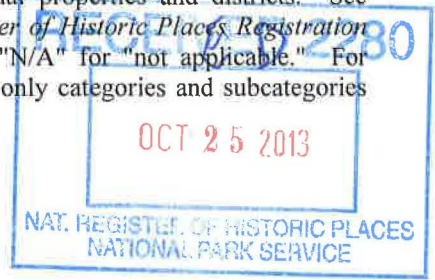


917

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Presbyterian Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 351 N. Poplar

City or town: Bridgewater State: SD County: McCook

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D

<u>Jay D. Vogt</u> Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>09-24-2013</u> Date
<u>SD SHPO</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.16.13
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/warehouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Prairie School

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater, McCook County is significant statewide under Criterion C for Architecture as a rare example of a Prairie Style church building in South Dakota. The church, built in 1928, is a one-story rectangular brick building, with a full basement, low-pitched hipped roof, and central projecting entrance. Prairie Style elements include the rectangular massing, square piers around the entrance, wide boxed eaves, and the horizontality created by concrete capping, soldier-course brick banding, and recessed mortar joints. The exterior architectural design retains excellent integrity to its date of construction. On the interior, there have been alterations in the finishing surface materials, but historic layout with a large open auditorium, heavy panel doors and woodwork, hardware, and lighting fixtures remain.

The church sits on the southwest corner of East 4th Street and North Poplar Avenue, a half-block off of Main Avenue downtown and on the edge between commercial and residential areas of town. A basic concrete walkway follows the streets on the north and east sides of the lot, and extends up to the east entrance of the building. The lot is lined on the south and west sides with a single row of Blue Spruce, some of which had to be transplanted at the Bridgewater Cemetery when the maturing trees grew too tight.

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Narrative Description

The First Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater is a rare example of a Prairie Style church in South Dakota. Prairie Style elements include the rectangular massing, square piers around the entrance, wide boxed eaves, and the horizontality created by concrete capping, soldier-course brick banding, and recessed mortar joints. The one-story building has a slightly-raised concrete foundation and massed rectangular plan. Its walls are structural two-cell tile block with exterior brick. The brick is in a stretcher bond and is of variegated color between a warm grey and medium brown. The roof is hipped with a low pitch and wide boxed eaves, and has asphalt shingles replaced in August 2004.

The symmetrical east façade features a projecting entry with hip asphalt roof. There are square brick piers flanking the double wood doors. At the top of the piers, there are two projecting rows of brick and a concrete cap. A flat concrete slab canopy with canted corners extends between the piers over the steps. At that level, a soldier-course of brick extends around the sides of the entrance with concrete blocks at the corners. Concrete-capped brick knee walls and a basic iron railing extend down either side of the concrete steps. There is a brick-bonded cross in the wall above the entrance. On the façade wall, there are two single eight-over-eight windows with concrete sills and wood storm windows to either side of the entrance and small single three-over-three windows with semi-transparent glass at the basement level. The upper windows are eight-over-eight and slightly shorter, which open into the balcony of the sanctuary. A band of soldier-course brick extends across the top of the highest windows to concrete blocks on both corners.

The side elevations on the north and south are mirrored designs. The easternmost bay has two eight-over-eight windows and a three-over-three window on the basement, as on the façade. The central bay projects slightly by the width of two bricks, and it features five tall diamond-paned windows with obscure glass set in zinc-leaded comes and wood storm windows. Short panes at the base of each open by pivoting on the central horizontal axis and the storm window is built into a semi-circular form to accommodate the movement. On the interior, the windows are reinforced with steel bands so as to divide the long upper pane into three sections. A soldier course with concrete corner blocks run across the top of the windows and a concrete band sill runs underneath. On the westernmost bay, there is another single tall diamond-paned window with a concrete sill and a small three-over-three wood window at the basement level.

The rear elevation features a tall square chimney to the north of a slightly-off-center doorway. A simple frame enclosure with a shed roof was added in the 1970s/80s over the few steps down to the doorway. An engaged two-story square pier on the south side of the door provides symmetry. Above the door, there are three grouped stained glass windows with two-pane wood storm windows and a continuous concrete sill. The soldier-course banding continues around the building across the top of these windows as well. At the base of the chimney, there is an extended concrete slab over a basement room that later served as a fallout shelter. On the southern half of the elevation, there is a three-over-three window at the basement level.

On entering the building, there is a short landing from which central steps go up to the sanctuary and on either side stairs go down to the basement. From another short landing at the top of the

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central steps, there are double wood-panel doors going into the sanctuary. The doors are on swinging hinges and have three panels, one above two tall sections. To the south side of that landing is the historic office in which there are stairs to the balcony. To the north, there is a space historically used for a classroom or extra seating. Both the office and classroom spaces open to the sanctuary with three folding wood-panel doors in the same design as the central entrance doors. The balcony features a staircase and upper railing with square newel post peaked slightly at the top. It is carpeted and the front railing is solid with a dark wood capping.

The sanctuary is a large open room with an altar space raised only a few steps above the floor and enclosed in the corners with short walls. Along the eastern wall at the “back” of the sanctuary, the wood-paneled swinging doors to the entrance and folding doors to office and classroom cover the lower section. There are two globe lights on the wall on either side of the central doors. Above is the balcony, and the wall features wood banding above the lower doors and on top of the railing that emphasizes the horizontality of the design. The floor is wood, the pews have been removed, the walls are faux-wood or faux-stone paneling, and the outer level of the shallow tray ceiling has been covered with acoustic tile. From the intermediate level and in the middle of the ceiling, there are historic pendant lights with opaque schoolhouse shades hanging down from chains. At the altar, there is a wide first step and then three narrower steps in the center between two walled sections; the walls extend a few feet into the altar but are open across the back wall. Above the center of the altar are three stained glass windows dedicated to the memory of the Reverend A.C. McCauley (pastor from 1887 to 1936). They are of modernist design with a background of blue and purple panes interspersed with images of Christian symbolism: a dove, city on a hill, water, cross and scroll, lamb, crown and scepter, manger and star, tree and serpent, ark and rainbow, and the letters Alpha and Omega. On historic blueprints in the possession of the current owner, the section on the north side was marked as an office and the southern section was a choir loft. There are two or three short wood risers in the floor of the “choir loft” that face the center of the room.

The basement is an open room with a kitchen, rear entrance, and boiler room on the western end and a storage room under the central stairs and bathrooms on the eastern end. A thick concrete fallout shelter is accessed through the boiler room. The main room is carpeted, has faux-wood paneling on the walls, square support posts with carpeting and paneling, and an acoustic tile ceiling over wood lathe. The kitchen features a narrow double swinging door, original cabinetry under the serving windows, and late-20th century cabinets on the walls. Four steps lead up to the rear entrance which has a paneled door with four panes of glass in the upper section. From the eastern storage room below the steps, the underside of the steps have shims put in place to level them and are stamped “Slagle & Co. / Bridgewater S.D.” The walls of the storage room are partially unfinished and brick tile is exposed in the space under the basement steps.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dixon, Walter J.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater, McCook County is significant statewide under Criterion C for Architecture as a rare example of a Prairie Style church building in South Dakota. The former church meets Criterion Consideration A for Religious Properties because of its architectural significance. The 1928 First Presbyterian Church exemplifies the Prairie aesthetic of emphasizing the horizontality of the landscape and creating a balanced design through spatial massing instead of extensive ornamentation. Architect Walter J. Dixon worked with Floyd Kings on substantial Prairie School and then Art Deco designs in the region around their headquarters in Mitchell, South Dakota, but this design was a product from a four-year period during which they had parted ways. The exterior architectural design retains excellent integrity to its date of construction. On the interior, there have been alterations in the finishing surface materials, but historic layout with a large open auditorium, woodwork that includes heavy panel doors, hardware, and lighting fixtures remain.

The church sits on the southwest corner of East 4th Street and North Poplar Avenue, a half-block off of Main Avenue downtown and on the edge between commercial and residential areas of town. A basic concrete walkway follows the streets on the north and east sides of the lot, and extends up to the east entrance of the building. The lot is lined on the south and west sides with a single row of Blue Spruce, some of which had to be transplanted at the Bridgewater Cemetery when the maturing trees grew too tight.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Bridgewater, South Dakota

McCook County was created by the territorial legislature in 1873 but not organized until 1878.¹ The county was largely settled after that time, and many immigrants were of German or Swedish ethnicity.² From January to November of 1880, the settlement was called Nation City after one of its first families, until the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad platted a town on the north side of the railroad tracks and renamed it Bridgewater. The site of the church, Lots 1 & 2, Block 12 of the Original Old Town of Bridgewater, was first owned by the Nation family. Also in 1880, Bridgewater was elected to replace the town of Cameron as county seat.³ Two years later, the towns of Bridgewater and Salem fought over the county seat with Salem the victor. Bridgewater was officially incorporated in 1885.⁴ In the 1890 census, Bridgewater's population

¹ *Within These Borders...McCook County, South Dakota* (1976), Collection of South Dakota State Archives, 1.

² *Within these Borders*, 4.

³ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁴ Bridgewater Centennial Committee, *Echoes of an Era: Bridgewater, South Dakota, 1880-1980* (Bridgewater: Bridgewater Tribune, 1980), 56.

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was 410 people, and by 1920 it was 976.⁵ In 1925, the county's major industry was agriculture with many acres planted in corn and oats in addition to raising poultry; Bridgewater also won county competitions that year for growing winter wheat.⁶ Historic businesses were a typical assortment of lumber yard, blacksmith, carpenters, masons, newspapers, general stores, assorted grocery and dry goods, creamery, harness shop, implements, hardware store, pharmacy, banks, land agents, lawyers, doctors, insurance offices, telephone and electric companies, barber shops, milliners and dress-makers, jeweler, photographer, confectionary, bakery, dry cleaning, cafe, an Opera House, pool hall, saloons, hotels, and movie theater.⁷ Social organizations included the American Legion, the Boy Scouts, 4-H, the Fellowship Extension Club, the Deutsche Ferein Society, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Bridgewater Community Club, the Alumni Association, the Jaycees/Jaycettes, as well as various bands and sporting teams.⁸ On July 19, 1926, the town had a major fire that started in the Strand movie house, was amplified by oil storage at the hardware store, spread burning shingles on the wind, and eventually destroyed an entire block along Main Street—total losses were estimated at \$120,000.⁹

The religious community of the city of Bridgewater and its vicinity has included denominations of Mennonite (3), Methodist (two, which were disbanded c. 1900 and in 1920), Lutheran (2), Presbyterian (2), Catholic, German Baptist, and Adventist (closed in 1912), all of which were organized in the period of the late 1870s to 1905 with the following exception.¹⁰ In addition to First Presbyterian, there was Trinity Presbyterian Church, which was organized in 1936 after splitting off from the First Presbyterian congregation.¹¹ Their founding statement asserted that “the Bible is the Word of God and is not to be superseded by church boards who deny the authority of the Bible,” a statement which indicates some tension within the Presbyterian community in Bridgewater during the mid-1930s.¹²

Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in South Dakota

The congregation at Bridgewater formed as the Presbytery rapidly grew and strengthened as an institution during the Great Dakota Boom, a time when white settlers flooded into areas east of the Missouri River and the growing railroad system provided access and trade opportunities. This growth built upon a territorial system of missions and churches. The missionary Reverend Stephen Return Riggs first came into South Dakota from the Synod of Minnesota in the spring of 1839 to the area around Big Stone Lake.¹³ Then, the first church buildings were constructed in the southeastern part of the territory, one of the earliest being the Presbyterian Father Martin's Church, a log structure built in Vermillion in the summer of 1860.¹⁴ The largest concern of the

⁵ *Within these Borders*, 4.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 7-8.

⁷ *Within these Borders*, 49-52; Bridgewater Centennial Committee, *Echoes of an Era*, 59-61.

⁸ *Within these Borders*, 52-54; Bridgewater Centennial Committee, *Echoes of an Era*, 246-253.

⁹ *Within these Borders*, 53.

¹⁰ *Within these Borders*, 48-49; Harold S. Bender, “Krimmer Mennonite Brethren,” Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (1957), <http://www.gameo.org/encyclopedia/contents/K75ME.html>.

¹¹ Bridgewater Centennial Committee, *Echoes of an Era*, 134.

¹² *Within these Borders*, 49.

¹³ Donald Dean Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism in South Dakota* (Brookings, 1963), 1, 5-6.

¹⁴ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 15.

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frontier missions was qualified staff for the new settlements.¹⁵ In 1869, the Presbytery of Missouri River in Iowa organized its Home Missionary outreach efforts to western Iowa, Nebraska, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah as the “Iowa Forward Movement.”¹⁶ In the late 1870s, at the start of the Dakota Boom, ministers like the Reverends Walter S. Peterson and Alexander K. Baird went out on circuits to visit towns along the Big Sioux, James, and Vermillion Rivers.¹⁷ The Dakota (Indian) Presbytery was joined by the Presbytery of Southern Dakota in 1881, which soon became three (called Southern, Central, and Aberdeen), and all were under the Synod of Minnesota until the Synod of Dakota was established in 1884.¹⁸ By the 1890 census, Presbyterians made up about 6.4% of those claiming one of the major Christian denominations, a relative minority in comparison to 34.2% who were Catholic or 31% who were Lutheran.¹⁹

History of First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater

In Bridgewater in late 1879, Reverend J.B. Currens led the first Presbyterian meetings in a small school house near the railroad.²⁰ Rev. Currens was newly-graduated from Seminary and not yet ordained when he arrived to work a parish that included communities in the valley of the Vermillion River with his base being the city of Parker.²¹ Like other young ministers with high expectations, Currens reflected about his arrival:

When I arrived at my two churches, Swan Lake and Cameron, thirty miles apart, saw the scattered settlers and the small audiences, I almost gave up my dreams of Dakota as a place of usefulness, and expected to water my fragrance on the desert air or soon to abandon the wild wastes and return again to the habitation of men. The impression was not a little strengthened when, in all the country where Parker now stands, only two Presbyterians could be found.²²

He and other early missionary pastors were supported financially by the Board of Home Missions until congregations became self-supporting.²³ Many of these early missionaries were young students after their second year of seminary.²⁴ Rev. Currens participated in the first five of the seven organizing conventions of the Presbyterian Church in South Dakota that were held from 1879 to 1881.²⁵

¹⁵ Bruce David Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings in South Dakota, 1840-1900,” *South Dakota History* 7 (Spring 1977), 134.

¹⁶ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 3, 32-33.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 31, 43.

¹⁸ Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 132; Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 35, 77.

¹⁹ Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 133.

²⁰ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater, South Dakota, 1881-1981* (1981), Collections of South Dakota State Archives, 1.

²¹ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 31-32, 72.

²² Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 72; Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 131.

²³ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 73; Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 135.

²⁴ Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 130.

²⁵ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 35-42; Forbes, “Presbyterian Beginnings,” 131.

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While under the leadership of Reverend Thomas Shaver, the Bridgewater congregation submitted a petition to the Presbyterian Synod of Iowa and organized as the First Presbyterian Church on June 5, 1881.²⁶ The first communion services in Bridgewater were held at the school house on July 31st.²⁷ Rev. Shaver also worked with congregations in Cameron, Salem, and Marion. By the end of 1881, the new Presbytery of Southern Dakota (Synod of Minnesota) reported twenty-five churches; Bridgewater had joined the same year as Forestburg, Rock Creek, Colman, Kimball, Holland, Marion, Pierre, and Montrose.²⁸

Under the pastorate of the Reverend J.A. Smith, they built their first building during the summer of 1883.²⁹ The land was given to the church's trustees by brothers Robert and John B. Nation in February of that year.³⁰ The church took out two mortgages worth \$700 from the national Presbyterian Church's Board of Church Election Fund.³¹ The original church was a Gothic rectangular frame building with a peaked corner steeple.³² The year 1883 was notable for church construction within the Presbyterian denomination as buildings were put up also at Miller, Ellendale, Groton, Gary, Castlewood, St. Lawrence, and underway at Pierre.³³ The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society organized in July 1883; they later sponsored a missionary to India as well as an Anna E. McCauley memorial wayside on a mountain in Korea.³⁴ The Reverend Albert Clark McCauley came from Altoona, Pennsylvania to the congregation in September 1885 as stated supply, became pastor on September 26, 1887, and served until April 12, 1936.³⁵ Reverend Jack Zanstra came to the church after Rev. McCauley's resignation, but that October, he led a division of the church and founded Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church.³⁶ Until 1966, Rev. McCauley and his successors served both the congregation in Bridgewater and the Presbyterian Church of Canistota, when they divided and Bridgewater later joined with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church of Emery.³⁷

When the Bridgewater church burned down on January 1, 1928, the congregation organized the construction of a new brick church on the same site that they dedicated that November 8th.³⁸ In the interim, the church met at the local Masonic lodge.³⁹ They took out two mortgages worth \$4,700 from the Presbyterian Board of National Missions on November 5th.⁴⁰ The architect Walter J. Dixon's original specifications for the church included cement of or equal to the "Dacotah Brand" Portland Cement manufactured by the South Dakota Cement Plant to be used

²⁶ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 1-2.

²⁷ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 2.

²⁸ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 44.

²⁹ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 2.

³⁰ McCook County Register of Deeds, Deed Book F, page 216, filed February 26, 1883.

³¹ McCook County Register of Deeds, Mortgage Book E/236 and E/321, 113/299.

³² *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, back cover.

³³ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 48.

³⁴ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 6.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

³⁶ Bridgewater Centennial Committee, *Echoes of an Era*, 134.

³⁷ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 5.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 3.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁴⁰ McCook County Register of Deeds, Mortgage Book 111/269, 113/320.

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for the foundation, the exterior base course as well as trim, coping, window sills, entrance platform, steps, basement floors and bases all faced in Atlas White Cement.⁴¹ Plain and reinforced concrete were to be mixes of cement, sand, and broken stone.⁴² The exterior elevations were to be faced with Brazil Embossed Brick priced at \$36 per thousand “laid true to line, plumb corners and level courses...in regular stretcher bond except where Pattern bond is shown on elevations,” with one-part Carney mortar over walls of common brick from either the Sioux City Brick & Tile Co. or the A.C. Ochs Brick Company in Minnesota.⁴³ The common brick was to be bonded with seventh course header rows and the facing brick bonded to backing with Herringbone wall ties.⁴⁴ For instructions on “steel and iron,” the outside doors were to have cast iron thresholds and brass pipe railings.⁴⁵ The interior finish materials were to be Plain Red Oak on the main floor and Yellow Pine in the basement, outside doors and frames of White Pine, and exterior windows of White Pine or Cypress.⁴⁶ The basement was to be plastered over No. 1 pine lath. The roof was planned to be Nelson Master Slab Asphalt Shingles of variegated color laid in a plain pattern, and the gutters and flashing were to be 26 gauge galvanized iron.⁴⁷ Specifications for glass included that the basement windows were to be Syenite glass, the entrance doors were to have plate glass, and obscure glass set in zinc-leaded comes for the windows around the auditorium and in back of the pulpit. In the absence of a steeple, brick bonded into the pattern of the cross created a similar symbolism over the church entrance.

Later in 1950, the church purchased the residence of Jake Guenther directly to the east of the church to serve as a parsonage and replace the previous manse built in 1888.⁴⁸ In 1952, the society of Mariners organized. They bought the church’s first mimeograph machine, erected highway signs about the church and its service times, and held fundraisers like rabbit hunts and bake sales in order to complete projects like curbing around the church.⁴⁹ The group also set up a welcoming committee and held fellowship events like roller skating.⁵⁰ For other fellowship and educational opportunities, the church had an active United Presbyterian Women’s group, a youth group in the 1970s, and a Sunday Church School.

The church disbanded and had their last service on September 25, 2011. The building was purchased by Cory Tschetter in March, 2012 and then by Michael and Sue Stahl that May.⁵¹

⁴¹ Walter J. Dixon, “Specifications of Labor and Materials Required for the General Contract on Church Building for First Presbyterian Church to be Erected at Bridgewater, S.D.,” Collection of Sue Stahl, property owner.

⁴² Dixon, “Specifications.”

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ *First Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater*, 3, 5.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 8.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 8.

⁵¹ McCook County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 185/180 and 185/344.

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Ecclesiastical Architecture in South Dakota

Ecclesiastical architecture followed identifiable trends in South Dakota. Where first generation buildings were typically small frame structures, second generation buildings erected by more established congregations with more resources were often brick or stone and designed in a distinguished architectural style.⁵² The most common styles used were Gothic, Romanesque, Colonial, and Classical Revivals--conservative historicist styles that were the tendency of ecclesiastical architecture in the early twentieth century.

Prairie Style architecture is rare for Presbyterian churches, and churches in general, in South Dakota.⁵³ One other example is located in Fulton in Hanson County, approximately twenty-five miles to the northwest of Bridgewater. The United Methodist Church there had hired Perkins and McWayne of Sioux Falls, South Dakota to design a new building after the church and much of the town burned in 1918.⁵⁴ The 1920 Prairie Style rectilinear brick building has wide eaves, banding in brick bonding patterns and concrete, varied sections of the wall plane that bump out from the main body, an asymmetrical entrance, and a low-pitch hip roof without a steeple. Of the seventy-one other churches recorded through architectural surveys in South Dakota as having been built between 1921 and 1935, most are frame or brick Gothic Revival, three are Colonial Revival, and a few are American modern styles including one pseudo-Art Deco (First Church of Christ Scientist in Rapid City). Historians Erpestad and Wood claim there were “relatively few” churches built in the period from 1920-1945, and of those few, they are mostly in Gothic or Georgian Revival styles with a few notable Modernist examples in the 1940s.⁵⁵

A survey through the photographs in the South Dakota Archives Digital Collections and Donald Dean Parker’s 1963 state history of the denomination show that Presbyterian churches often used Gothic architecture with square corner towers for both frame and brick structures, although a significant quantity of smaller frame churches had steeples centered on the primary façade.⁵⁶ A few of the later churches were L-shaped with towers on the interior corner like First Presbyterian in Kadoka and an occasional few were unique styles, like the Neoclassical or Spanish Eclectic Presbyterian churches in Huron and Sioux Falls.⁵⁷ A few modernist churches like Ebenezer Presbyterian in Lennox and Spencer Memorial Presbyterian in Lemmon still drew from corner-tower and L-shaped precedents.⁵⁸ The First Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater is overtly Prairie School in architectural style.

⁵² Megan Eades, *Churches in South Dakota* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2002), 19.

⁵³ The style is not even mentioned in the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office’s historical context for churches, Eades, *Churches in South Dakota*.

⁵⁴ *The First 100 Years United Methodist Church Fulton, South Dakota: 1884-1984*. Alexandria, SD: The Alexandria Herald, 1984.

⁵⁵ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 71.

⁵⁶ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 7, 17, 27, 37, 47, 57, 67.

⁵⁷ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 17; “Sioux Falls - Presbyterian Church,” South Dakota State Historical Society. Donor: H.B. Gilbert, Mound, Minn. 2010-06-23-004.

⁵⁸ Parker, *Founding Presbyterianism*, 27.

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Prairie School

Prairie School architecture, a movement inspired by the work of architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, sought to produce a uniquely American design tradition that diverged from historical precedent to instead reflect the natural and regional setting of the building. Natural finishes and references were ubiquitous, but the possibilities of machine-production were also lifted up as an honest way to produce modern buildings.⁵⁹ Prairie School styles were most popular between 1905 and 1920, and mostly in the upper Midwest region, although its influence was felt in later eras and other geographic areas. Prairie School buildings commonly have low-pitched roofs, wide eaves, heavy massed posts, balanced composition of simple forms, and a strong horizontal emphasis.⁶⁰ Prairie Style in the Wright tradition emphasized arrangement and massing, direct and organic relation to the immediate setting, the textures of the materials, and the spaces between elements. Common exterior materials include natural colored horizontal brick or red brick and stucco. In the masonry, further horizontality could be given with the combination of flush vertical joints and recessed horizontal joints.

The use of Prairie School architecture for churches meant several major departures from typical ecclesiastical forms. Colonial, classical, and Gothic styles dominate early-20th century church architecture in the United States. A steeple, tower, or cupola was a common and expected feature that differentiated a church from other buildings and gave it spatial prominence in a townscape. It was a rare congregation that agreed to forego that iconic feature. The horizontality of the Prairie School usually precluded a tower, though some church boards and councils demanded one. In one case, William Purcell, a Minnesota architect, justified the absence of a tower on one of his designs by citing the added expense in addition to the obsolescence of a bell for communicating the start of worship.⁶¹

Prairie School's vanguards, Sullivan and Wright, tended to design for commercial buildings and for residential buildings respectively, though Wright worked on a few commissions for churches. One of Wright's designs was for Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois and was influenced by the horizontality of Japanese temples and New England meetinghouses.⁶² Built in about 1905, the temple featured reinforced concrete, a highly angular block massing, bands of vertical windows, and wide eaves. In at least two instances, Prairie architects developed church designs that, without significant simplification, were beyond the financial reach of those congregations.⁶³ In other cases, the conservatism of church boards constrained architects, such as when the board of All Souls Unitarian Church in Evanston dictated that architect Marion Mahony Griffin redesign her commission to include more Gothic aesthetics.⁶⁴ Other architects were able to design churches in a Prairie School style, many having been students or employees of Frank Lloyd

⁵⁹ G.H. Edgell, *The American Architecture of Today* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928), 122.

⁶⁰ Stephen Rogers and Lynda B. Schwan, *Architectural History in South Dakota* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2000), 11; Edgell, *American Architecture*, 122.

⁶¹ The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. "Unified Vision: The Architecture and Design of the Prairie School." Online exhibit. <http://www.artsmia.org/unified-vision/architectural-tour/stewart-1.cfm>

⁶² Williams, *Houses of God*, 181.

⁶³ Williams, *Houses of God*, 214-215.

⁶⁴ Richard Kieckhefer, *Theology in Stone: Church Architecture from Byzantium to Berkeley* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 222.

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Wright. William E. Drummond (Chicago) designed the First Congregational Church of Austin in Chicago in 1908 and the Maywood (IL) Episcopal Church in 1912 with partner Louis Guenzel.⁶⁵ Purcell and Feick (Minnesota) designed the Stewart Memorial Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis in 1909.⁶⁶ Before broaching Expressionist Modernism in the 1940s, Chicago architect Barry Byrne worked on many Prairie School commissions for the Catholic Church. A handful of Churches of Christ Scientist were designed by Shreve & Madsen, Hugh Garden, and Howard Cheney in a period from 1902 to 1920.⁶⁷ The firm Pope and Burton (Salt Lake City, UT) received prominent commissions for the Alberta Temple (1912-1923) and the Laie Hawaii Temple on Oahu (1915-1919) for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints done in the Prairie Style, while also inspired by ancient South American temples.⁶⁸ Other Latter-Day Saints buildings were designed in a Prairie Style from 1914 to 1924 by Miles Miller, Leslie S. Hodgson, and Fred W. Hodgson.⁶⁹

G.H. Edgell's 1928 review of contemporary American architecture devotes a short section to the Sullivan/Wright trends in domestic and commercial architecture, but does not include them in the discussion of ecclesiastical architecture.⁷⁰ Architectural historian, Peter W. Williams, claimed that the regional tradition of the Prairie School "had very little effect on religious building."⁷¹ He concluded that mainline denominations in the Plains/Mountain region had followed timidly in the architectural example of the East Coast, though he found more innovation in the temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, who, as indicated above, had commissioned a notable amount of Prairie Style temples, meetinghouses, schools, and other buildings.⁷² Edward Norman's illustrated compendium of world church architecture devotes the last chapter to Modern, non-historicist styles of the twentieth century and discusses the Prairie School only in terms of the innovative use of concrete in Frank Lloyd Wright's 1906 Unity Temple in Oak Park and the angular geometry of his 1941 Annie Pfeiffer Memorial Chapel at Florida Southern University.⁷³

In South Dakota, Prairie School architecture tends to be vernacular and limit the use of ornamentation. In both residential and commercial properties, features included minimal accents like horizontal banding, wide eaves, window groupings, and occasional geometric design work

⁶⁵ Carl W. Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture: A History of Commercial and Public Building in the Chicago Area, 1875-1925* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964), 209.

⁶⁶ Dixie Legler and Christian Korab, *At Home on the Prairie: The Houses of Purcell & Elmslie* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006), 25.

⁶⁷ Collections of Mountain West Digital Library, Utah Academic Library Consortium; Paul Eli Ivey, *Prayers in Stone: Christian Science Architecture in the United States, 1894-1930* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999), 178-179.

⁶⁸ Anderson, "Early Twentieth," 12-15.

⁶⁹ Anderson "Early Twentieth," 14; Collections of Mountain West Digital Library, Utah Academic Library Consortium.

⁷⁰ Edgell, *American Architecture*, 197-226.

⁷¹ Peter W. Williams, *Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997), 299

⁷² Williams, *Houses of God*, 223; Paul L. Anderson, "The Early Twentieth Century Temples," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 14(1) (Spring 1981), 14.

⁷³ Edward Norman, *The House of God: Church Architecture, Style and History* (London, Thames & Hudson, 1990) 292-293, 298-299

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on standard building forms. Its modest popularity in the 1910s and 1920s was limited by the difficulty in accessing architects trained in the Prairie School and the onset of the region's agricultural and banking crisis in the mid-1920s. Among the more elaborate South Dakota examples previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places are the Branson Bank in Mitchell (Purcell and Elmslie, 1916, listed as part of the Mitchell Historic Commercial District), the Charles Mix County Courthouse in Lake Andes (William Steele, 1917), the Melham House in Watertown (1918), and Forbes and Look Halls at Yankton College (Purcell and Elmslie, 1930 and 1932).⁷⁴

In Bridgewater, there are no other examples of architect-designed Prairie School buildings apparent in a windshield survey. There are a few residences that have Prairie/Craftsman influences on a standard American Foursquare house form, but nothing with the comprehensive Prairie School references of the former First Presbyterian Church.

Walter J. Dixon (1894-1976)

The architect of the First Presbyterian Church was Walter J. Dixon who, at the time, had his office at 206-208 North Main Street in the Woelfel Building in Mitchell.⁷⁵ This modest-sized Prairie church was a project completed in the period between his partnerships with Floyd Kings. It represents his individual work in the late 1920s.

Dixon earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Architecture and Engineering at the University of Michigan in 1918. Dixon came with his new wife, Emma Knoepp, from their home in Cleveland, Ohio to 316 W. 11th Street in Mitchell, South Dakota in about 1920. At that time, he began working with Floyd Kings, designing Prairie School buildings like the commercial building at 300-312 N. Lawler St. in Mitchell. For a period from 1925-1929, Kings worked in Florida but returned to Mitchell after the Stock Market Crash. Together again, they designed several Art Deco buildings, many of which were applied to New Deal-subsidized projects like county courthouses. The partnership's short career ended when Kings died of cancer in 1939. Dixon also built and owned the Hotel Lawler, served on the Mitchell city council from 1938-1940, as mayor from 1940-1946, and as Chair of the State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.⁷⁶ Dixon remained up-to-date with current trends as his career spanned the periods from the Prairie School through Midcentury Modernism. While not a comprehensive list, in addition to the First Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater, Dixon designed:

- The Johnson Building, 1922 (117-123 E. 3rd Ave., Mitchell)
- Additions to the Mitchell Carnegie Library, 1930 and 1960
- Gregory County Courthouse, 1934 (Burke)

⁷⁴ Carolyn Torma, "Building Diversity: A Photographic Survey of South Dakota Architecture, 1913-1940," *South Dakota History* 19(2) (Summer 1989), 185-189.

⁷⁵ His joint office with Arthur Kings was in the Western National Bank building, *The American Contractor* 43 (December 23, 1922); Dixon, "Specifications."

⁷⁶ Summary of architects in South Dakota, on file at the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.

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- Girls dorm, staff building, garage, and boys cottage, at the State Training School, 1948-1950 (Plankinton)⁷⁷
- Ward #7 building, 1948; Willhite Building, 1955; and the School Building, 1958 at the State Institution (Redfield)⁷⁸
- Modernized storefront of the Clark Building, c. 1953 (214 N. Main St., Mitchell)
- Campbell County Courthouse in Mound City SD, 1962/1963.⁷⁹

In South Dakota, Kings & Dixon's commissions included:

- King Building, 1919 (300-312 North Lawler Street, Mitchell)—Prairie School
- Schools in Kimball and Scotland, 1922⁸⁰
- Church for Methodist Society, Chamberlain, 1922⁸¹
- In Mitchell, 1922: First National Bank, Methodist State Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital annex, Masonic lodge, residence, store/apartments, and swimming pool⁸²
- John Trierweiler House, 1926/1927 (Mitchell)—Colonial Revival⁸³
- Wilson Apartments, 1929 (404 N. Duff St., Mitchell)⁸⁴
- McCook County Courthouse 1934 (Salem with D. Floyd Rasser)⁸⁵
- Miner County Courthouse, 1934-5 (Howard)
- Whittier School 1935 (410 W. 2nd Ave., Mitchell)
- Medical Arts Building, c.1935 (203-205 N. Main St., Mitchell)—Art Deco
- Davison County Courthouse, 1936 (Mitchell)—Art Deco
- Longfellow School annex, 1936 (Mitchell)⁸⁶
- Municipal Armory, 1938 (Mitchell)—Art Deco
- Remodeled Koch Apartments/Flats, 1938 (Mitchell)—Art Deco⁸⁷
- Coca Cola Bottling Plant, 1938 (Mitchell)⁸⁸
- Aurora County Courthouse 1940 (Plankinton)

⁷⁷ Michelle L. Dennis, *Post-World War II Architecture in South Dakota* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2007), 20.

⁷⁸ Dennis, *Post-World War II*, 20.

⁷⁹ Mitchell Area Historical Society, http://www.mitchellcarnegie.org/wp/?page_id=15; Building Permit Files, City of Mitchell Inspection Department; Linda Klein, *Mitchell and Neighbors: The Good Old Days* (Marceline, MO: D-Books Publishing, 1996), 32.

⁸⁰ *The American Contractor* 43 (December 23, 1922).

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *The American Contractor* 43 (December 23, 1922); Mitchell West Central Residential Historic District, NRIS# 99000676 (16 June 1999), 8-50.

⁸³ Torma, "Building Diversity," 167.

⁸⁴ Mitchell West Central Residential Historic District, NRIS# 99000676 (16 June 1999), 7-29.

⁸⁵ Torma, "Building Diversity," 184.

⁸⁶ Mitchell West Central Residential Historic District, NRIS# 99000676 (16 June 1999), 8-50.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 7-5.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 8-50.

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- The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. "Unified Vision: The Architecture and Design of the Prairie School." Online exhibit. <http://www.artsmia.org/unified-vision/>.
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- Williams, Peter W. *Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997.
- Within These Borders...McCook County, South Dakota*, 1976. Collection of South Dakota State Archives.

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 # _____

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_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: SD State Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MK00000097

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14 | Easting: 621036.751527 | Northing: 4823166.969363 |
| 2. Zone: 14 | Easting: 621082.392243 | Northing: 4823166.969363 |

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3. Zone: 14 Easting: 621082.392243 Northing: 4823132.705753
4. Zone: 14 Easting: 621036.751526 Northing: 4823132.705753

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the National Register property includes the current parcel on which the church building stands, Lots 1 & 2, Block 12, Original Old Town of Bridgewater. In the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, Section 13, Township 101 North, Range 56 West, Bridgewater

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the lots on which the church is located within the town of Bridgewater.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Liz Almlie, Historic Preservation Specialist
organization: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail liz.almlie@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-773-6056
date: September 6, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs

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to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Presbyterian Church
City or Vicinity: Bridgewater
County: McCook State: South Dakota
Photographer: Liz Almlie
Date Photographed: May 30, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0001
Oblique view of exterior façade and north elevation, camera facing southwest.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0002
East façade, camera facing west.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0003
North elevation, camera facing south.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0004
Rear, west elevation, camera facing east.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0005
South elevation and façade with line of Blue Spruce, camera facing northwest.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0006
View of altar and sanctuary, camera facing west.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0007
View of sanctuary, entrance, and balcony, camera facing east.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0008
View of balcony, camera facing northeast.

SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0009
View of basement and kitchen, camera facing northwest.

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SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0010
View of basement and entrance, camera facing east.

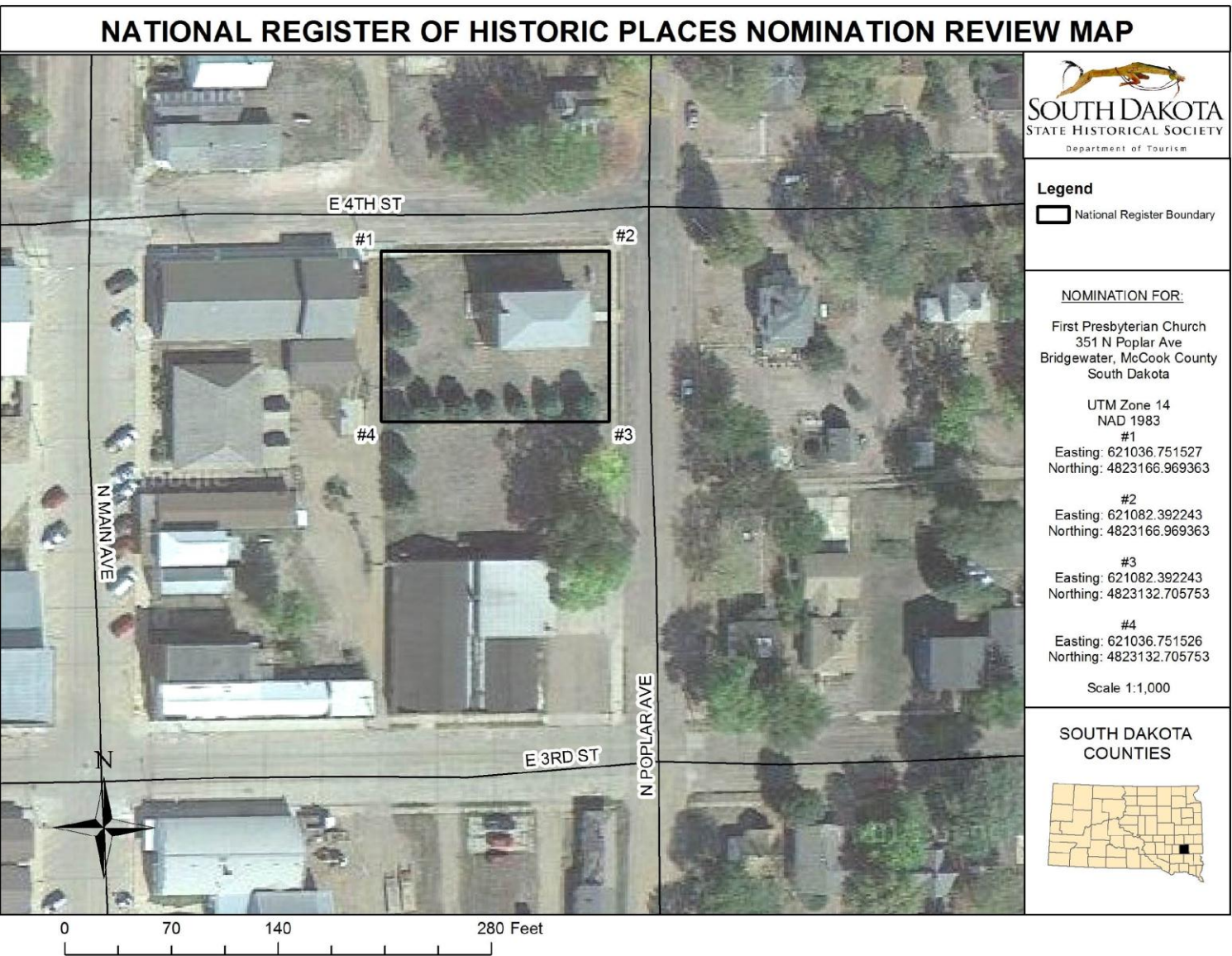
SD_McCook County_First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater_0011
View of pivoting window and semi-circular wood screen, camera facing northwest.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

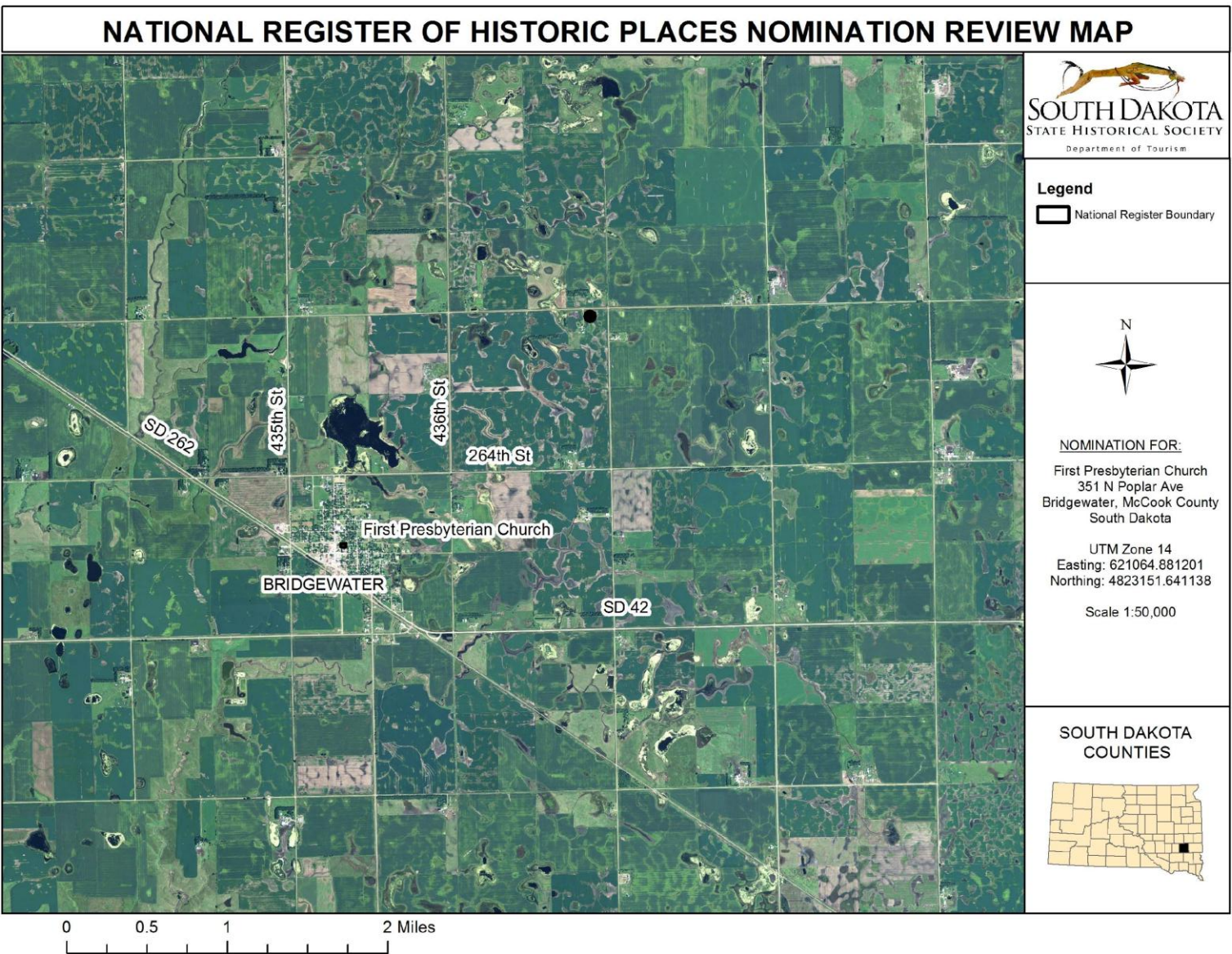
First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater
 Name of Property _____

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Name of Property

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County and State





1928



PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



1928

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH DAKOTA, McCook

DATE RECEIVED: 10/25/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/20/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000917

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-11-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.




SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



September 17, 2013

Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 "I" (Eye) Street NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Hansen-Hagedorn Barn, Tea vicinity, Lincoln County, SD
- First Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater, McCook County, SD

Please feel free to contact me at 605-773-6056 or liz.almlie@state.sd.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Liz Almlie
Historic Preservation Specialist