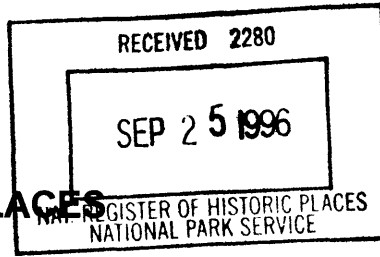


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mary's School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 220 E. 3rd Street not for publication
city or town Elkton vicinity _____
state SD code SD county Brookings code 011 zip code 57026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Gary D. Vogt 09-16-96
Signature of certifying official Date

SD SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

name of property St. Mary's School

county and state Brookings, SD

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper: [Handwritten Signature: Edson H. Beall] Date of Action: 10.24.96

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): _____

Entered in the National Register

=====
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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 1.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

name of property St. Mary's School

county and state Brookings, SD

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Church school

Multiple horizontal lines for entering additional historic functions.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: multiple dwelling

Multiple horizontal lines for entering additional current functions.

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque: Late Victorian
Romanesque Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation poured concrete and brick
roof clay tile
walls brick
other _____

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

name of property St. Mary's School

county and state Brookings, SD

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion & Architecture

Education

Period of Significance 1918-1946

name of property__St. Mary's School

county and state Brookings, SD

Significant Dates 1917

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown(Firm out of Chicago)

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Sunrise Development Inc.

name of property St. Mary's School county and state Brookings, SD

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 14 701260 4900835 3 _____
2 _____ 4 _____
_____ See continuation sheet.

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

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Ron Fesler with technical assistance by the SHPO staff
organization Sunrise Development Inc. date 11-3-95
street & number P. O Box 426 telephone 605/692-2500
city or town Brookings state SD zip code 57006

=====

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)

name of property St. Mary's School county and state Brookings, SD

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Sunrise Development Inc.

street & number P O Box 426 telephone 605/692-2500

city or town Brookings state SD zip code 57006

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Narrative Description:

St. Mary's school is a two-and-one-half story brick building built in the Romanesque Revival style in the early 1900s. The rectangular structure, measures approximately 50' x 100' with fourteen-inch thick four course red brick walls outlined and finished with light brown sandstone quoins. The gable roof is highlighted with Romanesque-style parapets, orange and brown clay tile, and eight shed dormers sided with wood shingles. The north, or front, facade is capped with a sandstone cross on top of a projecting gable.

The interior wall finish is lath plaster on the brick outer walls and 2" x6" wood framing with lath plaster finish. The floor joists are 2" x 14" Douglas fir supported by a basement level beam of 5 - 3 x 14 bridge timbers bolted together on 36" x 36" brick pillars. The roof system is heavily constructed with framing material 12" on center to support the weight of the tile roof and the heavy snow falls of South Dakota winters.

The Romanesque arches over the windows and doors. Fanlight window sash over is highlight. The eight dormers set into the clay tile roof line provide light for an upper floor area that served as school and community auditorium.

The basement area was divided into four rooms that once served as a boiler room, a chapel, and lunch rooms. The main floor was divided into four large classrooms with chalk boards on two walls and a large clothes closet on the hall side of each room. The upper floor area is reached by a wide Douglas fir stairway. The interior trim is simple and utilitarian. The doors are paneled fir, and the jambs, trims, and transoms are constructed of the same material. The base trim is 10" - high Douglas fir, and the window trim appears to be Douglas fir and yellow pine. Each classroom was trimmed with picture railing around the perimeter of the 12' high walls from which to hang pictures and other teaching aids.

The exterior of the building has been largely unaltered since its original construction. Vandals broke the glass out of every window and all the interior light fixtures. Graffiti was written on the chalkboards and holes were knocked in the interior walls. The dormer roofs had deteriorated, allowing water into the structure. The exposure to outside elements caused damage to the walls, ceiling, trim, and flooring. In spite of the substantial neglect, the building remained structurally sound enough to be rehabilitated while maintaining its historical integrity.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Narrative Statement of Significance:

St. Mary's School is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. St. Mary's School is historically significant for its long association with the development of Elkton, South Dakota and as the first accredited parochial school in South Dakota. Since its construction in 1917, the building has served the community, as school, church, theater, and social gathering place. The building is significant architecturally for being the only example of Romanesque Revival-style in Elkton. The building has been neglected in recent years, but restoration has provided it with a new purpose as an apartment building.

Historic Background

A four-story convent, boarding, and day school was built in 1899 for \$7,000. In 1917, the Presentation Sisters built, St. Mary's School, costing \$42,000 to supplement the older structure. It was dedicated in 1918. St. Mary's continued the tradition of Catholic education in the community that had begun in 1890 and opened its doors to "children of all creeds" (Mother Gertrude's 1939 Reminiscences). The school taught children of grade school ages and in late 1918 also had high school courses accredited by the State Department of Education. St. Mary's was the first parochial school in South Dakota to be accredited.

The grand opening of St. Mary's in 1918 featured a Ladies Guild sale of fancy articles, a community feast, and a "Merry dance" in the "mammoth hall" located on the second floor of the building. A newspaper article from 1918 praised the complex as: "a block of beautiful buildings and grounds (the school, church, rectory, and convent) seldom seen outside of large cities. A grand monument to future generations!" The new structure of fifty by one hundred feet is a modern work of architecture and high class workmanship with a basement, first and second stories. The entire building is electric-lighted, well ventilated, furnished with hot and cold water and complete sewage."

St. Mary's high school classes were in operation during the years 1918 through 1933 inclusive. An aggregate of 180 students received high school diplomas. After struggling along during the depression, the pastorate and trustees decided to close St. Mary's in 1934, hoping to reopen the school when conditions improved. In 1950, the school re-opened under Father Shean for grades one through eight. An average of 100 pupils attended yearly during the next for the sixteen years. A new school and parish was built in 1966. The new school was located a few block away. After the school was closed in 1966, it became a target of vandals and the victim of neglect. An attempt was made in 1985 to convert two rooms in the basement area to a mushroom-growing operation. The concept was abandoned in 1988. Vandals broke the glass out of every window and all the interior light fixtures. Graffiti was written on the chalkboards and holes were knocked in the interior walls.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 8,9,10 Page 3

The dormer roofs had deteriorated, allowing water into the structure. The exposure to outside elements caused damage to the walls, ceiling, trim, and flooring. In spite of the substantial neglect, the building remained structurally sound enough to be rehabilitated while maintaining its historical integrity.

St. Mary's School had an immeasurable influence on the lives of its graduates and the Elkton community. Many students boarded at the school, which became their "home away from home." The auditorium was the setting for many community activities, including dances, plays, community meetings, graduations, fund raisers, and reunions. Both Catholics and non-Catholics attended these functions and the school itself. In the early 1990s, school and adjacent structures were, without a doubt, one of the largest and most impressive religious and educational complexes found in the eastern Dakotas and western Minnesota.

Bibliography:

Resources: Elkton Register, September 1918 issue

Parish History: "Our Lady of Good Counsel: 1879 to 1979"

Published 1981: Watertown Public Opinion pages 2 to 53

St. Mary's School news: Volume II, No. 1, pages 1: March 8, 1923

Phone interview with Father McPhillips: 9-10-95

notes with applicant

Rectory office 9-12-95, interviewed Sister Alice.

notes with applicant

Phone interview with Sister Marlene, Elkton, SD

Rectory 9-15-95 notes with applicant

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1 to 5, block 7, Government Addition within the city limits of Elkton, SD

Boundary Justification: To comply with original and current plat maps of Elkton, SD 57026