

First Congregational Church

20. First Congregational Church,
northwest corner of Spring and
Zosel Streets



Adam L. Telford

In 1868 when Adam L. Telford of Chicago came with his sons, Thomas Oliver and James Houghton, to manufacture shingles in the Porter water-powered mill at Portage, he brought his Bible and

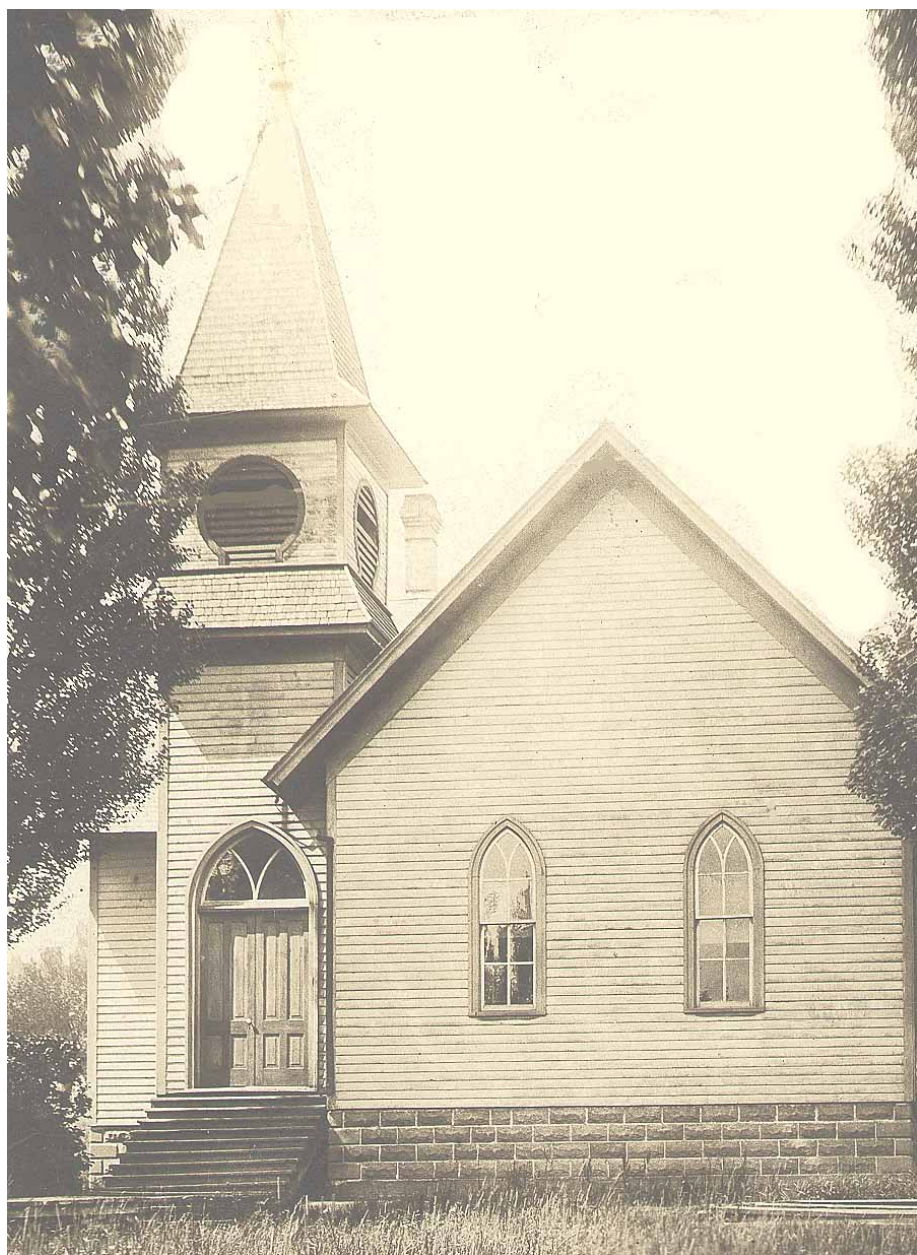
gathered with others for readings and prayer. In 1880, August Zosel platted from his farmland the west end of the Village and later offered to give a group established in 1882 and headed by Telford one of two lots on which the Church now stands. In 1887, A. W. Farr read a statement of expenses for the Church building, which cost \$1,600 and was dedicated in that year.



Early View of Intersection of Mill and Spring Streets with Arrow Pointing to Congregational Church Building Without Steeple; 1882 School Is to Left of Church Building

For the first time, the bell could be heard throughout the Village on November 1, 1900, when the belfry and steeple were completed. In 1934, work began on digging a larger basement under the Church. A March 29, 1992, open house commemorated the opening of a barrier-

free addition. Yet, with pride, Onekama's oldest Church building still stands much as it did at the turn of the nineteenth century.



The Church
Building with Its
1900 Belfry and
Steeple

1950 Church
Sanctuary
Redecoration

