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

1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number United Methodist Church site no - 32 RY 249

2. Location

street & number 601 5th Street NE not for publication

city or town Devils Lake vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Ramsey code 071 zip code 58301-2507

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. . 5/29/08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer, (ND)
State of 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 the 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 _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
7-16-08

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

(Eclectic) Classical Revival (Neo Classical)
with Romanesque Details

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt shingles - main building

other rubber roofing on additions

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property
RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

County and State

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Description

The Methodist Church building was built in 1915 in the town of Devils Lake, North Dakota. The church is located in the city one block northeast of the main downtown area. The street location is at the corner of 5th Street northeast and 6th Avenue northeast. The streets run north/south and avenues run east/west. The church is located on the northeast corner of the intersecting streets. The church front entry faces to the south. A rear entrance is located on the west side. In 1959 an addition to the north extended to the alley and is accessible from the west. A 2005 addition is attached on the east side of the original church building at the southeast corner facing 5th Street with entry from the south.

The original 1915 church is approximately 43 feet wide at the front and rear and 68 feet deep on the east and west sides. The additions provide a new lot size of 135 feet frontage and 140 feet deep. The church building position on the lot is 20 feet set back from the front side and only a couple of feet set back on the west side.

The 1915 church replaced the prior wood frame structure. The old church dating from 1886 was razed and the materials collected were reused in the new building. The 1915 construction agreement stated:

"It is hereby understood that the contractor will use any and all old material in the construction of said church building new on the lot where said building is to be built as far as the same can be used, using his own best judgment in that respect; that the contractor will purchase all new material of every kind and description necessary for the building and will buy the same at the lowest possible figure that he can and that the costs for the same shall be charged to the Methodist Episcopal Church."

(Building Agreement between the Methodist Episcopal Church and W.C. Fosburgh, July 10, 1915)

Exterior

The building style is Classical Revival and is highlighted with heavily accented Romanesque influence. Projecting bays on all four sides are ornamented by terra cotta pilasters in a simplified Roman Doric order supporting a gable pediment. The building roof is a hip style roof with flat area in center and moderately shallow (about 6:12) in slope. The four facade portico gable-end roofs intersect the hip roof below the ridge of the main roof.

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Description (Cont.)

The 1915 building is faced in stone and brick. A twelve inch wide sandstone watertable located about six feet off the ground surrounds the entire building. The top of the sandstone watertable is level with the main floor. Above the sandstone watertable is a light tan colored brick with a dark rose colored mortar. The brick below the sandstone watertable is a dark brick with a high-fired finish laid in a rusticated pattern with relief band every sixth course. The mortar used between the dark brick is light in color and nearly matches the upper brick color.

The 2-½ story building is highlighted at each facade with projecting wall bays. The bays constitute better than 50% of each facade wall. The roof above projects an additional two feet. The bays are decorated in classical motifs.

The front facade is accented with a colonnade of four brick pilasters. The pilasters rest on the sandstone watertables and are topped with stone Doric capitals that visually support a brick entablature and heavy projecting gable roof pediment. Between the pilasters are two rows - upper and lower - of windows. The three lower rectangular stained glass windows are headed with prominent eight inch stone lintels and sit on four inch stone sills. The header and sill extend in width four inches to each side of the windows, the full width of space between each pilaster. The square upper windows sit on a stone sill, but they are capped by the entablature.

The main entrance is at the south facade at the west corner. It has a set of double doors topped with a half moon transom. The Roman arch is outlined in four courses of brick molding with an oversized stone key stone and stone springers.

The extending porticos and projections at the two sides are similar in decorative detail to the front but the fenestration is organized differently. The wider dimension of the east and west facade allow for a larger bay, still with four pilasters, but with a broken pediment over a larger central bay with larger windows. In the two side bays, the windows match those on the front facade. The center window is three times the width of the flanking windows. The upper window is a half-circle stained glass window, which sits atop a stone sill. The Roman arch is brick lined, two inner rows are rowlock coursing and the other two rows are header bond with prominent keystone. This arch interrupts the pediment. The single width west door to the main building was closed up with brick that matches the brick of the church.

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Description (Cont.)

The rear bay has similar dimensions but no pilasters. In addition there is a large square chimney projection. The chimney extends from the basement to and through the roof overhang and entablature. There are no windows on the north side.

In 1959 an addition was attached to the north side of the church providing a new entrance from the west. The architect for the addition, who was a contemporary of Joseph A. Shannon, incorporated some elements of the original building design. The recessed horizontal brick relief used for horizontal accenting was used in the addition. The facing brick is only on the west facade but it matches the original brick. The windows are proportional to the main windows of the original building. The north and east walls of the addition are concrete and are painted to match the brick.

The 2005 addition is a response to the need for ADA accessibility to the church. The addition is located on the east side of the original church building at the southeast corner facing 5th Street. The addition, though remote as a copy of the original building, incorporates significant aspects. The same two-tone brick, a near match to the original, was used. The original sandstone watertable was carried through the addition at the same level and was used to split the dark and light colored brick as on the original building. The lower brick is also accented with a horizontal brick relief that matches the original building for relief depth and location.

In the sequence of construction the original building contained two stained glass windows at the southeast corner where the new 2005 addition was attached. These two windows were carefully removed and reinstalled on the south at the sanctuary level. The window header and sill are a match to the original building.

The entrance area has been accented with a set of piers and is capped with a projecting gable canopy reflecting the gable porticoes of the original 1915 building. The roof is outlined with a heavier than normal roof trim for a heavy roof mass appearance. The north facade has steel siding to prepare for a future addition.

Interior

The original 1915 building is 2-1/2 stories. The main level is approximately 6 feet above the exterior grade and entered via the southwest corner. Entrance is first by a series of five exterior steps near the front walk and a level walk to the entrance. Upon

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Description (Cont.)

entering the church, you are on a split level entrance floor. Stairs leading up to the main level about four feet high or stairs leading to the basement are available. Upon entering the main level you can enter into the church sanctuary or turn right and continue up more steps that reach the balcony level.

The main church sanctuary is grand in appearance. Stained glass windows outline the church on three sides (East, South and West). There are two levels of stained glass, a top set of smaller sized stained glass windows in a row at the upper part of the sanctuary accenting the upper balcony level. The lower sets of windows are the principal windows and accent the main level. Immediately below these windows is a waist high oak wood wainscot trim that outlines the sanctuary walls. The front chancel area interrupts the wainscot trim.

The ceiling of the main sanctuary has a large elongated domed shaped raised ceiling. The stretched octagon dome ceiling is outlined at the base by a surrounding plaster dentile molded entablature outlining the dome opening. The projecting entablature conceals indirect lighting. The ceiling portion of the dome is stained glass and is lighted behind by switched lights. The stained glass is outlined in greens and golds and the inside portion is a boxed "x" pattern of frosted white glass. The remainder of the ceiling is accented with a plastered beam treatment that compliments the dome structure. All parts of the ceiling, except for the stained glass dome, are painted plaster.

The front chancel is raised in two levels. The first level supports the pulpit and choir loft and the upper level for general worship activity.

The balcony to the rear of the church is heavily outlined from the sanctuary area with wood trim. The trim extends from the bottom of the balcony up to the base of the rail. The wood trim is oak and matches the horizontal trim.

The light fixtures are small and delicate, chain hung and appear to be an original part of the building. Six milk glass vertical elongated fixtures light the sanctuary of the church. Additional original fixtures hang above the entry stairs and at the top of the balcony stairs. Additional lighting has been added to the balcony area.

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Description (Cont.)

The floor is oak boards sloping down from the rear of the church to the front aisle. The slope is very gradual. Oak benches fill the church except at the intermediate side aisles and center aisle.

The original church basement area has two rest rooms, one for women and one for men. It also contains the main church kitchen and dining area, sized to serve large group functions, a lounge area and a furnace room.

Two non-historic additions minimally compromise the building's exterior while not detracting from the integrity of its character-defining features. The 1959 addition serves as the main offices on the upper level and classrooms on the lower level. This area is accessed at the west side entrance at mid level. At this point there is church access to the right and up, stairs up to the main office level, and stairs down to the classrooms and church basement access. Originally designed for Sunday school teaching, this addition incorporates in the basement two small restrooms, three classroom areas, one small classroom and an additional exit located at the northeast area of the addition.

The 2005 addition entrance is at ground level and includes toilet rooms, elevator lift and stairs that lead to the upper main level or down to the basement. Upon reaching the main level a gathering area serves as a foyer with coat racks and an elevator entrance.

Heating for the church is by a forced air system.

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

1915-1958

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder

Shannon, Joseph A. - Architect
Fosburgh, W.C. - builder
Horton & Horton - architect
Consolidated Construction Co - builder
Dumont, John - architect
Gleason, Dennis - builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Lake Region Heritage Center

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 0.3214 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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5	3	2	8	9	3	4
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

2

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4

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 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 Barbara McCormick and John Dumont

organization Devils Lake Historic Preservation Committee Dumont Associates
date 10-20-07

street & number 1203 4th Ave NE 701-662-3334 telephone PO Box 631, Devils Lake, ND 58301
701-662-5570

city or town Devils Lake state ND zip code 58301

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 Dakotas Conference
United Methodist Church

street & number 1331 West University telephone _____

city or town Mitchell state SD zip code 57301

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property
RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

County and State

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Significance

Built in 1915, the Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as United Methodist Church) was one of the first congregations organized in Devils Lake. It is nominated under criterion C as a significant example of the work of Devils Lake's first bona fide architect, Joseph A. Shannon. The list of known buildings attributed to Shannon bear evidence of a high degree of architectural literacy and the ability to work within a variety of idioms, including Classical and Romanesque revival styles as well as the Chicago and Prairie School styles. The Dickey Library in Jamestown, North Dakota, documents the period of Prairie School design in vogue in the upper Midwest and demonstrates Shannon's ability to adapt the principles of his contemporaries.

Devils Lake, the county seat of Ramsey County, was established in 1882 by Lt. Heber N. Creel as Creelsburgh. It was renamed Creel City in 1883, and then renamed Devils Lake in 1884.

In the spring of 1883 the Great Northern Railroad was extended from Bartlett to Devils Lake with the first train arriving July 4. According to church records, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1883 with eleven members. John Walton, one of North Dakota's pioneer pastors, was appointed to serve Larimore, Lakota, and Devils Lake. Less than two years later the first church was built. Services and Sunday school was held at the Parson's Building in the interim.

The first edifice, built in 1885-86, had two rooms, one 24' by 70' for the sanctuary, and the other 24' by 16' for Sunday school and other church activities. The church had a pump organ and an upright piano. At this time membership had increased to nearly one hundred.

By 1915-1916, Devils Lake was a thriving, prosperous city of approximately 6,000 people and was the business hub of the Lake Region, a commercial area of 7,500 square miles. The town was situated on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern Railway and was home to the main shops of the Great Northern. Also serving the community was the Soo Line Railroad and several smaller lines. In thirty years Devils Lake had become a city with all modern improvements including 25 miles of paved sidewalks and 70 miles of excellent streets, a five cluster lighting system, fire department, 8 ½ miles of sewage systems, churches of every denomination, magnificent lodge homes, schools, library, hotels, theater and hospitals.

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Significance, cont.

As early as 1910 a new Methodist Episcopal church was planned to replace the congregation's earlier (1886) church building. On February 11, 1910 the Inter Ocean, Devils Lake's local newspaper, published an article which stated,

"There is no more worthy cause before our people than this project. We have a fine opera house, an excellent library, a Catholic church that cannot be beaten in the state, while on protestant churches there is not a creditable structure in the city."

The article further states,

"The Methodists are desirous of building a church that will be a credit to Devils Lake as well as their organization and they are going at their task with a grim determination to win, and it's now up to the citizens of this city to join with them in carrying out their plans to a successful termination. Think this matter out and do not wait to be solicited but notify the pastor or some of the officials of the church that you desire to aid them in their undertaking. Make your contribution and do not be stingy about the amount of it. It all means keeping up with the advancement in the growth of our city, and everyone is interested."

Five years later, on April 28, 1915 the desirability of building a new church was discussed. It was moved that they proceed to build that year. Joseph A. Shannon, a local architect, and W.C. Fosburgh, contractor and a member of the church, were chosen for the new construction. The old building was torn down, nails pulled and lumber piled in four days at a cost of \$90.00. The lumber and nails were to be utilized in the new church. During the construction period morning services were held in the Episcopal Guild Hall. Sunday evening union services were with the Presbyterians in the court house. Dedication of the church was conducted May 20, 1917.

Joseph A. Shannon was Devils Lake's first bona fide architect. He was born in Edina, Missouri on March 21, 1859, and there he spent his boyhood. At the age of twenty he moved with his family to Beardsley, Minnesota where he worked as a carpenter. In 1886 he homesteaded near Bristol, South Dakota. For three years he was employed by the government as a carpenter at Fort Sisseton, South Dakota. For many years he engaged in building contracting. Little is known of the nature of his architectural

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Name of Property
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Significance, cont.

training. He was practicing architecture in Devils Lake by 1906 and, though he apparently claimed to possess no recognized architectural certificate or degree, he was one of the state's first architects to be granted licence to practice architecture under North Dakota's licensing law, which was passed in 1917. He served for three years as the president of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture. He resided in Devils Lake until his death on January 25, 1934.

Shannon is known to have designed seventeen buildings in the City of Devils Lake, fifteen of which remain standing. He designed the Bangs Block addition to the Bangs-Wineman Block, the Opera House, General Hospital, the Masonic Temple, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the Wickert-Shultz Building, the Carnegie Library, an addition to the North Dakota School for the Deaf building, the Fire Station #1, the Lake Chevrolet dealership garage, and St. Olaf Lutheran Church. He also designed many of the Farmers Grain and Shipping Company depots north of Devils Lake. A short biography in "Devils Lake Beautiful" published for the Devils Lake Commercial Club by the North American Publicity Bureau 1915-1916 states that most of Devils Lake's finest up-to-date buildings had been designed by Shannon as well as many fine homes. Of the many listed above, the Opera House and General Hospital have been razed.

Two Classical Revival stucco and brick bungalows (801 and 805 5th Street) were designed by Shannon and sold to new owners when completed. He also designed a two-story house at 524 7th Street, a Colonial Revival style stucco home.

Two brick bungalows of stucco lie on either side of this house are believed to be designed by Shannon. He also is thought to have designed the row house at 802 4th Ave. This four unit structure is of tan and brown brick with Classic Revival style detailing. Other Shannon designed homes in Devils Lake have not been documented.

The 1915 church exemplifies Shannon's work in the coloration of brick and cream terra cotta. A number of his building designs are classical revival using brick as his dominant material with arched windows and doors. A student of Shannon's work, Steve Martens, Associate Professor, North Dakota State University, and architecture history research consultant, outlines Shannon's work as "rigid as opposed to flowing ornament, close attention to entrances (often marked by a portico), favorite color harmonies with cream or deep maroon on brick, almost exclusive use of brick and symmetrical composition, flirtation with almost every popular style." These features

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property
RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

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Significance, cont.

seem to fit the design of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a good example of Classic Revival architecture.

The May 14, 1917 issue of the Devils Lake Journal stated,

“Many eastern people coming to North Dakota looking for locations, after they have looked over the farms and listened to a description of the fertility of our wonderful soil, ask to be shown the town where they will trade. One request often made is ‘show us your churches.’ Devils Lake has made considerable advancement in the last few years in public buildings and nowhere is this more noticeable than in the churches.”

Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church membership in 1917 was 146 members. Church school met after morning services with music from a newly formed orchestra. At some time (date unknown) a parsonage was built north of the church. It had no modern facilities. A new parsonage was constructed east of the church in 1921.

The Devils Lake Methodist Episcopal Church designed by Joseph A. Shannon is architecturally significant for its innovative design approach to the church layout in a configuration known as the “Akron Auditorium” church plan.¹ The extent to which Shannon was familiar with this innovative concept of religious architecture, and successful in implementing it twice, for two different congregations during the Second Dakota Boom, is a truly remarkable reflection of the architectural competency available so soon after establishment of the architectural profession in North Dakota. As emphasized in this nomination, Shannon was one of the very first registered (state licensed) architects in the state (where licensing of architects began in 1917, notably after completion of these two churches). Though Shannon proudly asserted the extent to which he had come by his professional competencies without benefit of formal academic education, nonetheless, his exposure to “leading edge” architectural thinking during his developmental training experiences as a carpenter in Minnesota and South Dakota had clearly prepared him well for innovative design practice that

¹Narrative regarding Akron Auditorium church plan attributed to Martens, Steve C., Associate Professor of Architecture at North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, private written communication to the nomination author and copied to the State Historic Preservation Office. (26 January 2008).

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Significance, cont.

reflects quite favorably on the early establishment of his profession in North Dakota. Historical analysis should not discount the possibility, either, that part of the design sophistication in the two Devils Lake churches may have come from (as-yet unidentified) published liturgical sources or from prior familiarity of the congregation's leaders with this church plan elsewhere in the region.

The earliest architectural conception of the Akron Plan² for churches is generally attributed to Lewis Miller, the Sunday School superintendent for a Methodist Episcopal congregation in Akron, Ohio, hence the name by which churches of this type have come to be known. Miller coordinated his vision through Akron architect George Kramer in the 1866-1870 design of a Methodist Episcopal church there. The church planning concept was based upon a more flexible sanctuary (built in a squarish, amphitheater configuration, often arranged with the sacristy and pulpit placed toward one corner) and increased emphasis on providing other extended amenities. This was a significant departure from the early, more traditional rectangular-nave basilica church plan of the type the Methodist Episcopalians were replacing in Devils Lake; a church building that was, at the time, scarcely 3 years old. Clearly, congregational leaders and church members aspired to a new way of delivering the "social gospel", based on liturgical philosophy extended from the Midwestern culture hearth onto a rapidly-growing and well-established, progressive community on the North Dakota prairie.

North Dakota architectural historian Ronald Ramsay has researched, written, and presented extensively on the Akron Plan churches as a liturgical innovation. He has further observed that the Devils Lake Methodist Episcopal Church is an excellent example of this type, architecturally "one of the best in this region". Other experts have written that the Akron church plan (which was most commonly associated with progressive Methodist Episcopal or Presbyterian congregations), was

"supremely adaptable space for other groups in the church. Weekday prayer meetings for men or women, missionary support group meetings,

²Narrative regarding Akron Auditorium church plan attributed to Martens, Steve C., Associate Professor of Architecture at North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, private written communication to the nomination author and copied to the State Historic Preservation Office. (26 January 2008).

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Significance, cont.

(secular) plays upholding Christian values staged in the auditorium, temperance meetings, ice cream socials, church fellowship suppers, and ladies circles could all be accommodated in the same flexible structure.”

James, Hudnut-Beumier; www.materialreligion.org/mansions/mansions.html.

The Akron Auditorium Church plan was most popular among evangelical Protestant congregations from 1880 through about 1914, placing the two Devils Lake churches near the end of the design's popularity. Churches of this type aspired to serve other civic, social and cultural needs of the community, through a doctrine referred to by Ramsay as “the social gospel”.

While the “squarish” exterior configuration of the church massing and its Romanesque stylistic details may be tip-offs to the building's connection with the Akron Auditorium plan, interior features and design details are the true measures of the building's architectural integrity and design sophistication. The wraparound balcony and orientation of pews and other religious furniture confirm the auditorium connection. Most significantly, the centralizing, domed ceiling and skylight feature clearly place this church building within the Akron plan tradition, which was as innovative for its approach to religious assembly as it was to architecture and construction. Churches of this innovative architectural type and method of construction featured, “an amphitheater style, with curved pews and aisles that radiate from the pulpit ... often the floor is ramped slightly, and the model seems to have been the late 19th century theater or opera house.” Often overflow spaces deploy from one or more sides of the sanctuary, either with broad openings or with the capability of screening.”

Again, it is tempting to speculate how a self-trained architect like Joseph A. Shannon would have come to be so familiar with this innovation in architectural thinking and stylistic character as to be able to successfully complete two such churches in the same community within a year's time. The churches are a fascinating study in contrasts, with the Methodist Episcopal Church being much more formal and imposing in its scale and details, than the more diminutive, human-scaled architectural expression of the nearby Presbyterian Church, while inwardly, their details and planning share so much in common. The ability to implement such an innovative approach to liturgical planning, while accurately representing the social and liturgical values of two congregations is, indeed, a powerful testimony to Joseph

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

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Significance, cont.

A. Shannon's architectural competencies, an observation further confirmed by his other extensive Devils Lake design work.

In 1929 the mortgage was paid off (only 14 years after original construction). Improvements were made over the years: a Hammond organ was purchased in 1937, a new heating system in 1944, a modern kitchen in 1946, and a Baldwin organ in 1982. A need for additional classrooms arose in 1955. Monies were raised and an educational building was begun in 1958. This church school building was attached to the north of the church and houses the pastor's office and Sunday school rooms in the basement.

In 1962 the local church became the only church in North Dakota to acquire a set of hand bells. Over the years the church has supported two bell choirs.

1968 brought about the change of the Methodist Episcopal Church to the United Methodist Church.

In 2005 a demand for handicap accessibility was studied. As a result an extension onto the east was created providing a street level entrance and an elevator to the sanctuary and basement.

Many prominent Devils Lake citizens have been members of the church. One son of the congregation, Randy Atherton, was ordained as a pastor. The church has a six generation family dating to Peter Haley who was involved in the building of the original church. Nettie Haley, sister of second generation Clarence Haley, was a founder of the First National Bank, a local prominent institution for over one hundred years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the first religious congregations in this area. It evolved from the original eleven members to 146 members when the 1915 church was built, to more than 300 members in the 1950's. There are now 222 members. While other congregations have come and gone, the Methodist Episcopal Church has remained a pillar of the religious life of the community.

The 1915 structure remains virtually intact as when it was built. Rather than express the philosophical relationship man has with God, the architecture of the church expresses the more secular aspects of religion. A distinct part of the mission of this church is its ministry of education and its architecture reflects a function of teaching

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Significance, cont.

rather than more metaphysical qualities architecturally expressed in other ecclesiastic buildings within the city of Devils Lake. The sanctuary remains the same with its simplicity and reverence. The light fixtures are the originals as are the pews. A tall pulpit chair and one pew from the prior wood frame church are used in the sanctuary. Special care has been taken to preserve the original stained glass windows.

The additions do not distract from the architectural integrity of the 1915 church. Rather they add educational facilities as well as special needs for the elderly. Before the 2005 addition there was discussion of razing the building, but members voted down this idea, thus preserving another fine example of Joseph A. Shannon's architectural design work. This church building is considered one of Shannon's better classical revival designs and one of his first ventures into designing religious structures.

The Devils Lake Methodist Episcopal Church is locally significant under Criterion C as an important example of the architectural skill and expertise of one of North Dakota's earliest architects (Shannon), and as an excellent example of the architectural planning principles and construction methods of the Akron Auditorium church design concept, reflecting important liturgical and cultural connections between Devils Lake and protestant church designs originating from sources in the established American Midwest.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property
RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

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Name of Property

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

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www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk3/ftp04/MQ44878.pdf

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property
RAMSEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

County and State

Section number 10 Page 19

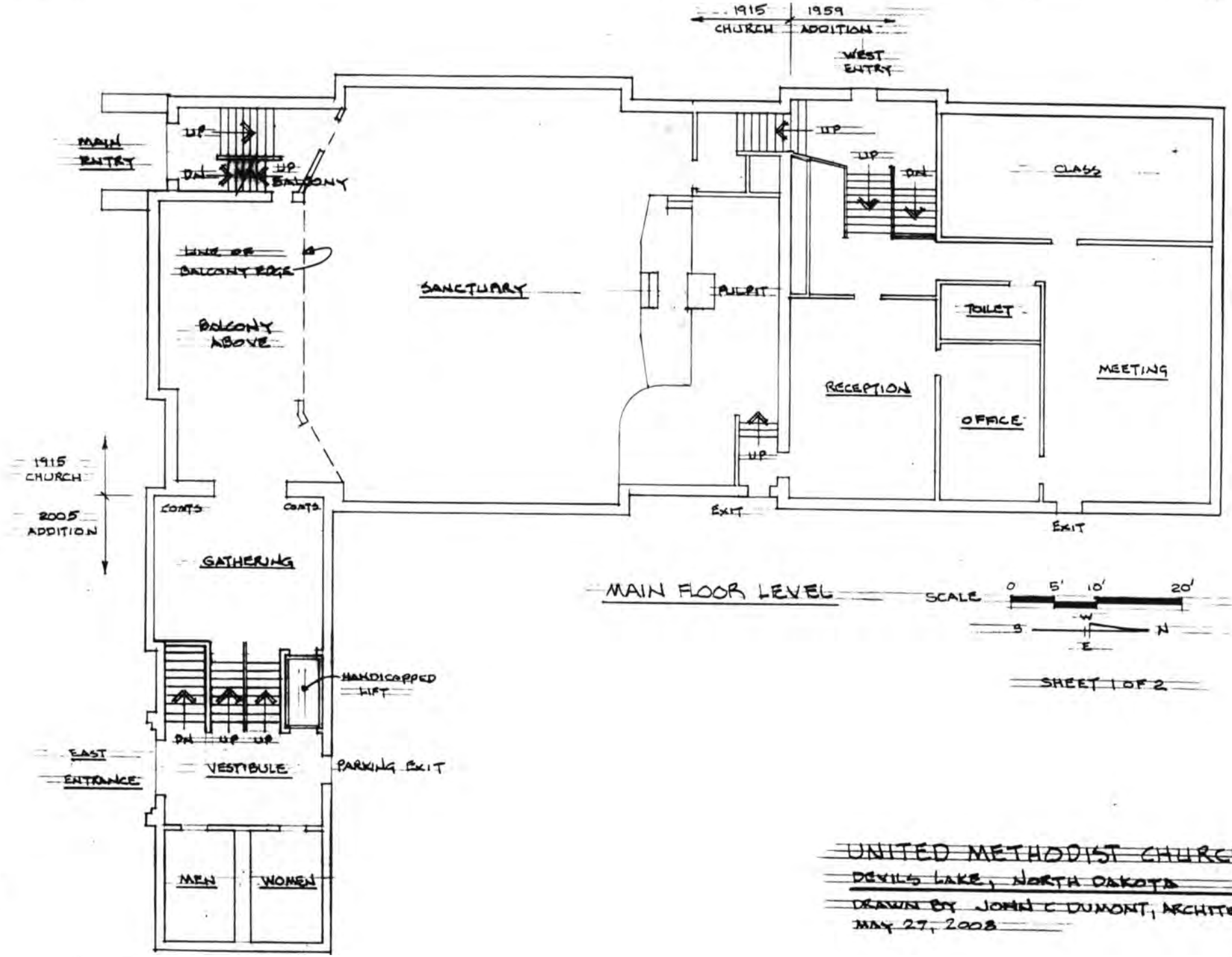
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property includes the building and land that occupies Lots 13 and 14, of Block 17, of the Original Townsite of Devils Lake, North Dakota. The boundaries that are used in this nomination are those legally accepted by the Ramsey County Recorder in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

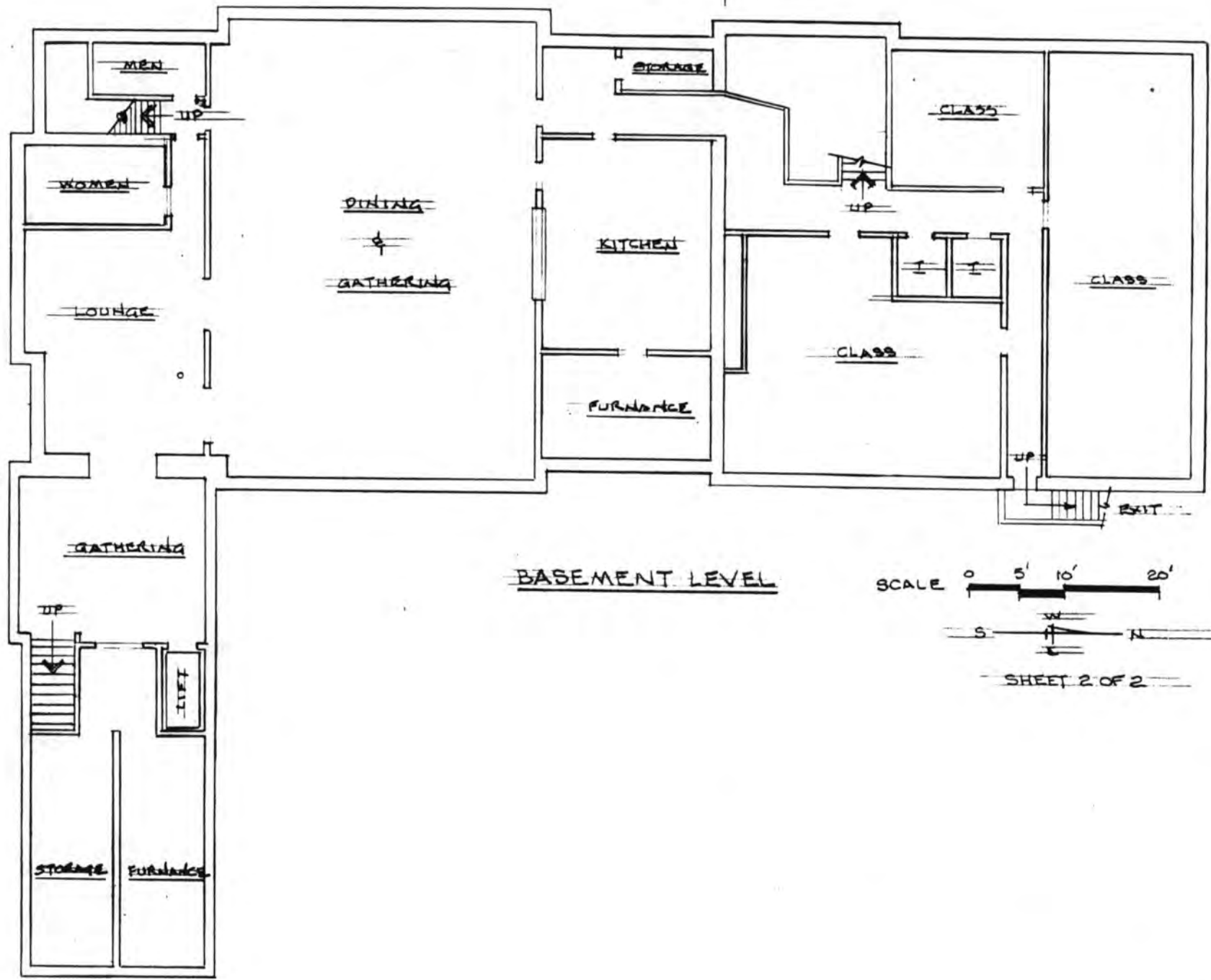
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATIONS

The church is located on all of the lot on the nominated property. The north, west and south boundaries are street and alley right of ways. The east boundary is adjacent to a private residence. The land of these lots is historically associated with the property.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA
 DRAWN BY JOHN C. DUMONT, ARCHITECT
 MAY 27, 2008

1915 1959
CHURCH ADDITION



1915 CHURCH
2005 ADDITION

BASEMENT LEVEL

SCALE 0 5' 10' 20'



SHEET 2 OF 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Methodist Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Ramsey

DATE RECEIVED: 6/04/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/25/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/10/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/18/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000680

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.16.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



 UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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RAMSEY, NORTH DAKOTA
ARIKA JOHNSON - STUDIO A
APRIL 28, 2007

STUDIO A

NORTH SIDE CAMERA POINTING SOUTH
1 of 6



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SOUTH SIDE CAMERA FACING NORTH
2 of 6



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EAST SIDE CAMERA POINTING SOUTHWEST

3 of 6



CROSS

THE
FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH
OF
MILWAUKEE
WISCONSIN

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4 of 6



Trust in the Lord with all your heart

PROVERBS 3:5

Enter His gate with Thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His love endures

PSALM 118:1

United Methodist Church
Ramsey, North Dakota

Honnie Hatten

April 1, 2008

Sanctuary, camera pointing North

5 of 6



United Methodist Church
Ramsey, North Dakota
Lonnie Laffen
April 1, 2008

Sanctuary, camera pointing
6 of 6 South

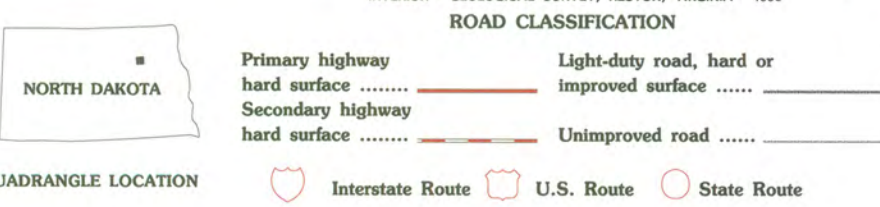
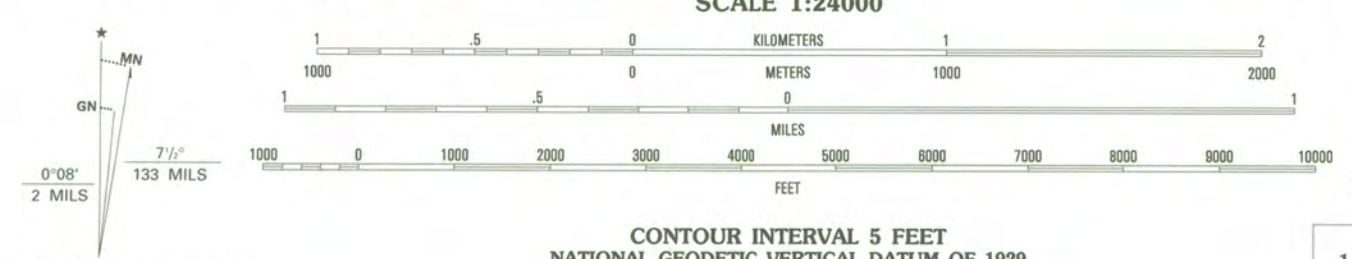
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DEVILS LAKE QUADRANGLE
NORTH DAKOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Methodist Episcopal Church
Ramsey County, ND
14 510664 5328934



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949. Topography by planimetric surveys 1949-50. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1990. Field checked 1995. Map edited 1994
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 14 10 000-foot ticks: North Dakota coordinate system, north zone
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geographic Survey NADCON software
Gray tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Grand Harbor
2 Sweetwater
3 Cray NW
4 Camp Grafton
5 Cray
6 Fort Totten
7 Tolia
8 Free Peoples Lake

DEVILS LAKE, N. DAK.
48098-A7-TF-024
1994
DMA 6280 III SE-SERIES V871

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
COMPLIES WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS FOR SPATIAL ACCURACY - CLASS 2
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND NORTH DAKOTA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**



John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

June 4, 2008

North Dakota
State Historical Board

TO: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
FROM: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./Amy Munson *AM*
DATE: June 4, 2008
SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks - President

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck - Vice President

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Valley City - Secretary

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Douglass Prchal
*Director
Parks and Recreation
Department*

Francis Ziegler
*Director
Department of Transportation*

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director

The following materials are submitted on June 4, 2008, for the nomination of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Devils Lake, ND, to the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
- Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
- 6 Photographs, black and white
- 1 Original USGS map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Piece of correspondence
- 1 Other: Photo CD

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums