

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 11 1984  
date entered NOV 8 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Congregational Church of Ada

and/or common Memorial Educational Museum, Norman Co. Historical Society

**2. Location**

street & number East Second Ave. at First St. N/A not for publication

city, town Ada N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Norman code 107

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Norman County Historical Society

street & number 404 Fifth Ave. West

city, town Ada N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norman County Courthouse -- Registrar of Deeds

street & number 3rd Ave. East and 1st Street East

city, town Ada state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society -- Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved

date \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Ada Congregational Church is a shingle and brick Craftsman style structure set on a corner lot. The church sits on a raised basement foundation, and in addition to the main floor, a second story is enclosed in a steeply gabled roof. At the southwest corner of the church is a square, crenelated tower with a Queen Anne style belfry with a domical roof. The belfry has arched and louvered openings in each of its eight sides. The church entrance is in the tower and consists of paired wooden doors set into a pointed-arched portal formed of brick. A projecting overdoor is supported by heavy paired knee-braces. A small window on the south side of the tower repeats the entry arch design.

The other first floor fenestration consists of triple, rectangular windows set between heavy brick pilaster/buttresses along each side of the building. A massive, pointed-arched window on the front facade is surrounded by rustic shingles in the gable. The steeply pitched roof extends down to the tops of the first floor windows. Five hipped dormers and a shed dormer window provide light to the second floor. At the rear of the church is a polygonal apse, a tall brick chimney at the northeast corner, and a small brick addition at the southeast corner.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 Builder/Architect Charles Waterbury

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ada Congregational Church is significant for its architectural contribution to the city and for the religious association of some early Ada settlers and New England Congregational churches. Craftsman style buildings are unusual in northwestern Minnesota. The well-designed Congregational Church is a distinctive structure in the city and stands out from the other churches in the community. Built of locally produced, cream-colored brick, the church was based on plans designed and donated by architect Charles Waterbury,<sup>1</sup> a brother-in-law of a church member. The bell in the church was sent by several congregations in New England in 1890 and was placed in the belfry on completion of the structure. The Ada church was organized in 1882 only a few years after Ada began to grow with completion of the railroad line from St. Paul to Winnipeg. A converted newspaper office served the congregation until 1900. The new church became the congregation's first permanent church building. It was the first brick church in Ada. In 1970 the Congregational and Methodist churches decided to unite and build a new building. Members of the Congregational Church donated the old building to the Norman County Historical Society for use as a museum.

1. Charles D. Waterbury, architect of the Congregational Church of Ada, was born and educated in Sandusky, Ohio. He received his early architectural training in the Minneapolis Office of LeRoy Buffington. Waterbury later graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked as a draftsman in the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge (a successor of Henry Hobson Richardson). He transferred to their Chicago Office and it was probably here that Waterbury designed the Congregational Church of Ada. His association with Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge lasted until 1901 when he joined the firm of Allen & Irving K. Pond. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army and at the time of his death in 1918 was Captain of the Construction Division. [Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Facsimile edition. (Los Angeles, 1970), p. 637].

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnson, Lenora I. Under Prairie Skies: The Centennial History of Ada, Minnesota, 1876-1976, Ada, Privately published, 1976.  
In the Heart of the Red River Valley: A History of Norman County, Minnesota, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Ada, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>688110</u>	<u>52410910</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

S. 75' of Lots 5 & 6 and the S. 75' of the W. 35' of Lot 4, Block 16, Original Townsite

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Harvey, Contract Historian

organization N/A

date 31 October 1983

street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S.

telephone 612-920-6917

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55416

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

9/26/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

11-8-84

for  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration