

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 09 1975  
DATE ENTERED JAN 5 1975

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 Immaculate Conception

AND/OR COMMON

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

918 5th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

STATE

South Dakota

VICINITY OF  
CODE 046

COUNTY

Pennington

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

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CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pennington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

St. Joseph Street

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center, USD Alumni House

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Immaculate Conception Church is a one story, cross gabled Romanesque Revival erected in 1902. Externally, the building has changed slightly with the additions of protective screen covering the stain glass windows, modern entrance steps, and a vertical board addition to the apse. None of these detract from the structure's architectural integrity.

The structure has many consistent architectural features. Cut sandstone from a local quarry covers most of the exterior walls and is used as the foundation. All the openings employ compound Romanesque arches with radiating voussoirs. The stones in the top course of the plinth, which surrounds the building, serve as the first floor window sills. The remaining opening use lug sills. Recessed stain glass windows are utilized. Most of them are of geometric design except for the two large ones which show Biblical depictions.

The front facade features a square bell tower that is used as the main entrance. The tower has a pyramidal termination which is covered by terneplate. The double door with a three panel entrance has a stained glass, round-headed window above which there is a heavy cut stone Romanesque arch surround. The bell tower has large openings on all sides which are screened and have balustrades.

The north and south sides display at each end of the cross gable two chimneys of the single stack type. A Latin cross finial is used on each gable. This structure is well preserved.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1902 and dedicated under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculate Conception Church has for over seventy-two years served as a center of worship for Catholics of Rapid City. In 1930 the diocese of the Black Hills was transferred from Lead to Rapid City because it was more centralized, was larger in population, and was more accessible in winter months. Immaculate Conception was the See until 1962 when the new cathedral was built in Rapid. Among the many highlights of this religious center was the arrival of Cardinal Francis Spellman in 1948 who came to install a new bishop.

The most important aspect of the church is its architectural quality. This Romanesque Revival structure has undergone few alterations and its cut stone facade and stained glass windows have been kept in excellent condition. With the retention of the building's architectural integrity, the membership of the church has shown a respect for its origins and history.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Roach, Michael Monsignor. Personal interview by Scott Gerloff, March 16, 1974.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 642100 4881620  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Scott Gerloff, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

January 16, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*John H. ...*

TITLE

ultural Preservation Director / SHPO

DATE

3-31-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*...*

DATE

6/5/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*...*

DATE

JUN 4 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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JUN 5 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE ONE

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Rapid City, South Dakota, Pennington County.  
(Code 046) (Code 103)

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is important for it is the best example of Romanesque Revival architecture in the city. Only a few of this type of architecture still exists in Rapid. Only two buildings are left with entirely rock-faced facades; Immaculate Conception is one of them. If the destruction of the church occurred, the city would lose part of its architectural history, one of the last examples of the art of stone cutting, and examples of indigenous stone material. Therefore, the preservation of this church is important to understanding the development of Rapid City, for this is the last known cut stone building erected within the town's boundaries.