

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

ENTERED FEB 20 2004
refnum 04000061

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 any 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name First Congregational Church
Other names/site number (SUM-443-16)

2. Location

street & number 292 East Market Street not for publication
city or town Akron vicinity
state Ohio code 153 county Summit zip code 44308

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

William Power - Dept. Head December 31, 2003
Signature of certifying official Planning, Inventory, Registration Date
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

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 or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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		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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION:
Sub: Religious Facility
Sub: Sunday School and Parish House

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION:
Sub: Religious Facility
Sub: Sunday School and Parish House

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)
Richardsonian Romanesque, Craftsman Style

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	<u>STONE: limestone,</u> <u>CONCRETE</u>
roof	<u>ASPHALT: shingles</u>
walls	<u>STONE: limestone, BRICK,</u> <u>STUCCO, GLASS, WOOD</u>
other	<u>METAL: copper, aluminum</u>

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

See attached 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 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 a 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.)

See attached 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

1910-1953

Significant Dates

1910, 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles Henry and Son Architects (1910), Frank, Wagner, and Mitchell Architects (c. 1916)

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository: Chambers, Murphy & Burge

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property less than one acre****UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 457265 4547705</u>	3 _____
2 _____	4 _____

 See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

See attached continuation sheet.**Boundary Justification**

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

See attached continuation sheet.**11. Form Prepared By**name/title organization Chambers, Murphy & Burge, Restoration Architects, Ltd.contact: Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, AIAChristina C. Gilbert, Chad Solon, Amy Darkow, Emily Steiner date October 16, 2003street & number 43 East Market Street telephone 330.434.9300city or town Akron state Ohio zip code 44308**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)

Historic Floor Plans showing changes to property over time

Sanborn Maps: 1916, 1930-1940

Photographic Key Plans**Property Owner**

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

name First Congregational Church of Akronstreet & number 292 East Market Street telephone 330.253.5109city or town Akron state Ohio zip code 44308

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION – BUILDING DESCRIPTION

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The First Congregational Church of Akron is an Akron Plan Church completed in 1910. This Richardsonian Romanesque structure was designed by Charles Henry and Son Architects. The original structure of the Church was a large, modified rectangular building which occupied a relatively flat site at the southwest corner of East Market Street and South Union Street. The Church is sited about eight blocks east from the center of Akron's central business district, as marked by the intersection of Main and Market Streets. The current configuration of the Church is irregular due to two later additions to the building, the latter of which physically links the once freestanding Parish House to the Sanctuary.

The lot on which the First Congregational Church of Akron sits was originally irregularly shaped and measured approximately 185' along East Market Street and 294' along South Union Street. This primary lot was also accompanied by two additional city lots on South Union Street, one of which housed the Church Parsonage. These two lots measured 60' by 145' each, giving the South Union Street frontage a total of 414' (refer to section 10).

The neighborhood around the First Congregational Church of Akron is currently a mixture of businesses, churches, and buildings owned by the University of Akron. These buildings are primarily one and two stories in height, wood frame and masonry buildings. Sanborn maps from 1916 show the church surrounded by two- and three-story wood frame and masonry residences. Historic photographs indicate that some of these homes were large Second Empire style homes and some were small vernacular residences. Sanborn maps from 1916 and 1930 to 1951 indicate that there was a warehouse-like dance hall and winter garden with a roller rink two lots to the west of the Church on East Market Street.

In plan, the original First Congregational Church housed the two separate functions of Sanctuary or Meeting House and Sunday School education. The Sunday School portion of the building faces north on to East Market Street while the Meeting House faces east on to Union Street. The entrances to both portions are on Union Street. The Meeting House has a hipped roof topped by a one-story square monitor with a row of arched clerestory window openings. The Sunday School section at the north end has a regular hipped roof with gabled walls facing East Market Street while it intersects the hipped roof of the Sanctuary. A prominent crenelated clock tower approximately five stories in height and a three-story tower emphasize the Sanctuary and Sunday School entrances along the center of the Union Street facade.

The exterior wall materials used at the First Congregational Church are rusticated and dressed limestone. The original portion of the Church has a water table base of dressed limestone which contrasts with the rusticated limestone that forms the majority of the wall surface. Stepped buttresses set on a diagonal are used at all external corners of the original Church. Most of the

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first and second floor windows in the original Church are rectangular wood frame double hung or round arched windows (large or small) that feature wood or stone tracery. Nearly all of the windows in the Sanctuary and Sunday School have Tiffany- style stained glass. The windows in the Sanctuary have biblical themes, while the Sunday School, Fellowship Hall and vestibule windows feature abstract, geometric and architectural designs. All of the stained glass windows are protected today by non-original storm windows which are located on the exterior. The effect of the stained glass is thus minimized from the outside. The roofing materials are copper seam roofing and asphalt shingles on the Church building and flat membrane roofing at the towers and monitor. The Church has copper gutters and down spouts.

The elevations of the Church are difficult to describe in narrative form due to its complex, asymmetrical massing. **(Photo 1)** Only the main elevations fronting Union and Market streets will be discussed in detail as these are the primary facades of the corner Church which have not been altered with additions. The Union Street elevation is a long east-facing elevation which emphasizes the entrances to the two primary spaces of the Church, the Sanctuary and the Sunday School. The Sunday School entrance is set in the prominent five-story clock tower that is located almost in the center of the facade. Its three-story counterpart and a barrel vaulted entry porch give entrances to the Meeting House.

The Meeting House or Sanctuary elevation on East Union Street can be broadly divided into three portions, or bays. **(Photo 2)** Beginning at the left (south) bay, this bay has the simplest configuration, consisting of a single narrow roman arched window at mid-level between floors and a hipped roof that butts into the adjacent bay. Its external corner is marked by a diagonal buttress.

The second bay contains a three-story crenelated tower. It has a pair of arched wood doors recessed in a steeply pitched projecting gable, as the entrance to the Sanctuary. The barrel vaulted entry porch has dressed stone voussiors and an oversized keystone. The pediment is accented by stonework with a carved diamond pattern. A pair of narrow arched windows marks the second story. The third story is marked by a tapered string course. Pilasters at the corners flank an inset panel with a pair of rectangular windows. The panel is topped with curved stone brackets. A projecting stone cornice sets off the castellated stone parapet.

The third part of the Meeting House elevation is a wide recessed bay marked by a steeply gabled entry similar to the one previously described. The centrally located entrance projects forward as part of a one-story shed-roofed composition which has two rectangular windows on each side. These windows have stone mullions which divide the window into cruciform panes. Behind the one-story element, a prominent second story wide gable completes and frames the main entrance to the Sanctuary. It has a pair of large Roman arched windows that light the meeting room. The

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windows have stone tracery. Rusticated voussoirs at the windows are topped by a projecting label mold which connects to the spring line of the arch. The pediment is accented by three small arched windows in a modified Palladian arrangement, such that the center window is taller than the flanking windows..

The separation between the Meeting House and the Sunday School is marked by the five-story clock tower. The first three levels of the tower are similar to those previously described in the three story tower. The fourth level has a projecting balconette resting on stone corbeled brackets. The corners are defined by pilasters topped with decorative pedimented stones. The inset has a Palladian louvered opening. The final level of the clock tower contains a clock face set in a Roman arch. A stone string course defines the spring line and the curve of the arch. A series of closely spaced brackets support a projecting stone cornice, currently covered in copper. The tower is topped by a crenelated stone parapet with a copper coping.

Past the clock tower is the Sunday School portion of the Church. This portion of the building was originally symmetrical on its three exposed sides (Union Street, Market Street and College Street). The east and north facades at the Sunday School portion are dominated by a large three bay wall gable centered on the rusticated wall surface. The west facade has been covered by the 1958 addition. On the Union Street Sunday School facade, there is a wall gable containing three bays of windows. The third story windows are arched with a stone label and are linked to the second floor windows with a profiled wood spandrel panel. A wheel window with similar stone trim is located in the pediment. The flanking windows at all levels are rectangular and have a dressed string course at the head of the first floor windows.

The Market Street elevation of the Church has a similar fenestration pattern and type as the Sunday School portion of the Union Street elevation except that it has a three bay centered gable which projects about four feet from the wall. **(Photo 8)** The central bay has paired windows topped with a trefoil pattern. The windows in the projecting bay are round topped at the third level and are again linked to the second level by profiled wood spandrel panels. The pediment of the projecting gable is accented by three small round top openings in the Venetian fashion; the centermost contains a louver. The windows that flank the central bay are rectangular on all three floors.

The interior layout of the Church is little altered from its original design. The Church has two separate functions, Sanctuary (or Meeting House) and Sunday School, each housed in an essentially square footprint. The two footprints together create the modified rectangle that comprises the whole building. The Meeting House has a polygonal interior shape resulting from locating the pulpit on the diagonal, a typical feature of the Akron Plan Church. The pews are arranged in a radial configuration, auditorium style, on a sloping floor. A balcony with additional

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pews surrounds the Meeting House. The Sunday School portion of the Church has a Fellowship Hall on the first floor. The second and third floors house the Sunday School with a two story lecture space surrounded on three sides by classrooms of varying sizes on two floors. The classrooms are arranged in a radial configuration, giving each room an irregular shape. Today some of these rooms are used as part of the First Congregational Church Learning Center.

Additions

Within a decade of the construction of the main building, a separate **Parish House** was built behind the Church in the southeast corner of the site in an Arts and Crafts style with Tudor Revival influences by the Akron architectural firm of Frank, Wagner & Mitchell. **(Photo 18)** Although the front of this building is now hidden behind a later addition, historic photos from c. 1916 show a rectangular building with a low-pitched gabled roof. The long sides of the building are still visible today. The original building materials were stucco with false half-timbering on a brick base, and tabbed brickwork at doors, windows and piers. The overhanging gable roof was supported by embellished curved knee braces. The roof material was slate and the windows on the front appear to be wood casements. The stucco facade is marked by a regular pattern of brick tabbed piers above which is a false half-timbering. The building was originally used as a recreation center and the large windows at the gymnasium bays were multi-pane industrial steel sash, probably with operable hopper windows. The rear (west) elevation has been altered from its original appearance by the removal of the half-timbering (shadow lines are visible showing original placement), replacement of the rear door with windows, and simplification of the eave brackets.

The **Parish House** presently contains six spaces; the two largest spaces were created when the original gymnasium was divided in half during the 1958 renovation and expansion. The smaller rooms were originally offices or lounges and some contain decorative tile fireplaces. The plan is still symmetrical about the long axis.

In 1958 an addition was designed by the Cleveland architectural firm of Ward & Conrad. **(Photo 19, 20)** The linking addition contained a chapel, church offices on the ground floor, and new Sunday School classrooms on the second floor. The L-shaped addition adjoins the front of the existing Parish House, and conceals a portion of the west side of the Church. The addition also adds a new secondary entrance along the East Market Street elevation. The addition is constructed of coursed limestone, pre-cast concrete, and buff colored brick masonry. A one-story chapel with a gabled ceiling is located on the short leg of the L, with the entrance facing Union Street. A decorative window wall with geometric panes set in stone tracery fills the gable end. The window is repeated on the south side of the chapel and also in an open screen wall at a one-story covered porch that joins the chapel to the two-story classroom and office wing.

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The office and classroom wing is a two-story rectangular addition with a flat roof. The wing has repeating bays of coursed limestone piers and tri-part aluminum windows in flush limestone on the east side, and buff brick masonry with bi-part windows on the construction photos indicate that the original window divisions corresponded with the stone joints. The long leg of the L has a single loaded corridor set against the original sanctuary wall, with classrooms or offices looking out to the west. The new secondary entrance is set back about 15 feet from the original building. Two-thirds of the north elevation is flush coursed ashlar/limestone. The one-third elevation which abuts the original building is an aluminum storefront window wall with fully glazed double entrance doors located adjacent to the original building at grade level. Three metal crosses are applied to the stone masonry in an asymmetrical layout adjacent to the window wall.

Historic photos and maps also indicate that a parsonage once existed on the site. **(Photo 15)** It was located to the south of the sanctuary on Union Street. It was a two-story cross-gabled residence with a large front porch constructed in the Craftsman style. The building was present in the 1930-40s, but was demolished by the time the addition was under construction in 1958.

Significant Interior Spaces

The **Meeting House** or Sanctuary at the First Congregational Church is a multi-level space which still contains many of its original features. **(Photos 16, 17)** The space is entered directly from one of two vestibules along Union Street via five sets of double doors. The two-story Meeting House is dominated by an immense round arched wood panel and wood infill screen at the rear of the pulpit which is located along one truncated corner of the square space. The corner opposite the pulpit is also truncated, creating an elongated hexagonal space. The floor slopes downward from the entry doors to the pulpit. The ceiling has a complex vaulted configuration with an octagonal skylight at the center of the room, aligning with the roof-top castellated monitor.

An oval-shaped balcony surrounds the Sanctuary. It is suspended with tie rods from the roof structure above, eliminating the need for columns in the Meeting House space. The balcony can be reached either by a stair in the tower located at the south end of the Union Street side, through a set of double doors from the second floor of the clock tower, or by two open stairs which flank the dais. Pairs of large arched stained glass windows by the Decorative Glass Company of Philadelphia surround the balcony on three sides. The windows contain figurative biblical scenes set within a wide border of geometric design.

An historic photo taken shortly after the building was completed shows a carpeted Meeting House and balcony. The original curved pews are still in use. Some pews have been removed from the front of the Church to provide more circulation and worship space. The pews are solid wood with

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curved end panels and book holders. Some pews in the balcony were shortened when the building was altered to provide access to the 1958 classroom wing. The dais has a semi-circular shape. There is one step up to a large platform and three steps up to a smaller platform where the liturgical furniture was placed. The upper platform has a paneled wood base, but no railing. Behind the dais is the choir and organ platform, located at a mid-level between the sanctuary and the balcony. Raised wood paneling in a round arched pattern fronts this platform today.

Historic photos show that organ pipes originally filled the massive arch behind the pulpit. A small set of pipes was located in each of two small balconettes which flanked the arch at the third floor level. The decorative pipes have been removed and replaced with purely functional organ pipes, now located behind a decorative wood grille. The balconettes have also been removed and replaced with similar wood paneling. Original doors and frames are located throughout the Sanctuary and Sunday School, with the exception of the new doors added at the 1958 addition. Some of the door hardware has been replaced with panic hardware, yet much of the bronze hardware, including decorative push plates and massive hinges, remains. Although the ceiling has been covered with applied acoustic material, the original chandeliers appear to be present. Redecoration notes from 1919 listed new light fixtures, but it is uncertain to which fixtures this refers. Apart from painted wood cornice trim, the walls are unadorned. The skylight is currently backlit with electric lighting rather than daylight, since the skylight was covered in the past.

Adjacent to the Meeting House to the north on the main floor is the **Fellowship Hall**. Originally almost square in plan, the room had a folding partition at the north end for enlarging the space. The room was used for social functions such as church dinners and dances. The space has been significantly altered over time by the removal of several structural columns and the folding partition. New drywall partitions have been constructed at a slight angle giving the room a different configuration. The floors, walls, ceiling, and trim have all been changed from their original materials. The original skylight, which allowed light in from the Sunday School, has been removed or covered over. Historic stained glass windows are still in place along the north wall of the Fellowship Hall.

Above the Fellowship Hall are the two floors that comprise the **Akron Plan Sunday School**. **(Photos 13, 14)** This unique space contains a two-story lecture room which has a small raised platform at the south end. A small curtained stage is located behind the platform. The stage beyond the platform was originally movable. It was attached to pulleys; when folded up it permitted daylight from above the stage to reach the social hall below. The skylight was rectangular, with square panes of glass. An open area in front of the stage was open to the surrounding classrooms on the second and third floor. A semi-circular balcony rings the third floor classrooms. The balcony has an original low wood wall with a round arched motif topped by a low brass railing. The

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irregularly shaped classrooms were originally visually connected to the lecture hall by means of movable partitions. None of the moveable partitions remain, although the framed openings are extant at every classroom. The classrooms on the second floor have glazed aluminum storefront partitions; the classrooms on the third floor have contemporary accordion-type partitions or have been infilled with drywall. The floors of the third floor classrooms are raised up two steps and have sloped floors to improve sightlines to the platform below. The stage surround and platform appear to be original, although the original floor materials have been covered with carpet. The original octagonal stained glass skylight remains in the center of the room. A contemporary light fixture hangs from the primarily geometric design and is surrounded by a decorative wood grille that is not original. This skylight is now artificially backlit also.

The final space to be described is the 1958 **chapel. (Photo 12)** This intimate rectangular room measures about 20' x 40' with a low-pitched ceiling at about 22' high. The room is entered through double wood doors which are glazed in a contemporary chevron pattern. All the walls are paneled with smooth wood which is scored in a zigzag pattern. The south wall features a large expanse of stained glass, again in the chevron configuration. The colored glass is a random pattern of blue, red, gold and aqua panes. A similar stained glass window wall is also located above the entrance doors on the north end. Two rows of stationary pews with a center aisle lead to the front of the chapel which has a small raised platform. The platform is backed by a contemporary flush stone reredos with a suspended cross. The stone joints are scored in the chevron pattern. Flanking the reredos is a screen of wood with chevron openings backed by an acoustic material.

Historic Integrity

The exterior of the Church has been slightly altered in the course of use although it retains the majority of its Romanesque Revival features. The most significant changes result from the addition which was constructed in 1958. The addition entailed the removal of the original west entrance which was a single-story space with recessed double doors facing Market Street. Interior double doors gave access to a hall which led either to the Fellowship Hall or to the rear of the Sanctuary. The west entrance featured a crenelated roof and Romanesque door and window surrounds. The 1958 addition also covered a portion of the west facade of both the Meeting House and the Sunday School, necessitating the removal of several large stained glass windows.

Other changes include the removal of the crenelations on the square monitor which topped the hipped roof of the Sanctuary. It now has a flat parapet. The clock face of the five-story clock tower has also been replaced. Roofing materials which were originally slate with copper trim are now replaced with asphalt shingles, copper seam roofing, and flat membrane roofing. Copper trim is still used. The clerestory windows at the monitor were removed and infilled with wood louvers.

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Appearing in historic photographs was an unusual bulls-eye window set in a diagonally placed roof dormer which probably provided light to the choir loft. The dormer and window been removed.

The church has also retained the defining interior characteristics of an Akron Plan Church with a auditorium sanctuary. On the interior, the Meeting House still has its original curved pews, gallery, light fixtures and stained glass windows. The doors are believed to be original but it is possible that they date from an early redecoration. Alterations in the Meeting House include the construction of an unobtrusive staircase in one corner of the room, and the removal and replacement of the original organ and pipe configuration. Adjacent to the Meeting House, an elevator was added in one of the vestibules of the stair tower. The Social Hall on the first floor has been extensively altered from its original configuration by the removal of support columns and partitions to create a large, open space. The North Narthex has been altered by the addition of drywall panels over the existing plaster walls. The existing wood trim is present and in its original location, but has been stripped and stained a lighter color than other existing wood throughout the Church.

The Akron Plan Sunday School space likewise has undergone minor alterations. None of the original movable partitions remain in any classroom and the lower classrooms have been infilled with glass storefronts. However, the unique radiating shape of each classroom is intact. The light well at the stage has been covered over as well as the skylight that lit the central stained glass octagon, which is now backlit. The original movable stage partition behind the superintendent's platform has been removed along with the original central chandelier and light fixtures. However, the radiating classroom layout, sloped floors, superintendent's platform, brass railings, woodwork, and art glass have remained intact. Also, the space can still be appreciated in its original form as the classrooms can be opened onto and closed off from the main Sunday School space.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 1

The First Congregational Church of Akron is eligible under **Criteria C** for architectural significance as an excellent example of a **modified Akron Plan Church** which has an auditorium plan sanctuary with an adjacent Akron Plan Sunday School. These are both examples of church designs being built during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in reaction to changes in liturgical services and in the initiation of Sunday School teaching. The Sunday School functioned for 48 years in its original space until a new Educational wing was constructed in the 1950's. The Akron Plan Sunday School at the First Congregational Church is one of three remaining examples of this type of Sunday School plan in the city of Akron that are part of functioning churches, with the First Congregational Church being the largest and most prosperous of the three. All three extant examples were designed by the Akron firm of Charles Henry & Son. The firm, which was nationally recognized for church buildings, constructed at least 15 churches in Akron. (Refer to Appendix B in Section 9 for a partial list of known Charles Henry-designed churches in Akron.) There is one other extant plan (not by Charles Henry) in Akron at St. Paul's Sunday School and Parish (1885) located one block to the east of First Congregational Church on East Market Street. That building has undergone extensive interior alterations as part of an adaptive reuse project. In addition to its significance as an Akron Plan Church, the First Congregational Church is also an excellent example of a religious building constructed in the **Richardsonian Romanesque** style. This style, attributed to the well-known architect Henry Hobson Richardson, is characterized by the use of rusticated coursed masonry, round (Romanesque) arches at windows and entrances, asymmetrical facades with multiple roofs, towers, and parapeted wall dormers often set in hipped roofs. Colored and/or contrasting textures in masonry were used to accentuate wall surfaces and window surrounds. The First Congregational Church contains all these elements.

Historical Background

The First Congregational Church was built in **Akron** in 1910. At the turn of the century, the city of Akron was a fast growing town of 50,000 inhabitants. Its growth was originally based on the construction of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1827, and later the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal in 1840. The intersection of the two canals created Akron's historic downtown area. When canal transportation was supplanted by the railroad beginning in 1852, Akron continued to prosper, having by the 1900s at least six rail lines, followed by interurban electric lines and related stations for these rail lines. The increasing popularity of automobiles and bicycles aided the growth of the rubber tire factories of Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich, Miller Rubber and Diamond Rubber Co. all of which originated in Akron. During the period from 1900 to 1917, Akron experienced its most significant physical and economic growth. The depression years of the 1890s were over, and the Gilded Age was in full swing. By 1920 Akron's population had increased by over 200% to a booming 208,000 inhabitants, making it the fastest growing city in the United States. The First Congregational Church was constructed during this peak period of prosperity and its design reflects the exuberance of that era. The church has solidity and permanence, a richness of exterior materials, and interior furnishings that indicate the wealth of the congregation.

The **Congregational Christian Church**, of which the First Congregational Church of Akron is a part, is one of the oldest organized churches in America, having been brought to New England by the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. The Congregationalists favored autonomous, self-governing, non-hierarchical churches. They expected voluntary rather than mandatory cooperation among local and national organizations. The First Congregational Church of Akron was founded in 1834; only one year after the town of North Akron was platted on land owned by Simon Perkins. It is described as Akron's first church in an Akron Beacon Journal article

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dating 1948. Originally housed in a small wood frame structure, the congregation moved several times and constructed a church building at each location. Many of the churches have been destroyed by fire. The present church at the corner of N. Union Street and E. Market Street was designed by the Akron architectural firm of Charles Henry and Son, who were members of the congregation and who specialized in Akron Plan Churches. The exterior form of the Church was strongly influenced by the work of H. H. Richardson.

The interior layout of the church featured what was commonly known as an **Akron Plan Church** because it contained an Akron Plan Sunday School. At the First Congregational Church, this included a worship space designed in an auditorium plan and a two-story Akron Plan Sunday School. The term Akron Plan Church evolved to imply a church that had a distinct Sunday School component attached directly to the Sanctuary and which could be opened to the Sanctuary by means of a movable partition. Thus, in a typical Akron Plan Church, these two portions of the Church could be combined to form one large gathering space. In the First Congregational Church, the plan may be considered a modified Akron Plan due to the fact that while the Sunday School is an adjacent component, it is located on a different level than the Sanctuary and is accessible from the Sanctuary only by a set of double doors. The Sunday School portion of an Akron Plan Church was typically a two-story space consisting of a central lecture platform surrounded by one or two floors of classrooms, all of which had a view of the lecture platform. The form of the Sanctuary to which it was attached could vary. It could be a traditional basilica plan or an auditorium plan. While most Akron Plan Churches did have auditorium plans, this may be because auditorium plans were in vogue at the same time as the Akron Plan Sunday School was popularized.

The Development of the Auditorium Plan

Church architecture in the United States began with the **Puritan Meeting House** of the seventeenth century. Many Protestant churches were begun in opposition to the Catholic and Episcopalian denominations. These new churches were organized on a non-hierarchical basis, attempting to revise the centuries-long ecclesiastic organizational format. The specific emphasis in the Congregationalist denomination was on the equality of all members of the congregation. Although the focus during a service was on the lectern at the front of the church, the seating was arranged in straight egalitarian rows surrounding the pulpit. Church buildings were kept fairly small in order to maintain acoustical and visual connection to the speaker.

In the eighteenth century, the **traditional basilica** plan, long popular in Europe, also became popular in America among both ritual denominations (Catholic and Episcopalian) and non-ritual denominations (typically Protestant) due to the influence of England's Sir Christopher Wren. The basilica plan, with its long, wide nave with center aisle and apse at one end worked better in ritually oriented churches which had the altar as the focus of the Eucharistic celebration. In these churches, the priest led the service and the congregation followed in rote response. The longitudinal orientation was less effective in non-ritual denominations because of the greater importance these congregations gave to acoustical and visual quality.

During the first three decades of the nineteenth century the Second Great Awakening in religion was taking place. Itinerant preachers with remarkable abilities as orators would encourage huge crowds to participate in events known as revivals. Most church layouts were ill-suited to host such oratory events. Their long naves filled with numerous piers created poor sight lines while the high ceilings compromised the acoustic quality of the spoken voice.

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In urban areas the problems were readily solved by holding the **revivals** in theaters or other auditorium spaces. These rooms were designed to hold a maximum number of people, each with an excellent view and excellent acoustics. Although congregations and architects alike were frustrated by the limitations of the basilica plan, the idea of constructing theater-like churches was at first poorly received as it went against traditional ecclesiastic design. The first churches to have theater arrangements were built in the 1830s at the express direction of their preachers. These few early examples became instant landmarks due to their size and the fame of their ministers. However it was not until the 1870s that the auditorium form became commonly accepted and books of auditorium plan churches were readily available. The auditorium plan was favored by the non-ritual denominations such as the Methodists, Congregationalists, and Baptists who placed a greater emphasis on the spoken word. The ritual denominations, such as the Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans, traditionally placed emphasis on Holy Communion and continued to prefer basilica plans. The difference in terms of church planning was the focus on the pulpit instead of the altar.

Auditorium plan sanctuaries had a number of distinctive characteristics. First, the sanctuary had a centralized plan: squares, circles, ellipses, and diamond shapes were preferred. The seating was typically arranged in a radial manner from the pulpit and often the pews were curved to match. The floor was often sloped or bowled to improve site lines from the main floor. A second floor gallery was a common feature. The pews were usually arranged without a central aisle as this was considered less hierarchical. The pulpit or lectern was the dominant focus of the service. It was usually located on a large platform that included seating for other speakers. The altar was often eliminated. Space was left behind the platform for the choir to assemble and the organ pipes were usually visible on the back wall. Stained glass windows depicting biblical themes were usually placed on the sides and rear of the sanctuary to avoid glare in the eyes of the congregation. The ceiling was often lighted by a stained glass cupola or dome. Auditorium plan churches tended to use Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, or Neoclassical style detailing as these styles were more easily adapted to the unusual forms of the auditorium plan which had substantial mass of a two-story space with a non-linear orientation.

Akron became a national hub for church design in the late 1800s. Several firms active in the second half of the nineteenth century specialized in churches. In addition to George Washington Kramer, the innovator of the Pulpit in the Corner plan variation, the Akron architectural firms of Frank O. Weary, Charles Henry and Son, and William P. Ginther built numerous Akron Plan and auditorium churches throughout the nation. Charles Henry and Son especially favored the auditorium plans as evidenced in a plan book published 1907 which contained numerous variations on the Combination Plan.

The Akron Plan Sunday School

The **Akron Plan Sunday School** was for a brief period the most popular plan for Sunday Schools in the country. Originating in Akron, Ohio, the Plan consisted of a series of radiating classrooms on one or two levels that opened onto a central lecture space. This arrangement permitted all classes to participate in a common lesson conducted from the open lecture space. When the common lesson was completed, each classroom could be shut off from the rest of the space by movable partitions. The impetus for this unique layout began with the change in Sunday School lessons in the mid nineteenth century. Sunday Schools originated in England in late eighteenth century. Founded by philanthropist Robert Raikes, Sunday Schools were meant to improve children of the lower classes by giving them educational instruction. The first Sunday Schools were

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not associated with any denomination, but met on Sunday solely to accommodate children who worked during the week. They were not religious in nature, even though the texts, as in public schools, were drawn from the Bible. Sunday Schools were usually independent of the church denomination and had separate management and financing. Classes were conducted in any space available in the church with the exception of the sanctuary. By the second half of the nineteenth century, the Sunday Schools had developed into a highly organized system that had nationwide influence, but which still had little impact on church architecture. Two things happened which significantly influenced the layout of church architecture.

The first was the creation of a revolutionary church design in Akron, Ohio. Known as the **Akron Plan**, the Sunday School layout originated at the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio. The plan was the innovation of a Sunday School superintendent and wealthy businessman named Lewis Miller. Active in Sunday School administration from the time he was a young man, he became the superintendent of the First Methodist Episcopal Church shortly after he moved to Akron in 1863. A few years later, when the Church wanted to expand, he volunteered to assist in the planning of the new Sunday School wing. Miller's inspiration for the Akron Plan occurred at a Sunday School picnic. Miller observed that the people, when listening to a speaker, instinctively sat in concentric circles with the speaker as a central focus. This observation, plus the philosophy that classes should provide both for togetherness and separateness resulted in the Akron Plan layout for Sunday Schools. Miller made sketches which translated this concept into a physical form, and took them to Walter Blythe, a prominent Cleveland architect who also specialized in church design. Blythe felt that Miller's design was one of the most revolutionary changes in church design he had ever seen. Blythe drew up architectural plans which were later altered by Miller and Jacob Snyder, an Akron architect who also specialized in ecclesiastic design.

The final plan for the Sunday School addition, completed in 1872, consisted of twenty classrooms on two levels, each with folding doors, that opened onto a central rotunda where the superintendent's platform was located. The superintendent delivered opening and closing of the Sunday School lesson to the group.

The second factor which influenced the layout of the church was the creation of the Uniform Lesson Plan in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This system was formally adopted by the International Sunday School Association in 1872 and taught the same lesson to every age group. It was used internationally and within many different denominations. Under this mandatory system, the same Sunday School lesson was taught to every age group and every denomination, promoting a unifying experience for all family members. This was contrary to traditional Sunday Schools which were separated by age and sex. Within the Uniform Lesson system each teacher could tailor the lesson to any age group or denomination. The combination of the Uniform Lesson Plan and the Akron Plan influenced church design for many years. The Uniform Lesson Plan provided the structure for Sunday School education, and the Akron Plan made it physically possible to implement the teaching of a single lesson to all ages.

Immediately after its dedication in 1870, the Sunday School at First Methodist Episcopal Church in Akron was hailed as an outstanding success and was championed as the ideal Sunday School. Imitations sprang up all across the nation and soon nearly every church constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century desired the inclusion of this flexible space. In time, architects sought to provide even greater flexibility by combining the worship space and the Sunday School by means of a movable partition between the spaces.

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The architect Charles Henry referred to this plan type as a "Combination Plan". Numerous churches across the nation were constructed using this plan typology such that it came to be known as the Akron Plan Church.

After its tremendous initial popularity, the Akron Plan Church slowly waned from favor after the first quarter of the twentieth century for three reasons. First, the Uniform Lesson Plan was replaced by a different curriculum plan and with it, the need to assemble all Sunday School classes around a central space was removed. Second, the classrooms of the Akron Plan Sunday School were often awkwardly shaped and the movable partitions usually were not as sound proof as desired. Third, the influential position of the superintendent was questioned since he was not required to be a trained theologian and therefore was not necessarily qualified to instruct the children.

After the Akron Plan became outmoded, few congregations retained their Akron Plan Sunday Schools. The spaces served such a specific purpose that it was nearly impossible to use them for anything else without major renovations. Articles were published in architectural and ecclesiastical journals offering suggestions on what churches could do with their unusable Sunday School spaces. Often the rooms were gutted or turned into storage. Many of the churches which featured Akron Plans were located in the immediate downtown area, and as the population moved away from the city, the church often followed the congregation, constructing new buildings in the suburbs. Often, the Akron Plan spaces that survive today exist primarily because congregations did not have the money to replace them.

The First Congregational Church may have retained its Akron Plan Sunday School for other reasons. First, the architect, designing during the decline of the Akron Plan's popularity, utilized a **modified Akron Plan** which had a solid wall between the sanctuary and Sunday school classrooms. The physical separation between the spaces enabled independent use of the sanctuary and the Sunday school classrooms. By providing both visual and aural isolation from the sanctuary, the Sunday school may have been able to maintain its usefulness for a greater number of years, in spite of its awkwardly shaped rooms and sloping floors. In addition, the presence of the Fellowship Hall, located below the Sunday school rooms, encouraged the social mission of the church by providing a gathering space for the congregation and community, and prevented the demolition of the obsolete wing. Thus, when the First Congregational Church expanded in the late 1950's, the new education wing was fitted around the Fellowship Hall and Akron Plan Sunday School, thereby preserving both the useful Fellowship Hall and the unique, but of limited functional use, Akron Plan Sunday School.

Summary

The Akron Plan Sunday School and Auditorium Sanctuary plans developed in America in the mid to late nineteenth century due to changes in both church services and Sunday Schools curriculum. A greater emphasis was being made on the spoken word of the sermon rather than on ritual practices. The importance of oration was boosted by the great successes of revival preachers both before and after the Civil War. In addition, the concept of a Sunday School as a separate and unique place of learning was initiated and its popularity soon warranted the need for independent physical space that was seldom available in traditional basilica plan churches. Therefore, new solutions were needed in church architecture to accommodate the sizeable Sunday School component and to resolve the oratory focus of the church service. The auditorium plan layout responded to the latter concern, while the Akron Plan Sunday School responded, for a brief time, to the novel need for uniform Sunday School curriculum.

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Information about the history of the congregation was taken from a blue binder marked "Sesquicentennial" on it binding and is in the archives of First Congregational Church

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APPENDIX B

Partial List of Charles Henry churches in Akron Page 1

<u>Church and Address</u>	<u>Akron Plan</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sanborn Map</u>
1. North Hill Methodist Episcopal 606 N. Howard St. corner of Tallmadge & Howard	Yes	Demo'd	1904
2. Main St. Methodist Episcopal 785 S. Main St. now: Church of the Good Shepherd	No (Basilica)	Extant	1904
3a. United Brethren corner of James & Hill very small building, 1 story	No	Demo'd	1892
3b. 1 st United Brethren corner of Hastings & Union not sure if this is a Henry building	Yes	Demo'd	1930-40
4. Trinity Reformed 521 N. Howard St. now: Sheldon Temple Church of God in Christ	Yes	Extant	1904
5. Congregational Church (remodeled) unable to locate			
6a. Grace Reformed Church 106 Broadway near Mill St. Church replaced an earlier church on same site which was <i>not</i> an Akron Plan	Yes	Demo'd	1904
6b. Grace Reformed Church Bowery St. Designed by (Leroy) Henry & Murphy, 1928	No	Demo'd	1930-40
7. Reformed Mission Church unable to locate			
8. Arlington St. Congregational 60 N. Arlington	No	Demo'd	yes
9. Broad Street Disciple 21 Broad St. became Slovak Lutheran Church in 1930-40	?	Demo'd	1904

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APPENDIX B

Partial List of Charles Henry churches in Akron Page 2

<u>Church and Address</u>	<u>Akron Plan</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sanborn Map</u>
10. Grace Methodist Episcopal E. Market St. near Carroll	Yes	Demo'd	1916
11a. Trinity Lutheran S. Prospect St.	Yes	Demo'd	1904
11b. Trinity Lutheran, between 1904-1916 N. Prospect & Park St. <i>Not designed by Charles Henry</i>	No (Basilica)	Extant	1916
12. First Baptist, 1889 137 S. Broadway note that date of construction predates Charles Henry's firm. Possibly designed by Henry when he worked with Jacob Snyder.	Possible	Demo'd	1892
13. German Reformed Broadway near Center Note that date of Sanborn map predates Charles Henry's firm. Possibly designed by Henry when he worked with Jacob Snyder.	No	Demo'd	1886
14. Woodland Methodist Episcopal, 1902 69 Blach St. & Crosby now: House of Prayer	Yes	Extant	1904
15. 1 st United Presbyterian Exchange & Spicer	No	Demo'd	1916

Additional Akron Plan Churches, *not designed by Charles Henry & Son*

16. 1 st Church of Christ 129 High St.	Yes	Demo'd	1904
17. Methodist Episcopal Church	Yes	Demo'd	1904

note: partial list is based upon list of churches in "Hints to Church Building Committees" 1907, by Charles Henry & Son.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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The property is located at the southwest corner of East Market and Union Streets and occupies all of parcel 6729460. The Market Street boundary is 259.72 feet long and the Union Street boundary is 373.36 feet long. From Union Street the property extends 145 feet back, parallel to East Market. It then proceeds northeast for 9.7 feet and then parallels East Market again for another 114.72 feet. The property line then extends for 363.66 feet parallel to Union Street and rejoins the East Market Street boundary.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Section number 10 Page 2

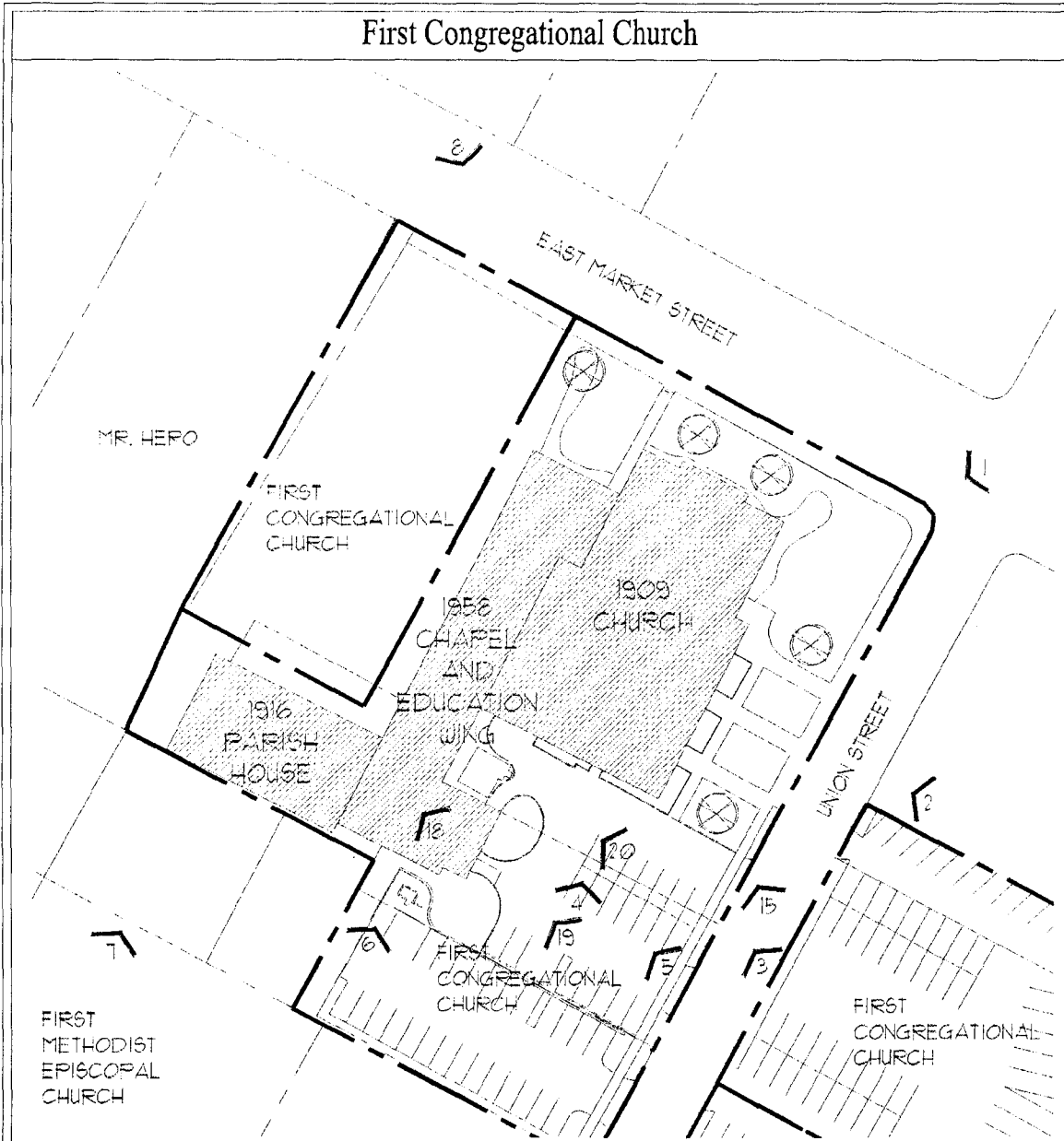
The nomination boundary includes all land originally connected to the First Congregational Church of Akron. On the prominent corner of Market and Union Streets, the site nominated has served the community since it was built in 1909.

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PHOTO KEY

First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



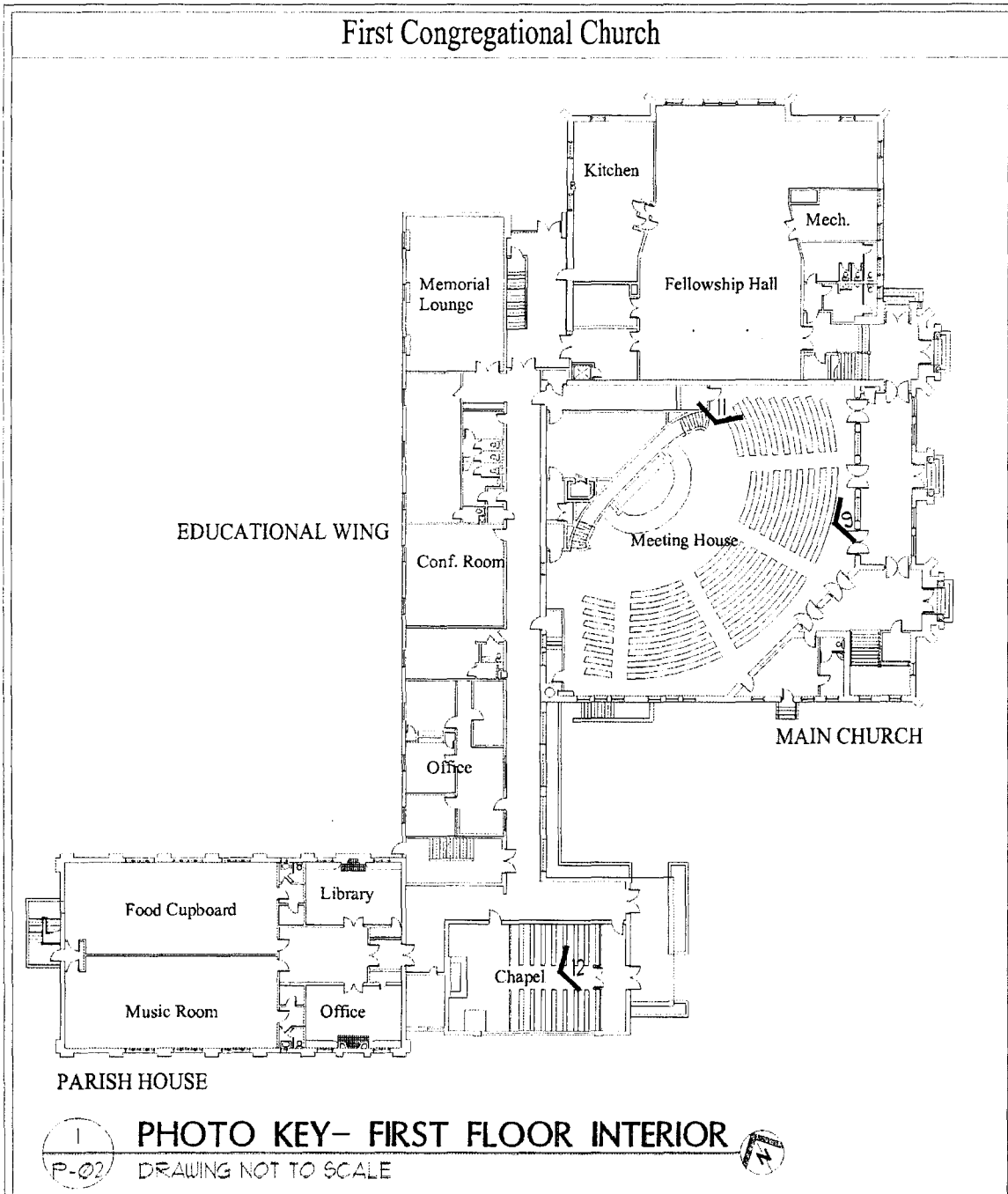
1 PHOTO KEY- EXTERIOR
 P-01 DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

<p>Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331</p>	 Chambers, Murphy & Burge <small>ARCHITECTS</small>	<p>Title: Photograph Key- Exterior Location: Akron, Ohio Job No. 02-14 Date: August 2003</p>	<p>Plan Number: P-01</p>
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PHOTO KEY
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



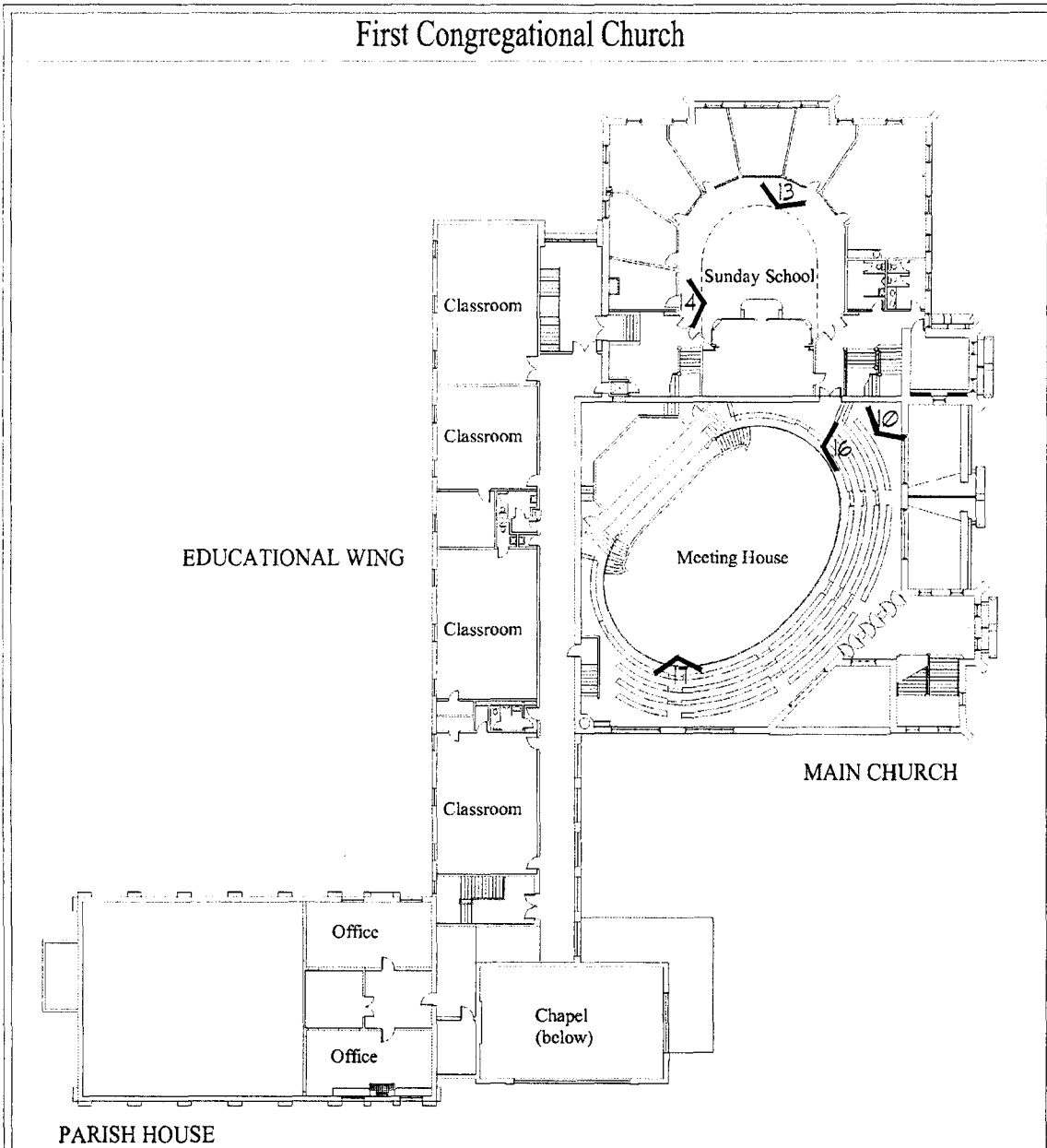
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P-02 DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

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		Location: Akron, Ohio	
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First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



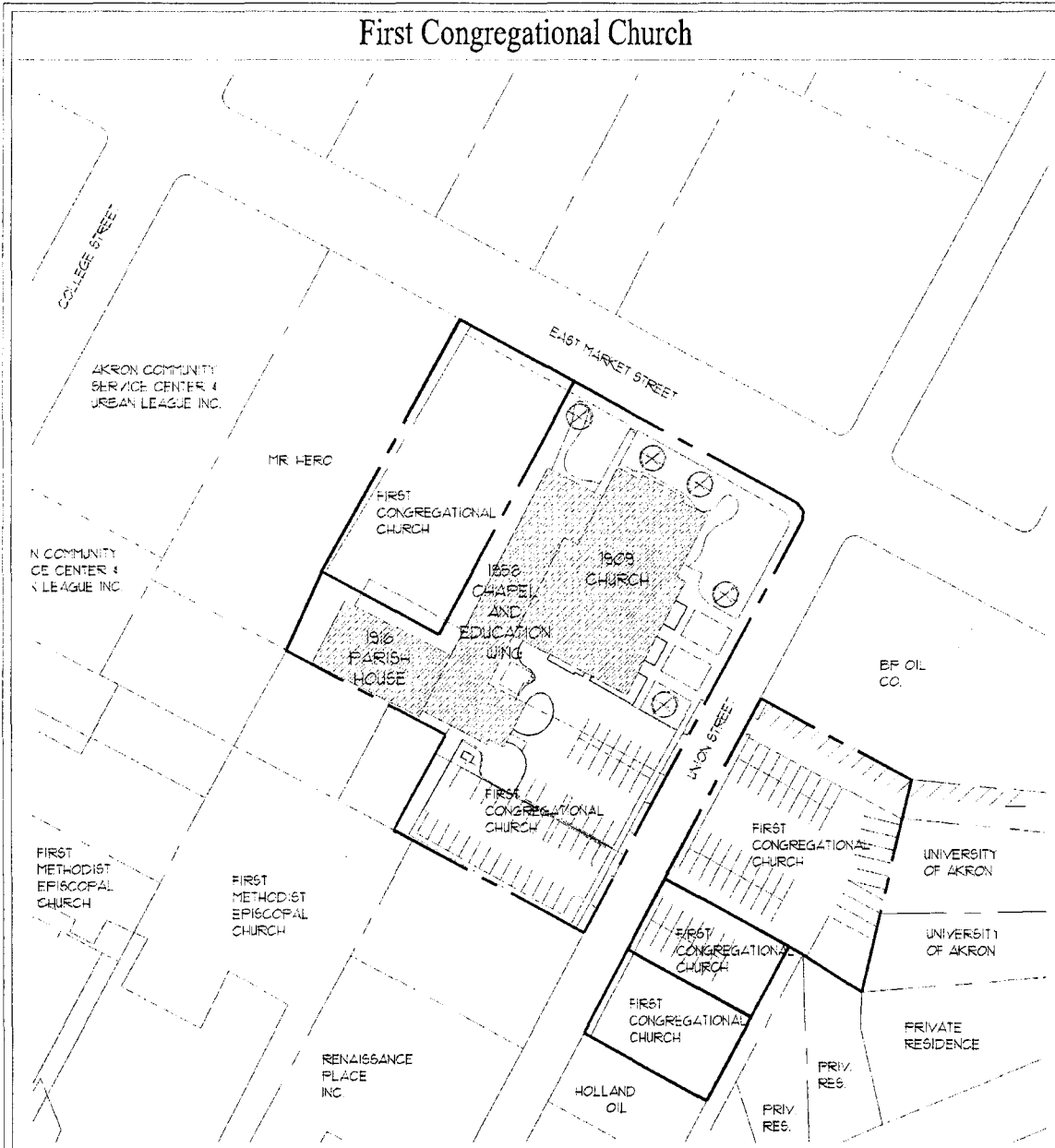
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CURRENT SITE PLAN
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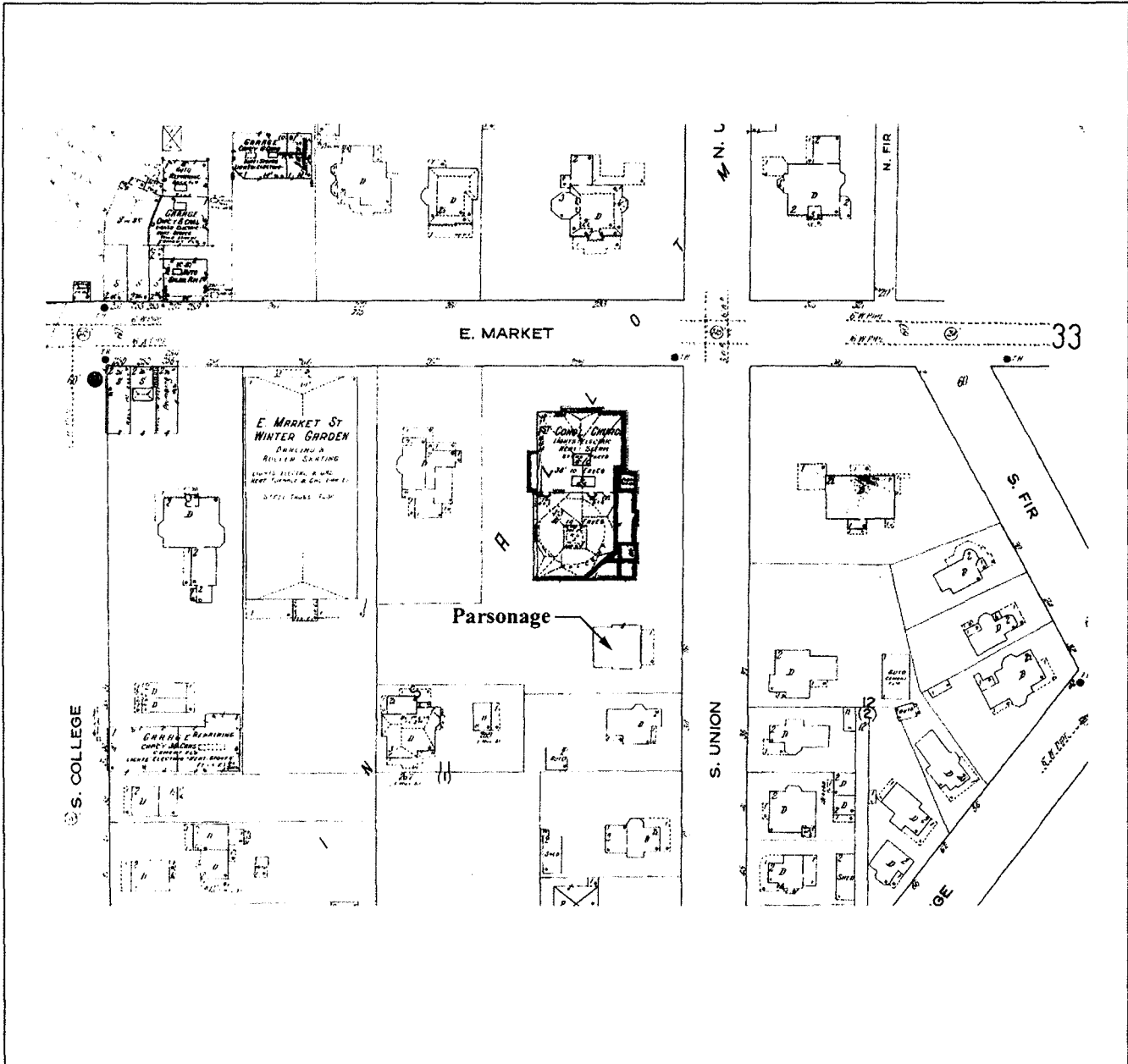
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First Congregational Church
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AKRON, OHIO 1916 VOL. 1

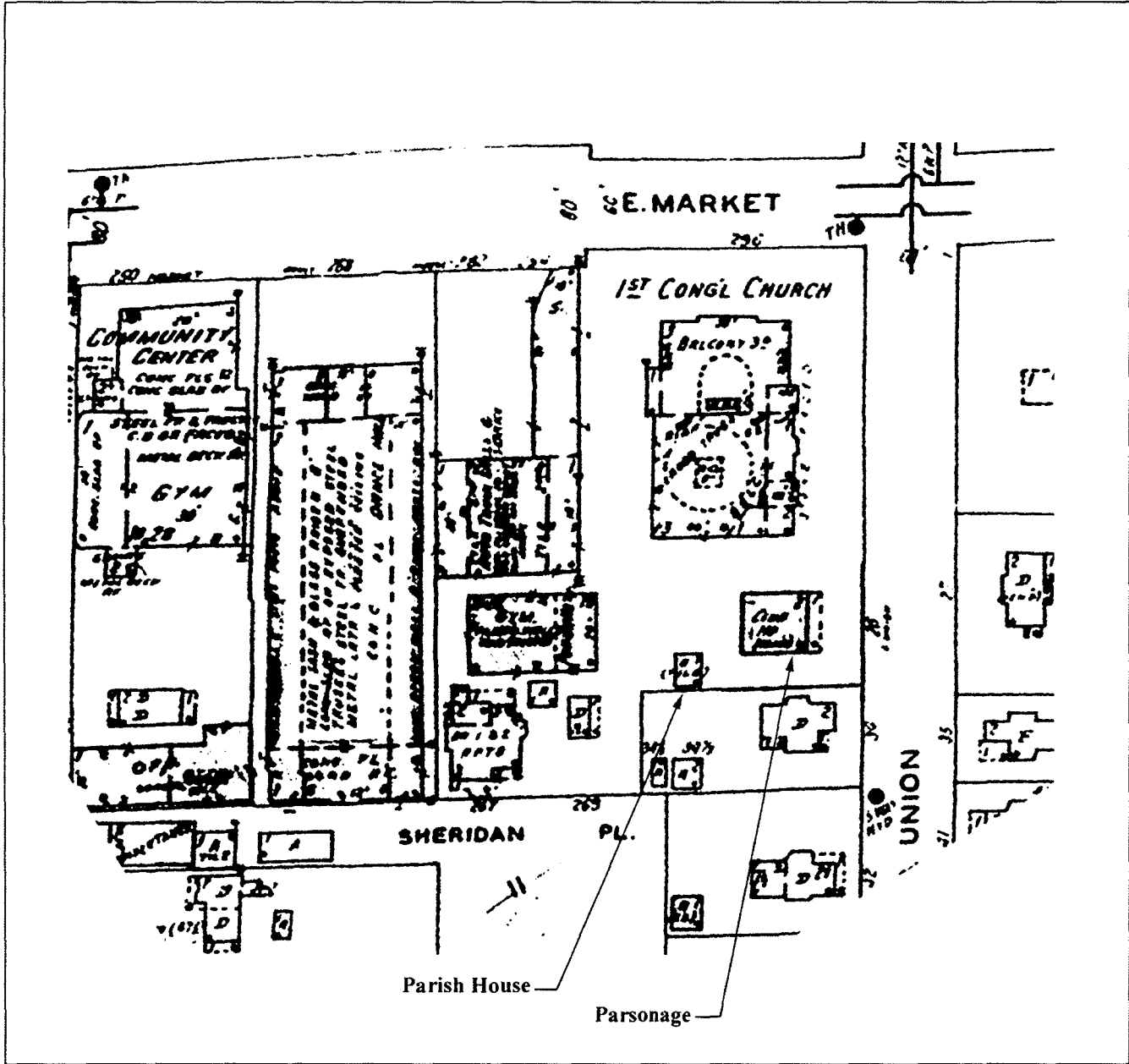


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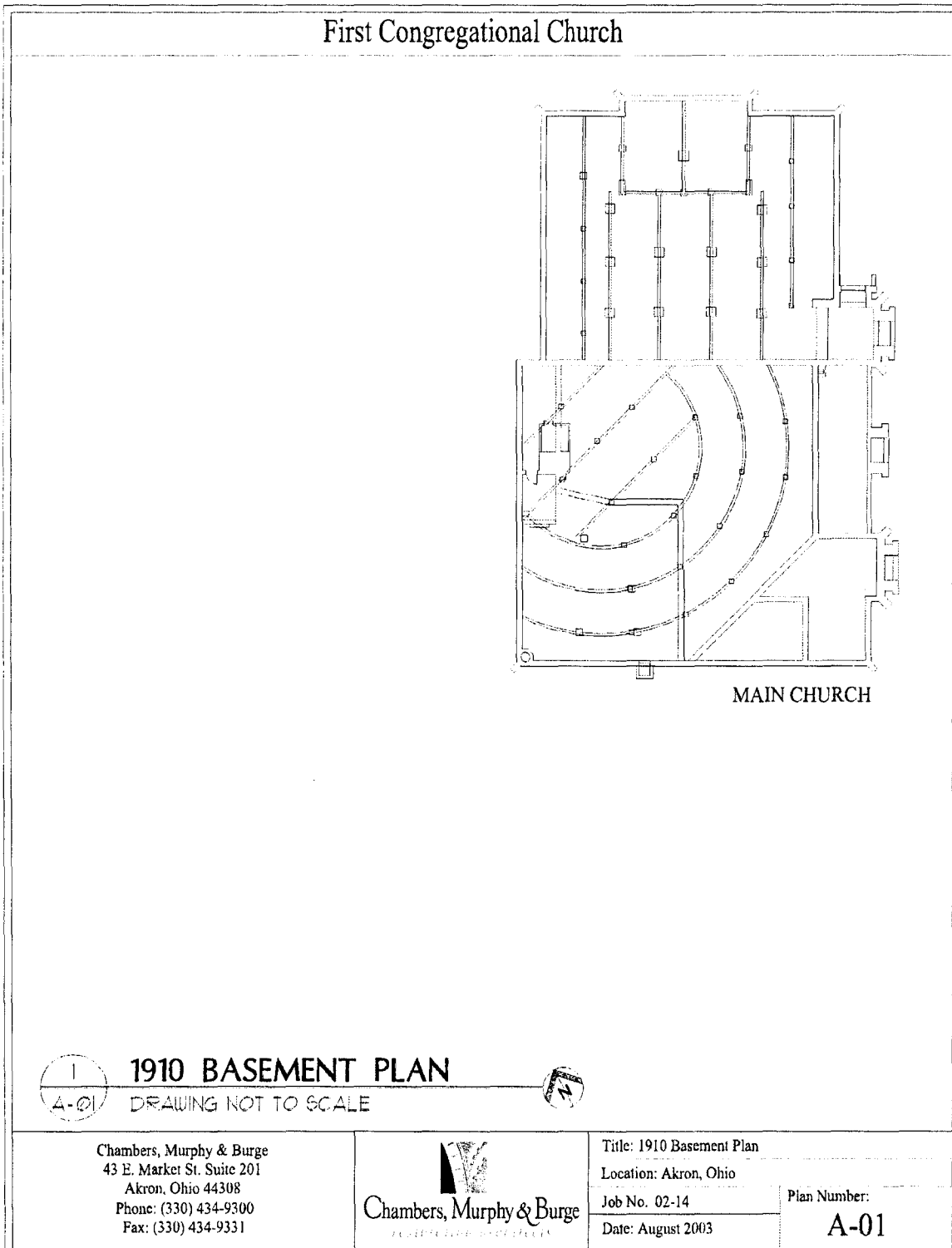
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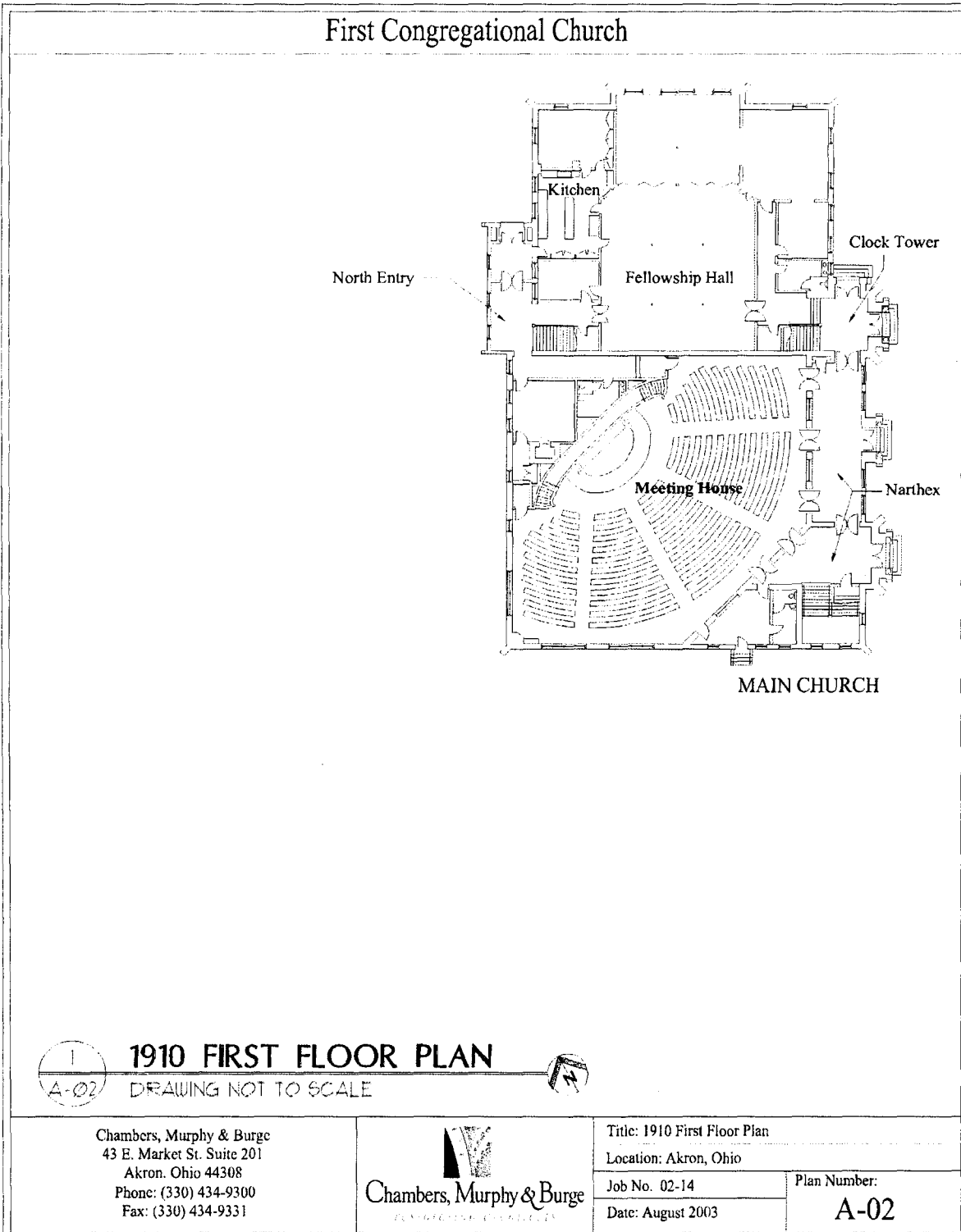
FLOOR PLANS
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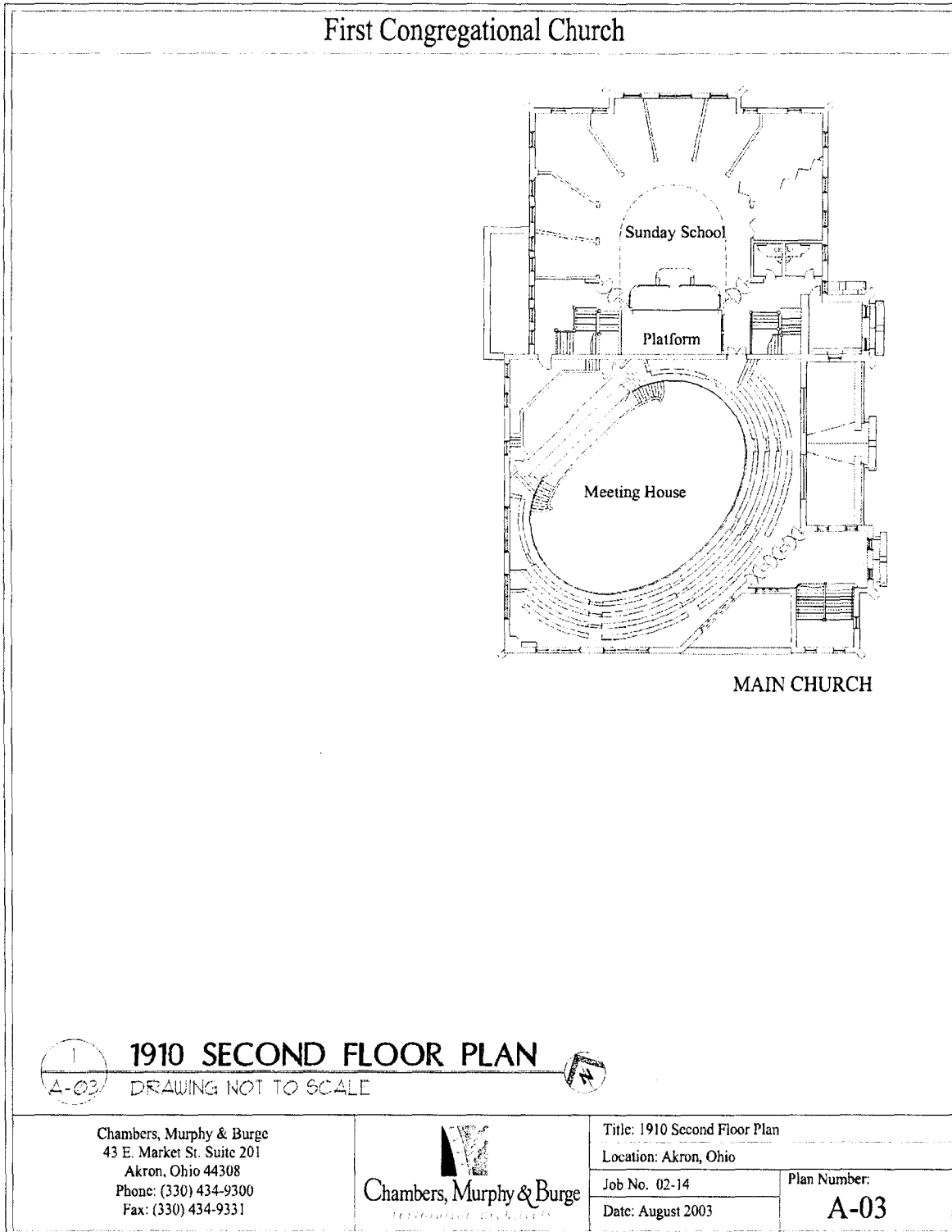
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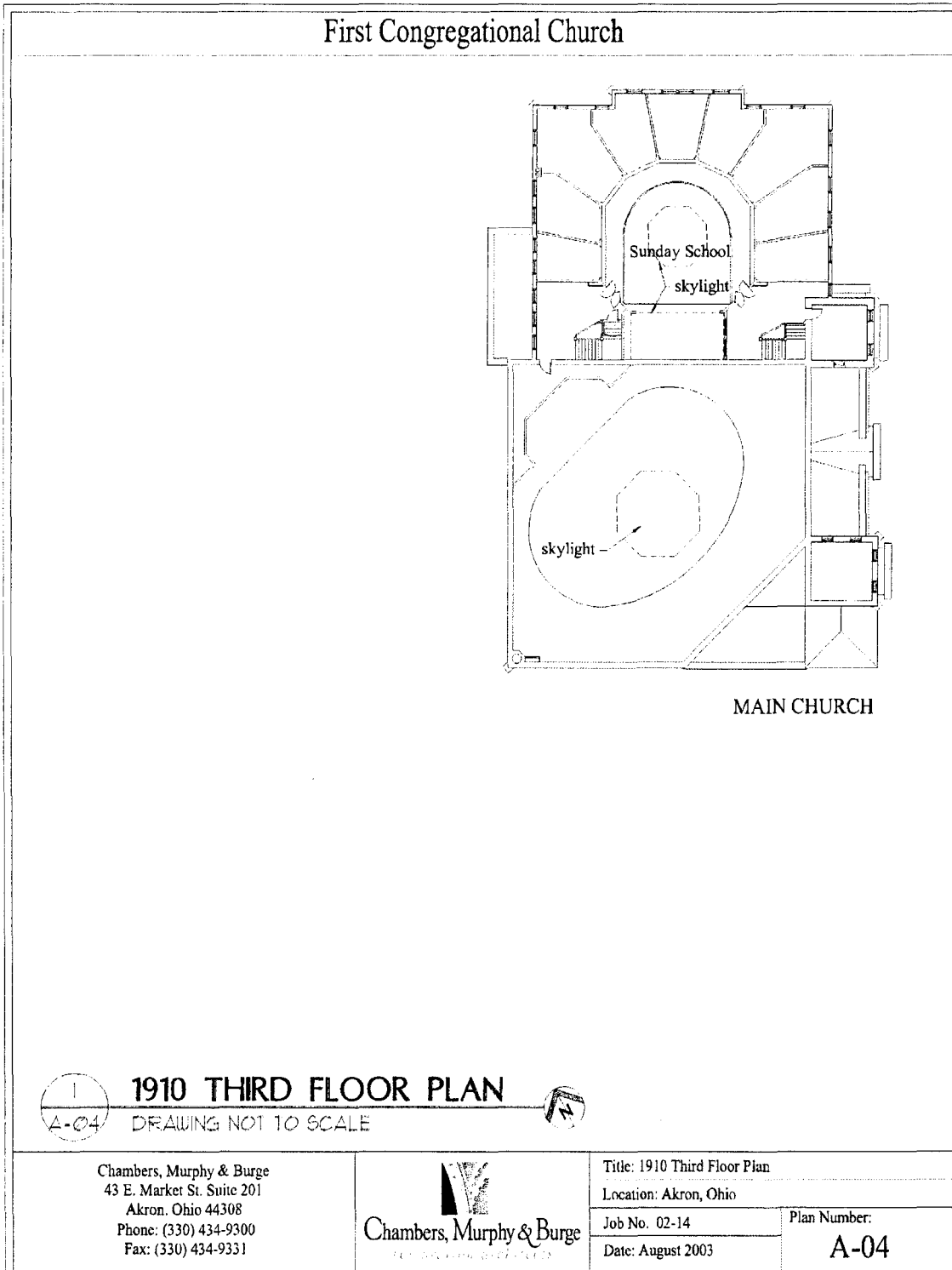
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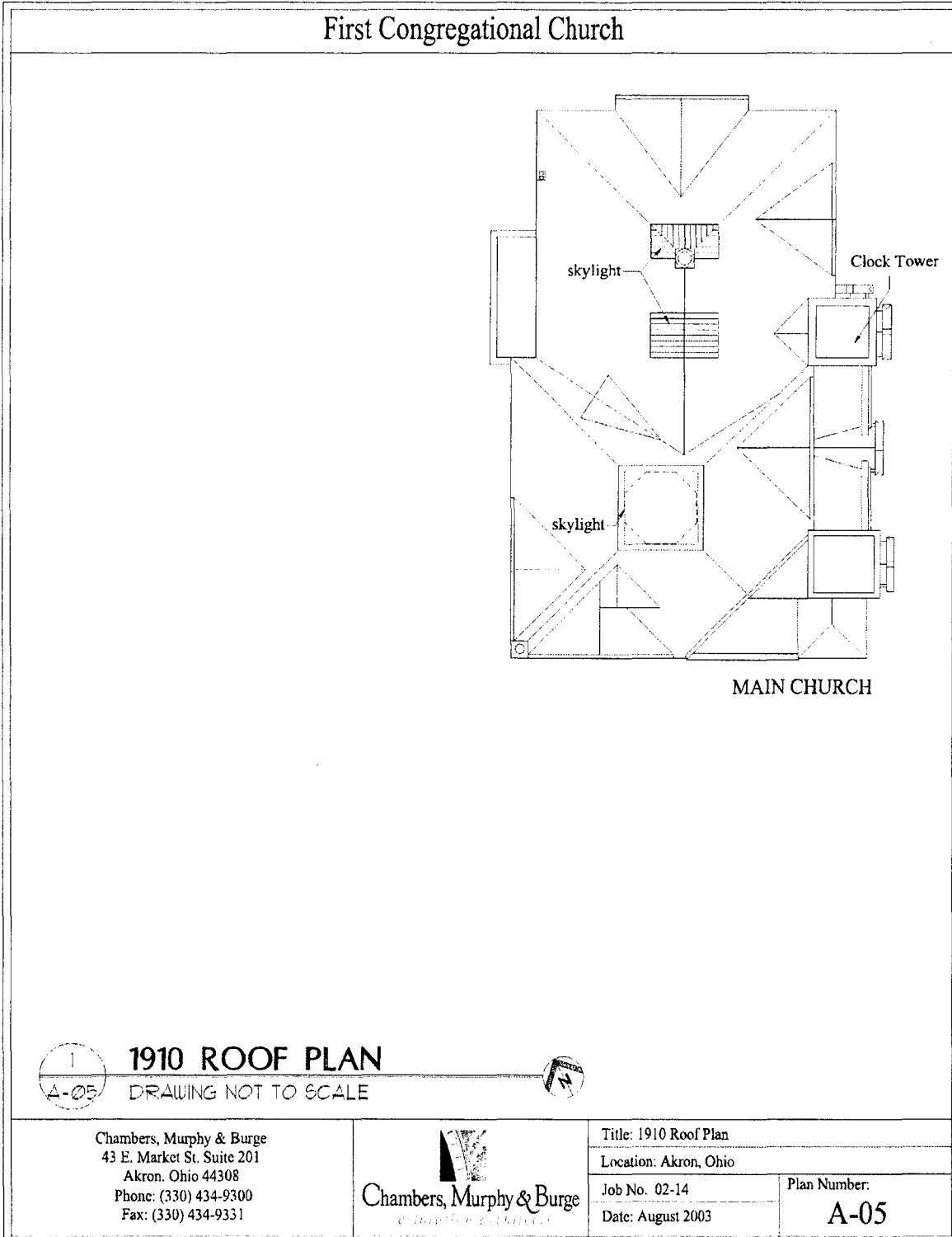
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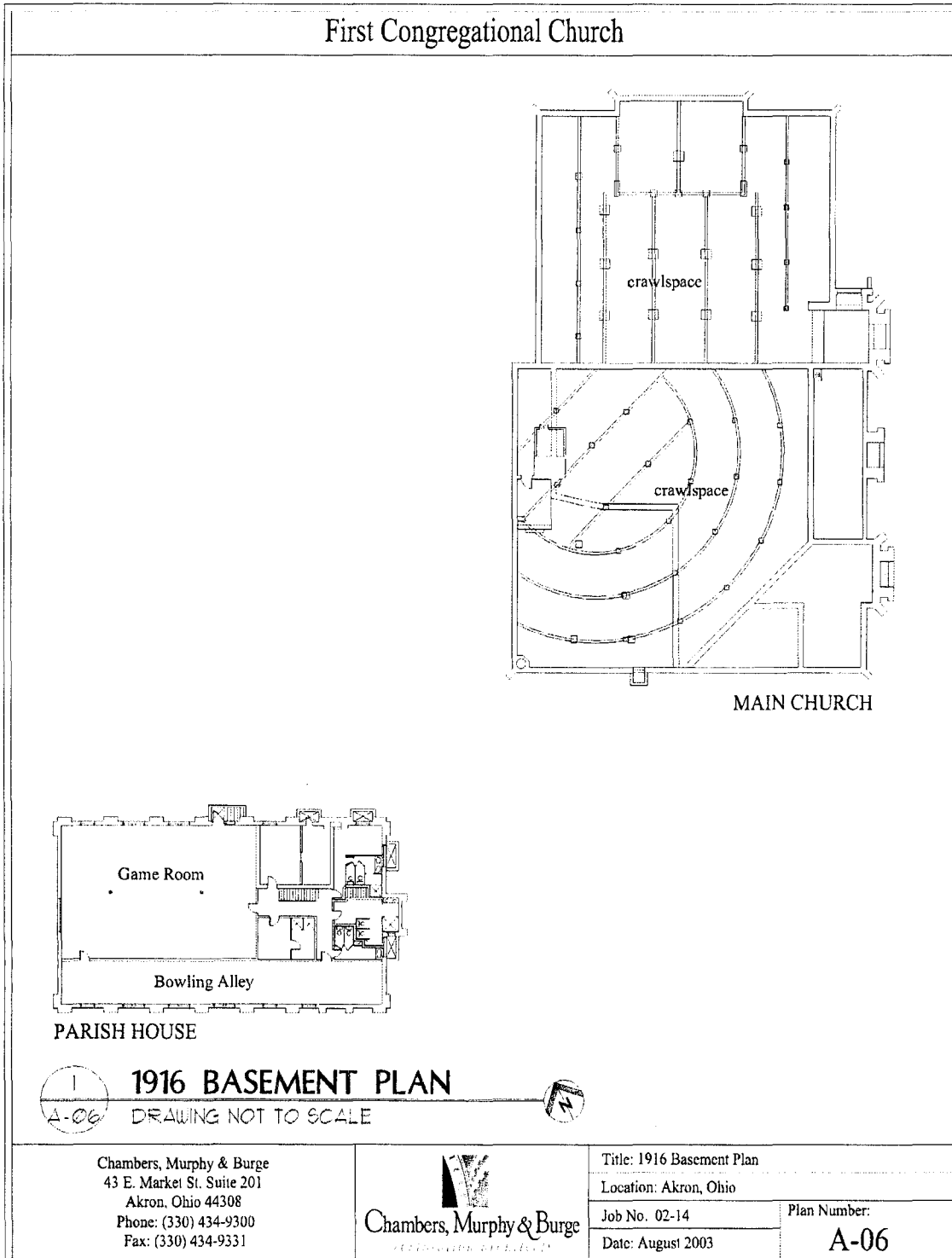
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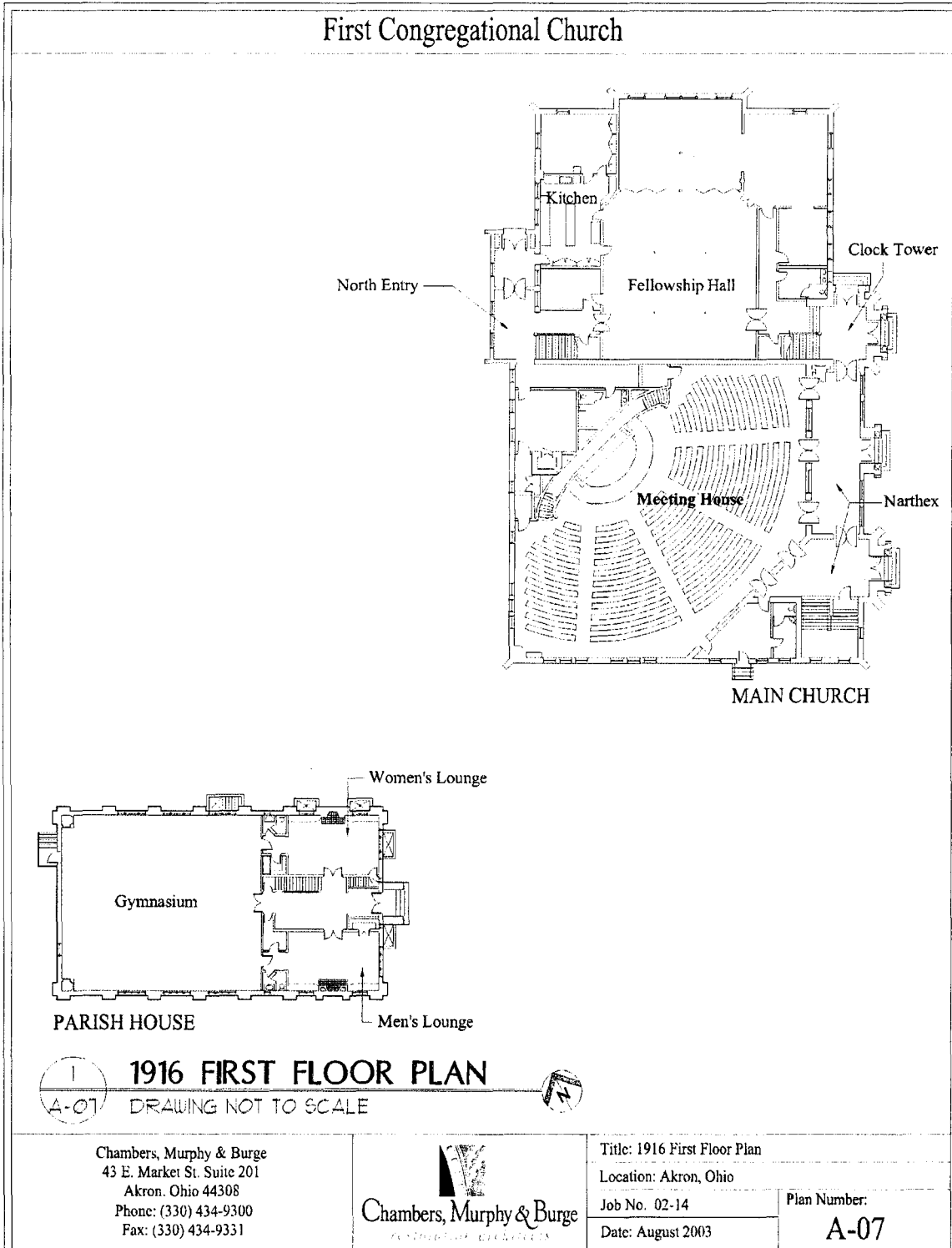
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First Congregational Church
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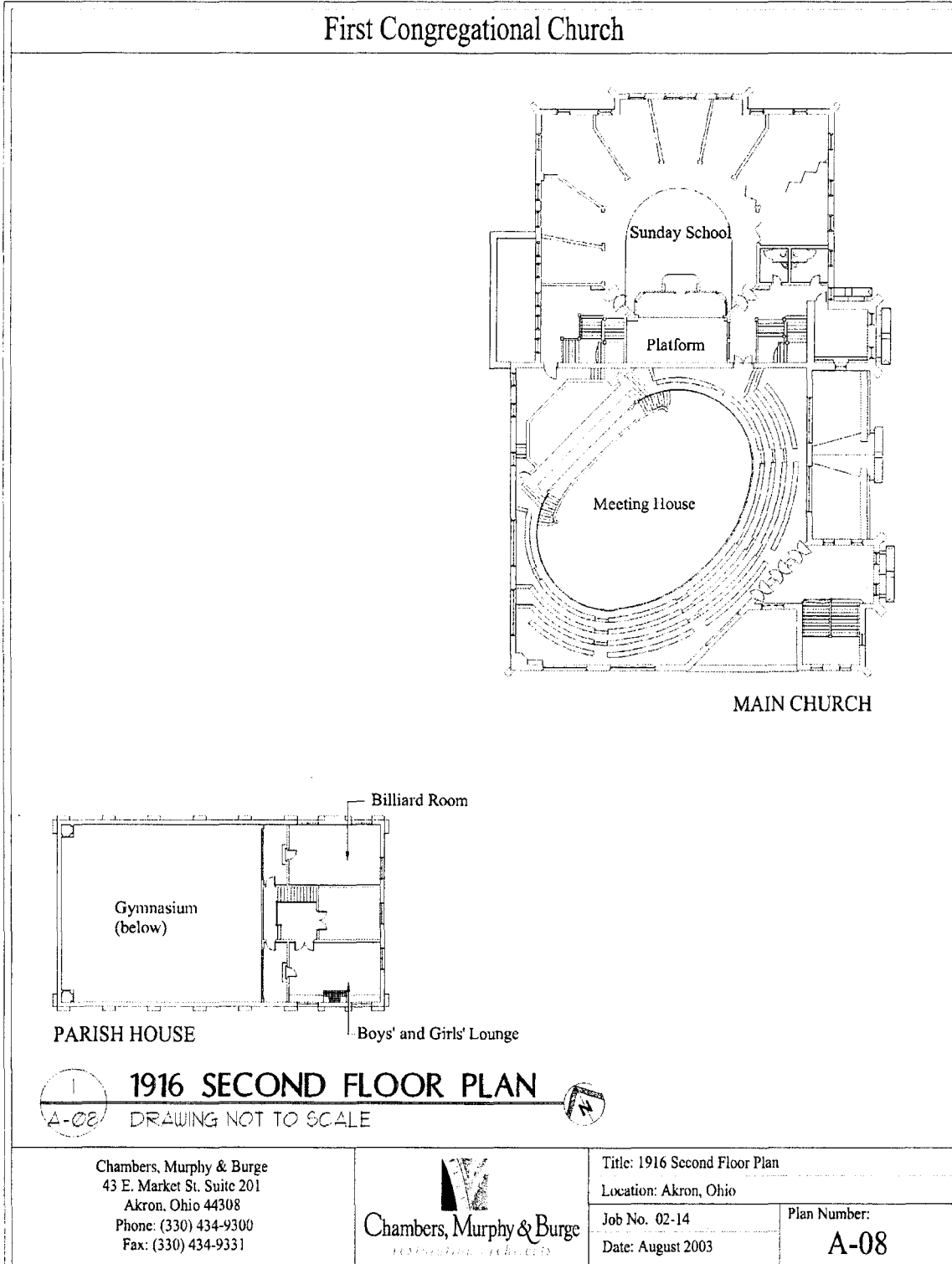
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

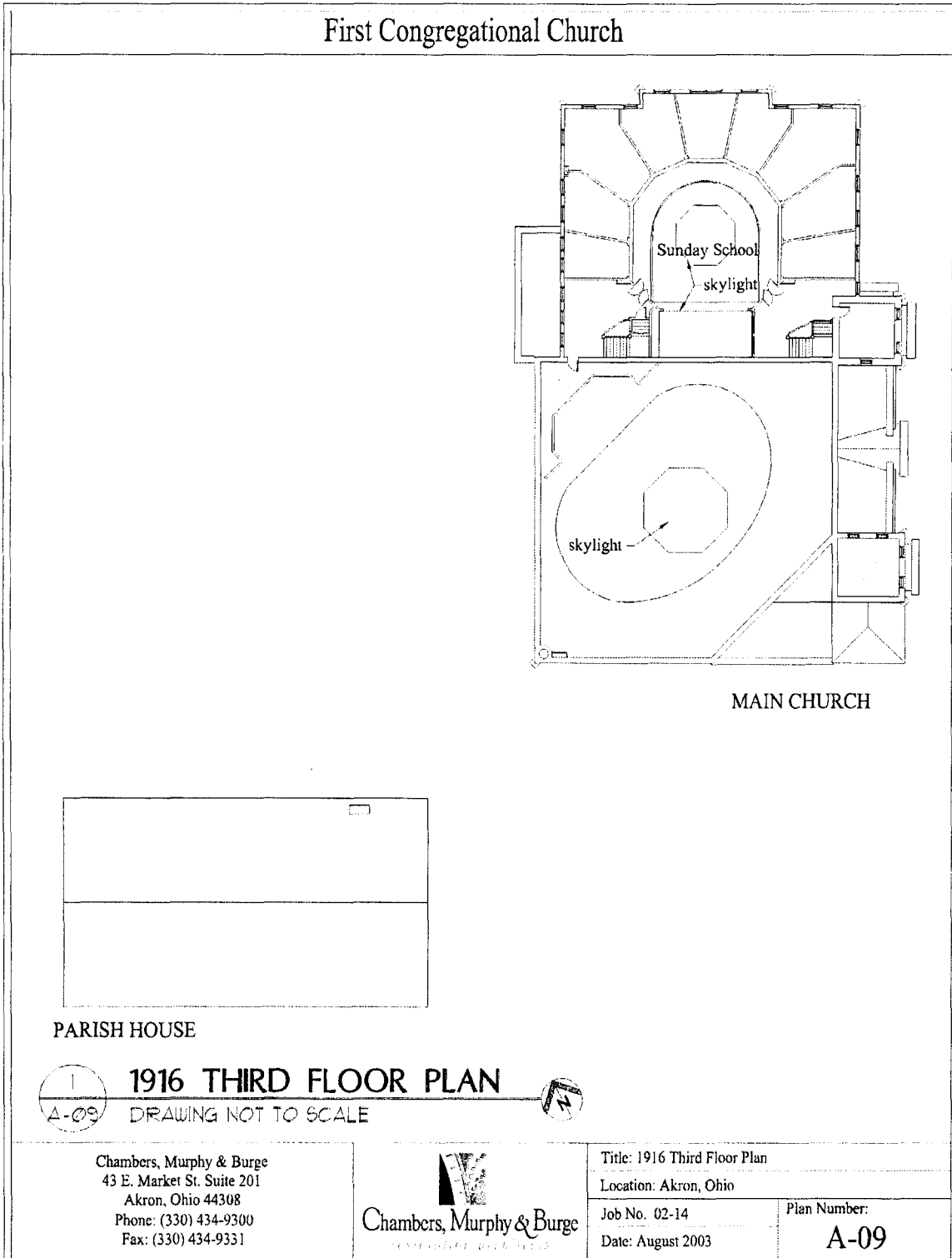
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

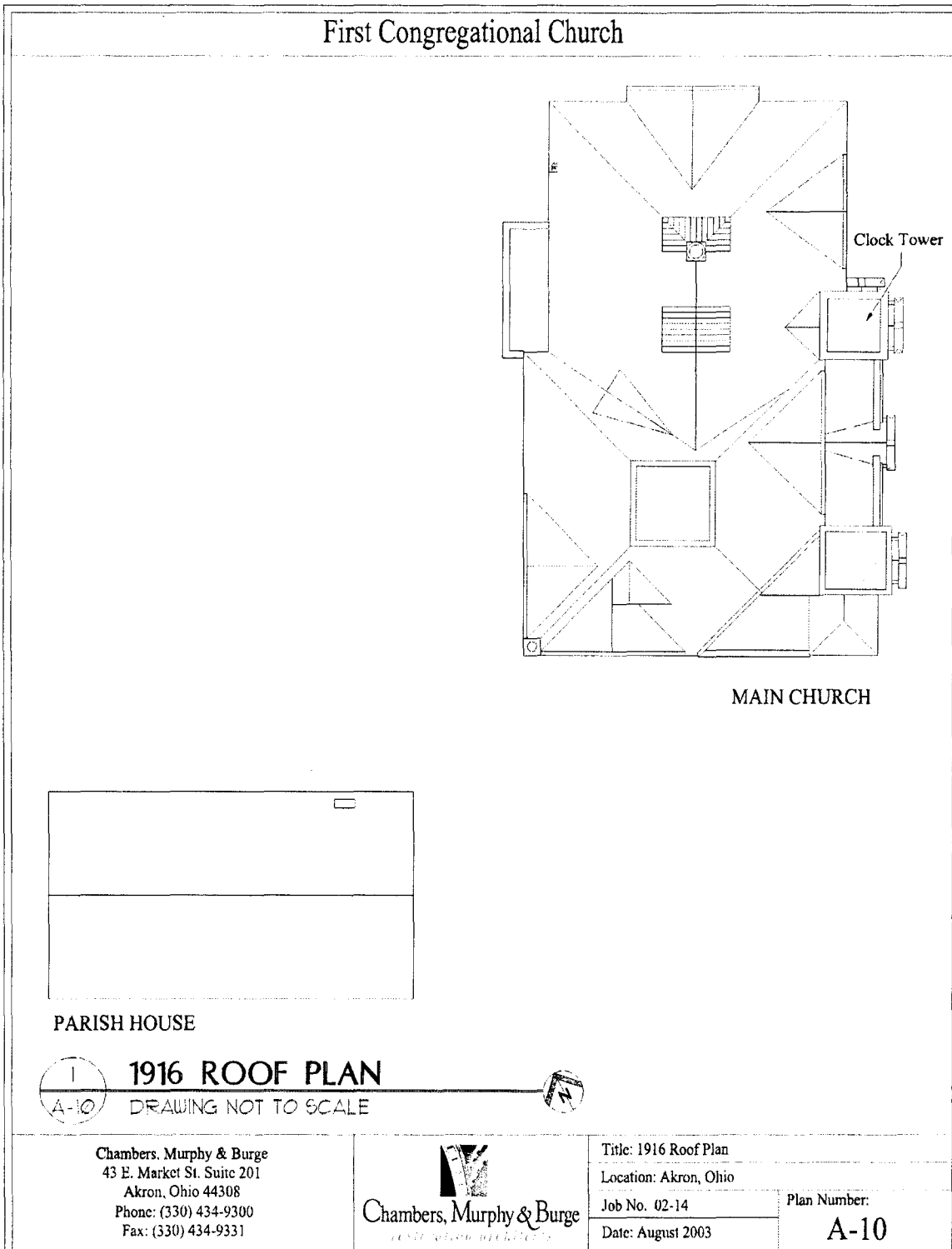
FLOOR PLANS
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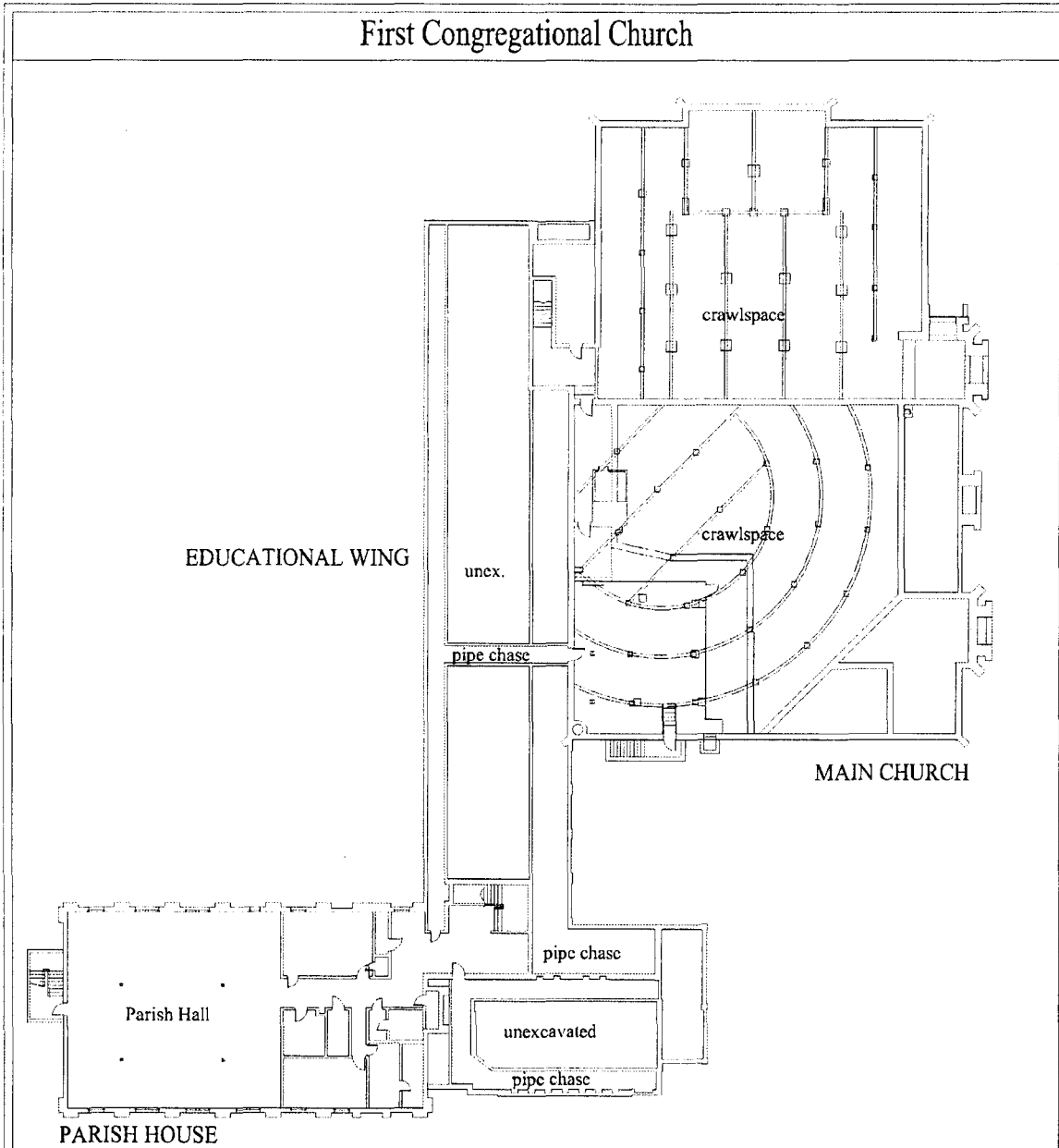
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



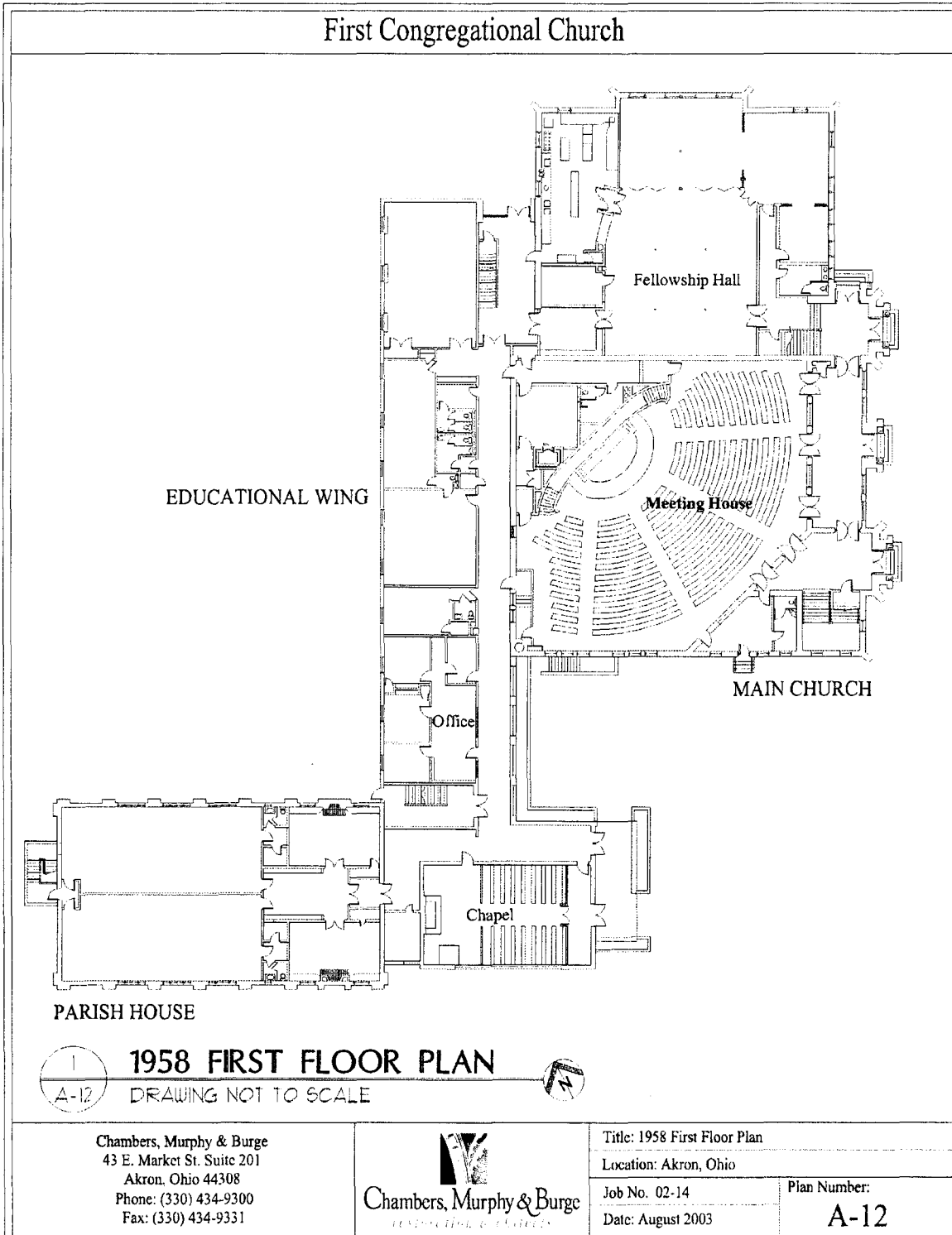
1
A-11 1958 BASEMENT PLAN
DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331		Title: 1958 Basement Plan	
		Location: Akron, Ohio	Plan Number: A-11
		Job No. 02-14	Date: August 2003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

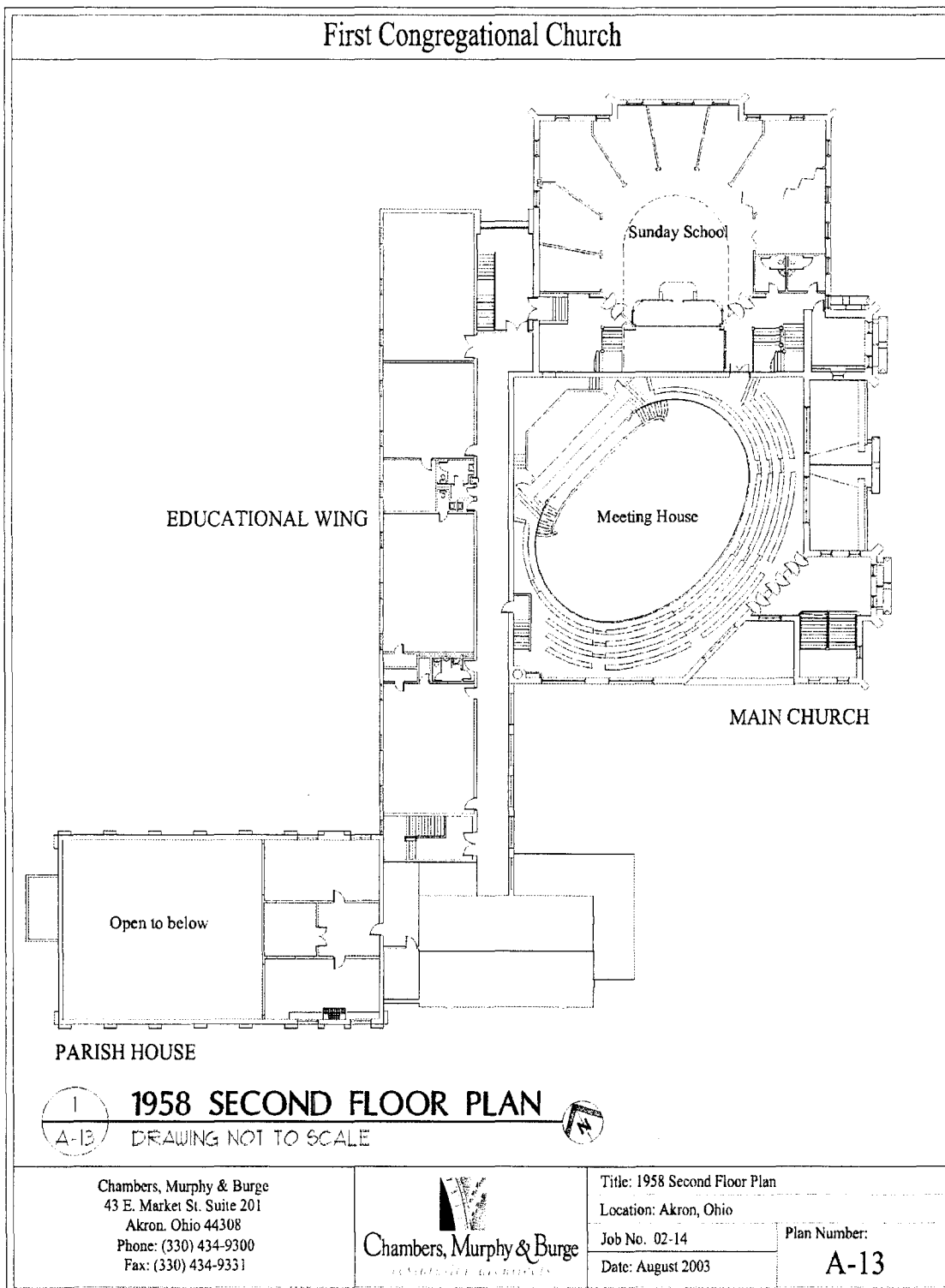
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

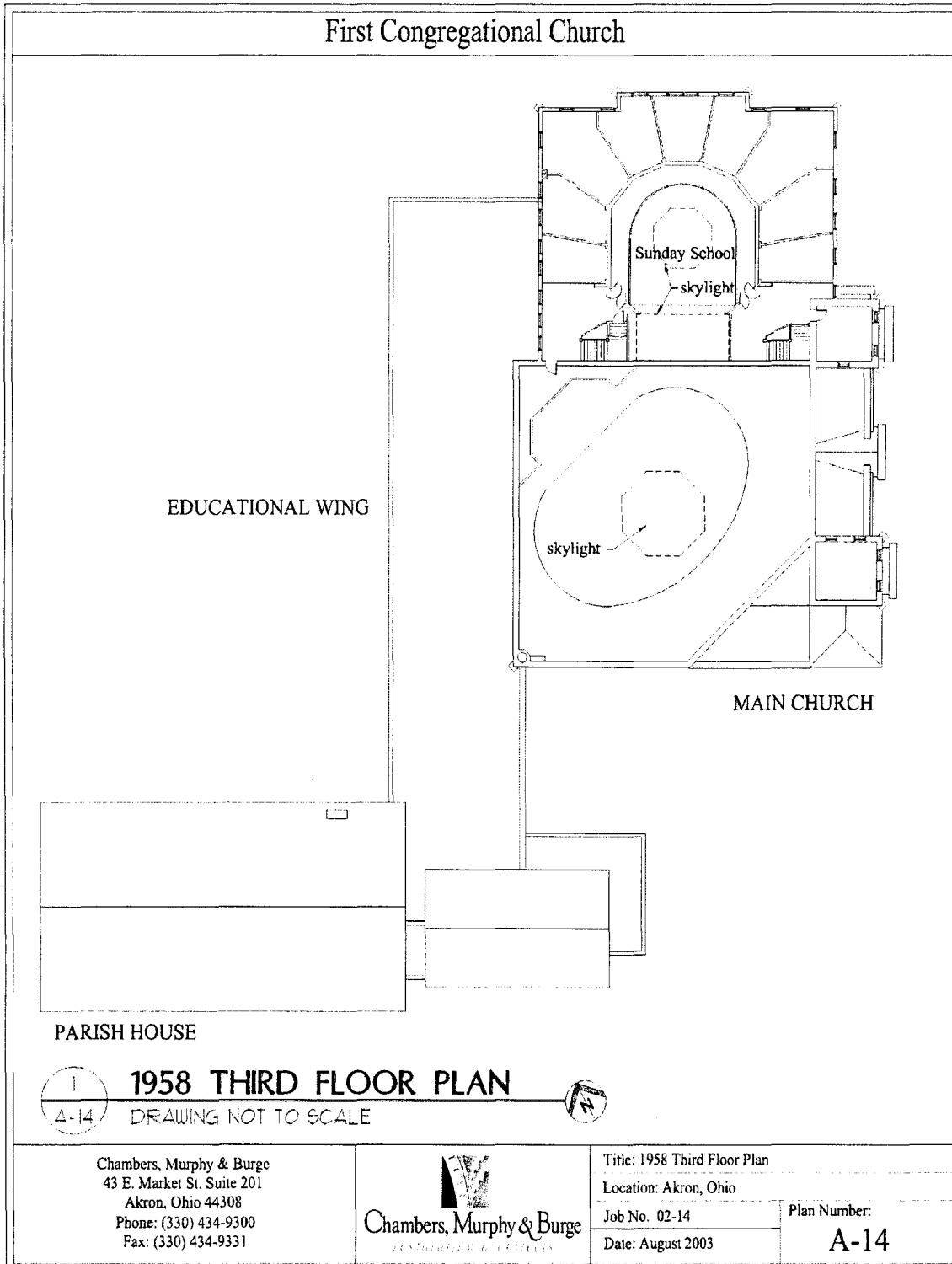
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

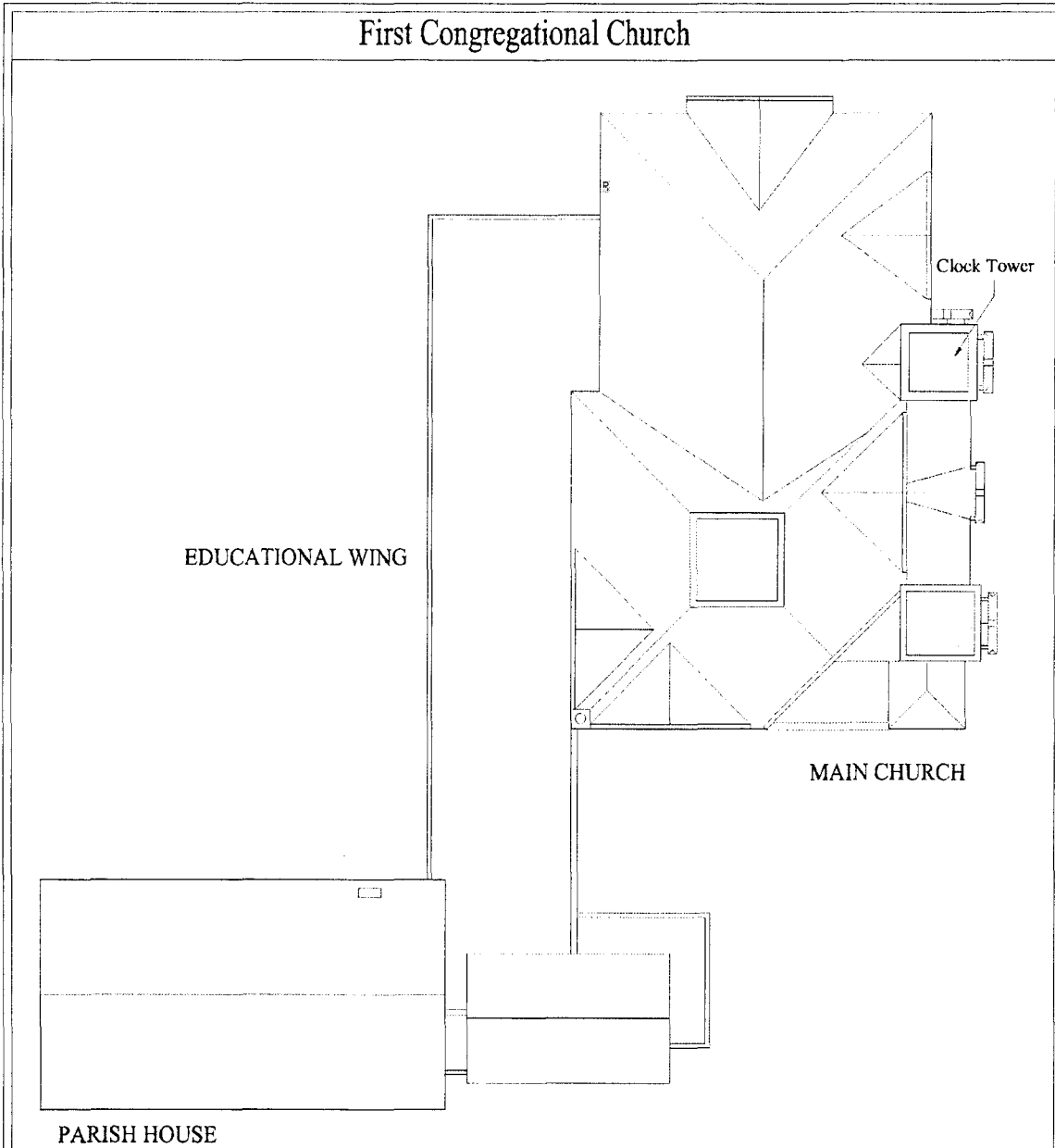
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



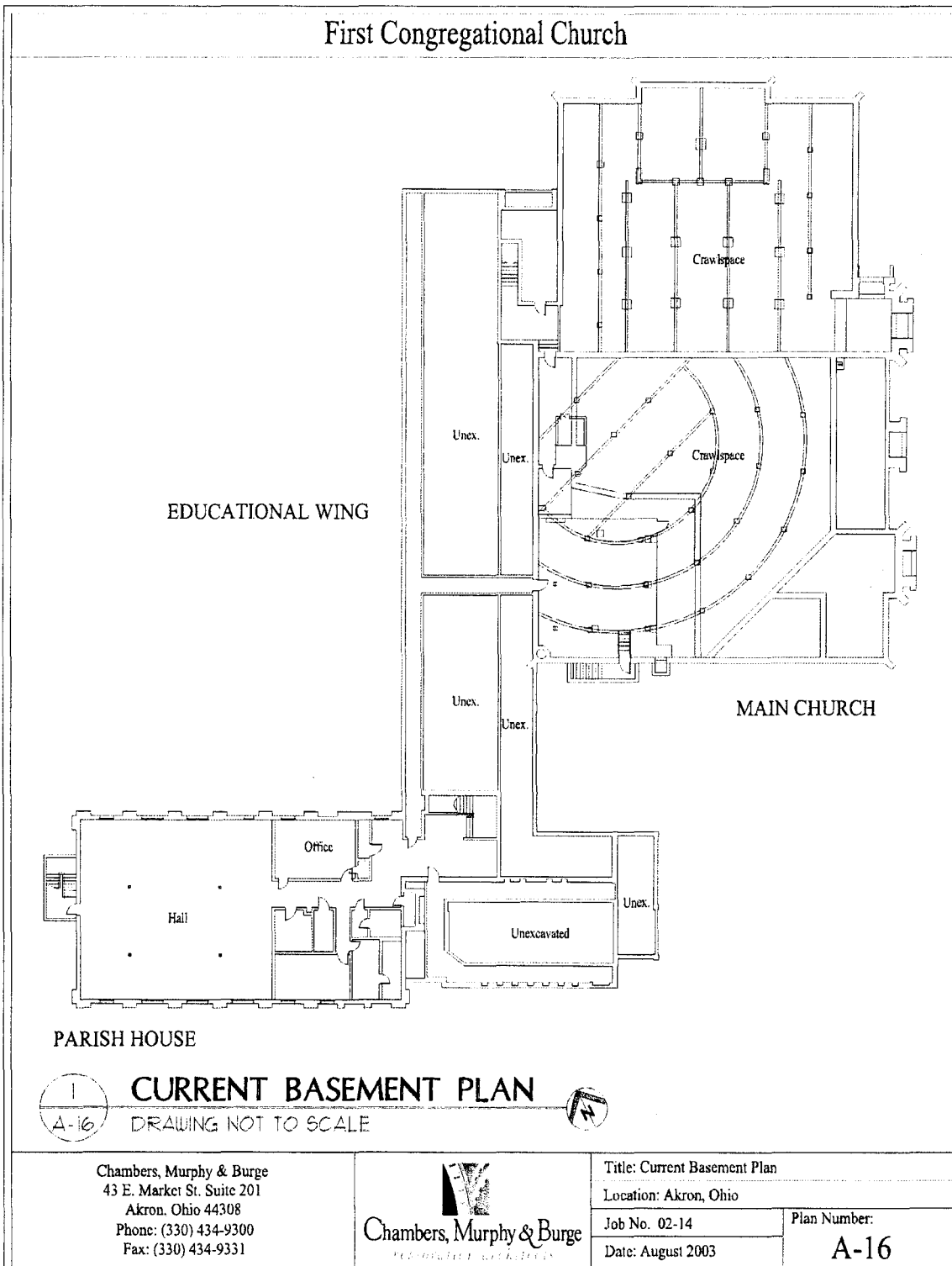
1 1958 ROOF PLAN
A-15 DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331	 Chambers, Murphy & Burge <small>ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS</small>	Title: 1958 Roof Plan	
		Location: Akron, Ohio	Plan Number: A-15
		Job No. 02-14	Date: August 2003

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

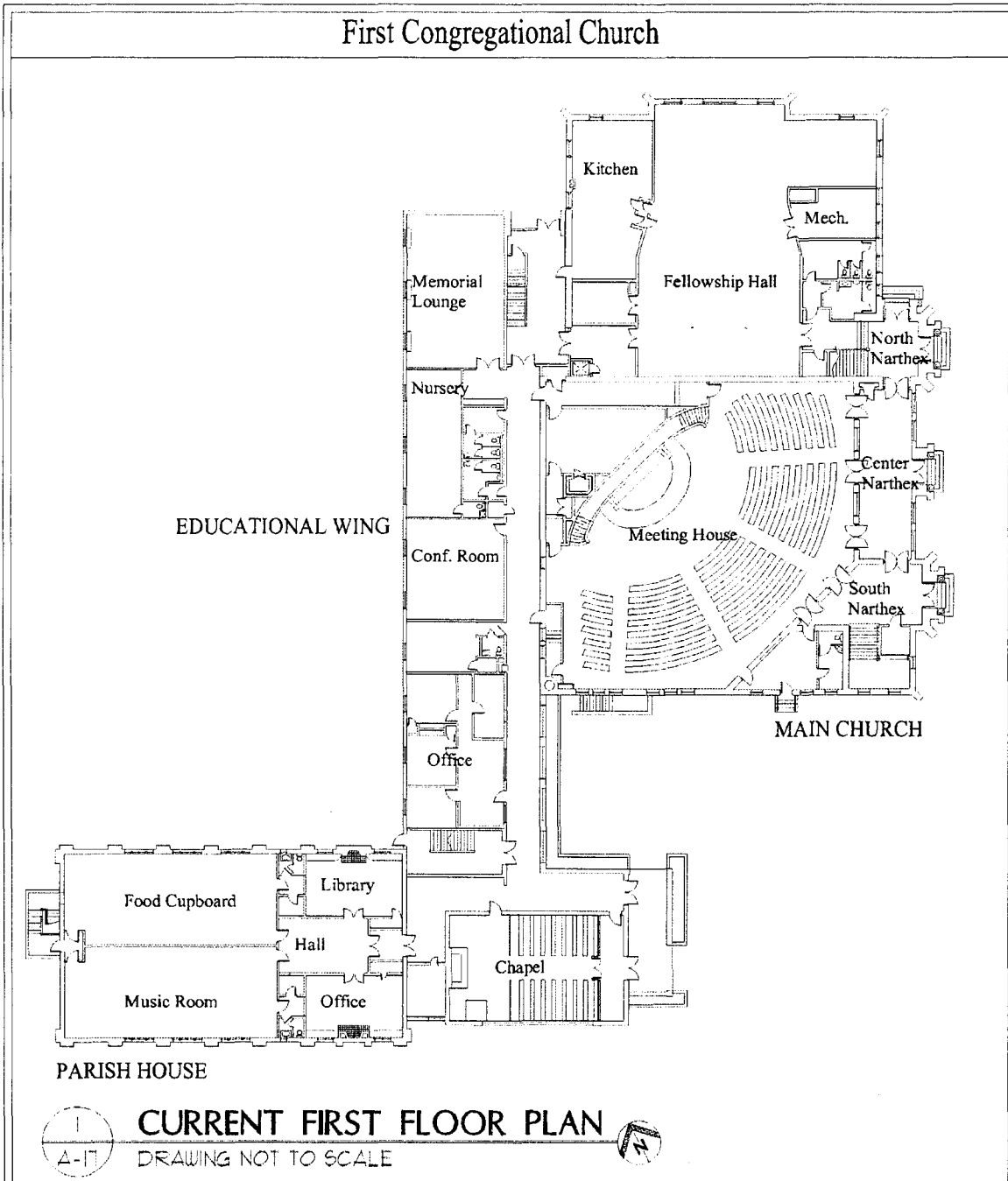
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



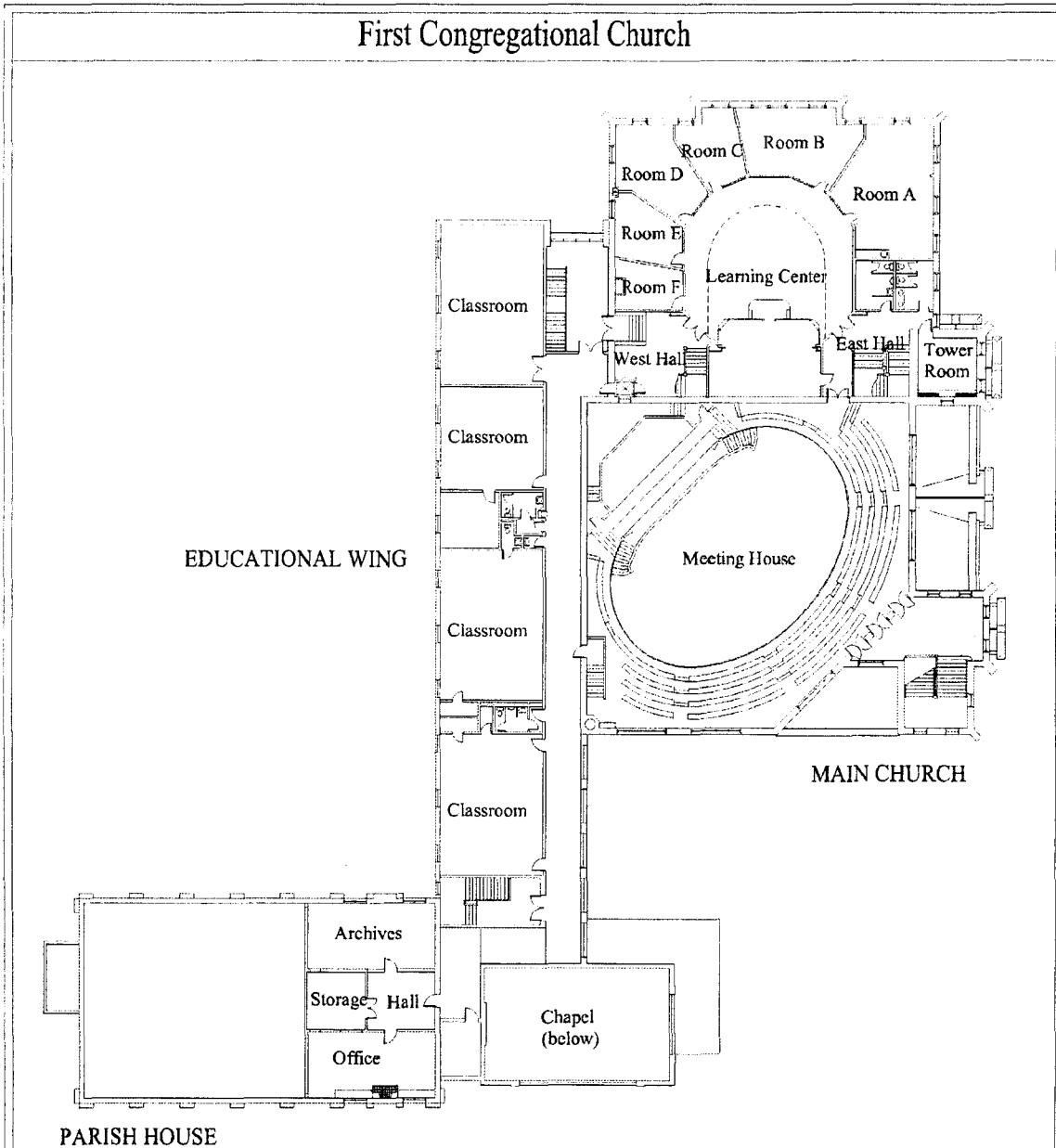
CURRENT FIRST FLOOR PLAN
A-17 DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331		Title: Current First Floor Plan	
		Location: Akron, Ohio	
		Job No. 02-14	Plan Number:
		Date: August 2003	A-17

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



1
A-18

CURRENT SECOND FLOOR PLAN

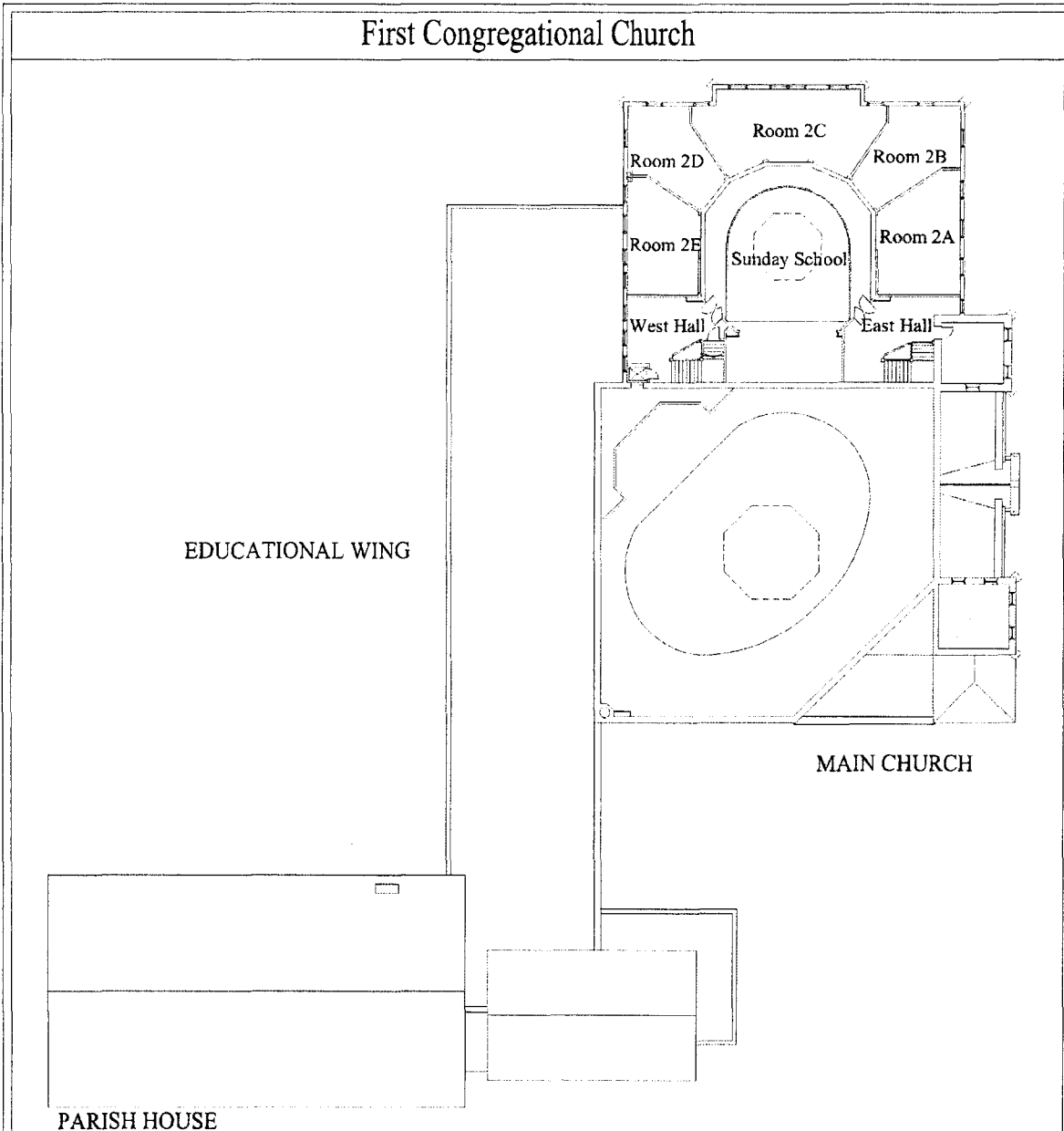
DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

<p>Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331</p>	 Chambers, Murphy & Burge <i>architects</i>	<p>Title: Current Second Floor Plan Location: Akron, Ohio</p>	<p>Job No. 02-14 Date: August 2003</p>	<p>Plan Number: A-18</p>
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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



1
A-19

CURRENT THIRD FLOOR PLAN

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

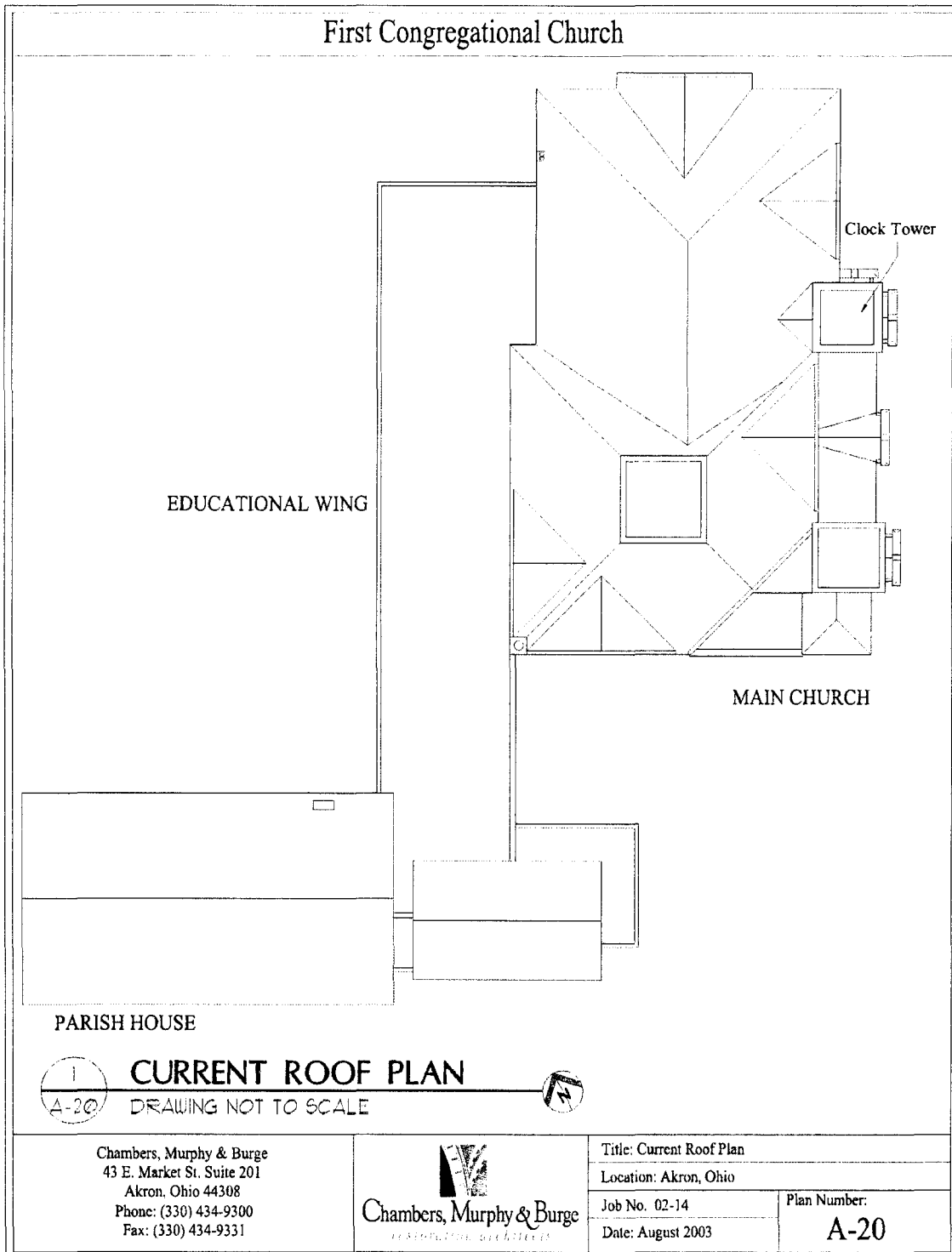


Chambers, Murphy & Burge 43 E. Market St. Suite 201 Akron, Ohio 44308 Phone: (330) 434-9300 Fax: (330) 434-9331	 Chambers, Murphy & Burge <i>architectural architects</i>	Title: Current Third Floor Plan	
		Location: Akron, Ohio	Plan Number: A-19
		Job No. 02-14	Date: August 2003

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

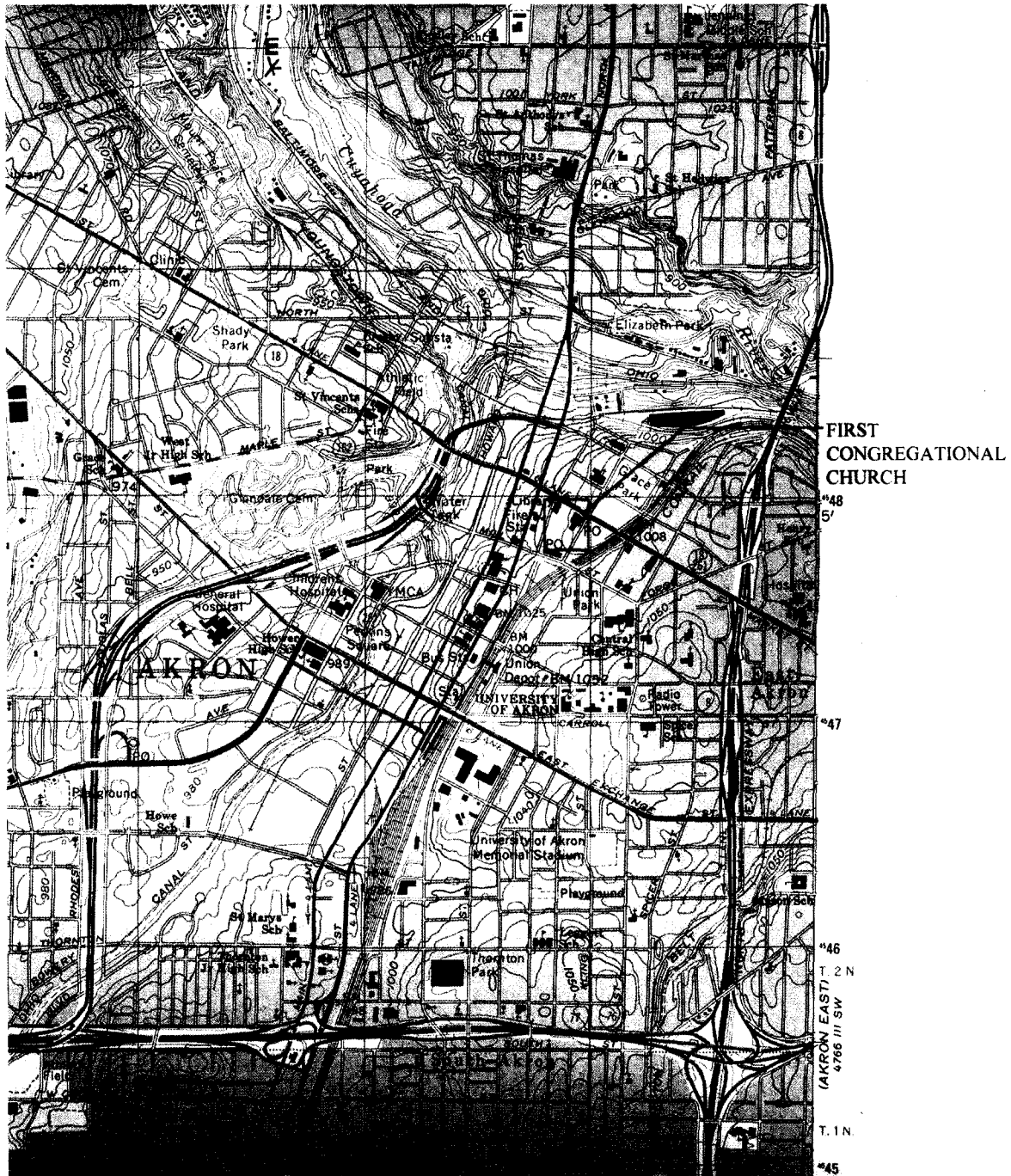
FLOOR PLANS
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

USGS MAP
First Congregational Church
Summit County, Ohio



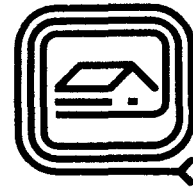
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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OHIO—SUMMIT CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

Visit us at www.ohiohistory.org



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

March 4, 2004

Reverend Jay Groat
292 E. Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

Dear Reverend Groat:

Congratulations on the recent listing of your property into the National Register of Historic Places!

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior listed the **First Congregational Church** at 292 E. Market Street in Akron, Ohio on February 20, 2004. The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is available to advise you in maintaining the historic character of your property. As you know from previous mailings received from this office, there are no restrictions placed on your property following the National Register listing. However, the OHPO strongly encourages owners of historic properties to consider all options before completing work that could damage the structure or impair its historic integrity. Careful planning can facilitate the sensitive incorporation of contemporary alterations with the historic fabric. The OHPO provides free information on how to sensitively rehabilitate and repair historic properties, upon request.

Thank you for your interest in historic preservation and the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory, and Registration

Cc: Elizabeth Murphy, AIA, Form Preparer
Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, City of Akron
Senator Kimberly A. Zurz, District #28
Representative Barbara A. Sykes, District #44
Northeast Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization
Paul Graham, Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: First Congregational Church

County: Summit

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
(plans included in nomination)
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photograph(s) (black + white photographs and a few color printouts)
- Photograph(s) (copies)
- USGS map(s)
- USGS map(s) (copies)
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Correspondence
- Other _____

