

PH 0664162

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 28 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1978

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 Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

United Methodist Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

302 South Carroll St

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rock Rapids

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Lyon

CODE

119

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Iowa United Methodist Conference

STREET & NUMBER

1019 Chestnut

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lyon County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rock Rapids

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Methodist Church in Rock Rapids is a Romanesque Revival building, constructed of blue-gray granite laid in a random ashlar pattern, trimmed with red granite. A modern brick wing extends from the south end of the main structure. The church is situated on a corner lot in a mixed urban-residential district of the town.

The church measures 68' x 80', with the main roof ridge running east-west, and smaller, gable-roofed pavilions on north and south. A section for overflow seating extends from the south side of the sanctuary, and is covered by a low, truncated hipped roof. At the northwest corner is a two-stage square tower, the base of which forms an entrance to the narthex. All gable ends, and the high-pitched tower roof, are shingled.

The round or Romanesque arch is used in tryptich windows on north and west sides, each surmounted by an oculus window. Tower windows are narrow rectangles. The tower entrance is round arched, as are the louvred openings in the bellchamber. All the round arches are shaped from voussoirs of alternating red and gray granite. Imposts are of red granite, as are the heads of the rectangular windows. Red granite is also used in a narrow course below the eaves of the tower, and on the high water table.

During 1953-4, the basement was extensively remodelled, the walls lined with cement block, windows of glass block installed, and wooden support members replaced. The nave was also redeccorated at this time. The 1966 addition to the south consists of a lobby faced with granite ashlar and a square, brick education wing, all under a very low mansard roof. The paired windows are very tall, with round arches, clearly an attempt to reflect elements of the main structure.

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 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 b. 1895-6

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Schwartz, Sioux Falls, SD

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Methodist Church in Rock Rapids is significant primarily for the interesting combination of blue-gray and red granite used in its construction. The red granite is used principally for details, most notably the voussoirs of alternating colors, and the decorative coursing on the tower. The plan of the church, too, is of interest, being a typical example of that popularized by H.H. Richardson. The implication, in the massing, is of a Greek Cross plan, but this is not carried through in the interior arrangement. This plan is particularly suited for corner locations, and sites from which a church is viewed obliquely, and from a distance.

The Methodist congregation in Rock Rapids was organized in the 1870's, and the first church building built about 1879. The second (present) building was begun in 1895. Blue-gray granite was quarried near Sioux Falls, SD, the red trimming stone obtained from the receiver of a bankrupt packing plant which had begun -- but never finished -- a stone building in Sioux Falls of this material.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United Methodist Church, Rock Rapids: Fiftieth Anniversary Services Program, July 21, 1946.

The First 100 Years, United Methodist Church, Rock Rapids, Iowa (1974).

Pioneer Association of Lyon County, Iowa. A Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Lyon County, Iowa. Chicago: George Ogle and Co., 1905.

Smith, Paul C. and Lucy Jo Colby, From Buncombe to Twenty-Two, 1853-1922. Rock Rapids: Lyon County Reporter, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	4	7	2	8	9	2	0	4	8	1	2	1	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The West half of Lots 9 and 10, Block 6, Rock Rapids Original Town Plat.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nadine Pettengill

ORGANIZATION

Lyon County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rock Rapids

STATE

Iowa

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

2/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST:

Nadine Pettengill

DATE

6-23-78

DATE

6.6.78

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~