

MAY 20 1980

HISTORIC NAME: First Presbyterian Church COUNTY: Blue Earth
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Mankato JUL 28 1980
 LEGAL DESC.: City of Mankato Addition ADDRESS: Hickory Street East and
 Lot 6, 7 ex. N. 14' of N. 18' South Broad Street
 Block 28

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE: Church
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1893-96 ORIGINAL USE: Church
 ORIGINAL OWNER: First Presbyterian Church ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Warren H. Hayes, Mpls.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: First Presbyterian Church 220 Hickory Street East Mankato, MN 56001	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Blue Earth County Historical Society 606 South Broad, Mankato, Minnesota 56001	UTM REFERENCE: Mankato West 7.5 15 / 419890 / 4890450
FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad	
DATE: January 1980	

DESCRIPTION:

The First Presbyterian Church is located on a corner lot near Mankato's downtown commercial district. The absence of trees from the surrounding area gives the building a high visibility.

The Romanesque style structure is constructed entirely of locally quarried buff limestone, and is dominated by a square corner tower with octagonal spire. The square base of the tower includes arched openings at the belfry level. The two principal street facades feature coped gabled walls and central arched windows. A smaller, pyramidal-roofed tower on the Hickory Street side and a central lantern are additional important elements in the building's profile. Both the corner main entrance and minor entrances on the Second and Hickory Street sides are complemented with ornamentally cut and carved stone. The Second Street facade also includes a semi-circular bay which accommodates the interior balcony staircase.

The northwest corner of the church has had two additions. In 1927, a large classroom wing was added to the building. This addition has a stone facade on Second Street and a brick facade at the alleyway. A chapel addition was made to the west of the building in about 1959.

The interior of the church was originally designed on the Akron plan, but the characteristic opening between the Sunday School and the auditorium has been closed during subsequent remodelings. The seating of the auditorium is in a semi-circular arrangement with the altar at the northwest corner.

The bell in the corner tower was purchased by the church women's society in 1857. It was utilized in the congregation's first two buildings as well as in the present one. It has often functioned as a "town bell" serving a ceremonial function on a variety of occasions for the city of Mankato.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The First Presbyterian Church of Mankato is significant as a locally distinguished ecclesiastical structure, executed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and constructed of Mankato stone. The designer of the building was Minneapolis architect Warren H. Hayes, who gained a reputation as a designer of Richardsonian Romanesque churches on the Akron plan during the final two decades of the 19th century. In the Mankato church he found the local stone well suited to the rusticated surfaces and carved curvilinear ornament which were characteristic of the style. The facades and plan of the building bear a strong resemblance to his earlier First Congregational Church of Minneapolis (1886). The First Presbyterian Church congregation had been organized in 1855; on the building committee for the third

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building in the 1890s were prominent Mankatoans W.M. Farr, G.E. Brett, and R.O. Hubbard. The bell of the structure, still in use, is a link with the first decade of settlement in Mankato. The strength of Hayes' Romanesque design continues to mark the building as an important component of downtown Mankato.

Bibliography

Gebhard, David, and Tom Martinson. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977. p. 241.

Hayes, Warren Howard, file. Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota.

Hughes, Thomas. History of Blue Earth County, and Biographies of Its Leading Citizens. Chicago: Middle West Publishing Company 1909(?) p. 269.

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Mankato. Its First Fifty Years. Mankato: Free Press Printing Company, 1903. pp. 13-17.