

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 PEOPLES' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

and/or common Sidney Lutheran Bretheran Church

2. Location

street & number 203 2nd Avenue S.W. N/A not for publication

city, town Sidney N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd Eastern

state Montana code 030 county Richland code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gary Thogersen, President

street & number Mondak Historical & Art Society Box 751

city, town Sidney N/A vicinity of state Montana 59270

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Courthouse

street & number West Main Street

city, town Sidney state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 Peoples' Congregational Church is located on a corner lot, one block from the present central business district in Sidney, Montana. Construction was begun in August 1910 and the first service was held in December of the same year. All lumber and other construction materials were carried overland from Mondak, North Dakota, crossing the Yellowstone River at Fort Union, and on by wagon again to Sidney.

Basically rectangular in plan with an engaged square Norman tower, the approximate overall dimensions of the church are 40'x70'. The base of the foundation is of poured concrete with preformed concrete blocks resembling ashlar used above ground level. The building has a full, useable daylight basement.

The Church is of wood frame construction, sided with white clapboard. Very simple classical details such as the return gable ends and the covered corners add interest to the exterior. The paired stain glass windows with stain glass arched transoms above and the stained glass fanlight over the entry were installed in 1919 and remain in excellent condition.

The entrance to the church is at ground level with stairs leading to the sanctuary and a ramp to the basement. The interior walls are of plaster. The original tin ceiling and wheel shaped central lighting fixture are still in place.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the church is the plan of the second floor nave. The curved pews are arranged in a semi-circular plan on a sloping wooden floor with central focus upon the lecturn and altar in the southwest corner of the rectangular room. The large, pull-down dividing doors are of oak.

Alterations to the original design of the church include the enlargement of the basement kitchen in 1933 when the coal and ash rooms were no longer needed and the construction of the gable roofed enclosure over the stairway of the main entrance in 1951. The original stain glass fan light was installed over the new entrance and a classical portico frames the double doorway.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Rev. James W. Anderson, first pastor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Peoples' Congregational Church is a visible reminder of the early social and community development of Sidney, Montana. Designed by the first reverend of the church, James W. Anderson, and built largely through the donation of labor and construction materials from the congregation, the Peoples' Church exhibits a clean, straightforward design, rectangular in plan, fashioned in milled lumber. Since trees are a very rare commodity on the plains of Montana, all construction materials for the Peoples' Congregational Church were hauled overland from Mondak, North Dakota. The engaged "norman tower" is an infrequent feature used in this otherwise distinctive, popular church design.

Typical of many churches constructed in the early homesteading communities of eastern Montana, the Peoples' Congregational Church accommodated numerous civic functions in addition to fulfilling its role as a place of worship. A generous amount of public meeting room space is provided in the church's interior floor plan. When the local school house burned in 1913, classes were held in the basement and sanctuary of this church. Graduation exercises for the first class of nurses from the nearby Deaconess Hospital were held here in 1916. The Masons and the Odd Fellows and other fraternal organizations held their weekly meetings in the sancturay. Lectures, concerts, and social gatherings were frequent events. The Sidney Music Club, the early Commercial Club, and the Kiwanis Club utilized the church's meeting space as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jubilee Book 1961 Sidney, Montana, The Sidney Herald
Courage Enough-Mondak Family Histories 1975, Sidney, Montana, MonDak Historical and Art Societ
The Peoples' Congregational Church Sidney Montana Fiftieth Anniversary printed 1958, Available
Peoples Congregational Church office, 405 10th Avenue S.W. Sidney, Montana 59270

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Sidney, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	5	6	3	0	7	0	5	2	8	4	7	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is on two lots, 1 and 2 of block 17 of the original townsite of Sidney, Montana. T23N, R59E SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 33

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Y. Cumming

organization MONDAK HISTORICAL & ART SOCIETY date March 20, 1981

street & number Rt. 1 Box 155 telephone (406)482-3465

city or town Sidney state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

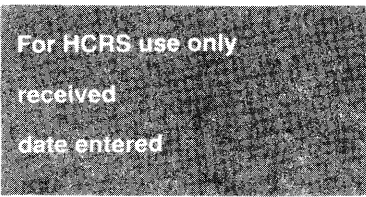
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcella Shelby

title Deputy SH PO date 3-10-82



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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview—Robert E. Liebsak R.A., North Central Consultant Ltd-1201 6th Avenue N.E.,
Jamestown, North Dakota, 58401—March 2, 1981

PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
203 2nd Avenue SW
Sidney, Montana

Richland County



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