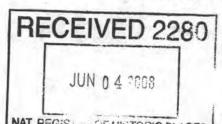
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# 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 tem by marking with the appropriate boy 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.

istoric nameWestminster Presbyterian Church  ther names/site number	code 071 zip code 58301
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Par	code 071 zip code 58301
itreet & number501 5th Street NE  ity or townDevils Lake  tateNDcountyRamsey  3. State/Federal Agency Certification  As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I herebyrequest for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Par	code 071 zip code 58301
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request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering prop Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Par	certify that this 🛛 nomination
□ nationally □ statewide ☒ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Merlan E. Paaverated □ Date  State Historic Preservation Official State of Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. (□ See Comments.)	cer (ND)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
Noticed Bark Samine Cartification	
. National Park Service Certification  hereby certify that the property is:  Signature of the Keeper	Date of A
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.	7-16-
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
Other, (explain:)	

Westminster	Presby	yterian	Church
Name of Property			

Ramsey, ND	5 2 cm
County and State	

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include pre	sources within Prop eviously listed resources in	erty n the count.)
X private	■ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
☐ public-local	☐ district	1	1	buildings
<ul><li>□ public-State</li><li>□ public-Federal</li></ul>	☐ site ☐ structure			sites
□ public-redetal	□ object	8 4	a with the	
				Total
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	property listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of colin the National	ntributing resources I Register	previously listed
N/A	100	0		
6. Function or Use			gride the said	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from	s instructions)	
Religion/Religious	Facility	Religion/Re	ligious Facility	у
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7. Description			EYERFOW,	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions	))	Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)	
Romanesque Revival		foundation <u>Concrete</u>		
	71 2	walls <u>Brick</u>		
		roof Asphalt	Shingles	
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		Outer		CIVAL TVILL

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

See 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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture
☐ 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.	Period of Significance Second Dakota Boom 1898-1915
<ul> <li>D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</li> </ul>	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1915
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	- MA
□ <b>D</b> a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ <b>F</b> a commemorative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.	Shannon, Joseph A., Architect
	Halliday, Jacob, Builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheet	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibilography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on	one or more continuation sheets (
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
<ul> <li>□ preliminary determination of individual listing (36</li> <li>□ CFR 67) has been requested</li> <li>□ previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>□ previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>□ designated a National Historic Landmark</li> </ul>	
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Lake Region Heritage Center

Westminster Presbyterian Church Name of Property	Ramsey, ND County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 0.32 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	See continuation sneet
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Susan Kinkle and John Dumont, Archi	tect
organization <u>DL Historic Pres. Comm.</u> , <u>Dumont &amp; A</u>	Assoc. date 10/29/07
street & number 1203 4th Ave NE, PO Box 631	telephone <u>701-662-3334</u> , 701-662-5570
city or town _ Devils Lake	state <u>ND</u> zip code <u>58301</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th	ne property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	aving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	e 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 Presbytery of the Northern Plains	

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.).

state ND

telephone \_701-772-0783

zip code \_\_58201

street & number 5555 S. Washington Suite A

city or town Grand Forks

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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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Description

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Building was built in 1915 in the town of Devils Lake, North Dakota. The church is located at the northeast area of the downtown, at the corner of fifth street northeast and fifth avenue northeast. The streets run east/west and avenues run north/south. The church is located on the northeast corner of the intersecting streets. The church front entry faces to the south. A congregational secondary entrance is located on the west side. A private office entrance is located on the east side.

The 1915 church replaced the prior wood-framed church structure located on this site. The old church was built in 1884 two blocks north of the present site, but relocated to the present site in 1892 and an addition added in 1893. A church manse was built east of the present church in 1909. This house was sold in the mid 1980s and moved to a new location on the west side of Devils Lake.

The present lot size is 100' wide at the front/rear and 140' deep at the sides of the lot. Buildings on the lot include the church building along the west side of the lot and a small tool shed at the rear northeast corner. The church is set back 40 feet from the front lot line and only a couple of feet at the west side.

#### Exterior

The 1915 church is approximately 43 feet wide at the front and 49 feet wide at the rear. The overall length is approximately 86 feet. The building is laid out in three main areas or parts: the main sanctuary or body of the church, the entry tower for stairs and landings, and the north offices/instructional area.

The building is brick with limestone trim. A stone water table separates the lower dark "base" from the upper structure. The top of the stone water table is level with the main floor.

Below the stone water table is charcoal colored, rug-cut brick, which extends down to the ground level. The standard pattern brick also incorporates three, 3/4" recessed horizontal bands. This occurs at each sixth course of the laid brick, forming a rusticated, heavy base for the building. Above the stone water table are lighter, rug-cut brick. The upper brick is laid in Flemish bond with red stretcher bricks and charcoal colored headers.

Stone is also used as windowsills and on the smaller rectangular windows, as headers, too. Stone caps accent the buttresses of the tower.

This 2-1/2-story building is dominated by a three-story bell tower nestled into the southwest corner of the church sanctuary. The tower is 12 feet x 12 feet. The tower houses the main entrance - a cavernous, arched doorway consisting of a pair of doors and a stained glass half-circle window above the doors. This cavernous treatment is achieved by corbelling the brick thus adding depth to the masonry work and thickness of the walls. Three arched-row header brick corbellings and two accent header rows nicely

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

Narrative Description (continued)

outline the main and west entrance windows.

The sanctuary serves as the main body of the church. The exterior dimensions of this area are approximately 43 feet wide x 54 feet deep. This section of the building is topped with a steep hipped roof. The church sanctuary is highlighted on the east, west, and south elevations with wall projections. The wall projections constitute about 50% of the wall mass and project about one foot. These projecting bays contain arched windows. At the exterior, the projections extend up to the roof in the form of gable ends intersecting well below the peak of the main hipped roof.

The office and instructional area at the north end of the church is only 1-1/2 stories. The area is 49 feet wide on the north elevation and 28 feet deep from the sanctuary to the north end. The hipped roof intersects the main roof. The north elevation has a raised center section to form a gable end. The peak of the gable is intersected by the exterior brick chimney and extends more than five feet out from the building wall.

The building style is *Romanesque Revival*. The characteristic features are the round arches used at the main windows, the congregational entrances, and the bell tower louvers. A dominant feature is the crenellation used at the parapet of the bell tower and at the east and west side entrances. Also common to this style was the use of the cavernous entryways. These are evident in this church at the main front entry and at the front entry window at the west elevation of the bell tower. Other features of this architectural style are the asymmetrical facades, the thick masonry walls, brick, and stone.

#### Interior

As you enter the church, you are at a mid-level landing. The main feature of the entry is a large, stained glass window to the left (west) that provides natural light to the landing. The window is comprised of a rectangular stained glass sash topped by a half circle stained glass sash (matching that over the entry doors). The door stained glass is patterned with vertical rectangular stained glass panels. The colors of the panels are green and rose. They are outlined at the perimeter with darker green and brown panels. This window over the door is an abstract design. The matching west wall upper arch window has a central circular emblem of a torch of fire held in a hand with a banner and the words: "The Lord Is My Light." The lower unit has a picture of a stem of four Lily flowers and a bud at the top. The stained glass pattern and colors are carried consistently throughout the rest of the stained glass windows of the church.

The mid-level landing has stairs going up to the main level (50 inches) and down to the basement (82 inches). The floor baseboards and wood railings are dark, heavy wood. The baseboard leads up the stairs to the main level. It is also used throughout the main level.

On the main level, you can enter the church or turn to the right, climb more steps and reach the balcony

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Description (continued)

level. The sanctuary is entered through a pair of wooden doors. As you enter the main sanctuary, you are faced with a balcony on the west and south sides. The chancel is located in the northeast corner.

The sloping floor and curved pews focus attention on the northeast chancel. The asymmetrical plan is, again, part of the *Romanesque Revival* style. The north end of the sanctuary opens to an all-purpose room, used as an overflow for the congregation and instructional purposes when closed off by the wooden folding doors.

The ceiling of the main sanctuary is accented by a large octagon (8 sides) domed structure. The dome is framed in wood trim with a dental accent in the middle of the trim. The dome has a circular stained glass window that is lighted with a roof sky light. The rest of the dome is plaster. The center portion of the stained glass supports the base of a pendant light. The light is supported by chain links from the base to the lamp structure itself; the light is the main light for the sanctuary. The glass shape is an upside-down bell shape in frosted glass. The rest of the lighting is small fixtures – three or four per side. Each is a chain pendant with an upside-down open bottom flower, clear etched glass.

The ceiling is finished in plaster with beam-like shapes outlining the dome; four main beams that extend to the outer walls and are met with pilaster columns up against the walls. The pilaster columns are located at the transition of the main building walls and the wall projections. This occurs about at quarter points of each wall length.

The sanctuary baseboard is wood. The flooring is carpet over a wood floor and a wood wainscot is located waist high and surrounds the interior of the church. The wainscot also serves as the sill to the windows, which are framed out in dark oak wood.

The main windows to the sanctuary area are in two parts. The top arched stained glass windows and the bottom portion rectangular stain glass windows. The two distinctive glass areas are separated by a 24" horizontal framing member. The top portion of the window serves to light the balcony levels and the upper part of the sanctuary and the lower rectangular windows serve to light below the balconies and the lower portions of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary stained glass windows incorporate pictures. The east window has a picture of Jesus with seven lambs and the west window has an emblem of an anchor with a banner inscribed with the word "Hope". The south stained glass window picture has seven-grain stems with a banner inscribed with the words "I Am the Bread of Life".

The face of the sanctuary balconies is heavily laden with wood trim from the base of framing to the rail height. The trim is accented with wood dental trim matching the dome dental trim.

The north end portion of the building is used for offices, a family lounge/meeting room, and a multipurpose room.

The basement is very typical of this period and has a large fellowship room for meetings and dinners. A kitchen to prepare large meals is on the south side along with a smaller meeting room. A men's room

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Description (continued)

and a women's room are located near the main stairs. The north area has several rooms – two instructional and one storage room. The side stairs are located immediately between the main building and the north section of the church.

The west side entrance is entered at mid-level and leads up to the main level at the office area and to the lower basement level. In addition, these stairs lead to the west balcony.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

The present Westminster Presbyterian Church was built in 1915. The 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 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 Midwest. The church is a locally prominent landmark that derives its significance from the principal area of architecture. Devils Lake architect Joseph A. Shannon designed the Church. It is architecturally significant in the context of local architecture during the period of 1898-1915, the Second Dakota Boom. Arriving in Devils Lake in 1902, Shannon left an impressive legacy of noteworthy designs in the city. The church is the best example of Romanesque Revival in Devils Lake. While classical motifs were being rejected per se by designers of the Chicago school's persuasion, the strength of that movement lay in its being nearly free of historical derivation, the church was designed with a three-story bell tower, a cavernous, arched doorway and arched windows and thick masonry walls. A resurgence of the Romanesque Revival style occurred in other parts of the country in the 1870's and 1880's mainly brought on by Henry Richardson. To quote William Gray Purcell in the January 1913 issue of The Western Architect one gets a sense of the direction architectural design was heading in the early part of the century:

"We cannot claim for our own use the Dynamics of the Architecture of the various nations of the past. The Dynamics of the Greek Architecture was purely personal matter with the Greek—it belongs to him, and he—he is long since dead; so is the Roman dead and so is the medieval romanticist dead. Why should we have the cerements of by-gone architectures habiting our new problems, our fresh, vital, instinctive Architectural work? We are not playing fair with our minds and so not playing fair with the helpless Static forms of building."

The Westminster Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant for its innovative design approach to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Work of Joseph A. Shannon, Architect, page 4, 1971.

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# Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

the church layout in a configuration known as the "Akron Auditorium" church plan. The extent to which Shannon was familiar with this innovative concept of religious architecture and successfully 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 field of architecture in North Dakota. Shannon was one of the first registered architects in the state (where licensing began in 1917, notably after completion of the church). Shannon proudly asserted the extent to which he had come by his professional competencies without benefit of formal academic education. Training experiences as a carpenter in Minnesota and South Dakota had clearly prepared him well for innovative design practice that reflects quite favorably on the beginning 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 (Westminster Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal) 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 concept of the Akron Plan for churches is generally attributed to Lewis Miller<sup>2</sup>, 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 sacristy (built in a squarish amphitheater, 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 Presbyterians were replacing in Devils Lake. Truly, 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. 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, (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." The Akron Auditorium Church plan was most popular among evangelical Protestant congregations from 1880 through about 1914, placing the Westminster Presbyterian and the Methodist Episcopal churches near the end of the design's popularity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James, Hudnut-Beumier, <u>www.materialreligion.org/mansions/mansions.html.</u> January 26, 2008.

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#### Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

While the "squarish" exterior configuration of the church massing and its Romanesque stylistic details may be clues 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 feature clearly places this church building within the Akron plan tradition, which was as thoughtful for its approach to religious assembly as it was to architecture and construction. Churches of this 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. 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".

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 nearby Methodist Episcopal Church being much more formal and imposing in its scale and details, than the more diminutive, human-scaled architectural expression of the 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 A. Shannon's architectural competencies, an observation further confirmed by his other extensive Devils Lake design work.

Lt. Heber N. Creel established Devils Lake, the county seat of Ramsey County, in 1882 as Creelsburgh. It was renamed Creel City in 1883 and subsequently renamed Devils Lake in 1884. In 1915-1916, Devils Lake was a thriving prosperous city of approximately 6,000 and the business hub of the Lake Region Community, a commercial area of 7,500 square miles. It was situated on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern Railway and on the Soo Line. In addition there were connections to various smaller lines combined with the fact that Devils Lake was home to the main shops of the Great Northern Railway. In 30 years there had developed a city with all modern improvements of 25 miles of paved sidewalks and 70 miles of excellent streets, a five cluster lighting system, fire department, 8 1/2 miles of sewage systems, churches of every denomination, magnificent lodge homes, schools, library, hotels, theater and hospitals.

Among the priorities of early settlers coming to Devils Lake were the building of schools and churches. The first public school opened on November 5, 1883, in a lower level building located at the corner of Farrington Avenue and Fourth Street. Except for a few trees around the shores of Devils Lake, the prairies remained unbroken and treeless for miles. The Manitoba Railroad had progressed as far as Bartlett, 20 miles east. The remainder of the journey to Devils Lake was made by horse, stage or foot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James, Hudnut-Beumier, <u>www.materialreligion.org/mansions/mansions.html</u>, January 26, 2008.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

The Rev. Henry G. Smith, a young Presbyterian seminarian from Union Seminary, New York City, came to preach the gospel on the Dakota Frontier in the spring of 1883. He conducted the first religious service held in Devils Lake on May 29, 1883. He writes in 1933,

"In the early evening of Friday, May 18, 1883, I arrived by train at Bartlett, some 20 miles east of Devils Lake. I drove across the unbroken prairie, with long lines of fire on the horizon and with white skulls and skeletons of scores of slaughtered buffaloes beside the road. I arrived at Benham's Hotel, Devils Lake City, about midnight and met James V. Brooke, Mayor of the city."

#### He continues,

"I slept in a cot in the large upper room. At daybreak there was commotion. A playful gentleman was pulling every man out of his cot by his boots, though considerably sparing me, a timid young Tenderfoot, an inexperienced New England Provincial. Such was my introduction to the Frontier! On Saturday I met a number of persons interested in the formation of a church (in Creel City), and posted the enclosed Notice of the Service. There were about fifty people at that First Service. "Parson" Requa, of Stuart and Requa's Saloon started the hymns. He looked more like a parson than I did."

With spring's progression, settlers began arriving in droves to claim the 160 acres of land that the government was offering for filing a claim and living on the land for six months. With the farmers also came the land speculators, business and professional men, saloonkeepers and others who were anxious for a new way of life.

A meeting was called on May 29, 1883 to take steps towards organizing a Presbyterian congregation. The Grand Forks Presbytery had approved a petition requesting the organization. "It had thirty-five names, including Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and perhaps other denominations," session records indicate. At its organizational meeting in September the congregation made plans to build a church. The new congregation held its first services in the Townsite building at the corner of Fourth Street and Kelly Avenue, next in the Ovill building, and later in the Parsons building on Fourth Street. The railroad reached Devils Lake in July 1883, which helped the population grow to nearly 700.

"For the past few days, a subscription paper has been passed among our residents for raising funds for the erection at Devils Lake of a Presbyterian Church on the lots southeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Farrington

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ramsey County Centennial Book, Volume 1, page 154.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ramsey County Centennial Book, Volume 1, page 155.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Avenue donated by the Townsite Company. The purpose is to erect a structure to cost \$1,500. \$500 of this amount will be given as a donation by the Presbyterian Board of Education. Of the residue, \$1,000, about \$800 has been subscribed, and the committee in charge has not yet completed their canvas of the town, and feel confident in securing the amount desired. They do not believe in church debts and are not disposed to contract any. They speak in warm commendation of the liberality by our residents, and trust to be able at once to begin the erection of the church, so that it may be ready for use at the earliest day practicable. Although denominational in name, the purpose is to pursue a liberal policy and hold unions' services, as non-sectarian in character as practicable; or when desired for special services of other denominations to grant the use of the building to them. The use of the church building will be granted to the School Trustees, free of charge for public school purposes, if they desire it. The building committee state that a frame church can be built, dimensions 28 x 42, plastered, painted and complete, with the exception of a tower for \$1,500. A Ladies Aid Society has been organized, and they will greatly help toward furnishing the church." Articles of incorporation were issued October 25, 1883.

The first service was held on the first Sunday in February 1884, five months after the church was organized. Growth was slow the first ten years; perhaps because the population of the city fluctuated and churches of other denominations were being built. The church was moved to the present location in 1892 after the site was purchased for \$500. An addition was added in 1893.

The original church was busting at the seams when the decision was made to build a new one in 1915. Membership was at 231 adults and 152 Sunday school children. Joseph A. Shannon was hired as the architect and Jacob Halliday as the contractor. Little is know of Jacob Halliday. Shannon was among membership of Westminster Presbyterian Church and was Devils Lake's first bona fide local architect. He arrived in town in 1902. His period of influence occurred between 1902 and 1920. His designs tended to follow the Classical Revival style, popular in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As well as the Presbyterian Church, Shannon designed the Bangs Block addition to the Bangs-Wineman Block, the Opera House, General Hospital, the Carnegie Library, the Methodist Church, an addition to the North Dakota School for the Deaf, 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. The Opera House and General Hospital are no longer extant. 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.

Shannon was born on March 21, 1859 in Edina, Missouri, where he spent his boyhood. He resided in Devils Lake from 1902 until his death on January 25, 1934. His body of work extended from Devils Lake, across North Dakota and into regions of South Dakota and Minnesota. His projects suggest a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>Devils Lake Inter-Ocean</u>, September 8, 1883, Religious Notes.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

high degree of architectural literacy and the ability to work in a variety of idioms. The Dickey Library in Jamestown documents the period of Prairie School design in vogue in the upper Midwest and demonstrated Shannon's ability to adapt the principles of his contemporaries. He made application for a license to practice architecture in North Dakota even though he claimed to possess no recognized certificate. Chronologically the first mention we have of Shannon is with the firm of Boyd and Shannon in Devils Lake in early 1906. Shannon attended the first meetings at which the Architectural Licensing Laws for North Dakota were drawn up in 1914-1917.

On April 28, 1915, the Ladies Aid served a supper as the last social event held in the church. The next day the razing started in full force. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on Thursday, July 29, 1915. It was a gift from J.B. Elliot of Sheldon, IA. He represented the Sheldon Marble Company. Devils Lake and most of the smaller towns were undergoing the transition from wood buildings to more substantial materials as late as the 1920's. The Pastor at the time was the Reverend Albert Torbet. Mr. Torbet listed the items placed in the cornerstone as follows: "a copy of the latest minutes of the Synod of North Dakota, a Presbyterian handbook, a photograph of the former church, an amethyst, a Foreword, a copy of each of the city newspapers, five of his printed sermons, a church history and certain other articles." Reverend Stinson of the Methodist Episcopal Church gave a greeting as well as Reverend Graham from the Fargo Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Hanson of the Bethel Free Church pronounced the Benediction. In addition the Ladies Aid served a dinner in which all the food had to be transported from home. The congregation worshipped in the courthouse while the building was constructed.

The new church was dedicated on December 5, 1915 with services both morning and evening. Dr. B.H. Kroeze, president of Jamestown College gave both sermons. An offering was received for the building fund at both services and the Devils Lake Journal reported that \$2,000 or \$3,000 was received. The Methodist Congregation joined in the special service.

For almost three years a fundraiser was held to purchase a two-manual Estey pipe organ. It was purchased and installed in February 1920. Organ recitals were given for two evenings before the Sunday dedication service. Leland McEwen, master organist, played while the choir and various soloists assisted with the programs. After being severely damaged from water leaking in from the roof, the church replaced it with its present Allen electronic organ in 1959.

Westminster church organized the first Sunday school for youth in the city almost immediately after being organized. Children from other churches also attended. 1909 there enrolled 135 children and at the peak in 1927, 340 attended regularly.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Work of Joseph A. Shannon, Architect, page 2, 1971.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> One Hundred Years of Worship And Witness 1883-1983, 1983.

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

#### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Women have been an integral part in the success of the church. The Ladies Aid was organized the first year, and they raised money to purchase stoves, chandeliers and an organ for the first church of 1884. A Woman's Missionary Society was organized the second Tuesday of February 1884. In 1887 a Young Ladies Guild came into being. In 1950, these three groups combined to form what is now called the United Presbyterian Women. This organization embodies the purposes of the other three – Bible studies, mission education and support and support for local congregation needs.

Presbyterianism is of British origin following the doctrines and practice of Calvinist churches. Reformed churches are the Calvinistic churches of continental European origin. More precisely, Presbyterianism is the form of government of these churches. They are distinctive in two major ways: they adhere to a pattern of religious thought known as Reformed theology and a form of government that stresses the active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members. Reformed theology evolved during the 16<sup>th</sup> century religious movement known as Protestant Reformation. The emphasis on God's supremacy over everything and humanity's chief purpose being to glorify and enjoy God forever. 9

A major contributor to Reformed theology was John Calvin, who converted from Roman Catholicism after training for the priesthood and in the law. In exile in Geneva, Switzerland, Calvin developed the Presbyterian pattern of church government, which vests governing authority primarily in elected laypersons known as elders. The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek for elder. Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Presbyterian 101, <u>www.pcusa.org/101/101</u>, September 8, 2007.

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# Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

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# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

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#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

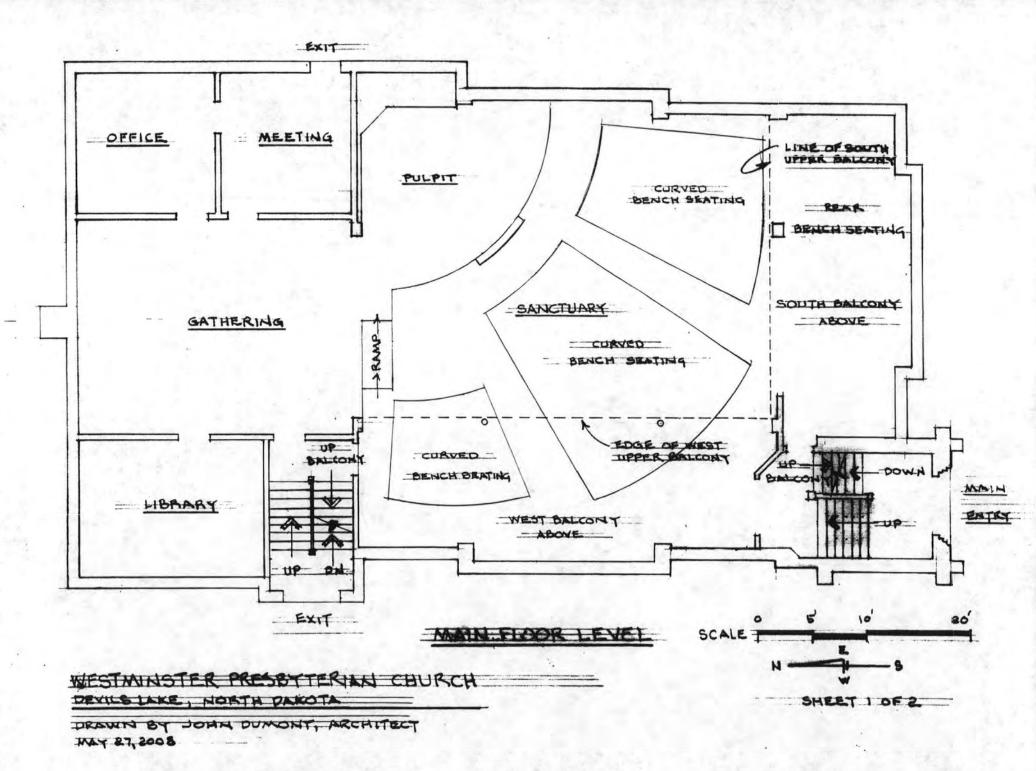
The property includes the building and land that occupies the Old Town Block 18 Lots 13 - 16 of the City of Devils Lake. The boundaries that are used in this nomination are those legally accepted by the Ramsey County Register of Deeds in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

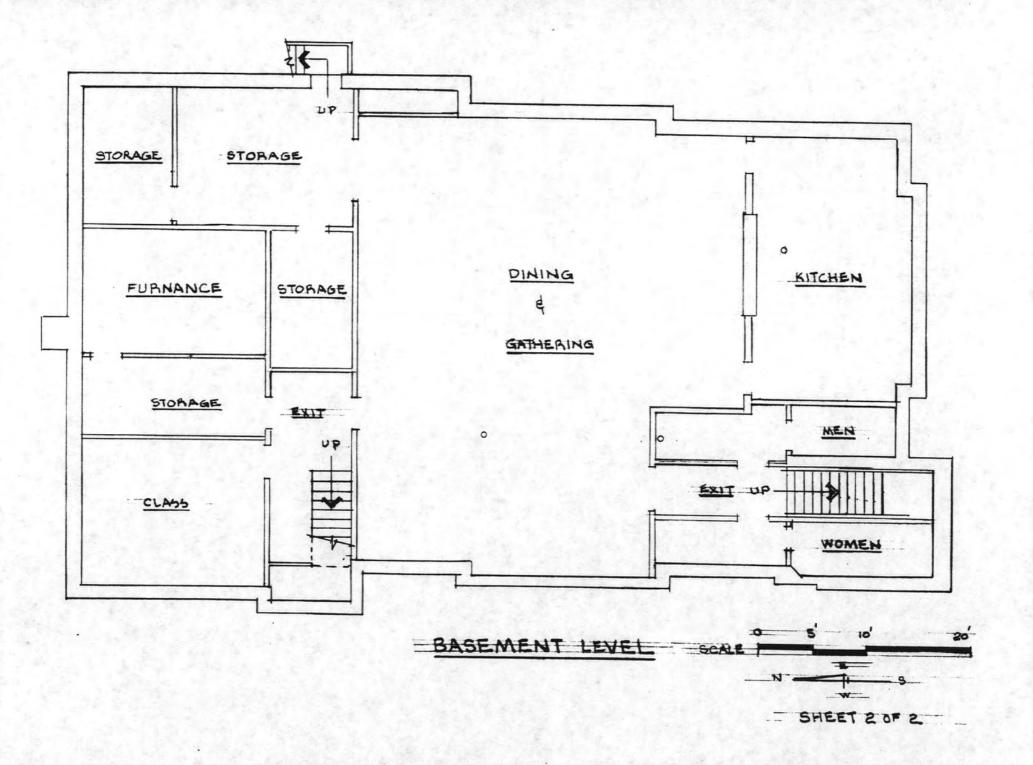
Section number 10 Page 15

Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota

## **Boundary Justification**

The Westminster Presbyterian Church is located on southwest end of the nominated property. It is bordered on the north by an alley, Fifth Avenue northeast on the west, and Fifth Street northeast to the south. The land in these lots is historically associated with the property.





# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

NOMINATION

REQUESTED ACTION:

PROPERTY Westminster Presbyterian Church NAME:
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: 08000679
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET
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
VACCEPT 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.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAMSEY, NORTH DAKOTA
ARIKA JOHNSON - STUDIO A
APRIL 28, 2007
STUDIO A
SOUTH SIDE CAMERA POINTING NORTH



WESTMINISTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAMSEY, NORTH PAKOTA
ARIKA JOHNSON - STUDIO A
APRIL 28, 2007
STUDIO A
EAST SIDE CAMERA POINTING WEST



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAMSEY, NORTH DAKOTA
ARIKA JOHNSON - STUDIO A
APRIL 28, 2007
STUDIO A
WEST SIDE CAMERA POINTING EAST

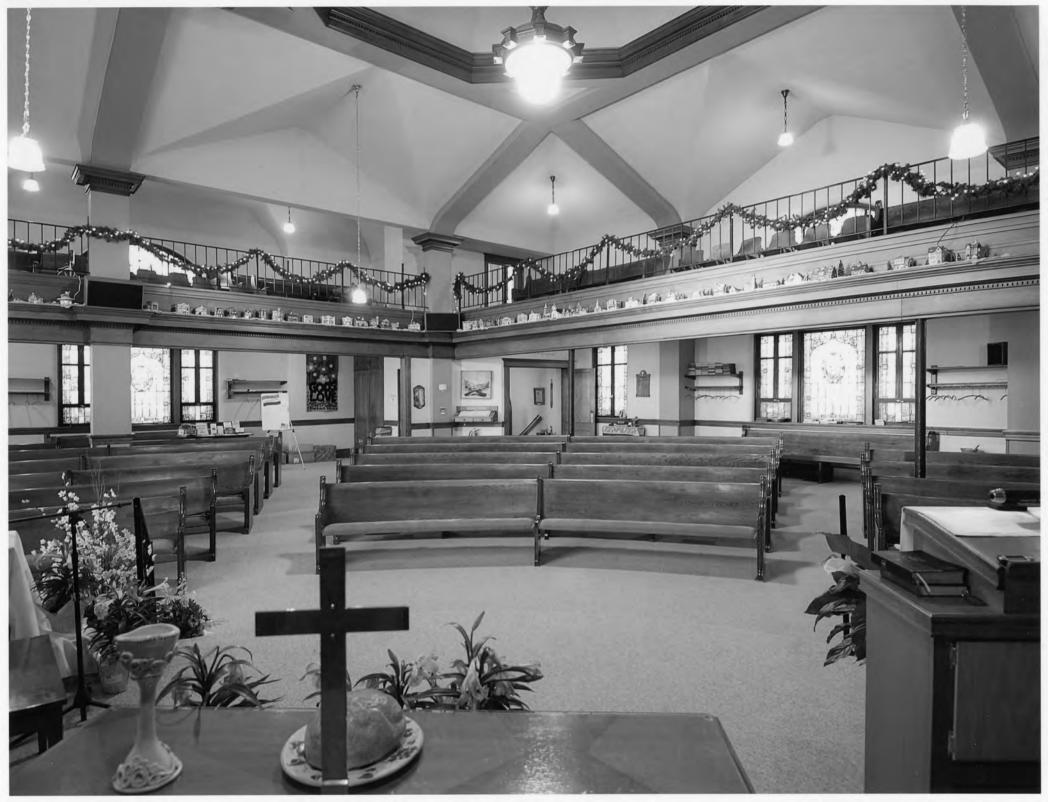


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAMSEY, NORTH PAKOTA
ARIKA JOHNSON - STUDIO A
APRIL 28, 2007
STUDIO A
NORTH SIDE CAMERA POINTING SOUTH



Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota Lonnie Laften April 1, 2008 Sanctuary, camera pointing west

5 of 7



Westminster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Daketa Konnie Latten Cipril 1, 2008 Sanctuary, camera pointing SW 6 of 7



West minster Presbyterian Church Ramsey, North Dakota Lonnie Lafter April 1, 2008 Sanctuary from balcony Camera pointing West 7 of 7





TO:

JUN 0 4 2008

NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

John Hoeven Governor of North Dakota

North Dakota State Historical Board

Albert I. Berger Grand Forks - President

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Douglass Prchal Director Parks and Recreation Department

Francis Ziegler Director Department of Transportation

> Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Director

Accredited by the American Association of Museums

FROM:	Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./Amy Munson
DATE:	June 4, 2008
SUBJECT:	National Register Nomination
	g materials are submitted on June 4, 2008, for the nomination of aster Presbyterian Church, Devils Lake, ND to the National
Register of H	listoric Places
archival pape	National Register of Historic Places nomination form on
	Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
7_	_ Photographs, black and white
_1	Original USGS map(s)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Photo CD

Piece of correspondence

Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

# COMMENTS:

-	Please insure that this nomination if rev	riewed
	_ This property has been certified under 3	36 CFR 67
0 - 1	The enclosed owner objections do majority of property owners	do not constitute a

Other:

Other: