

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received 4 SEP 1979
date entered OCT 11 1979

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Cornelia's Episcopal Mission Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Off County State Aid Highway #2 not for publication

city, town Morgan vicinity ~~Morton~~
Paxton Township vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Minnesota code 22 county Redwood code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota Attn: Canon Barry O'Leary

street & number 309 Clifton

city, town Minneapolis vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office - Redwood County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Redwood Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Cornelia's Episcopal Mission Church is a small Gothic Revival structure of granite native to the area. The cruciform plan building includes a crenelated tower at the north transept and a small narthex extension at the entrance (west facade). Battered buttresses mark the bays of the nave of the church. Memorials include a rose window on the upper front gable for Bishop Henry Whipple's wife, Cornelia, and an arched window over the altar for Rev. S.D. Hinman, who began mission work with the Dakota during the Agency period. Interior walls are of brick and rafters are exposed.

The church is situated in a central green area at the Lower Sioux Community. Construction of a stone church had begun at the nearby Lower Agency before the 1862 Uprising, but the building was never completed. Materials from this structure were transported a few miles west to the Lower Sioux Community site in 1889 for the construction of the present building. Two distinct colors of stone on the structure may reflect the use of both the earlier obtained materials and the stone quarried at the time of the building's completion.

Grave sites immediately adjacent to the church include those of Rev. Hinman to the south, and, to the north, of Andrew Good Thunder and Susan Salisbury, who headed the mission during the first three decades of the century and who has largely responsible for the lace-making industry centered there. Two other cemetery areas, the Agency School (now a pottery workshop), a community center, and a few residences are also in the immediate vicinity.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1889-91

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. John's Episcopal Mission was established at the Lower Sioux Agency in 1860 under the direction of Bishop Henry B. Whipple. Rev. S.D. Hinman served the church until 1862, when the Dakota members of the congregation were dispersed after the Uprising and the partially constructed church was abandoned.

Andrew Good Thunder, who had been the first person baptised at St. John's returned to the area in 1881. Five years later, partially through the efforts of Bishop Whipple, Congress authorized government purchase of lands in the area for assignment to Mdwakenton Sioux who wished to return, and the Lower Sioux Community developed a few miles to the west of the Agency site.

Both Bishop Whipple and Rev. Hinman returned to re-establish the mission, renamed the Birch Coulee Mission. The present church was constructed on lands donated by Good Thunder, with much of the construction work done by congregation members. The church was named St. Cornelia's after the Bishop's wife.

Both the land assignment procedures (augmented by additional lands purchased in 1934) of the Lower Sioux Community and St. Cornelia's congregation continue to function today.

St. Cornelia's is significant as a link between the end of Dakota occupancy of the area brought about by the Uprising and the later establishment of a Dakota community (one of the most unique settlements in the area). It is also significant as representative of one episode of Episcopal Bishop H.D. Whipple's extensive missionary work among the Indians in Minnesota and as one of the many fine Gothic churches built under his direction throughout the state during the latter half of the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn. The History of Redwood County, Minnesota. Vols. 1 & 2. Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co. 1916.
- Webb, Wayne E. and Jasper I Swedberg. Redwood: The Story of a County. Redwood Falls: Redwood County Board of Commissioners, 1964.
- Whippel, Henry B. Lights and Shadows of a Long Episcopate: Being Reminiscences and Recollections of the Rt. Rev. Henry Benjamin Whipple. New York: Macmillan, 1900

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.09 Acres

Quadrangle name Morton Quadrangle

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 15 Minute

UMT References LAT. 44° 32' 02" Long 94° 59' 43"

A

Zone	Easting	Northing			

B

Zone	Easting	Northing			

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

T112N, R35W, Sec. 1. South 600' of Auditors Lot 9

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Gimmetstad, Research Associate

organization Minnesota Historical Society, SHPO

date September 1978

street & number 240 Summit Avenue - Hill House

telephone 612-296-9545

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

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

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/21/79

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol Stull
Keeper of the National Register
date 10-11-79

Attest: *W. Ray Luce*
Chief of Registration
date 10/10/79

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
St. Cornelia's Episcopal Mission
Church in Redwood County,
Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79003717

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Redwood

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): St. Cornelia's Episcopal Church

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Morton

ADDRESS: off Co. Hwy. 2

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date