

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1975

**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

Spring Valley Methodist Church *prepared by NPS* (Methodist Memorial Church)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

221 West Courtland Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spring Valley

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Fillmore

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: unoccupied

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Spring Valley Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

112 South Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Spring Valley

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds -- Fillmore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Preston

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

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 Spring Valley Methodist Church is a Gothic structure containing a meeting hall in the basement and church space on the elevated first floor. Entrance is gained through two doorways at the front, one located directly in the facade, the other located in the projected corner which supports the octagonal steeple. Building materials are red brick for exterior facing, and limestone and common cream brick for exterior accenting around windows, doorways and gable ends. The projecting deck and side basement entrance are later additions, eliminating the original wood stairs for each entrance. Also altered are the front doors which were originally polychromed and highly stylized and the two chimneys, front and back, which were located at each gable end at the roof peak. The original shingles have been retained but unfortunately the polychromed pattern of the steeple roof has been painted.

The church is a well preserved example of late Gothic church architecture as it contains, especially on the front facade, overtones of polychromatic Victorian design. It contains a set of seventeen original high quality stained glass windows noted for their crystal-like brilliance and high color rendition. Four new windows were commissioned by the locally noted stain glass artist, Arthur Larscheid, of Minneapolis in 1938. The church interior, although partially altered, is well preserved.

The Spring Valley Methodist Church is located in a residential area one block west of the main commercial district of the city.

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 checked="" 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 1876-8

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown, Saratoga Springs, New York

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in stages between 1876 and 1878, the Spring Valley Methodist Church is an excellent example of polychromatic Gothic [✓]Victorian architecture. Although now slightly altered the natural polychromatic patterns of red brick, limestone and cream brick are clearly discernable, especially on the front facade.

The church is locally renown for containing one of the finest sets of stained and painted glass windows in southern Minnesota. Local stories of these windows being unique to Minnesota are doubtful as other windows of similar design have been found in a few Episcopal and Methodist churches in the area. However, few have been found of the quality of these, and nowhere such a large set as here. The patterns are basically abstract but upon careful examination religious symbols and floral patterns are discernable. The church suffered damage in a windstorm in 1885 and the windows on the western wall were repaired by an unknown artist. In 1938, the church was extensively repaired and altered inside. Arthur Larscheid of the famous Minneapolis Glass Company, a major source of high quality stain glass in Minnesota, was commissioned by the church to restore the windows and to design four new windows. Which windows and to what extent they were restored in unknown although it is suspected that the graphic scenes in the two front wall vertical windows are his design. It is known, however, that the beautiful rose window and the three windows behind the altar are his work.

The architect for the church is unknown, but according to a letter by Rev. H.C. Hennings, the pastor who completed the edifice, the plans were obtained from an architectural firm in Saratoga Springs, New York for \$4000 and by the previous pastor, Rev. J.J. Chaffee. The original twelve hundred pound tray bell obtained by Rev. Jennings still hangs in the belfry.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Fillmore County, ed. by Rev. Edward D. Neill, pub. by Minnesota Historical Company, Minneapolis, 1882.
Methodist Memorial Church: A Centennial Anniversary Program; "History of the Methodist Church 1854-1954", Published by the Methodist Memorial Church, Spring Valley, Minn., 1954.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 4 8 9 2 0	4 8 3 7 1 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Thomas J. Lutz - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul,

DATE

24 March 1975

TELEPHONE

612 726-1171

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley 3/28/75

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert A. Connelly
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/12/75

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Brunberg
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/9/75

actg.