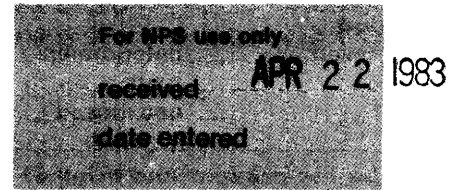


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Church of the Holy Communion

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 116 North Minnesota Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town St. Peter

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~ N/A

state Minnesota

code 22

county Nicollet

code 103

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Congregation-Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion

street & number 116 North Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nicollet County Courthouse

street & number Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter

state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Minnesota Statewide Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1982

federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Erected during the years 1869 and 1870, the Holy Communion Church occupies a mid-block site on Saint Peter's main commercial street. In plan, the church is essentially rectangular with a small, one-story polygonal projection at the southwest corner (rear). Overall, the structure measures 60 feet 5 inches in length by 32 feet in width with an interior height from floor to roof peak of 20 feet. It is constructed entirely of yellow Kasota stone.

Stylistically, the Holy Communion Church exemplifies the Gothic Revival mode popular during the mid-nineteenth century. In addition to the steeply pitched gable roof which conveys a near-"A-frame" quality, windows are of the narrow lancet variety capped with smoothly finished stone arched caps. The principal entry (which opens into a vestibule measuring 8 feet by 16 feet) is flanked by two engaged buttresses and is centrally positioned in the gable end of the structure. The longitudinal facades are divided into three bays defined by engaged buttresses, single lancet windows, and evenly spaced dormers. An open belfry rises above the chancel at the western end of the church. Although minus its ornamental cap, a brick chimney penetrates the roof ridge at the eastern end.

The interior of the church is surfaced with plaster on the walls. The roof structure is open to expose plank sheathing supported by squared timbers and hammerbeams. Interior finishes are both oak grained and natural walnut.

A rectangular guild hall has been added to the southwest corner of the church.

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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1870 ~~XXXXXX~~ **Builder/Architect** Henry Congdon

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of the Holy Communion is significant as an architecturally distinguished Gothic Revival church building and as one of a group of such structures built by Episcopal congregations in Minnesota during the mid-nineteenth century.

In July 1854, the St. Peter Company platted the townsite of St. Peter. Among the investors was Captain William B. Dodd, who, that summer, married Harriet Newell Jones of New York, an Episcopalian and member of the Holy Communion Church of that City. By October, 1854, Mrs. Dodd invited Rt. Reverend C. Jackson Kemper, Missionary Bishop to the Minnesota Territory and the states of Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, to hold services in her home. The entire population of St. Peter (36 people) attended. This new parish, although not formally organized as a mission until 1857, was served by itinerant missionaries until 1856 when Reverend Ezra Jones received his appointment to St. Peter. In 1857, a frame church was constructed with a portion of the costs paid by Mrs. Dodd's home church in New York.

When Bishop Henry Whipple was consecrated First Bishop of the Minnesota Diocese in 1859, the St. Peter congregation had been active for five years and, in fact, sent delegates to the convention which elected him.

Much of the credit for the construction of the second and present church rests with Reverend Edward Livermore, an indefatigable priest who established a high school (not a Sunday school), bolstered the congregation already feeling the effects of an influx of non-Episcopalian settlers, and personally raised the money from churches in eastern cities for the construction of the new building. The corner stone was laid 13 April 1869 and the church was consecrated 27 July 1870.

Although the steady influx of settlers to the Minnesota River Valley greatly increased the city's population, church membership did not grow proportionally. Indeed, the new residents were largely European bred Lutherans and Catholics who established their own churches. By the turn of the century, it had become evident that Whipple's missionary activity, which focused on the Indian missions, and the attention given to the establishment of an Episcopal Diocese at Faribault resulted in a less than prosperous condition for many southwest Minnesota churches. At this time, Holy Communion Church was only one of four self-supporting Episcopal churches in the area, with a congregation which numbered less than 100. Only through the efforts of inspired local leadership and continued support and commitment from members of the congregation did Holy Communion Church remain an active community.

The designer of the church was Henry Congdon (1834–1922), a noted ecclesiastical architect from New York. In Minnesota, Congdon also designed the Chapel of the Good Shepherd (1872–1873) at Shattuck School in Faribault. His plan for the Church of the Holy Communion, with its many Gothic arches and repetition of triangular forms in the gable roofline dormers, belfrey, and buttresses, is a striking design. It is distinctive among rural Minnesota's many notable Gothic Revival Episcopal churches in its use of masonry rather than board-and-batten construction. The church remains as a symbol of the commitment of St. Peter's Episcopalians and links the city to its earliest period of permanent settlement.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, Donald G. A History of The Church of the Holy Communion St. Peter, Minnesota 1854-1977. (St. Peter), 1977.
 Gresham, William G., ed. History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1916.
 St. Peter Herald, Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Number, 1853-1930. St. Peter. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name St. Peter Quad, Minnesota Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 9
 Dodd's Addition, St. Peter, Minnesota

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 Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date February 24, 1983
 street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612/726-1171
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

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 4/7/83

For NPS use only

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

Alvina Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 5/19/83

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Church of the Holy Communion, St. Peter, MN; Nicollet County
Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Item number 9

Page 2

St. Peter Tribune, 24 February 1869.

St. Peter Tribune, 14 April 1869.

St. Peter Tribune, 13 April 1870.

St. Peter Tribune, 3 August 1870.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Church of the Holy Communion in
Nicollet County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000914

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nicollet

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Church of the Holy Communion
(Episcopal)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date