

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Amendments

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	1/8/81
DATE ENTERED	MAY 5 1982

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 First Baptist Church of Vermillion
AND/OR COMMON First Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 101 East Main Street
CITY, TOWN Vermillion
STATE South Dakota
VICINITY OF First
COUNTY Clay
CODE 46
CODE 027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church
STREET & NUMBER 101 East Main Street
CITY, TOWN Vermillion
VICINITY OF
STATE South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clay County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Main Street
CITY, TOWN Vermillion
STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first Baptist Church of Vermillion serves its original function as a house of worship. It is a two-story building with the north and west facades of Sioux Falls quartzite and the east and south walls of a local orange color brick. The church consists of two wings, joined on the north side but detached on the south. The first, called Lewis Hall, was designed by Wallace L. Dow of Sioux Falls in 1889. The second wing was designed by Beuttler and Arnold of Sioux City, Iowa, in 1925. Both the brick and stone used in the latter section match those used in the original building. The older wing, to the east, was dedicated on May 18, 1890. The north or Main Street facade is divided into two halves. The east half has an octagonal turret on the northeast corner and the other corner is rounded. The west half has a deeply recessed porch and a short tower which was originally the northwest corner of the building. The porch is approached by a broad flight of stairs and is covered by a flat roof which is supported in the center by a highly polished granite column. The stonework on this facade is heavily rusticated and the arches, lintels and stringcourses are of a sandstone which is slightly darker than the quartzite. The lintels and the cushion capital of the porch are delicately carved with abstract foliage designs appropriate to the general Richardsonian Romanesque styling of the building. Also in keeping with this style, many of the windows have round-headed arches and the parapets are crenellated. The other facades of the east wing are of brick with plain double-hung sash windows. The east wall has stone lintels and sills and a rusticated quartzite basement laid in even courses. The other walls have brick sills and segmental arches on the windows and rubble quartzite on the basement. The west wing, of 1925, has rusticated quartzite on the north and west facades to match the north facade of the east wing. Round-headed windows and corner turrets with a suggestion of crenellation also repeat the design of the east wing. The sanctuary is lit on the west side by four large roundheaded windows and on the east by two matching windows. The south and east facades of this wing are of brick with no ornamental features.

The 1889 wing was entered by doors at either end of the recessed porch. The west door, originally the main entrance, opened into a vestibule under the tower, and has now been permanently closed with the vestibule remodeled as a restroom. The east door on the porch leads into a small hallway which opens into the two offices, originally the "reception room" and "library." The remaining area of this wing was occupied by the sanctuary which faced to the west. This was surrounded by a balcony on three sides which was supported by slender cast iron columns. The tall central shaft of space was covered by a coved ceiling. The chancel, on the west side of the auditorium, housed the choir and the organ. After the addition of the new sanctuary in 1925 a floor was constructed across the balcony and the chancel arch was walled in on each floor. The original cast iron supports and the coved ceiling remain; the only major loss has been the removal of the stairway to the balcony which was on the south west corner of the room.

The sanctuary of 1925 is joined to the 1889 wing by a stairhall and vestibule. The auditorium has a balcony over the entrance and a central aisle with straight pews on each side which face a raised platform supporting the lecturn and pulpit. Above and behind this is a recessed choir loft and the organ. The organ is of special note.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1889 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Beuttler and Arnold, Sioux City, Iowa
Wallace LeRoy Dow

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church is significant in the area of architecture, settlement and religion. The congregation is one of the oldest in South Dakota and its foundation was of major importance to the early history of Vermillion. The architecture is significant because of the architect of the original wing, Wallace LeRoy Dow. Dow was the major practicing architect in the Dakota Territory, and received many of the public, educational and residential commissions. This design is one of the few church designs known by Dow and is of the same period of his Minnehaha County Court-house in Sioux Falls, the most prominent Richardsonian Romanesque building in the Dakotas. A photograph of a perspective view of this church, in the possession of the Siouxland Heritage Museums in Sioux Falls, shows that the 1889-90 building was intended to serve as a wing for a larger church. The perspective view, signed and dated 1890, shows what appears to be a large Akron Plan church with a corner tower of over 100 feet. This proposed church was to stand where the present 1925 addition was built. If it had been an Akron Plan, as it appears, the design of the Lewis Hall auditorium can be understood; this would have functioned as the Sunday School Hall and would have opened onto the proposed sanctuary with large folding doors fitted into the chancel arch. The area above and below the balcony would have been fitted with partition walls to form separate rooms around the central hall for Sunday School classes, and the existing double hung windows would have been perfectly suited for this conversion. The wing built by Dow was, therefore, designed for future adaptive use, and although the Akron Plan was not followed in 1925, when the anticipated west wing was finally built, the Dow wing was still well suited for conversion to church school use.

The significance in the area of Music relates to the Schuelke organ which is now housed in the 1925 wing. This organ is not only the oldest in South Dakota, but also deserves recognition because it is such an excellent example of the tonal character and disposition of late Victorian American organs, and the instrument remains in its original condition with no additions or modifications to its ranks. Its tracker action has been recently restored and the hand operated bellows are still in place and are in working condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

W.L. Dow, Architect, Sioux Falls, Dakota, unpublished manuscript by Bruce R. Schumacher, 1977, Center for Western Studies. Augustana College.

Church Records

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Vermillion

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 669320 4738140
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site. The structure is located in lots 15, 16 and 17 of Block 26 of the original plat of the City of Vermillion

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

John Burrows, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

5 November 80

STREET & NUMBER

University of South Dakota

TELEPHONE

605-677-5313

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James D. Fishburn

11/27/82

TITLE

Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Melrose Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

3/5/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION