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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
other names/site number Harmony Lodge #53

2. Location

street & number SW cor Hammond & Eastern Aves N/A not for publication
city, town Lidgerwood N/A vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Richland code 077 zip code 58053

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Episcopal Churches of North Dakota
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

James E. Shroyer North Dakota SHPO 10-13-92
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of North Dakota
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 12/3/92
 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

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof asphalt

other wood/shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 7.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 8.

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Continuation Sheet

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Richland Co., ND

Section number 7. Description **Page** 1

St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Lidgerwood displays the key defining design elements of the property type, Episcopal Churches of North Dakota, 1872-1920s. These features are the presence of Late Gothic Revival stylistic elements, side porches, steeply pitched gabled roof, pointed arch openings, asymmetric plan, honest use of materials, and importance of the chancel. Built in 1910, the relatively unaltered church and its immediate surroundings are in good condition. St. Alban's is a distinctive tangible instance of a cultural heritage transplanted to the Plains.

St. Alban's Church is one story and has small ground level windows lighting the basement. The nave of the church and side porch are both gabled, while the prominent tower entry has a steep hipped wood shingle roof above the noble crenellations.

The principal wall material is roughly dressed local fieldstone in a notable variety of colors. The highly textured stones are laid in courses, but their irregular size and shape prompted the use of considerable mortar to "square up" the stones to form the courses. What appears to be sandstone or concrete is used for the water table, and window sills are concrete. Wood shingle in sawtooth and imbricated patterns is used in the gable ends of both nave and side porch.

St. Alban's Church displays elements which are characteristic of Gothic or Late Gothic Revival Episcopal churches in the state, including stone walls, buttresses, presence of a tower, and wood shingle in the gable ends. The various textures contrast effectively with one another, properly calling attention to the "honesty" of the materials. Unlike some examples, the buttresses along the nave extend nearly to the eaves and seem rather shallow and attenuated.

Simple wood frame pointed arch windows appear to be original and have stone radiating voussoirs. Single windows are separated by stepped stone buttresses along the nave, paired on the south side of the side porch, and grouped in three's at the back of the nave. Stained glass is used for the three lancet windows lighting the back of the nave and may remain behind the covered over rose window of the chancel as well. Also, a c. 1912 photograph shows a stained glass panel above the entry door which has "St. Alban's" on it, but this has long been replaced with a wood panel.

The prominent entry tower is particularly notable and was built in two parts. The c. 1912 photograph shows it as a squat flat-roofed

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entry porch ending a few courses above the door. Later (probably c. 1916 and certainly by the 1920; see below) the tower was extended to its present height. The difference in stone treatment is evident. Notable features of the tower include paired corner buttresses which are quite long, paired pointed arch openings all around at the bell location, the contrasting course, and the crenellations.

The plan of St. Alban's Church (approximately 20x40') is properly asymmetric. Off the basic rectangle of the nave are a side porch at the west end of the south side and the tower entrance at the opposite or northeast corner. The arrangement departs from the traditional practice of placing the chancel toward the rising sun and the entry or south porches on the warming south side.

Interior arrangement continues the liturgically correct Late Gothic Revival design of the exterior, although many details have been removed or covered when the Masons took over the building in 1961. Still remaining are the steps up to the former chancel and altar space, wainscotting, and wood flooring. Interior modifications include a flat acoustical tile ceiling with fluorescent lights, inexpensive wood paneling in the former altar area, replacement doors, and modernized basement area including kitchen.

Exterior alterations include a replacement asphalt shingle roof, replacement front door, wood panel covering rose window, and replacement wood steps at the side porch. As expected with uneven shapes of stone, considerable mortar was sometimes necessary, and this mortar has deteriorated in places. New mortar has been applied, in some places using inappropriate materials and unskilled techniques. Historic photos suggest that the wood shingle was not painted white, but was a darker color more in harmony with the colors of the stones.

St. Alban's Church is located on a shaded corner site in a quiet, predominantly residential area. Mature trees made photography a challenge. Also sharing the block is a public school with attendant playgrounds. Nearby houses date primarily from the late 19th and early 20th century. The main street of Lidgerwood is several blocks west of the church.

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Lidgerwood is a significant example related to the multiple property submission, context, and property type, Episcopal Churches of North Dakota, 1872-1920s. The building is significant at the state level under Criterion C (architecture), for it embodies the Late Gothic Revival Style. Examples of this distinctive building type are unsurpassed in terms of unity of design, style, materials, and craft in North Dakota and comprise a significant architectural body of work. The church illustrates continuing interest on the Plains in the principles of the Episcopal Ecclesiological movement. Now used as a Masonic lodge hall, the church derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction (Criteria Consideration A). The period of significance, 1910, covers when the building was constructed. The church displays the key defining design elements listed under the registration requirements (side porches, steeply pitched roof, pointed arch openings, asymmetry, honest use of materials, chancel design, Late Gothic Revival stylistic attributes). St. Alban's is a remarkable and tangible instance of a cultural heritage transplanted to the Plains, a form which persisted into the 20th century.

Lidgerwood was established in 1886 as a stop on the Soo Line Railroad. The Great Northern Railway soon joined the Soo Line in serving the community. Located in a fertile region of southeastern North Dakota, the area saw increased settlement beginning in 1892 when a former Sioux Indian reservation was opened to white occupation. The period of greatest growth in the community occurred between 1896 and 1910.¹

Among the earliest arrivals in Lidgerwood were Emil A. and John H. Movius. The brothers (with later arrivals, brothers William and Ernst as well) were key participants in the economic development of the fledgling community, especially in the areas of insurance, real estate, flour milling, and banking. In addition to these areas of economic endeavor, in the 1880s they also sold lumber, farm machinery, furniture, groceries and dry goods, and provided undertaking services and a stables. By the 1900s they had expanded mercantile operations into surrounding communities. After the reservation opened for settlement, the Movius brothers engaged in considerable land sales as well as farming and stock raising and automobile sales. In 1913 the brothers built the First National Bank building, an extant classical Bedford limestone landmark on

¹Lidgerwood, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow.

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main street. In the early 20th century Emil Movius served in the state senate and house of representatives.²

With the increase of railroad-related settlement, the Lidgerwood hinterland became an area of Episcopal missionary activities. In 1904 it was reported that services were held in Lidgerwood twice a month on a regular schedule and that the Bishop had confirmed three adults during his annual visit. The congregation worked to build a church, and by December 1910 it was "nearing completion." In 1914 the entry tower was completed at a cost of \$700.³

On December 18, 1910, the Bishop held the first service in the new church, then "not quite complete but very satisfactory." The political influence of the Movius family as well as their generosity may have been a factor in the Bishop's extended and congratulatory comments. He described his visit:

[The church] is thoroughly well constructed, out of the beautiful granite boulders which are the finest building material in North Dakota. There is a good basement, and there is a commodious vestry-room. The pews are of oak. As yet the altar and other chancel furniture are not in...the erection of it is a great credit to our small band of people in Lidgerwood, and specially to Mr. Movius, without whose large giving it would not have been possible....⁴

Like Lidgerwood, the history of St. Alban's Episcopal Church owes a debt to the Movius brothers. German-born, Emil Movius was an unlikely patron for an Episcopal church. His wife, the former Addie H. Waring, was born in Iowa and may well have provided the Episcopalian link. Their son Leonard, who died in 1904, was known to have been a member of the church since 1902. According to the Bishop, "He was a young man of fine abilities and fine character. The great gathering at his funeral witnessed to the esteem he was held in by all who knew him."⁵ It would be difficult to imagine

²Ibid.; W.B. Hennessy, *History of North Dakota*, 1910, pp. 172-3.

³Lidgerwood reports, *The North Dakota Sheaf*, February 1904, December 1910; *Journal of the 30th Annual Convocation*, 1914, p. xxiv.

⁴Bishop's Diary, *Sheaf*, January 1911.

⁵*Convocation Journal*, 1904, p. 3.

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a better memorial for a departed son than to sponsor a stone church.

According to Diocesan records, the church building including furnishings cost \$5,000 and was located on a lot worth \$800. The congregation sought and received a loan from the American Church Building Fund Commission to pay for part of the costs. Church finances received an added benefit in 1916 when Emil Movius died and left a \$1500 bequest to St. Alban's.

No information has come to light regarding the designer of the church. Diocesan records make mention of building plans and an unnamed architect's estimates for at least one other church in the early 20th century (Oakes in 1923), but are silent regarding Lidgerwood. Given the Emil Movius family interest in the project, it is likely they participated in design decisions such as selecting an architect, freeing the Diocese from this role. One local source (Lidgerwood, Yesterday, etc.) states that the stone mason was "a Mr. Lighthouse, who is remembered today mainly for his prowess as a drinker."

It appears the Movius family was the primary guiding force in establishing and maintaining St. Alban's. In 1913 and 1914 Lidgerwood was an Organized Mission (not a Parish) consisting of just nine families. With Emil's death in 1916, the congregation fell on hard times. According to a 1936 article in *The North Dakota Sheaf*, the church closed around 1920. An enthusiastic missionary priest whose father had been or was a Bishop of Long Island and also Mexico descended upon North Dakota. The Rev. William Creighton found St. Alban's in May 1935, "Not only standing idle, but with the doors and stained glass windows smashed out, with marks on the floors where hoboes have made bonfires, with the accumulated filth of fifteen years desecrating the entire building." He took steps to clean up the church and began holding regular services. It is not known how long St. Alban's was in use, but it was vacant and for sale by 1961. In that year Harmony Lodge No. 53 A.F. & A.M. of Lidgerwood bought the church and converted it to a lodge hall, which it remains.⁶

⁶*Convocation Journal*, 1913, Appendix M; [Creighton, William,] "North Dakota Prairie is Unchurched," *Sheaf*, October 1936?; "Dedication Program. Masonic Temple, Fri., Dec. 11, 1964."

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, section 9.

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A	1 4	6 4 3 4 2 5	5 1 0 3 9 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			

See continuation sheet, section 10.

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet, section 10.

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet, section 10.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Barbara Beving Long, consultant	date	May 21, 1992
organization	Four Mile Research Company	telephone	(319) 547-4344
street & number	315 N. Elm Street	state	Iowa
city or town	Cresco	zip code	52136

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Section number 9. Major Bibliographical References Page 6

- Long, Barbara Beving. Episcopal Churches of North Dakota. Multiple properties submission, 1992.
- Wilkins, Robert and Wynona. *God Giveth the Increase. The History of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota.* Fargo: ND Institute for Regional Studies, 1959.
- Bishop's Diary, *The North Dakota Sheaf*, January 1911.
- Lidgerwood reports, *Sheaf*, February 1904, December 1910, January 1912 (includes photo showing church before tower extension).
- [Creighton, William.] "North Dakota Prairie is Unchurched," *Sheaf*, October 1936? (penciled date on copy in #146202406, SHSND Archives).
- Diocese of North Dakota. Records, including minutes for meeting, Bishop Chancellor and Standing Committee, December 191, 1910. SHSND Archives #4600102.
- Records related to St. Alban's, #46201426, SHSND Archives, including American Church Building Fund Commission to John B. Wagner, October 24, 1916; A.L. Parsons to Bishop of North Dakota, July 18, 1916.
- Journal of the 17th Annual Convocation of the Missionary District of North Dakota...May 27-29, A.D. 1904.* Fargo: [the Convocation], 1904.
- Journal of the 29th Annual Convocation of the Missionary District of North Dakota...May 25-27, A.D. 1913.* Fargo: [the Convocation], 1913, Appendix M.
- Journal of the 30th Annual Convocation of the Missionary District of North Dakota...A.D. 1914.* Fargo: [the Convocation], 1914.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Lidgerwood, North Dakota. November 1927.
- "Dedication Program. Masonic Temple, Fri., Dec. 11, 1964. Lidgerwood, N.D." Includes photograph, c. 1964. Location: SHPO files.
- Lidgerwood. Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow.* Undated local history. Location: SHSND.
- Lidgerwood Chamber of Commerce. Lidgerwood, North Dakota. Community Fact Survey. No date. Location: SHPO files.
- Hennessy, W.B., comp. *History of North Dakota.* Bismarck: Bismarck Tribune Co., 1910. (Entries for Emil A. and John Movius.)
- E.A. Movius obituary. *Fargo Forum*, July 7, 1916.

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Section number 10. Geographical Data Page 7

Verbal Boundary Description

St. Alban's Episcopal Church occupies lot 1, block 34 of the Original Town Plat of Lidgerwood, North Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that lot which has historically been part of St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

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Section number PHOTOGRAPHS **Page** 8

●Photographer for all views: BJB Long

●Location of negatives for all views: State Historical Society of
North Dakota, Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation

●Date of photographs for all views: July 1991

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Richland County, ND:

1. North and east facades (view to SW)
2. East facade (view to west) (note mature trees)
3. South facade showing side porch (view to north)
4. West and north facades (view to SE)
888
5. Detail of stone8work and windows of side porch, south facade
(view to north)