

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 The United Brethren Church
other names/site number Pleasant Hill Chapel & Pleasant Hill Chapel Association

2. Location

street & number 31141 476th Avenue not for publication
city or town West Akron Vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Union code 127 zip code 51001

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.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

01-09-2001
Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 2/9/01

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion	Sub: Religious Facility
Secondary Structure	Privy
Funerary	Cemetery
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion	Sub: Religious Facility
Secondary Structure	Privy
Funerary	Cemetery
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals -
Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Clay Tile Block

roof Wood & Asphalt Shingle

walls Clapboards

other _____

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

See 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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1905

United Brethren Church
Name of Property

Union County, South Dakota
County and State

Significant Dates 1905

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Mr. Matson and Mr. Buum-Carpenters

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

United Brethren Church
Name of Property

Union County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 688880 4749196
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

3 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynda B. Schwan, SDSHPO Staff
organization _____ date July 7, 2000
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6056
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

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)

United Brethren Church
Name of Property

Union County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

The United Brethren Church is located on a country road 4.5 miles northeast of Spink, South Dakota in Spink Township. The Big Sioux River flows approximately 5 miles east of the church. It is located in a very rural area with very few houses in the immediate area. The United Brethren Church is an excellent example of a rural country church in Union County.

Architectural Description:

The United Brethren Church, built in 1905, is a gable front clapboard building with a steeple in the center of the façade. The one and one-half story frame building was constructed on a clay tile foundation. The façade (east elevation) of the church has a double entry door with a two pane transom in the steeple. Above the doorway is a simple, decorative pediment. Concrete steps lead up to this entryway. Located approximately two feet up the steeple is a decorative Gothic arch wooden detail. The steeple is topped with a four sided bell tower. Each side has two narrow arched openings with louvers. Above the arches is a triangular pediment, which leads to an asphalt shingled octagonal roof that rises to a peak crowned with a simple Christian cross.

The north and south elevations have three evenly spaced hopper windows at the basement level. Directly above each of the basement windows is a one-over-one double hung window. Each has a simple decorative window moulding with a small peak in the middle of each window moulding. The south elevation also has a wood entry door at the southeast corner.

The west elevation has a historic shed roof addition. The west wall of this addition has an entry door at the southwest corner and three, three paned hopper windows at the basement level. The south wall of this shed roof addition has a three paned hopper window at the basement level.

Interior:

The main floor of the sanctuary is one large room with very little decoration. The west end of the sanctuary has a modest handrail and pulpit. The church has a simple vaulted ceiling. The church's full basement has a Sunday School room and a modest kitchen at the rear of the building.

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Privy:

To the rear of the property sits a clapboard sided asphalt shingled shed roof WPA privy. There is a single door on the east elevation with a signature WPA square window near the door.

Cemetery:

Located to the south of the church is a cemetery laid out on a grid pattern. The earliest interment dates to the middle 1880's. It remains an active cemetery. At the gate to the cemetery is an iron arch entryway with "PLEASEANT HILL CEMETERY" in the arch.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The United Brethren Church is significant under criterion C as a well-preserved example of simplified vernacular late gothic revival architectural style and represents the first generation church construction in the eastern part of South Dakota.

The early 1870s saw the settlement of Spink Township in Union County. The Wade, Goodroad and Heasley families developed the area and started the first school. The families of Pleasant Hill paid for the construction of a school, which would also function as a Sunday School facility. The United Brethern Methodist Church took over the operations of the Sunday School classes after the Wade family moved to a new community. The congregation members and church organization raised enough funds to construct two churches in the Vermillion Circuit, as this region was termed. The first church was constructed in Clay County called the Star Prairie Church in 1897 and in 1905 the United Brethern Church was constructed in Union County thus making the circuit complete.

The United Brethren Church is significant under Criterion C as it typifies the "first generation" of church construction in eastern South Dakota. Scholars of church architecture in the Great Plains have divided the evolution of church buildings in the region into several distinct phases. These phases tend to happen in generational cycles and so they have been termed generations. Typically a parish or congregation would be established in a given area as soon as there was sufficient population. As its first order of business, a newly organized church body constructed a suitable church building. As a result, most of the initial or first generation churches were simple frame

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buildings constructed by local carpenters or builders. In eastern South Dakota, first generation churches tend to date from the late 19th to early 20th century with most buildings constructed during the Great Dakota Boom, 1878-1887.

The church retains a high degree of architectural integrity and has suffered few alterations. The west elevation has a shed roof addition that was made in an historic time frame. The privy is still at its original location. Few examples of this building type with a high degree of integrity remain in South Dakota. Many have suffered alterations such as modern siding, new windows and removal of the steeple. The United Brethren Church survives as an excellent example of this vernacular building type.

The United Brethren Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of a first generation, vernacular late gothic revival building. It is also significant as the only remaining church from the Vermillion Circuit.

Bibliography

Historic Contexts for Historical and Architectural Resources in South Dakota. South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, South Dakota. 1989.

United Brethren Church
Name of Property

Union County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the south east corner of the north east quarter of section 13 in township 93 north of range 50 west of the fifth p.m. thence running west on the quarter section line 10 rods, 8 feet and 6 inches, thence north 23 rods, thence east parallel with the section line of said section 13, 10 rods, 8 feet and 6 inches to the east line of said section 13 thence south on the section line of said section 13, 23 rods to the place of beginning, containing about 1.5 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

2.5 acres of land that have been historically associated with the church.