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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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name First Methodist Episcopal Church  
other names/site number First United Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number 14-16 North Dakota St not for publication N/A  
city or town Vermillion vicinity N/A  
state South Dakota code SD county Clay code 027 zip code 57069

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt 12-15-2003  
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet
  - determined eligible for the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other,  
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall  
 Date of Action: 1/28/04

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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 0  
 Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:  
Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
roof Asphalt  
walls Brick  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**

1927-1929

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First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Clay County, South Dakota  
County and State

**Significant Dates**    1927  
                                  1929  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
                                  N/A  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**    N/A  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**    Edward Jansson of Chicago, architect  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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 #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: First United Methodist Church, Vermillion

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Vermillion Quadrangle

1	<u>14</u>	<u>669382</u>	<u>4738193</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Lynda B. Schwan  
organization SD SHPO date August 1, 2003  
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6056  
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

**A USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

**A sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Clay County, South Dakota  
County and State

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Vermillion United Methodist Church  
street & number 14-16 North Dakota St telephone 605-624-2179  
city or town Vermillion state SD zip code 57069

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**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The First Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed from 1927 to 1929, is located in Vermillion, Clay County. The property includes the church, its education wing and its residential wing.

The church is designed with the gable end of the chapel facing Dakota Street. An education wing extends south from the main building and connects to the gable end residential wing. The foundation for both sections is reinforced concrete. The entire building is constructed from red brick with limestone sills. Other common elements on the building include gothic arch windows, multi-pane casement windows, and limestone surrounds around the doors.

The façade (east elevation) of the chapel has a recessed central entrance. A flight of stairs with brick wingwalls capped with limestone, lead to the entry. Above the entrance is a large, tripartite, gothic arch, stained glass window. The entrance and window are surrounded by limestone forming a gothic arch. To the north and south of the entrance is a large square, brick column capped with limestone. These columns do not extend to the gabled parapet. A limestone watertable extends around the entire chapel portion of the building.

The north elevation of the chapel has two rectangular stained glass windows at the northeast corner which follow an interior staircase. West of these windows is a square column which matches the ones on the façade. West of the column are five stained glass, gothic arch windows. The windows have limestone sills and are surrounded by one row of soldier course brick. Each window has three limestone accents above the window. Between each window, for a total of four, are buttresses with limestone caps. At the northwest corner is a gabled entry. The east elevation of the entry has an entry door with a gothic arch window. The door is surrounded by decorative limestone. The north elevation of the gabled entry has three multi-pane casement windows in the center with one multi-pane casement window on either side. A brick soldier course extends across all windows creating a lintel. This entrance also has a parapet capped with limestone. There are no openings on the west elevation of this entrance.

The west elevation of the chapel has one one-over-one double hung window on the first floor at the north west corner. There is a large, gothic arch stained glass window centered on this elevation. It has a limestone sill and is surrounded by one row of soldier course brick. There are three limestone accents above the window.

The south elevation of the chapel has two rectangular stained glass windows on the first and second floor at the southeast corner. West of the windows is a square column which matches those found

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on the façade. West of the column are three stained glass, gothic arch windows. The windows have limestone sills and are surrounded by one row of soldier course brick. Each window has three limestone accents above the window. Between each window are buttresses with limestone caps. At the southwest corner, the education wing attaches to the chapel.

The long side of the education wing faces east onto Dakota. Located approximately in the center of the education wing is a two story bay window. The first and second floors of the bay are identical. They are separated by a large wood panel. The center portion of the bay has three multi-pane casement windows. Each of the sides has one multi-pane casement window. The top of the bay is castellated and capped with limestone. To the south of the bay on the first floor is a entry door with gothic arch windows. It is surrounded by decorative limestone. The second floor south of the bay has two multi-pane casement windows. The windows have a limestone sill and a row of soldier bricks creating a lintel. The first and second floors are identical north of the bay. There are three sets of two multi-pane casement windows with limestone sills and a row of soldier bricks creating the lintels.

The west elevation of the education wing has, from north to south on the first floor, a door, a square louvered opening for vents, three historic one-over-one double hung windows, and three non-historic one-over-one double hung windows. The second floor, from north to south has an entry door with a fire escape, a one-over-one double hung window, a window opening covered with vinyl, a one-over-one double hung window, a window opening covered with vinyl, a one-over-one double hung window and an eight-over-eight double hung window. Each window and door opening has brick sills and lintels.

The south elevation of the education wing has two one-over-one double hung windows and one six-over-six double hung windows on the first floor. The second floor has two eight-over-eight double hung windows.

The gable end of the residential wing faces east onto Dakota. The first floor from north to south has the following details. At the northeast corner are four multi-pane casement windows. South of the windows is an entrance capped with decorative limestone. South of the door is large four pane window flanked by multi-pane casement windows. The second floor has four multi-pane casement windows at the northeast corner. Continuing south are two multi-pane casement windows with a limestone flower box. South of this is a small multi-pane window. At the southeast corner are two multi-pane casement windows. A continuous row of soldier bricks creates a lintel for all of the second floor windows. At the gable peak is a multi-pane window with a limestone sill. The brick parapet is capped with limestone.

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The south elevation of the residential wing has two single casement widows and one grouping of three casement windows at the southwest corner on the first floor. Each has a limestone sill and a soldier course lintel. The second floor has covered window opening at the south east corner and a one-over-one double hung window at the southwest corner. Each has a limestone sill and a soldier course lintel.

The west elevation of the residential wing has a one story, single stall garage built into this elevation attaching at the basement level. It has a flat roof and is constructed of the same brick as the main building. The first floor, from north to south, has a one-over-one double hung window, two window openings covered with vinyl, a one-over-one double hung window and two six-over-six double hung windows. The second floor, from north to south, has a door with a fire escape leading to the top of the garage, a one-over-one double hung window, a window opening covered with vinyl, two one-over-one double hung windows and a door. There is a one story, flat roof wing at the southwest corner. It has a four pane fixed sash window on the north elevation and a door on the south elevation.

### Interior:

The interior of the chapel has coffered ceilings, gothic arch pews, and multiple stain glass windows. The south wall of the chapel has historic bi-fold doors separating the chapel from the education wing. The education wing has more historic bi-fold doors and gothic arch entries on the first floor. The second floor has a large common area, smaller classrooms and a kitchen. A grand staircase leads to the second floor. The residential wing has classrooms and small apartments.

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## Significance

The First Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion C as a well preserved example of a Late Gothic Revival style and a sub-type termed castellated or parapeted. It is an excellent example of this style in South Dakota.

The Dakota Territory was established in 1861 but long before that, Clay County had inhabitants. Clay County fronts the Missouri River and was excellent an excellent area for Native Americans. Native Americans had many camps, burial grounds and hunting grounds in the area. They carried their traditional way of life in the area well into the 1800's. Fur trading posts also existed in this area of the Dakota Territory. Vermillion was established as the county seat and had a large population by 1868.

The first Methodist church in Vermillion was constructed in 1873 on Bloomingdale Street on the bluff. In January of 1884, the name was changed to First Methodist Episcopal Church. This structure was sold and moved to the west side of Center Street where it was used as a print shop, laundry and law offices. A larger church was constructed and dedicated in January of 1896. This structure was destroyed by fire in November of 1927. The current building was started in 1927 and completed in 1929. Immediately after the fire, the congregation determined that a new building has to be constructed. The building committee, pastor and local architects worked to create an acceptable plan. The services of Edward Jansson, a consulting architect from Chicago, were loaned from the Bureau of Architecture. The new design was to include a sanctuary, Wesley Foundation offices, parsonage, kitchen and auditorium.

The style chosen for the building was Late Gothic Revival, sub-type castellated or parapeted. Features of this style include a steeply pitched roof, pointed-arch windows, and in this sub-type gabled roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than overhanging eaves and a flat roof with castellated parapets. The features associated with the sub-type are most commonly found on churches, such as the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The gothic arch windows can be found on each elevation of the chapel and the windows in the doors. The other windows on the education and residential wings included the other common type for Late Gothic Revival style buildings, multi-pane casements.

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According to *Churches in South Dakota*, structures that were constructed as second and third generation churches or those built from 1915 on, exhibit an increased focus on stylistic interpretation of religion and a commitment to creating an impressive house of worship. The First Methodist Episcopal Church is one of these later generation churches. These buildings are larger in size, scale and massing than the earlier buildings. The most identifiable styles associated with these later churches include Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival or Classical Revival. Later generation churches incorporated more stained glass in elaborate configurations.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion C as a well preserved example of a Late Gothic Revival style and a sub-type termed castellated or parapeted. It is an excellent example of this style in Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota.

### Bibliography

*Architectural History in South Dakota*. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2000.

*Churches in South Dakota*. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2002.

### Verbal Boundary Description

State of South Dakota, Clay County, City of Vermillion, Snyder's addition, Block 33, Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4, N22' of lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, E15' of N22' of Lot 20, Closed alley 10' x 150' between Lots 4 and 20-25.

### Boundary Justification

All the land that has historically been associated with the church.