

228
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NATIONAL
REGISTER

NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPO # ECA-OH-597-1/89]
[use paper with at least 25% cotton rag content, use NLQ or LQ printer]

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 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 "NA" 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: Grace Episcopal Church
other name/ site number: NA

2. Location

street & number: Fourth Street & Kansas Avenue, S.E. /NA/ not for publication
city, town: Huron /NA/ vicinity
state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Beadle code: SD 005 zip code: 57350

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property:		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
/XX/ private	/XX/ building(s)	1		buildings
/ / pubic-local	/ / district			sites
/ / public-state	/ / site			structures
/ / public-federal	/ / structure			objects
	/ / object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Dona Brown (w/technical assistance by J. Rau, SHPO staff) date: December 15, 1988
organization: Centennial Stone Church Foundation telephone: 605-352-2383
street & number: 726 Dakota Ave., S.E. state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57350
city or town: Huron

page 3: Grace Episcopal Church
property name

, Beadle
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:

RELIGION/Religious Structure

Current Functions:

RECREATION & CULTURE/Auditorium

RECREATION & CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials:

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance: /XX/ see continuation sheet

8. Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in

relation to other properties: / / / / /XX/

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria / / A / /B /XX/C / /D

Criteria Considerations /XX/A / /B / /C / /D / /E / /F / /G

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1887

Significant Dates

1887

Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations,
and periods of significance noted above /XX/ see continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Situated along the perimeter of Huron's downtown commercial area, Grace Episcopal Church is an English Gothic Revival edifice of undressed stone masonry construction. The rectangular building rises from a stone masonry foundation. In the 1960s a partial concrete block basement was constructed to facilitate use of the church as a mortuary. It is capped by a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A three-sided apse covered with a hipped roof projects from the east gable end. Small transepts project on the north and south facades. The main entrance is located in a wood frame board-and-batten vestibule that juts out from the northwest corner of the building. Access to the basement is provided via a stair located in a wood frame lean-to on the southwest corner of the building and an overhead garage door and concrete driveway installed below the apse. A brick chimney rises from the roof peak on the west gable end. The peak of the east gable is embellished with a simple wooden finial.

Four small lancet arch windows pierce each axial facade. A large lancet arch window with tracery marks the center of the west gable end. Heavy jack arches and concrete sills surround the window openings.

All original interior fixtures have been removed except for an exquisite exposed Gothic Revival rafter and roof system and plaster walls. The large open space is carpeted and lined with display cabinets. Non-obtrusive fans and track lights are suspended from the ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, Grace Episcopal Church is significant in the area of architecture, because it is a good example of the English Gothic Revival style as commonly used by Episcopalians in the state. It is the oldest extant church building in Huron, South Dakota. Under the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Plan the property relates to the historic context labeled: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, H. Religion.

Most Episcopal churches erected in South Dakota before 1945 have distinctive characteristics that make them "recognizably 'Episcopal'". These buildings are deeply rooted in the English Gothic Revival tradition, being rectangular nave-plan forms with steeply pitched gable roofs, polygonal apses, thin lancet arch windows, and exposed ceiling beams and rafters. The earliest examples in the state were constructed of board-and-batten walls; however, very few of these wood frame Episcopal churches survive today. Masonry examples, such as the Grace Church, feature polychromic walls of native materials. Unlike Catholic or many other Protestant facilities, these churches very seldom include a bell tower and generally lack any non-structural ornament. As a rule, the style emphasizes mass and structure rather than ecclesiastical ornamentation. Grace Episcopal Church exemplifies these traditions.

Beadle County, lying in the flat plain of the James River valley, was created in 1879 and officially organized a year later. Huron, the county seat, was established by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1879 and 1880 to serve as a hub for its expansive network in Dakota Territory. The city, which is located on the west bank of the James River, was incorporated in 1883. It quickly grew to be a major commercial and transportation center for the surrounding farming community. Huron was also a formidable candidate for state capital and became embroiled in several costly campaigns for that position, which eventually left the community financially hardshipped but without the desired prize. Nevertheless, the city persevered. One of its greatest attractions has been the annual State Fair that brings in thousands of vendors and patrons from across the Midwest.

In the fall of 1881, a small group of Episcopalians formed a Huron congregation and built a wood frame church at the corner of Fourth and Kansas streets. It was the first church building in the city. In 1887, they sold that building to a local Lutheran congregation who moved it to another location. On the original site, then, the Episcopalians erected a permanent structure of stone masonry construction. Glacial field stones were carried in from the nearby farm of parishioner Charles May and were then cut and laid by skilled masons. Church member and local businessman R. S. Campbell brought the plans for the church from his native home of Springfield, Illinois.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The congregation worshiped there until 1964, when it built a new edifice at Sixteenth Street and McClellan Drive. Original stained glass windows were removed at that time and shards from them were incorporated into windows in the new building. In 1965, Ralph Brooks purchased the old church building and remodeled it for use as a mortuary. It functioned as Brooks Memorial Chapel until 1984, when it was sold to George Kuhler. Huron Regional Medical Center, the building's neighbor to the north, bought it in 1985 with the intention of raising it for parking space.

In response, a group of concerned citizens organized a non-profit foundation to save the building in situ. That association, known as the Centennial Stone Church Foundation, raised funds to buy the property and renovate it into a multiple-purpose community center. Work on the building included reshingling the roof, replacing window panes, cleaning the roof trusses and ceiling, painting, carpeting, installation of a restroom in the basement, and replacing the central heating and cooling systems. During 1989, it will serve as a focal point for State Centennial celebrations in Huron. The building is also open to local groups for meetings and exhibitions. A number of small permanent displays featuring local history and culture will be installed as time and funding permit.

Despite removal of interior furnishings, the building continues to be a good representative of English Gothic Revivalism as practiced by architects of Episcopal churches in South Dakota. It conforms unequivocally to the traditional form of such edifices found throughout the state. Outstanding features on this example are the native stone work and the exquisite exposed roof trusses and ceiling.

The period of significance of the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction in 1887. The property derives its significance from its architectural distinction and therefore qualifies for listing in the Register under Criteria Consideration A.

page 4: Grace Episcopal Church
property name

, Beadle
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

9. Major Bibliographical References /XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by 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:

- /XX/ State historic preservation office
- / / Other State agency
- / / Federal agency
- / / Local government
- / / University
- / / Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property: Less than one acre

UTM References:

A = /14/	/562-740/	/4912-150/	B = / /	/ /	/ /	/ /
C = / /	/ /	/ /	D = / /	/ /	/ /	/ /
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

Quad: Huron

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Beadle County Register of Deeds Office: East 100 feet of Lot 1, and East 100 feet of the North 10 feet of Lot 2, Block 14, Second Railway Addition, City of Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota.

/ / see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property is contained within legally recorded lot descriptions of the parcel historically associated with the property.

/ / see continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Erpestad, David and David Wood. "The Architectural History of South Dakota." Draft Ms. Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, N.d. Chapter 6 (Early Churches) pp. 12-15.

Workers of the South Dakota Writers' Project, Works Projects Administration. Life in Early Huron: Part I, Churches and Religion. Huron, SD: N.p., 1942.

Huss, Dorothy, Robert S. Kuni, William Lampe, and Margaret Moxon. Huron Revisited. Huron, SD: East Eagle Co., 1988.

Plummer, Stephen B. "Huron, South Dakota, 1880-1900: Economic and Political Determinants." Unpublished M.A. Thesis. University of South Dakota. 1970.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 1

1.
Grace Episcopal Church
4th Street & Kansas Ave. S.E., Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota
by John Rau
September 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East and north facades, camera facing southwest
Photo No. 1

2.
Grace Episcopal Church
4th Street & Kansas Ave. S.E., Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota
by John Rau
September 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East facade, camera facing west
Photo No. 2

3.
Grace Episcopal Church
4th Street & Kansas Ave. S.E., Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota
by John Rau
September 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West facade, camera facing southeast
Photo No. 3

4.
Grace Episcopal Church
4th Street & Kansas Ave. S.E., Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota
by John Rau
September 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing east
Photo No. 4

5.
Grace Episcopal Church
4th Street & Kansas Ave. S.E., Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota
by John Rau
September 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Detail of roof truss and ceiling system
Photo No. 5