

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000280

Date Listed: 03/27/95

Property Name: St. Agnes Catholic Church

County: Clay County State: South Dakota

Multiple Name

This documentation is accepted by the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

March 27, 1995
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criteria Consideration A is marked under "Criteria Considerations" since property was built and owned by a religious institution during its period of significance.

Melissa Dirr, the National Register coordinator for the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, was notified of this amendment on March 27, 1995.

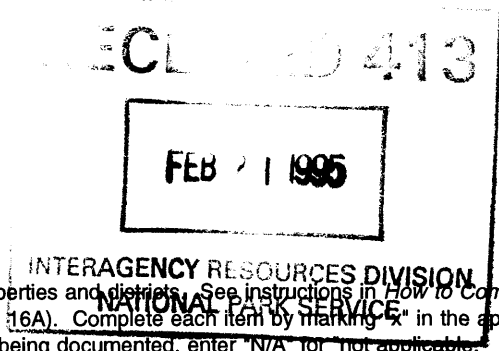
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. Agnes Catholic Church

Other names/site number: Washington Street Arts Center

2. Location

Street & number: 202 Washington Street not for publication

City or town: Vermillion vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Clay Code: 027 Zip code: 57069

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official

Date

SAHPO (acting)
SD STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State or Federal agency and bureau

2-8-95

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:)

Russell McClelland 3/27/95

St. Agnes Catholic Church
Name of Property

Clay, South Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION;religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE;auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation Brick
walls Brick, Structural Tile
roof Asphalt Shingles
other Metal, Concrete

Narrative Description

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

St. Agnes Catholic Church
Name of Property

Clay, South Dakota
County and State

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 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906

Significant Dates

1906

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Anton Dohmen, Architect

August Goetz, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

St. Agnes Church records

St. Agnes Catholic Church
Name of Property

Clay County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>			
Zone	Easting				Northing				Zone	Easting				Northing			

 2

Zone	Easting				Northing				Zone	Easting				Northing			

3

Zone	Easting				Northing				Zone	Easting				Northing			

 4

Zone	Easting				Northing				Zone	Easting				Northing			

 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: Michael A. Bedeau, Survey Coordinator
Organization: State Historical Preservation Center Date: 8/24/94
Street & Number: P.O. Box 417 Telephone: (605) 677-5314
City or Town: Vermillion State: South Dakota Zip code: 57069

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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Vermillion Area Arts Council
Street & Number: 202 Washington Street Telephone: (605) 624-4342
City or Town: Vermillion State: South Dakota Zip code: 57069

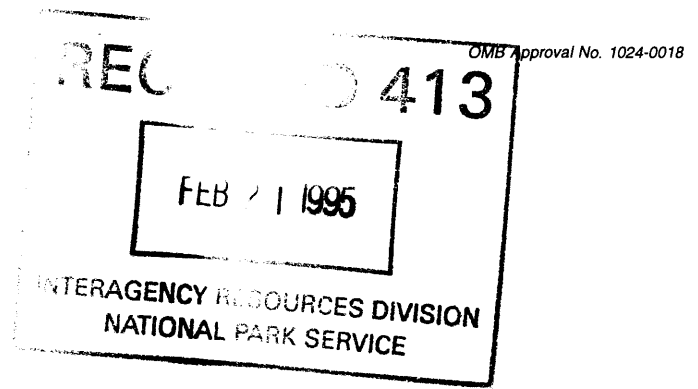
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

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Narrative Description:

The St. Agnes Catholic Church is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Washington and West Cedar Streets in the City of Vermillion, South Dakota. The building occupies a prominent and well landscaped lot in a predominantly residential neighborhood on the west side of the city. The main facade of the building faces Washington Street on the east.

The structure is cruciform in plan with severely truncated transepts, a polygonal apse and a crenelated tower located at the southeast corner. A small single story projection is located at the northwest corner of the building which houses the sacristy. The foundation of the building is constructed of red pressed brick laid up in common bond capped by a plain concrete watertable. The foundation extends fully six feet above grade enclosing a full finished basement. As such, the main floor of the building rests a half-story above street level. Exterior walls are structural tile with brick veneer, also laid up in common bond. The gable roof has a through cross gable and is clad in asphalt shingles.

Stylistically, the structure is a modest example of Late or Collegiate Gothic architecture which is typically associated with religious and educational buildings constructed from c. 1895 through 1929. The principal elevation faces east presenting gabled brick end walls capped by a pressed metal parapet which terminates in a pressed metal cross. The corners of the building, with the exception of the tower and apse, terminate in small angled brick buttresses with cast concrete weatherings. The main entry is located in the center of this facade and consists of a gothic arched opening containing paired oak doors surmounted by a similarly arched fixed decorative glass transom. The doors are inset within a raised brick surround. The surround rises to a raised brick gable capped with a pressed metal molding. The entry is reached by a flight of poured concrete steps and is flanked on both sides with single gothic arch glass windows. All windows in the building have raised brick lintels and plain concrete sills. There is a large gothic arched window located immediately above the main entry. It is divided into three panels, the center panel being topped by a decorative rosette.

The dominant feature of the building is the three story bell tower located at its south east corner. It is a square structure which projects from the main body of the building. The first story of the tower presents a secondary entry way which faces south. It is stylistically identical to the main entry save that there is only a single arched door. It is achieved via a flight of concrete steps. All levels of the tower are delineated by a molded concrete belt course. In addition to the southern entry, the first level of the tower has a small gothic arched window with stained and painted glass infill. The second level of the tower features paired lancet windows on the south and east sides. The third level contains the belfry and is highlighted by a large gothic arch opening on

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each side. These arches are filled wooden louvered ventilation screens. The tower is capped by a castellated parapet. Each castellation is brick capped with cast concrete coping. At the southeast corner of the tower there is a decorative paneled brick projection which could be described as a square bartizan.

The remainder of the south elevation consists of brick sidewalls with a projecting transept. The side wall is two bays long on the east of the transept and one bay on the west. Each bay features a gothic arch window with decorative painted and stained glass. The transept is covered by the cross gable roof mentioned above. It is dominated by a large gothic arch window identical in configuration to the front window which also features stained and painted decorative glass. Like the front gable, the south transept has a pressed metal cornice terminating in a cross and angled buttresses at both corners. There is a small gable roof addition on this elevation which serves to enclose the stairs leading to the basement.

The north elevation is similar to the south in configuration save for the absence of the corner tower. At the eastern end of the north side there is a small brick addition which encloses a secondary basement stair. At the west end of this elevation there is a single story shed roofed extension which houses the sacristy. Exterior treatments on the sacristy are identical to the main body of the building.

The rear of the building presents a plain gabled wall from which projects a one story polygonal apse. The apse is also of brick trimmed with cast concrete and has a polygonal roof clad in asphalt shingles. There are fixed gothic arch window in the north and south facing apse walls. Each of these windows has stained and painted glass infill.

The interior of the building retains many original elements. The main door enters into a small vestibule which in turn leads to a foyer. The foyer was built to enclose the area beneath the choir loft at some point in the early 1970's. One end of the foyer was further enclosed to provide a small room for child care. A door at the south end of the foyer leads to the bell tower and secondary street entry. The tower features oak wainscots, baseboards and stair with ornate turned newel post and spindles. The stair rises to a second story landing which leads to the choir loft. The foyer also leads to the main sanctuary which features a plaster ceiling with ribbed gothic vaulting and high molded oak base boards. The choir loft retains oak support columns and a paneled oak railing. The floor of the apse is slightly raised. The sacristy is located to the north of the apse and has been altered. It does, however, have an original skylight. The basement has no distinguishing historical features.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

The St. Agnes Catholic Church is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. More specifically, St. Agnes typifies the "second generation" of church construction in eastern South Dakota and has statewide significance. This property relates to South Dakota Planning Context V. a. Depression and Rebuilding/Changing Urban Patterns (1893-1929)

Scholars of church architecture in the Great Plains have divided the evolution of church buildings in the region into several distinct phases. Because these phases tend to happen in generational cycles they have been termed generations. Typically a parish or congregation would be established in a given area as soon as there was sufficient population. The first order of business for a newly organized church was to construct a suitable church building. In most instances the financial resources of a new parish dictated that the structure cost as little as possible. As a result most of the initial or "first generation" churches were simple frame buildings constructed by local carpenters or builders. In eastern South Dakota, first generation churches tend to date from the late 19th century with most buildings constructed during the First Dakota Boom, 1878 to 1893.

South Dakota, and the northern Great Plains in general, suffered heavily during the 1890's. A multi-year drought had begun in 1886, thus devastating the rural economy. This situation was exacerbated by the national depression which struck following the Silver Panic of 1893. As a result few church buildings were constructed until the return of relative prosperity at the turn-of-the-century. This period from 1900 until 1917, known as the Second Dakota Boom, found many eastern South Dakota churches facing an expanding membership and aging and inadequate church buildings. Many churches decided to construct new church buildings to replace their original first generation structures. These "second generation" structures were usually architect designed masonry structures rendered in one of the popular ecclesiastic styles of the time. Despite the relative prosperity of the first two decades of this century, few eastern South Dakota churches could afford extravagant buildings. As a result, second generation churches tended to exhibit less expensive materials and construction techniques than those employed in more prosperous areas of the country.

St Agnes Parish was founded in the 1884 as a spin off of the Fairview Parish which was located several miles east of Vermillion. A frame (first generation) church was completed in the spring of 1885. By the turn of the century sentiment in the parish was strongly in favor of building a new church. In 1905 the desire for a new building became a necessity as the Fairview parish was consolidated with St. Agnes, greatly increasing the size of the congregation. Funds were

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raised, plans drawn up and construction began in August of 1906. The structure was completed September of the following year and dedicated on October 2, 1907. This building served the St. Agnes parish until construction of new church in 1974.

Economy of construction, which is typical of second generation church buildings, is demonstrated in St. Agnes by the use of structural tile, pressed metal decorative cornices, simple cast concrete decorative bandcourses, simple interior plaster work and stock wooden trim. Even the decorative windows were mass produced stained and painted items, typical of those found in similar structures throughout the Plains.

The second St Agnes Church is a well preserved example of a second generation church building. It was designed by Anton J. Dohmen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; an architect who specialized in inexpensive church buildings. Dohmen designed at least ten churches in the Dakotas and recycled his plans from one commission to the next. His 1906 plan for St. Agnes is virtually identical to that for St. Theresa's Catholic Church designed two years earlier in Beresford, South Dakota (razed 1991). The buildings differed only in small details such as choice of mass produced decorative elements, fenestration shape, and choice of exterior brick. With the destruction of St. Theresa's, St. Agnes became the only remaining example of Dohmen's small church design in the state.

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Bibliography:

Erpsted, David and David Wood, Architectural History of South Dakota, unpublished manuscript, 1991.

Rasmussen, Douglas J., A Time to Be Born: A History of St. Agnes Church, Vermillion, SD, Pax Book Bar Publishing, Vermillion SD, 1975.

Parish Records, St Agnes Parish, Vermillion SD

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The south forty feet of Lot 6 and all of Lot 7, Block 52, Snyder's Addition to the City of Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries described above constitute the entire site of the former St. Agnes Catholic Church.