

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC First Congregational Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Oak Street and Second Streets
CITY, TOWN Turton
STATE South Dakota
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Spink
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT No. 2
CODE 046
CODE 035

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Dorothy Kettering; representing the First Congregational Church congregation
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Brentford
VICINITY OF
STATE South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Spink County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Redfield
STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE - South Dakota Historic Sites Survey
DATE June 1977
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center
CITY, TOWN Vermillion
STATE South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Congregational Church of Turton was designed in vernacular "country Gothic" style. The exterior is covered with white clapboarding, while the roof is overlaid with shingles. Along the east and west sides and north end are lancet windows filled with simple tracery, which give the building its Gothic flavor. Both the exterior design and interior plan are symmetrical.

The church's north facade features a projecting center tower and steeple, with open belfrey and spire. The double-door entrance is topped by a rectangular transom and pediment. The bell tower was designed in three segments, each narrower than the one below, and culminating in the belfrey and spire. Delicate jigsaw work underscores the square base of the steeple. The east and west facades are marked into four bays by narrow lancet windows. There are no windows on the south end, but the interior chimney is located there.

The interior is a single space with one center aisle. Rows of pews, all original, are placed on either side. There is a wooden vaulted ceiling, and wainscoting on the ground floor. The only change to the church was the addition of a balcony in 1917, when church membership and attendance were at their peak.

Cleanly designed and well-maintained, the First Congregational Church is a fine example of low-style church architecture in South Dakota.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ferdinand LaBrie

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Turton is significant for religious and architectural reasons. The church was built in 1893 and served the Protestant community centered around Turton until 1963 when services were discontinued. Funeral services are still held there for members; thus it is still very important to Turton's religious community. It is the only church in Spink County, and one of the few in the entire state, which has not been remodeled or rebuilt. It is a fine example of the Gothic vernacular church that abounds in South Dakota.

The origins of the church can be traced back to 1886 when Protestant residents of the area met first in a sod shanty, then a schoolhouse, later in the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Depot, and finally in a room above the Kohlman General Store. It was while meeting in the store that the group decided to affiliate with the Congregational Conference.

The men of the community built the church under the direction of Ferdinand LaBrie, a carpenter who homesteaded in the Turton area. Five hundred dollars was donated by the Congregational Building Society. Until a permanent pastor could be found, students from Redfield College conducted services.

The importance of this church lies in its importance to the lives of the pioneers who built it and in its being a good representative of the 19th and early 20th century tradition of vernacular frame churches in South Dakota.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prairie Echoes, "Spink County in the Making", Dana Harlow, 1961 pp. 113-114.
 Interview with Mrs. Allen Kettering, June 23, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Turton

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 5711710 4988720

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property is located on the southwest corner of Oak Street and Second Street which lies 550 feet east of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Line. Can also be found on Lot 1 of Block 3 of the original plat of Turton. Town Plat is enclosed.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Thomas

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

December 20, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John J. Little

TITLE SHPO/Director, Historical Preservation Center

DATE 7/27/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/14/79

ATTEST: *William H. Abraham*

DATE 9/11/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION