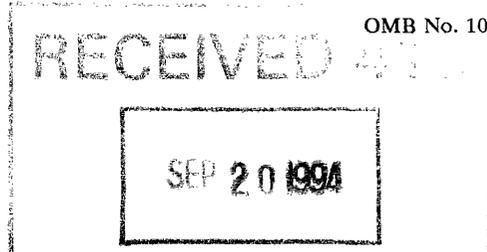


1232

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 Christ Episcopal Church

other names/site number NeHBS # CN09-042

2. Location

street & number 10th Avenue and Linden Street not for publication [N/A]

city or town Sidney vicinity [N/A]

state Nebraska code NE county Cheyenne code 033 zip code 69162

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 [x] statewide [] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wendene Sommer
Signature of certifying official

9/15/94
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Edson H. Beall

10.21.94

**Entered in the
National Register**

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Christ Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Cheyenne, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Shingle Style

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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.)

Property is:

- 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.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage
Military

Period of Significance

1892-1894

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

Christ Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Cheyenne, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	13	669905	4556240	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Greg Miller, Historian
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date June 1994
street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4775
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

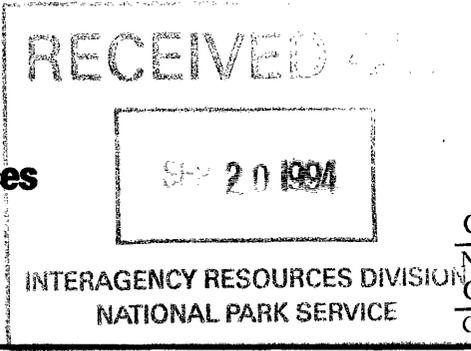
name The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska
street & number 200 North 62nd Street telephone (402) 558-5373
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68132

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**



Christ Episcopal Church
 Name of Property
 Cheyenne County, Nebraska
 County and State

Section 7,8 Page 1

Description

Christ Episcopal Church is located in Sidney, Nebraska, the county seat of Cheyenne County. Built in the Shingle style, the original one-story frame and stone building was constructed in 1886-87. Despite later additions the church retains its historical integrity. The nomination consists of one contributing building, the church, and one non-contributing building, a 1950 rectory.

Located in a residential area near the center of Sidney, the original church was a cross-shaped building measuring approximately 34 by 40 feet. Built in 1886-87, it was constructed in the Shingle style. Since this style did not become popular until the late 1870s it is somewhat unusual to find a building with these features in western Nebraska during this time period.

The church has a gabled front facade with an attached belfry in the center which is covered by an extended gabled roof. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles (originally wood) and had hidden gutters. On the northwest corner was the entrance which faced north (see photo 1). It was a porch with a shed roof and gable. On the northeast corner was a small projection with a shed roof that may have been a vestibule. The sacristy was on the southeast corner. Together these two wings along with the rectangular main body formed the cross. The rear of the church has a three-sided apse end with a hipped roof.

The base of the building is locally quarried ashlar limestone using random coursing and capped by a wood watertable. The remainder of the church is wood frame construction featuring lap siding with patterns of decorative shingles.

More recently, however, the integrity of the building has been compromised by additions. In 1950, a parish hall, which measures 40 by 60 feet, was added to the south side of the church. The rectory, which sits just south of the church, was also constructed in 1950. In 1968, a narthex, approximately 6 by 7 feet, was added to the northwest corner. This caused the original entrance to be enclosed and the new entrance now opens to the west. However, the original arched doorway entrance is still visible in the narthex. At the same time a choir loft, approximately 17 by 17 feet, was added to the northeast corner. This addition necessitated the removal of what may have been the vestibule. It should be noted that the style of these two additions is very sympathetic to the original church. The limestone base came from the old Cheyenne County Courthouse (when it was demolished in 1968) which was constructed in 1911-14; and the shingle design is identical to the original.

The interior retains a high degree of integrity. The narthex addition leads into the nave which has the original pews and baptismal font. Near the front of the church is a raised chancel which leads to a raised altar area. This space contains the original altar, Bishop's chair, and lectern. To the north is the added choir loft. Wainscoting, installed at the time of construction still surrounds the interior of the church. Two of the windows are also worth noting. One, the "Beatitude Window", was given in 1886 in memory of Florence Smith who died in that year. The other is called the "Indian Window". Although it is not certain when the window was donated, it is dedicated to the men of Company I, which helps to identify the relationship between those Native Americans and the church.

Significance

The Christ Episcopal Church located in Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska, is eligible at the state level under Criterion A for associations with Native Americans and the military. Criteria Consideration A is applicable and is met through the property deriving primary significance under the areas of ethnic heritage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Christ Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Significance (continued)

and military history. It is one of a few remaining physical representations in the state that is closely associated with the government's attempt to integrate Native Americans into the army and consequentially adopt Euro-American social mores. The church was used by, among others, Company I, Twenty-First Infantry which was composed of Native Americans and commanded by a white officer. The church represents one of the institutions associated with Native American policy of the time and is significantly associated with Company I at Fort Sidney. The period of significance begins in 1892 when Company I first arrived at Fort Sidney and ends in 1894 when it was transferred to another post.

In 1866, Congress passed the Army Bill which, among other things, called for the establishment of four regiments (two each of cavalry and infantry) composed of African-American enlisted personnel. By 1869, the distinction of "free, white" had been omitted from the recruiting regulations. Although there was opposition and a number of problems, the experiment eventually proved to be a success; and by 1890, praise for the African-American troops came from both within and outside of the military.

Due in part to the success of this program, a similar attempt began in 1891 when Secretary of War Redfield Proctor gave his support to the idea of enlisting Native Americans as regular soldiers rather than just as scouts. Secretary Proctor vigorously fought for legislation that provided for the enlistment of 2,000 Native Americans. When the bill failed to pass, he issued a general order authorizing the enlistment of one company of Native Americans for every 26 regiments of white cavalry and infantry serving west of the Mississippi River (Foner, p. 129).

On September 1, 1891, Second Lieutenant Samuel Seay, Jr., Twenty-First Infantry, was assigned to recruit and command this regiment's Native American Company I. Headquarters of the Twenty-First Infantry, commanded by Colonel Joseph Conrad, was at Fort Sidney, Nebraska, at the time of Company I's formation; the company was first assigned to Fort Randall, South Dakota.

Lt. Seay began his recruiting efforts at the Lower Brule and Yankton agencies on the east bank of the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota and at the Santee Agency in Nebraska. By the end of October, 14 men had been enlisted. Only 21 recruits were on the muster role by January 1892. Because of the lack of success in recruiting at the Yankton Agency, Seay shifted his efforts to the Rosebud reservation where military service was more popular. In early June company strength had increased to 37.

When Fort Randall closed in December 1892, the company was transferred to Fort Sidney. Upon their arrival The Sidney Telegraph reported on December 17, 1892, that many in the company spoke good English and were well educated. It went on to state that Native Americans had not been around Sidney for quite some time and that to the old timers the "present Indian, dressed in the blue uniform, is quite a contrast to the way they used to appear."

Along with doing their regular garrison duties, the Native American soldiers attended school to learn to read and write. Many of them also became members of the Christ Episcopal Church. The church was one of the parishes in the Reverend George Beecher's mission field. He was an Episcopal clergyman who took up residence in vacant officers quarters at the fort. Reverend Beecher gave his sermons in both English and Lakota, the language of the Native American soldiers. Of the men in Company I who were active in the church, one served as an organist and another was a catechist and interpreter, and many of the others sang in the choir.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8,9 Page 3

Significance (continued)

Despite this apparent success at integrating the Native Americans into the military and Euro-American, society the men were not satisfied with army life and in particular were not happy at Fort Sidney. In May 1893, 19 of the men petitioned for their discharge saying that they wanted to return home to look after their families and farms. Rumors then began that Company I and other Native American units might be disbanded.

It was at this time that supporters began to vocally espouse the anticipated results of the integration of the Native Americans into the army. One such example came from Reverend Beecher. In a letter to the secretary of the Indian Rights Association in Philadelphia, Beecher wrote that the Native American soldiers' condition was "far better" than any they had experienced before, that they were content in their new life and that company reports showed clearly that "they are making remarkable progress." He continued by saying that their quarters were as "neat and clean as any of the white men's." Beecher believed the army provided the proper environment that would result in "the civilization of the Indian." He stated that the Native Americans had the basis to become "a good man, a good citizen, a good Christian" provided the proper steps were taken. He concluded by stating that the "Indian wants to become civilized" and there is no better way than for them to join the army (Lee, p.18).

Although this type of sentiment existed, it did not influence the men of Company I. Their desire for discharge was made again in October 1893 when Major M. J. Hamilton made an annual inspection of Fort Sidney. The company, which then had a strength of 43 enlisted men, presented a petition for discharge signed by 40 of the soldiers. Again, the main problem seemed to be that the men did not like being away from their families and farms.

Despite this strong statement by an overwhelming majority of the troops, the discharges were not approved. Instead the company was transferred to Fort Omaha in May 1894. In July, another inspection found the company, to a man, still favored being discharged. Lt. Seay stated that not all the men wanted a discharge and said the petition should be rejected. To reconcile this difference, interviews were held with the enlisted men. Only two of them indicated they wanted to remain in the army. Based on this information, General John Brooke, commander of the Department of the Platte, discharged the company with the final mustering out occurring on December 6, 1894. By 1897 the last unit of Native American soldiers had been discharged from the army.

For a variety of reasons, this social experiment by the army did not achieve the expected results. Regardless of attitudes today towards policies like these, it is important that they are researched and documented because they reveal attitudes, whether prevalent or not, that existed and influenced society. The Christ Episcopal Church is significant because it represents one of the few remaining physical representations associated with this policy. The Christian religion was one of the Euro-American institutions that the army expected the Native Americans to embrace as they became more "civilized". Additionally, it is the only extant non-military building in the state associated with Company I.

Bibliography

Foner, J.D. The United States Soldier Between Two Wars: Army Life and Reforms, 1865-1898. New York: Humanities Press, 1970.

Lee, Bob. "Company I, Twenty-First Infantry." Mimeographed. Sturgis, SD, 1991.

Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society. File CN09-042. Ada Ammerman and Karen Langley letters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Christ Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9,10 Page 4

Bibliography (continued)

Scully, Vincent J., Jr. The Shingle Style. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955.

The Sidney Telegraph, 1892.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 3-4, Block 2, Clarkson's Addition to Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.