

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church

COUNTY: Itasca **MAR 15 1982**

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Coleraine City

LEGAL DESC.:

Lot 18 & E 15' Lot 19, Block 10,
First addition to townsite of Coleraine

ADDRESS: NW corner of Gayley Avenue
and Cole Avenue

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u> X </u>	Primary <u>Community planning</u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> X </u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> </u>	Others <u>Religion</u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No X Restricted
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No
 OCCUPIED: Yes No X

PRESENT USE:
Vacant

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1908-09

ORIGINAL USE: Church - YMCA

ORIGINAL OWNER: Coleraine Methodist Epis. Church

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Frank Young

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Stephen M. & Michael D. Wright
3493 Ebba
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Itasca County Historical Society
PO Box 664, Old Central School, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

UTM REFERENCE:
Bovey Quad. 7.5
15 / 467650 / 5236930

FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet

DATE: February 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church, easily the largest and most impressive religious edifice on the Western Mesabi Iron Range, occupies a prominent location on the northwest corner of Gayley Avenue and Cole Avenue in Coleraine. The community park is across the street to the south.

The Shingle-style church was erected in 1908-9 as a combination church and YMCA. The foundation and walls of the superstructure are constructed of coursed fieldstone. The structure is covered by a multi-gabled roof; all gables are steeply pitched with flared ends. The principal gable on an east-west axis is intersected by a similar gable offset to the west and a smaller gable to the east. Shingles, the building's primary decorative feature, adorn the gable ends. Window openings of various sizes and shapes pierce the stone walls; most notable are the series of rectangular stained glass windows of the sanctuary situated beneath the larger north-south gable. Circular stained glass windows are located in the shingled gables of the sanctuary. The principal raised entrance sheltered by a bracketed awning is accessible by a wood staircase.

Major alterations are limited to replacement of the original shingle-sheathed bridge-like staircase and removal of the tower above the entrance in the early 1960s for safety reasons. The tower, which also utilized shingles as a decorative material, consisted of a belfry with louvered rectangular and circular openings surmounted by a pyramidal roof with corner piers. The shingled awning sheltering the first floor entrance on the east facade has also been removed.

The interior Akron plan, utilized to increase seating capacity, consists of a sanctuary separated from adjoining rooms by removable partitions. In this case partitions separate the sanctuary occupying the west half of the upper level from three classrooms situated beneath the choir loft in the east half. A pastor's study is also located in the east half. The lower level originally housed the local YMCA and consisted of a gymnasium, shower facilities, office, reading room, and parlor.

The structure is currently vacant.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church is significant both as a major architectural expression of the Shingle Style in northern Minnesota and as a vital element of the planned community of Coleraine. John C. Greenway, first superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's Canistec District, planned the "model community" in 1906 as district headquarters. Greenway's scheme

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Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church

Itasca County
Coleraine, MN

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included residential lots that were larger than those in other range communities, a beautiful park for recreational purposes, commercial structures confined to a single avenue, and churches and public buildings sited at prominent street corners. The Company donated a site to the Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church in 1908 for construction of a combination church - recreational center. The structure, designed by Duluth architect Frank Young and built in 1908-09, was recognized as the most impressive church edifice on the Western Mesabi Iron Range. The first level was used for recreational purposes into the early 1930s; the church held services in the building until the 1970s. Although the shingled bell tower and shingled bridge-like staircase have been removed, the structure retains many original features. Particularly noteworthy are its massive stone foundation and walls, the extensive use of decorative shingles (now limited to the gable ends), its stained glass windows, and the interior Akron Plan design. Many citizens desire preservation of this community landmark.

Bibliography:

Golden Anniversary, Coleraine First Methodist Church, 1957.

Itasca Iron News (Bovey, MN.). May 8, 1908; July 18, 1908; July 24, 1909.