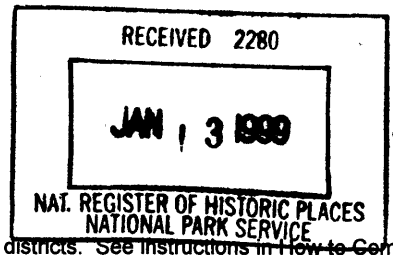


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**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 St. William's Catholic Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Third Street not for publication N/A
city or town Ramona vicinity X
state South Dakota code SD county Lake code 079 zip code 57054

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 10-05-98
Signature of certifying official 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: 2-12-99

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>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register X
 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

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic
Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured concrete, granite
roof Asphalt
walls Weatherboard

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

1899

Significant Dates 1899

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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: St. William's Catholic Church, Ramona, South
Dakota

St. William's Catholic Church
Name of Property

Lake County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>642675</u>	<u>4886380</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Delmer J. Dooley and Suzanne Julin, SHPO Intern

organization Church Centennial Chairman date

street & number RR 2, Box 28A telephone 605/482-8626

city or town Ramona state SD zip code 57054

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)

St. William's Catholic Church
Name of Property

Lake County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name St. William's Catholic Church
street & number Third Street , Box 128 Telephone 605/482-8214
city or town Ramona state SD Zip code 57054

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

Summary Paragraph

St. William's Catholic Church is located in the small town of Ramona, in eastern South Dakota. The one-story, wood frame building church was constructed in 1899 in the vernacular Late Gothic Revival tradition. The church building, which is rectangular in shape with a center steeple, measures 45 feet by 85 feet and rests on a poured concrete foundation. Ornamental metal covers the interior of the church. About 1909 approximately twenty-five feet was added to the length of the building in the rear, the basement was enlarged, and a sacristy was added. In 1965, the altar area was remodeled and the placement of pews changed. Asphalt shingles were laid over wooden shingles about 1970. In 1973 or 1974 an aluminum frame glass double door replaced the original wooden doors. The church has been in continuous use as a religious institution since its construction.

Description

The south (facade) elevation features a tall centered bell tower with a steeple, which retains wood shingles. The main entrance is centered on the bell tower and consists of aluminum-framed glass doors which were installed in 1973 or 1974 and a stained glass transom installed in 1990. A gothic head stained glass window is located above the entrance and rectangular windows appear on each side of the bell tower. The south elevation to each side of the bell tower contains gothic head windows. *There is evidence of simple tracery across the front of the building.* Five concrete steps lead to the front entrance. A stone plate in the foundation on the facade carries the inscription "St. William's Church 1889".

The east and west elevations each feature seven gothic head stained glass windows. The north elevation contains two small and one larger gothic head windows. The sacristy and covered stairway to the basement extend from the north elevation. A brick chimney rises from the sacristy at the center of the elevation. The church's steep gable roof, originally shingled in wood, is covered by asphalt.

The interior of the church is an unobstructed open space with a gabled ceiling rising 25 feet from the floor. Entrance from the narthex is through original eight-foot high wooden double doors. A wide center aisle leads to the altar, located in a *gothic head apse*. There are two rows of fourteen-foot

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scroll end pews, which are original, although their arrangement was changed in 1965 to create side aisles. Two posts support a balcony at the back of the church, one on either side of the aisle. A small preparation room is located under the balcony on the east side. The woodwork in the church is original, with the exception of the new paneling on the exterior of the preparation room. The walls and ceiling are covered with ornamental tin featuring quatrefoil and fleur-de-lis motifs and bead-and-reel molding. Eight hanging light fixtures, c. 1940, extend in two rows of four each over the length of the seating area. Three hanging fans were installed above the center aisle about 1970. The interior was remodeled slightly in 1965; this included the rearrangement of the pews, the removal of the communion rail, turning the altar to face the congregation, removal of statuary and replacement of the original crucifix, and carpeting of the sanctuary.

Statement of Significance

St. William's Catholic Church is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic places under criterion C as embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The church typifies the religious buildings common to most permanent rural settlements in South Dakota and has local architectural significance. St. William's was built in 1899 when St. Ann's parish in nearby settlement of Badus was divided. While relatively modest and built with a significant amount of volunteer labor, St. William's demonstrates the tendency for "second churches" to be larger and more distinctive in style than the "first-generation churches".

St. William's is a center-steeple church, one of the most common types built. The facade of this type of church relies on several center-oriented devices: the steps and porch, entry doors, windows in the tower, belfry, and spire are all visually layered over each other.¹ The church is constructed on the nave plan, the most common church design in South Dakota. Like St. William's, these churches are

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¹ Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried, American Vernacular Interior Architecture 1870-1940, (Iowa State University Press, 1993).

usually rectangular, without transepts, and with a central bell tower and apse.² The building is significant within the statewide contexts entitled “ Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement (1885-present)” and “Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929)” in the areas of Urban Development and Changing Urban Patterns.

Historic Context

Scholars of church architecture in the Great Plains have divided the evolution of church architecture in the region into several 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. The construction of a church was an important undertaking by a new parish or congregation. In most cases financial resources were limited and first-generation churches were of simple construction and built by local carpenters or builders. Many congregations built new churches within a decade or so to accommodate expanding membership; by this time, members tended to have more financial resources at their disposal, and “second churches” were larger and more elaborate in design. Many of the ‘second churches’ in South Dakota were built during the late nineteenth century when pointed-arch Gothic Revival churches dominated church architecture in America.³

South Dakota and the northern Great Plains in general suffered heavily during the 1890s. A multi-year drought beginning in 1886, devastated the rural community. This situation was worsened by the national depression that followed the Silver Panic of 1893. As a result, few church buildings were constructed until the return of relative prosperity at the turn-of-the-century. Despite the increasing prosperity, few eastern South Dakota churches could afford extravagant buildings. As a result, second generation churches tended to exhibit less expensive materials and construction techniques than those employed in more prosperous areas of the country.

St. William’s parish was established when St. Ann’s parish in nearby Badus was divided. Swiss colonists established the Badus parish. The first mass in the area took place in 1880 in the school building, and priests from Sioux Falls and Madison initially served the settlers as a mission. A group of Irish-Americans, attracted by the availability of Catholic services, settled nearby. In 1884, the parish built St. Ann’s church.

The Milwaukee Railroad platted the town of Ramona in 1886. In 1893, Bishop Martin Marty, Dakota Territory’s first bishop, purchased Lots 13 through 18, Block 11 in Ramona for \$200.00. In 1898,

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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²Erpestad, David and David Wood, Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945 (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1997).

³ Erpestad, David and David Wood, Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945 (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1997).

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Bishop Thomas O’Gorman, who replaced Bishop Marty, sent Father William H. Donovan to Badus to divide that parish and establish a new one in Ramona which would consist of those living closer to that town than to Badus. St. William’s Church and rectory was constructed in 1899. The cost of construction for the church and rectory was \$5,500; much of the work was done by volunteers who hauled rocks from the surrounding farms for the foundation and basement, brought in lumber, and dug foundations. Bishop Thomas O’Gorman dedicated St. William’s Catholic Church on May 30, 1899. The original membership of the church was made up of about 37 families, nearly all of Swiss or Irish descent, which transferred to St. William’s from St. Ann’s. St. Ann’s became a mission church.

The church retains a high degree of architectural integrity and has only small number of alterations. Few examples of this building type remain in South Dakota with a high degree of architectural integrity. Many churches have suffered alterations such as modern siding, new windows, and removal of the steeple. St. William’s Catholic Church remains an excellent example of a Late Gothic Revival center-steeple church building and therefore is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bibliography

Erpestad, David and David Wood. Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945, South Dakota State Historical Society: Pierre, SD 1997.

Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried, American Vernacular Interior Architecture 1870-1940, (Iowa State University Press, 1993).

"75th Anniversary St. William's Catholic Church, Ramona, South Dakota 1899-1974."

Madison Daily Leader.

St. William's Parish records

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 14 & 15 of Block 11, Milwaukee Land Company 1st Addition, Ramona, South Dakota

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and the property surrounding the building that have historically been associated with the building.