

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99001389

Property Name: Christ Church Episcopal

County: Gage State: Nebraska

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Brenda McEllen November 29, 1999
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance:

The area of significance for "Religion" is, hereby, dropped and "Architecture" entered to correspond to the property's significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture.

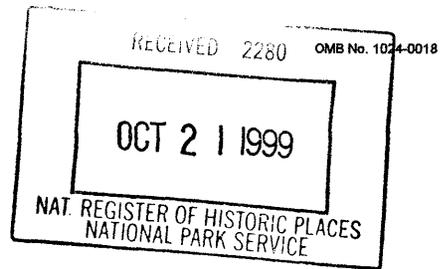
The Nebraska State Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1389

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 Christ Church Episcopal

other names/site number NeHBS #GA03-211

2. Location

street & number 520 N. 5th Street not for publication

city or town Beatrice vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Gage code 067 zip code 68310

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.)

William Sommer
Signature of certifying official

10-13-99
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Linda McClelland

11/29/99

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

foundation STONE/CONCRET
walls STONE
roof STONE: Slate
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1889

1916-1920

1951

Significant Dates

1889

1916-1920

1951

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Mendelsson and Laurie

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 for Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	691530	4460110	3.			
2.				4.			

See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Greg Miller, Preservation Historian
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date September 1999
street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone (402) 471-4775
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508

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.)

Property Owner

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

name/title Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska
street & number 200 North 62nd Street telephone _____
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68132

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 8,9,10 Page 1

Description

Christ Church Episcopal in Beatrice, Gage County, was built in 1889-90 in the Gothic Revival style. The church is located on the corner of Fifth and Lincoln. Additions were made to the church between 1914 and 1920. The property also contains a rectory built in 1951. The rectory, while not quite 50 years old at the time of this nomination contributes to the site as a whole.

Despite the lack of a permanent home the Episcopal Church held its first services in Beatrice in 1869. The Christ Church parish was formally organized on February 24, 1873 and was accepted into the Nebraska Diocese on August 28, 1873. In 1874 the first Episcopal church building was constructed. Services were held in this wood frame structure for the next 16 years.

In 1888, however, plans were made for a new structure. The Omaha architecture firm of Mendelsson and Laurie was hired to design the building. Construction began in 1889 and was completed the following year.

The stone Gothic Revival style church is a one-story cruciform plan with a tower and entrance on the northwest corner. There is an additional entrance and small porch on the west end of the south transept. The tower is terminated by a parapet with four miniature towers at each of the corners. This miniature tower form is repeated on the south side of the west gable. The nave and transepts are covered by steeply pitched gabled roofs, while the chancel roof is polygonal. The chapel, sacristy, and parish hall were added on to the east end of the original structure between 1916 and 1920. All the additions are one-story with steeply pitched gabled roofs. Both the original building and subsequent additions are built of rockface stone in random ashlar coursing, with window and door trims and copings in dressed stone. The original church has a stone foundation while the additions have concrete block.

All roofs are covered in a polychrome slate, with a gray/green slate as the field. A red slate forms a cross pattern and also runs along the ridge line. Slate on the addition is of a slightly darker, grayer color.

On the original structure, stained glass windows on the west, north, and south gable ends are triple pointed arch windows. Smaller single pointed arch windows are centered in each bay on the north and south walls and in each of the three sides of the chancel area. Three rectangular windows are positioned directly below the three windows on the west wall. There is a stone chimney on the east side of the north transept. Stained glass windows in the addition are small and rectangular except for a large single pointed arch on the north end of the parish hall.

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Christ Church Episcopal

Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska

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Description (continued)

The interior of the original building is a single aisle space with a transept near the east end and a small chancel with a three sided back wall. It is articulated by a channel arch. Because of a change in the liturgy in the mid-1900s, more attendants were required in the chancel so it was expanded out into the nave area. The choir also outgrew the available space and was relocated to the north transept. The altar remains in the east end of the chancel. The pulpit and lectern remain in their original positions, to the north and south of the chancel arch respectively, in the nave. The baptismal font is in the southwest corner of the nave. The tower, which located in southwest corner of the nave, contains a spiral staircase that leads to a meeting room on the second level and the belfry on the third level. Intricate exposed wood ceiling rafters represent a major architectural feature of the interior space.

The chapel and sacristy were added to the north side of the original church. They retain most of the same interior qualities of the original except for the exposed ceiling rafters. All three areas have walls decorated with a wood linerfold pattern wainscot. Above the wainscot the walls are plastered. Except for the entrance tower all the floors are wood. The entrance tower varies in that the floor is slate and the wainscot is black marble. The parish hall, which is at the most northern end of the church is a large open space with a wood floor, plaster walls, and pressboard ceiling.

The rectory is a relatively plain building with no distinctive architectural features except for a slightly projecting gable end roof line. Built in 1951, the stone used in its construction was quarried from the same mine that produced the stone for the original church and the additions. In order to do this, however, the mine had to be reopened. Therefore, it is similar in composition and material and, rather than detracting from the property, it contributes to the surrounding environs.

Statement of Significance

Christ Church Episcopal, located in Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Gothic Revival style building that retains a high degree of integrity. The property also contains a rectory built in 1951. Criteria Consideration A is applicable and is met through the property deriving primary significance under architecture. The nomination consists of two contributing properties.

In order to evaluate the architectural significance of Christ Church Episcopal it is necessary to examine the historical context in which it was built. Some background information on the Cambridge Camden Society and the Oxford Movement in England, and the New York Ecclesiological Society in

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Christ Church Episcopal

Name of Property

Gage County, Nebraska

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Statement of Significance (continued)

this county will help demonstrate the influence these groups had on church architecture.

At the time the Protestant Reform began in England in the 16th Century, there were numerous existing medieval parish churches throughout England. Medieval worship called for a separation between laity and clergy. The priest's position was between the congregation and the altar which was placed on the rear wall of the apse. A long chancel was typical.

Because of the changes brought on by the Reformation there was no need for chantry altars or to reserve the chancel for devotions of the clergy. Chancels in existing churches were rarely utilized and new structures of the 18th and 19th centuries omitted the chancel or reduced it to a shallow apse. This represented the change in the dominate theme of the church by stressing the importance of congregational convenience and less emphasis on the superior position of the clergy.

In the 19th Century there was a reaction against this reduction and simplification process. One of the groups behind this movement was the Cambridge Camden Society which formed in the 1840s. Among their professed objectives was to study ecclesiastical architecture. Behind such an innocent program was a more subversive motive. For the real leaders of the Cambridge Movement, almost without exception, were men inspired by the theology of the Oxford Movement with its strong emphasis on the authority of the clergy and the importance of the sacraments. The Cambridge men were also convinced the Middle Ages represented the height of Christian piety and worship, and as a result concluded that medieval church buildings should be reproduced.

The Cambridge Camden Society saw the Gothic Church as an expression of internal function and an architecture style expressing the inner nature of an age which held their admiration. Although there were several Gothic Church building types, the Cambridge Camden Society concentrated almost exclusively on the Parish Church form. This form originally was a simple two celled structure consisting of a nave and a small chancel. Eventually aisles, towers, chapels, and porches were added. The altar was positioned against the east wall in the chancel, and pulpit and baptismal font were placed in the nave. Additionally, transepts were often added.

After some deliberation the Society determined that Gothic or "Pointed Architecture" was the only acceptable style. Windows were to be pointed arches, that being an expression of uprisingness. Additionally, churches were to have a high pitched roof with exposed rafters on the interior. Churches not of a cross plan had to have a bell tower.

In the United States, there was a movement similar to that in England. The New York Ecclesioloical Societv was formed with beliefs and intentions verv similar to the Cambridge Camden

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Christ Church Episcopal
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Gage County, Nebraska
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Statement of Significance (continued)

Society. They adopted many of the architectural ideas coming over from England which are evident in Christ Church Episcopal.

The 1889 Christ Church Episcopal is architecturally significant for a number of reasons. This Gothic Revival church is patterned after what the Ecclesiological Movement considered the ideal church form, that is, the Parish Church. Christ Church is an excellent example because it uses stone as the building material, its exterior form reflects the functions inside, and it has a steeply pitched gabled roof with a tower asymmetrically placed at the entrance. Additionally, it is proportioned according to the strict mandates set down by the Cambridge Camden Society and adopted by the New York Ecclesiological Society.

As a result of the church being constructed in the stringent requirements of the Ecclesiological Movement the parish was in considerable debt when the building was completed. To help meet this debt two loans were secured in 1891 for \$12,000. The church was able to make payments on these loans until 1897 when they could no longer meet their obligation and were forced to default.

In order to ease the debt situation the Diocese sent one of their Bishops to New York, Chicago, and other eastern cities to solicit contributions. This mission ended in considerable success. Among the contributors were the Boys Club of Chicago and J. Pierpoint Morgan. With a continuing determined effort the debt was finally retired in 1908.

Bibliography

Beatrice Daily Sun

Kirschbaum, Julia S. "Christ Church Episcopal." 1987.

Smith, S.C. History of the Parish of Christ Church, 1873-1923. Beatrice: Milburn and Scott Co., 1923.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 17-18, Block 25, Cropsey's Addition, Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.