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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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# 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 of Milbank  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Congregational Church of Christ

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
 East 3rd Avenue  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Milbank  
 STATE  
 South Dakota

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 1st

— VICINITY OF  
 CODE  
 46

COUNTY  
 Grant

CODE  
 051

## CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
 Congregational Church of Christ

STREET & NUMBER  
 East 3rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
 Milbank

STATE  
 South Dakota

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 Grant County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
 Milbank

STATE  
 South Dakota

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
 South Dakota Historic Site Survey

DATE  
 September 1976

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS  
 Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN  
 Vermillion

STATE  
 South Dakota

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Congregational Church of Milbank, built 1883, has a Victorian Gothic appearance with every major opening having a lancet, bichrome surround. The windows are set well back from the plane of the wall and are coupled on the east and west facades. The south or front portion has a large pointed arched window with heavy tracery. A square tower with a bracketed pyramidal termination appears on the right-front corner; lancet shaped lourves appear in the roof.

Some of the buildings general characteristics include a white chaska brick facing, a limestone facade, a combination gablet and gable roof and pilasters. Two oval windows appear in the front and rear facades. The apse displays a gable roof section that is smaller in height than the rest of the church. A tall single stack chimney also appears on the rear facade. There are two major entries: one on the south facade and the other on the west facade which has an open porch with its own roof.

Major changes occurred on the buildings interior in 1906 because of a fire. Also a full basement was added in 1934. The only visible exterior changes is a cubical entry on the west facade and the slate roofing shingles were replaced with asphalt shingles.

# 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 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 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. James P. Niblo-New York

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Milbank has religious significance because it is one of the oldest churches in continual use in the state. A second important facet is that it provides the state with one of the better examples of High Victorian Gothic church architecture. This design on this type of building makes it an important contribution to the states architecture.

Milbank's earliest citizens organized and platted the city in July 1880. The growth of the city was because the Hasting and Dakota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway routed the railroad from Ortonville, Minnesota through the city.

In September of 1880 the Milbank Congregational Church began and for several years its members held church in various places. Mr. Jerimiah Milbank visited the town that was named for him in June of 1881 and promised \$15,000 for the construction of a nondenominational church. Milbank (1818-1884) was a prosperous banker and a director of Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad. Construction began in May of 1883 and finished in September of that year with James P. Niblo as the architect and contractor.

By Late 1883 Milbank realized that his nondenominational church would not work; so he deeded the building and land to the American Home Missionary Society. It was given to this national organization until the local congregational unit proved it was permanent. This occured in 1889 when the deed was transferred.

Only once has the church been threatened by destruction. This happened in 1906 when a chandelier crashed to the floor causing extensive interior damage. Therefore many changes occured on the inside. For over ninety-four years the building has served congregationalists.

