methodist Church in the 1990s, the lower sections of stained glass windows in the gabled ends were replaced with clear 1/1 double-hung sash. The Pointed sash stained glass panels remain in most locations. The sashes in the peaks of the west and south gables and the pointed panel and double-hung window in the first floor of the steeple have been boarded over and may have been removed.

The church steeple has been modified as well. On the ground level, wood entrance stairs on the west and south sides leading to double doors have been removed with two pairs of replacement doors installed on the south façade at grade level – one in the steeple wall and the second pair to the immediate east. The west entrance doors have been abandoned and boarded over. Lowering of the main entrance on the

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south side of the steeple has left a void above the doors that is now clad in siding. The original Pointed arched stained glass transom above these doors remains in place on the south façade but a similar stained glass transom window has been removed on the west side of the steeple. On the steeple's second level, the original windows appear to remain; they include a Pointed sash with stained glass in the upper half of a double-hung window with clear glass in the lower sash. Further up the steeple, the original exposed belfry had Pointed arch outlines in the openings. By 2009, the open belfry was covered on four sides with solid panels. The small gable wall dormers on the top level of the steeple remain but the miniature decorative steeples at each corner and their finials have been removed. The fluted pilaster moldings that extended from these miniatures steeples to the ground level at the outer corner and the second floor at the other corners have been covered with aluminum siding.

Alterations: siding (undated); dates for interior changes, unidentified; removal of stained glass and replacement with clear double-hung sashes (ca. 1990s); closure of belfry openings (undated).

8. Significance

The First Evangelical Church at 124 3rd Ave NW was built in 1902. It is an example of a Steepled Ell form that evidences design features from the Late Gothic Revival Style. The church qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the historic district under Criterion C and under Criterion A for its association with Waverly's substantial German-American Community.

Property transfer records show the Trustees of the Evangelical Association of America acquiring this parcel from J.B. Olds in June 1902. The following month - likely using standard plans provided by the Evangelical Association of America since the design is similar to many other Evangelical Association churches in the Midwest - the cornerstone was laid on a single-lot parcel north of the Association's parsonage. A new church was completed for a cost of \$6,500 between July and November with all but \$1,500 raised for construction and furnishings by the time it was to be dedicated. The day of the formal dedication on November 27, 1902, a plea was made by the Evangelical Association bishop to those present to see the "unsecured balance of the cost of the building, which rested upon the minds of the trustees like a nightmare" so that the church could be dedicated without debt. Within thirty minutes, the amount was successfully raised in cash and pledges. (November 27, 1902 *Bremer County Independent*, p. 1)

The local Evangelical Association began sometime between December 1859 and 1861 when Waverly became the center for a network of 13 mission stations or classes. Waverly's mission had six members, all German-speaking, who met in private homes until the first church was built in 1871 at the corner of 315 West Water St (1st St NW). The Evangelical Association eventually built the present building at 124 3rd Ave NW in 1902. The church appears to have had several names in subsequent years including the German Evangelical Church, the Evangelical Church, and the First Evangelical Church in a variety of sources. On the national level in 1946, the Evangelical Church of America with which the Waverly church was affiliated merged with the United Brethren Church becoming the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968, this church further merged with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church. The church was renamed a short time later Faith United Methodist Church. Subsequently the church has been known as the Cornerstone Church and Church of the Nazarene.

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9. Sources

Atlas of Bremer County, Iowa. Waverly, Iowa: Waverly Publishing Company, 1917.

Atlases of Bremer County. Microfilm copies of atlases for 1875, 1894 and 1927, Waverly Public Library.

Bremer County History Book Committee. *Bremer County History, 1985.* Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1985.

Grawe, Joseph F. *History of Bremer County, Iowa, Volumes I and II.* Chicago: S.J. Clarke Company, 1914.

History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa. Springfield, Illinois: Union Publishing, 1883.

Sanborn Company Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1905, 1915, 1927, and 1927 updated to 1943.

Vertical file collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly building histories, miscellaneous bound volumes in reference collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly city directories, 1899 and 1913.

Waverly Heritage Days historical walking tour brochures for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Waverly Historic Photo Collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly newspapers: *Bremer County Independent*, 7/3/1902, p. 1; 7/10/1902, p. 1; 7/27/1902, p.1.

Waverly Public Library Photograph Collection, ca. 1920s church view.

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Historic Photograph: German Evangelical Church, ca. 1920s



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History of Bremer and Butler Counties, 1883

The first meetings of the Evangelical Association were held at private houses and in the court house. The first sermon was preached by Rev. John Schmidt, now of Minnesota. In 1871, the congregation built a house of worship on the west side of the river, at a cost of \$2,000. The church will seat, comfortably, 200. There is at present a membership of about forty-five. The trustees are: John Wile, James Bucher; steward, John Schmidt. Their present pastor is Rev. J. F. Berner; class leader, James Ebly. The original members of this congregation were: F. Nide-meir and wife, J. Wagner and wife, J. Haase and wife, C. Stamm and wife, T. Pattas and wife, Jacob Appley and wife, and a Mrs. Miller.

History of Bremer County, 1918

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The Evangelical Association society was organized in Waverly in December, 1859, and a church edifice was erected in 1871. It was located on West Water Street North, and was built during the pastorate of Rev. Nuhn. This served the congregation until 1902, when a fine modern church was built at 322 North Elm Street. This structure is fully equipped with all modern conveniences, and cost about \$7000.

There is a flourishing Sunday school and all the societies usually belonging to a church organization.

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Bremer County History Book Committee, *Bremer County History*, Waverly, Iowa, p. 79

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Faith United Methodist Church of Waverly, located at 124 Third Avenue N.W., was originally known as the "Evangelical Association." It began in 1861, when Waverly became the nucleus of an extended mission field of 13 stations or classes. Waverly started with six members, German speaking people, who met in homes or the courthouse until their first church was built in 1871.



Faith United Methodist

Although no records are available, it is known the church had an active women's group, known as the "Sewing Society," before 1884. It wasn't formally organized until August of 1899, with ten members, although 25 or more was the usual attendance. They met in the homes for an afternoon of sewing, usually

receiving 75¢ for an afternoon's work. They always had a period of devotions, and contributed their earnings to missions, orphan's homes and other needs that arose. In 1903 the group reorganized as the Women's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. The women's group has always had a vital interest in missions, and has carried that on down through the years to the present time.

In 1922 the church merged with United Evangelical Church, and was then called the Evangelical Church. In 1946 another merger joined them with the United Brethren. The name then became the Evangelical United Brethren Church, commonly called E.U.B.

An important event took place in 1951, when the recently organized men's group sent a carload of machinery, including a threshing machine, to Africa. About this time the Self-Help program was organized by Vern Schield, a member of the congregation.

Sunday School was started on grade levels in 1900. Two young men of the church, W.F. Mether and Brian McNamara, have gone into the ministry. Several other young people, including Richard Winchell, have gone into other Christian work.

The centennial of the church was celebrated in 1961. Another merger took place in 1968, this time with the Methodist Church, the new name being The United Methodist Church. In 1981 the 120th anniversary was observed; now the congregation is looking forward to the 125th anniversary in 1986. The Rev. Michael Reeves is the present pastor. *Submitted by Mary L. Mether, Historian, Faith United Methodist Church, Waverly, Iowa*

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Newspaper accounts for corner stone laying at Evangelical Church:
July 3, 1902, p1, c2 (left) and July 10, 1902, p 1, c5, *Bremer County Independent*.

Laying the Corner Stone.

The laying of the corner stone for the new Evangelical church takes place next Tuesday, July 8, at 2 p. m. See official notice by the pastor. Dr. Claypool of the Methodist Episcopal church will make the opening prayer, Rev. Graves of the Baptist church will read the scriptures, Rev. Brereton of the Congregational church will speak in the English language and Rev. L. Scheurer, presiding elder, and Pastor Bauernfeind will speak in German.

The Evangelical church in Waverly was organized 32 years ago. The two charges, Waverly and Warren, had at that time 112 members, of which only 8 were in Waverly. At present the church in Waverly has 100 members.

The new church they are now building is 55x62, outside measurement. The auditorium proper is 40x40, the platform for choir and pulpit occupies 14x24 feet. The lecture room is 20x40 and there is a cloak room 8x8. There is an 8 feet basement under the whole. The building will cost about \$4,000.

The reverend gentlemen who have served the people as pastors since the church was organized are as follows: Kleinsorge, Knoche, Lageschulte, Scheurer, Koehn, Eckhart, Berner, Pfund, Nolte, Scheurer, Beck, Lorenz and the present pastor, Rev. J. H. Bauernfeind.

The old Evangelical church on West Water street, Second ward, was built in 1870.

Corner Stone Laying for the New Evangelical Church.

Despite the inclement weather a goodly number of the Evangelical people met about two hours later last Tuesday afternoon than the appointed time for the laying of the corner stone. The services were held in the old church and were under the supervision of the pastor, J. H. Bauernfeind. Rev. J. W. Graves of the Baptist church read the Scripture lesson. Rev. E. V. Claypool of the M. E. church offered the opening prayer.

Rev. L. Scheurer, presiding elder of the district, preached in the German; and Rev. J. E. Brereton of the Congregational church spoke in the English language. Both addresses were full of excellent thoughts. The choir rendered some very good singing.

After the services at the church the congregation retired to the new wall where the Presiding Elder placed a tin box into the pocket of the corner stone containing a copy of each of the city papers, a copy of each of the church official papers, a list of the present membership, the names of the officers of the various institutions of the local church; a list of the building committee and a short history of the new project. Then the corner stone was laid in the name of the Triune God. With the benediction this impressive service was brought to a close.

The new church will cost over \$6,000.

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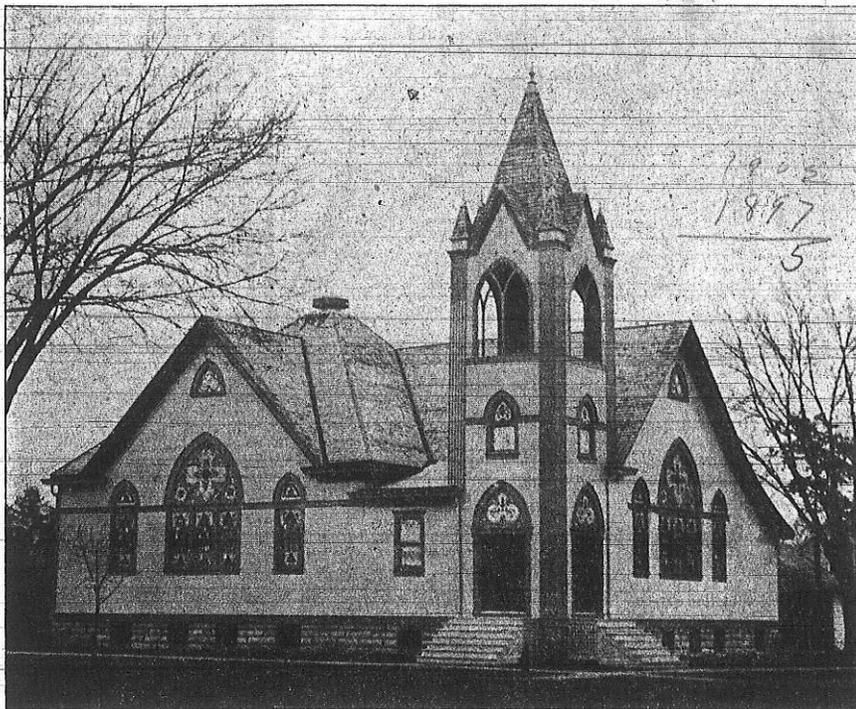
County

Waverly

City

Newspaper account for Dedication of New Evangelical Church:
 November 27, 1902, p1, *Bremer County Independent*; continued on next page.

The New Evangelical Church



Dedicated Sunday, November 23, 1902.

The Dedicatory Services.

Our neighbors of the Evangelical Association dedicated their new church in Waverly, on Sunday, Nov. 23, 1902. The weather was just right and the day was perfect. Everything went off so pleasantly, the expectations of these good people were more than realized, and they are, this week, the happiest people in our community. Everybody is congratulating them.

On Friday evening, Nov. 21, farewell services were held in the old Evangelical church, which was built in 1871. Some of the pioneers, the fathers and mothers, who helped to dedicate the old church, were present at this service. The choir had practiced the old familiar hymns, both the German and the English, and the organ and the singers were in harmony with the spirit of the meeting. Pastor Bauernfeind was the master of ceremonies. Rev. Henry Raecker, of Lu Verne, Ia., read the motto with vigor. Rev.

Second ward, was built. Rev. Nuhn being the pastor of the society at the time.

The pastors who have served the church since its organization are as follows: Nuhn, Delzer, Knoche, Eckhard, Lageschulte, Berner, Pfund, Nolte, Scheurer, Beck, Lorenz and Bauernfeind.

Rev. Geo. Zellhoefer, of Waterloo, Iowa, spoke in part as follows: (Text, 2 Sam. 7, 10.)

To the true worshiper of God, our Father, the history of God's people has ever been of great interest, and as tonight, we look back over the past years to the beginning of your church organization, our hearts are filled with admiration for your fathers and mothers who with great self-denial, deprivations, petty persecutions, poverty and abasement before the world organized the little flock and built the little church.

They were full of love and loyalty to God, and under all trying circum-

stances was opened to the congregation and the public, and a large concourse of expectant and happy worshippers soon filled every nook and corner of the beautifully illuminated auditorium. Rev. A. Raecker of Britt, Iowa, opened the services of the evening by reading the 24th Psalm, followed by the congregation singing the grand old German hymn, "Nun danket alle Gott." After prayer, the local choir rendered a beautiful selection entitled, "O How Lovely is Zion."

The speaker of the evening was Rev. E. O. Beck of Dubuque, a former pastor of this congregation. He chose for his text, 1 Chron. 17, 24-26, using for comparative illustration, the thankfulness of King David after the successful transfer of the Ark of God from Baale to Zion, the city of David. The speaker declared that we too have an Ark of covenant—the word of God, the cross of Christ, and in order to make the transfer—from the old place to the new acceptable to God, the act

and the building committee came forward and took their stand in the chancel facing the bishop. In well chosen words the president of the trustee board, P. A. Weber, addressed the members of the church, stating the purposes of their united effort, congratulating them on their success and thanking them for their faithful co-operation in the work placed upon the trustees. Holding the key of the church in his hand and turning to the bishop, he addressed him as follows: "Worthy Bishop, we herewith hand you the key to this church, the key which locks and unlocks this sanctuary, and ask you in the name of this society to dedicate this house as a place of divine worship and as Zion's Church of the Evangelical Association." The whole congregation then stood while the bishop read the ritual for dedicating of churches and led in the dedicatory prayer. After the act of dedication, the bishop with the pastors present, celebrated the holy communion, after which the congregation also partook of the holy sacrament.

The evening gathering in the new church was in the form of a mass meeting. The pastors of the various churches, having suspended the evening services in their own churches, gathered with their people to join in the celebration of the festive hour. The space in the church was not sufficient to accommodate all the worshippers; standing room was at a premium and many could not find admittance at all. Rev. J. W. Graves, pastor of the Baptist church, read the scriptural lesson; Rev. J. E. Breerton, pastor of the Congregational church, led in prayer; the choir sang an enchanting anthem, and then the bishop preached another characteristic sermon, his subject being, "The great white-robed throng." The bishop in his sermon made some unusual but very forcible points, especially in referring to the warmth of spiritual religion, that it cannot be served on ice, as some would have it. But especially beautiful and touching was his reference to the home-coming of the warrior in Christ, using for illustration the returning of the old soldier—boys of the sixties. He referred to the differences of language here on earth, but that there will be only one language spoken in heaven—the spiritual language of the redeemed in Christ. It was a sermon full of spiritual truth and instruction, and will long be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to hear it. Rev. Frank Cole, of the M. E. church, made the closing prayer, then the choir sang another anthem, whereupon the bishop made a public statement in regard to the finances of the church.

The cost of the church lot, building, fixtures, etc., is \$6,500. The merchants of Waverly contributed over \$700

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The cost of the church lot, building, fixtures, etc., is \$6,500. The merchants of Waverly contributed over \$700

dedicate the new church of that association. His work here and the sermons he preached, both in German and in English, convinced many of our people that he is a man with splendid brains and a great big heart that is thoroughly good. Waverly is better for his being with us over Sunday.

Rev. Geo. Zellhoefer, of Waterloo, was one of the ministers from abroad who were here to help to dedicate the new Evangelical church. Mr. Zellhoefer had many friends in Bremer county before he came up this time, but we are absolutely sure that he has more friends here now than he had when he came up last Friday. The boys of the "Indiana boys" will feel slighted if he fails to call on us when he comes to Waverly hereafter.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Raecker, of Lawrence, Ia., and Rev. August Raecker, of Waverly, Iowa, were here over Sunday to attend the dedicatory services of the new Evangelical church, and also to visit their many friends and relatives. The auditorium is a beauty. It is modestly handsome. The furniture is modern and of the best make. We'd just as soon go to heaven in the Evangelical wagonette as in any other conveyance we ever saw, so long as the weather man is on their side, as he was during these dedicatory services.

Get whiz, but the higher education is getting to be a great thing! The worst class scrap in the history of the University of Iowa ended all Friday night. It was between the sophomores and freshmen, and started at the freshman dance at the Hurley Imperial. Costly brace-a-brace was demolished, windows broken and damage to the amount of \$500 done. Two medical students, J. H. King and W. M. Kaller, were clubbed by policemen, whereupon the other medical students retaliated and the policemen were put hors de combat.

The game of football is becoming too strenuous for Chancellor Day, of the Syracuse university, and he declares that unless mass plays are abolished he will ask the trustees to disband the Syracuse team. He says the smashing together of two lines of men with all the brute force they have puts the game on a par with a bull fight. That's the way it looks to a spectator—but after all, will the game be so valuable as a test of pluck and endurance with these rough features eliminated?

When Luke McLaughlin died in Muscatine, last Saturday, he ended a life of 103 years and left a widow who had shared married life with him since March 17, 1821, making a married life of over seventy-eight years. The wid-

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Newspaper account for Dedication of New Evangelical Church:

November 27, 1902, p1, *Bremer County Independent*; article begins on previous page.

cate the old church, were present at this service. The choir had practiced the old familiar hymns, both the German and the English, the organ and the singers were in harmony with the spirit of the meeting. Pastor Bauernfeind was the master of ceremonies. Rev. Henry Raecker, of Lu Verne, Ia., opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. L. Scheurer, presiding elder of the Dubuque district, preached in German. He took his text from the 100th Psalm, 6th verse. Many of the facts and figures of his sermon are used in the historical part of this write up. Rev. George Zellhoefer preached in English, and Rev. E. O. Beck, of Dubuque, prayed fervently at the close.

This farewell service in the old church was very appropriate. The occasion will long be remembered by those present. The audience was admonished not to despise the day of small beginnings, we must not forget those who bore the heat and burden of the day. Feelingly the speakers advised the Evangelical people not to get proud when they moved into the new church. They were told that they would make a serious mistake if they neglected to make the poorly clad stranger to feel that he was welcome when he came to their new house of worship. Maybe the stranger wears cheap clothes, somewhat soiled, but don't, on this account, shrink from grasping him by the hand and calling him brother.

The sentiments and spirit of these farewell services were good. It is well that the old pioneers of the Evangelical church were remembered at this meeting. They were soldiers with true courage. They came to Bremer county at a time when the fastest freight was by ox power, and when the fastest express was the lumbering stage. They obeyed duty with never a thought of fail. They were men. They blazed the path of glory with the clearing ax of time, in the book of God's remembrance they have etched their deeds sublime. They helped to work out the manumission of a country great and free. They were picket guards of progress, they fought on the skirmish line for the cause of righteousness and civilization.

And the mothers, do not forget the pioneer mothers! They never wore any symbols to show that they wrought a nation's life, and yet, maybe they did. But they were content in God's best gift—pure motherhood. Don't forget the mothers—many times, through apparent failure, they were patient like the watcher who at sundown, as daylight fades, beholds the evening star! We trust the young people of the Evangelical society will not forget the pioneer mothers of their church.

The Evangelical people tell us that the first sermon preached in Iowa by a preacher of their church was by Rev. Wucherer, in 1840, in Dubuque. In 1850 the Iowa Conference was organized at Grand View, Iowa. The first preacher who came to Waverly was Rev. Schaeffel. The other ministers who worked in and around Waverly were Revs. Hintze, Kleinsorge, Kelper, Schmidt and Harlacher. Rev. Schaeffel came from Illinois in 1855. He came as a missionary and preached in different houses. Finally regular meetings were held in a building that stood where H. G. Nichols' house now stands, and afterwards in a house where the First ward school house now stands. After the Bremer county court-house was built they held services in the court room for some time.

The Evangelical society of Waverly was organized in December 1859. In 1871 the church on West Water St.,

organization, our hearts are filled with admiration for your fathers and mothers who with great self-denial, deprivations, petty persecutions, poverty and abasement before the world organized the little flock and built the little church.

They were full of love and loyalty to God, and under all trying circumstances devoted to His cause. Though simple in faith and worship their spiritual battles and conquests were magnificent. They were a happy people; happy when praying with pardon-seeking souls; happy in their prayer-meetings and church services; happy in supporting Christ's Kingdom and in assisting their needy neighbor. Yes, the Evangelicals are a happy people in the Lord.

Hallowed memories of the past crowd upon us at this moment, could these walls speak, this pulpit, these pews, this altar tell us of the past



REV. J. H. BAUERNFEIND, THE PASTOR

what wonderful things would we hear! Here souls have knelt and communed with God; here your loved ones have lain, asleep in that last small chamber when you bid them farewell; here the ark of covenant stood from which pardon, consolation, peace and joy went forth to many a downcast, hungering soul!

But, friends, we have come here to bid farewell to this sacred place; we must not live from the achievements and memories of the past. The motto must be:

"Forward," "Progress." The walls of our Evangelical Zion must be built stronger, higher upon the tried foundation of the old Evangelical faith and practice. After you have become settled in your magnificent new church, do not forget nor despise the days of little things and small beginnings. Beware of arrogance and pride. Don't forget to grasp the stranger by the hand and tell him welcome. Move the ark of covenant with you into the new church and, as my text says: "Move no more," "that you may dwell in a place of your own." God is not particularly fond of the "mover," one who is at home everywhere but really at home nowhere. "No place like home," especially church-home. Always remain a true Evangelical, but above all things remain a true disciple of our blessed Lord. Do not lower the standard of true religion: Repentance, Regeneration, Holiness. Hold these as the essential elements to membership and fellowship in your church organization.

Saturday evening the new church

for comparative illustration, the thankfulness of King David after the successful transfer of the Ark of God from Baale to Zion, the city of David. The speaker declared that we too have an Ark of covenant—the word of God, the cross of Christ, and in order to make the transfer, from the old place to the new acceptable to God, the act must be accompanied with personal gifts and sacrifices. These sacrifices the builders of this house of worship have cheerfully brought. It is a deed for which your children and your children's children—in the years to come, will keep you in blessed remembrance. But the real purpose of all this effort and toil is for the praising of God our Father. Therefore, "lift up ye gates, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in." The greater the difficulties overcome, the harder the work accomplished, the greater the joy of success, and the more reason for praise and thankfulness to God. Real thankfulness to God is manifested in true humility and acts of love; pride and arrogance in the church is like the deadly mildew and will be the death to any church. Worldliness and self-praise must be kept out of the sanctuary of the Lord, but love and unity must and will prevail. True piety will not manifest itself only in your coming here at stated periods to worship before God but it will shine forth like sunbeams in your every day life and contact with your fellow-beings. You may not be able to increase your numbers by scores and hundreds, but by the grace of God and faithful labor on your side, you will be able to lead individuals to the mercy seat and gather them into your fold, one by one. Therefore hold fast to true spirituality, and remember that this church will be dedicated to the service of God and not as a place of mere entertainment, or worldly amusement. Here the perishing shall be saved; souls be born into the eternal life, and the saints of God be comforted and strengthened in the faith and made fit for the worship in the eternal temple above.

Sunday morning, the day appointed for the dedication of the new church, dawned beautiful and mild. It seemed old "Sol" had particular instructions to beam, with a grand smile of warmth and light, upon the festivities on this occasion. City and country were clothed in radiant sunshine, and the people gathered from all directions in festal throngs. From Bremer, Ringier, Cedar Falls, Waterloo and other places people had come to be present at the dedication. Bishop Thomas Bowman, D. D., senior bishop of the church made his appearance and preached the dedicatory sermon, a sermon that will long be remembered. The church choir sang as it had never sung before and reaped the well merited praise of everyone present. The burden of over \$1,000.00 unsecured balance of the cost of the building, which rested upon the minds of the trustees like a nightmare, melted away under the influence of the bishop's powerful sermon and his kindly appeal to the generosity of the promoters of this enterprise, and in order to dedicate the church in the afternoon, free of all debt. It was proposed to raise this needed amount forthwith. In 30 minutes time the \$1,500 were secured in cash and pledges and punctually at 12 o'clock the congregation sang: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and the benediction was pronounced.

The dedicatory service in the afternoon was most beautiful and impressive. After a talk by the bishop upon the weightiness and importance of dedicating to the Lord, the trustees

ligion, that it cannot be served on ice, as some would have it. But especially beautiful and touching was his reference to the home-coming of the warrior in Christ, using for illustration the returning of the old soldier—boys of the sixties. He referred to the differences of language here on earth, but that there will be only one language spoken in heaven—the spiritual language of the redeemed in Christ. It was a sermon full of spiritual truth and instruction, and will long be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to hear it. Rev. Frank Cole, of the M. B. church, made the closing prayer, then the choir sang another anthem, whereupon the bishop made a public statement in regard to the finances of the church.

The cost of the church lot, building, fixtures, etc., is \$6,500. The merchants of Waverly contributed over \$700 toward this worthy cause, thereby showing their good will and esteem of the cause and the people constituting this society. The bishop, in the name of the trustees and the members of the church, thanked these men publicly for their generosity. A few more subscriptions and a cash collection was taken, in order to defray the expenses for the completion of the Sunday school room, and a hundred dollars were contributed in a very few minutes.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name," was sung by the congregation and the exercises of the day were over. Well may this congregation feel happy over the possession of such a neat and modern house of worship. It is one of the finest little church buildings we have ever seen, and it is our hope and desire that this church will be a power for good in our city and community.

We were also pleased to meet so large a number of visiting pastors of the denomination who took part in the dedicatory services. Rev. L. Scheurer, of Waterloo, Presiding Elder of the district, Rev. E. O. Beck of Dubuque, Rev. H. Raecker of Lu Verne, Rev. Geo. Zellhoefer of Waterloo, Rev. J. Belau of Klinger, and Rev. A. Raecker of Britt, were present and took part in the services.

The inside dimensions of the church are as follows: Auditorium, 40x40; Sunday-school room, 20x30 with an annex 10x20; the space occupied by the pulpit and choir platform is 17x24; there is a cloak room 10x10 and the outer or entrance hall is also 10x10. There is a basement under the entire building but this is not yet finished off. The auditorium, Sunday-school room, halls, closets, etc. are heated from a furnace in the basement, and electric lights illuminate the whole.

The little gem of a church stands on a splendid foundation, and the Evangelical Association will also continue to stand on a splendid foundation so long as its members stick to that good old creed which teaches, that in order to be good Evangelicals men and women must live pure lives of temperance righteousness, deal honestly with their fellow-men, and that they must do unto others as they would like to have others do unto them. If they continue to stick to this idea and preach it with their

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Site Number 09-00648
Related District Number 09-00621

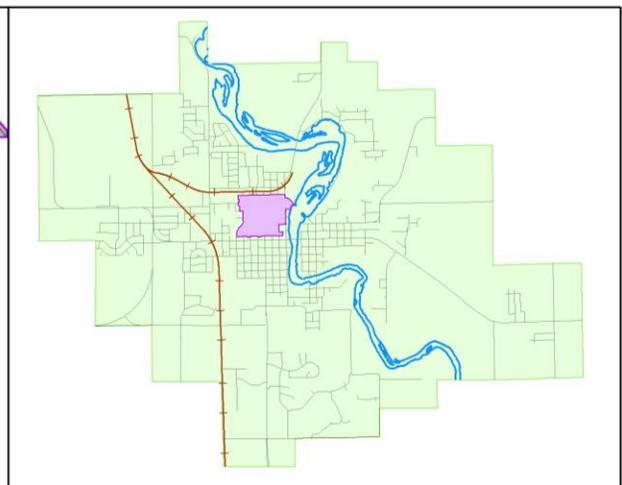
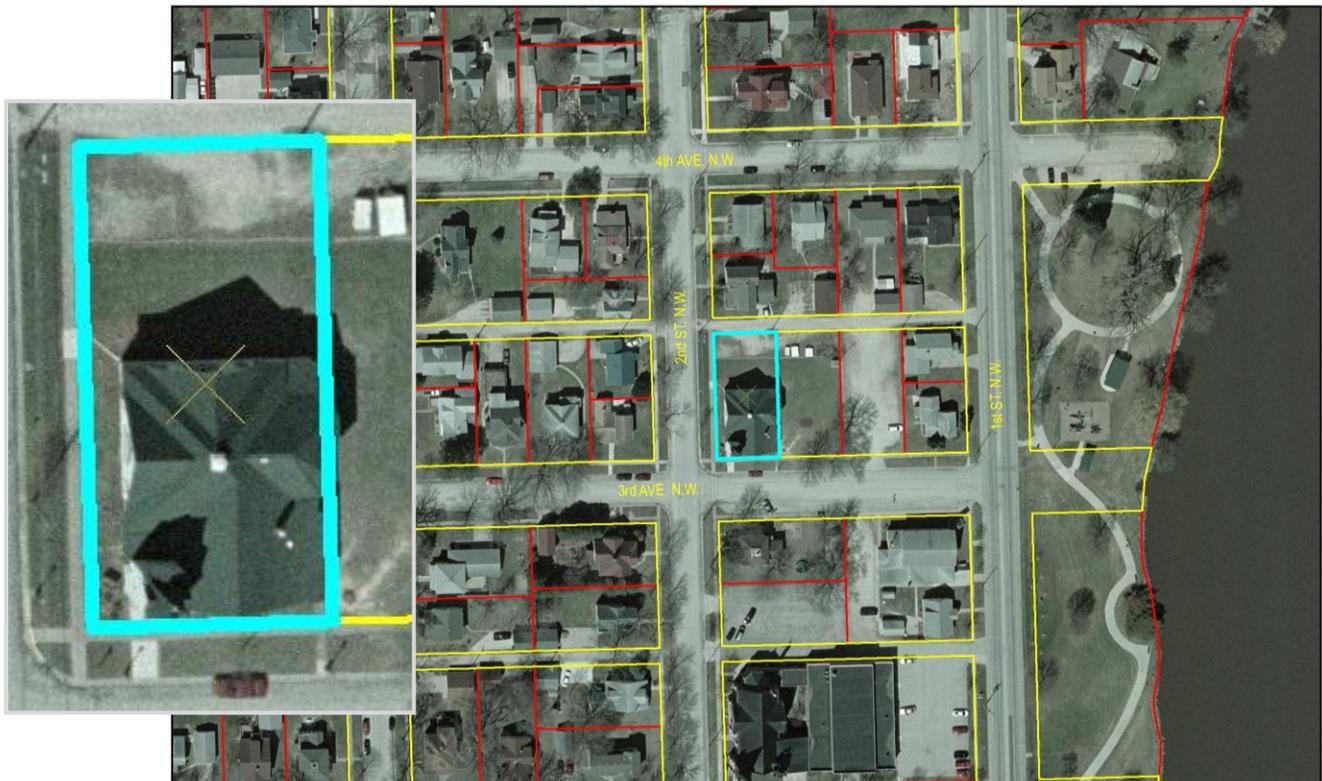
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First Evangelical Church
Name of Property
124 3rd Ave NW
Address

Bremer
County
Waverly
City

Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.

**124 3rd Ave NW
PIN 09-02-107-006**



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First Evangelical Church

Bremer

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124 3rd Ave NW

Waverly

Address

City

Photographs: 124 3rd Ave NW, looking northeast and north, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc., photographer, 11/15/2011.



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First Evangelical Church

Bremer

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124 3rd Ave NW

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Photograph: 124 3rd Ave NW, looking northwest and north, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc., photographer, 11/15/2011.



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First Evangelical Church

Bremer

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124 3rd Ave NW

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Photograph: 124 3rd Ave NW, long view looking east down 3rd Ave NW, Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc., photographer, 11/15/2011.



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First Evangelical Church

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124 3rd Ave NW

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Photograph: 124 3rd Ave NW, looking northeast, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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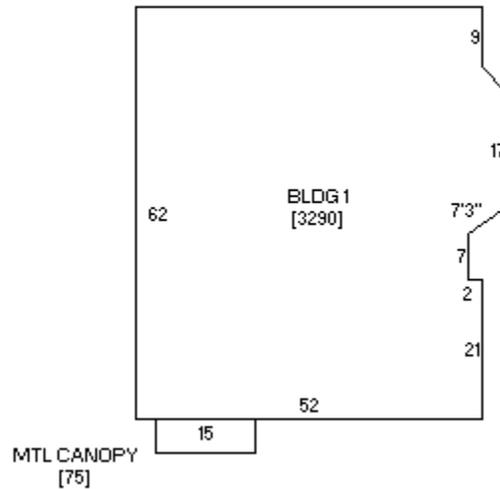
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Related District Number 09-00621

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First Evangelical Church	Bremer
Name of Property	County
124 3 rd Ave NW	Waverly
Address	City

Additional Information:

Floor plan, 124 3rd Ave NW, Bremer County Assessor website; available at <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0902107006&index=0&size=0>; accessed 7/2/2013.



Sketch by www.camavision.com