

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 27 1986

date entered DEC 1 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church (NeHBS # BF05-124)

and/or common St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**2. Location**

street & number 2304 Second Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Kearney N/A vicinity of

state Nebraska code 31 county Buffalo code 019

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish

street & number 2304 Second Avenue

city, town Kearney N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Buffalo County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Kearney state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, constructed in 1908, is located in Kearney, Nebraska (1980 population 21,751). This brick veneer, Gothic Revival structure displays many characteristics that typify the style. The church has a modern semi-attached fellowship hall which is considered a non-contributing addition to this property. Structural and historical integrity has been maintained in the original 1908 structure. This nomination includes one contributing and one non-contributing building.

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St. Luke's church is an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style of architecture. Rectangular in plan, the brick veneer building features a square corner entrance tower with crenelated parapet housing a belfry. The exterior of the church is adorned with concrete trim and Early English buttresses. Typical Gothic window openings penetrate the building. A covered stairway to the basement (original to the building) is located on the south wall of the church. The building has a slate roof.

The interior of St. Luke's is in its original condition. The church measures 132 by 48 feet with a 34 by 32 foot chancel located at the west end of the building. Along the north side of the nave is a side aisle or arcade. This space measures 14 feet wide and is separated from the main seating space by a line of Gothic arches supported by columns (see photo #3). On the south side of the nave near the chancel area is a small space, again separated by a round-arched arcade. This area is partially situated over the outside entrance and stairway to the basement and provides a feeling of openness near the altar. The ceiling of the church is open to the rafters and sheathing. The exposed timbers form a hammer-beam roof typically found in old English Gothic churches. A rood beam supporting the crucifix spans the nave.

The only alteration of any consequence on the exterior is the replacement, in the early 1980's, of the multifoil mullions in the belfry by 6-paned glass panels.

A breezeway connects St. Luke's church to a modern brick fellowship hall located north of the church building (photo #2). The hall is considered a non-contributing addition to this property.

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Integrity

Structural and historical integrity have been preserved in this property despite the addition of the partially connected fellowship hall. The church building itself is virtually unaltered both internally and externally. Care was taken when planning the fellowship hall to use brick construction in a compatible design.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1909	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1908-09 **Builder/Architect** John Sutcliffe

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kearney is locally significant as a fine example of the late Gothic Revival style of architecture, not readily found in Buffalo County, Nebraska. The Church was designed by Chicagoan John Sutcliffe and built during 1908-09. The interior is especially notable as it typifies old English church architecture.

The first Protestant Episcopal Church in Kearney was established when a group of seven individuals of the city met and gave notice to the Bishop of their "intention to organize a Parish," citing that the number of communicants who would attend service was "about ten", that Kearney then had a population of "about three thousand", and pledging an annual budget of \$200.00. Bishop Robert H. Clarkson's approval of the proposed organization is dated October 4, 1882. Originally named the Church of the Good Shepherd, this parish formally adopted the name St. Luke's in 1888. This church edifice is the third building for St. Luke's congregation.

The early history of this parish is tied closely with education in Kearney. Bishop A. R. Graves who served as first "Bishop of the Platte", and resided in Kearney, established the Platte Valley Collegiate Institute, a co-educational school in 1892. With the outbreak of the Spanish American War in 1895, the school was changed to Kearney Military Academy for Boys. Though financial problems plagued the school, the dedication of Bishop Graves financial support of St. Luke's Parish and Kearney citizens kept the school operational.

In March of 1907, a resolution was passed by the Vestry that stated "the time has now come for taking definite steps for the erection of the New Church." For some time, the need to expand had been apparent. Approximately 80 boys from the Academy were in attendance regularly, the city of Kearney itself was expanding rapidly and had been designated as the "See" city for the diocese of Kearney. (A "See" city is a town which serves as the seat of a Bishop's office or jurisdiction). This diocese united all of western Nebraska under Bishop Grave's guidance and made Kearney

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Kearney, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	4	9	2	1	4	0	4	5	0	5	8	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is described as lots 89 and 90, Original Town of Kearney Junction, now the city of Kearney and includes all historically associated property.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date September 1986

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James A. Hanson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 10/20/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John A. Beyer  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/1/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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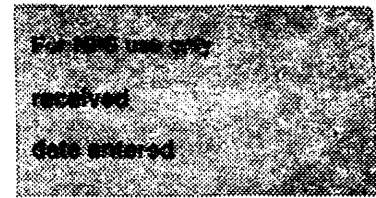
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the location for a cathedral and the official place for activities of the church in the west half of the state as was the custom of this denomination. St. Luke's was referred to as a cathedral during the time Kearney was designated as the Bishop's residence.

To accommodate the physical growth and the heightened ecclesiastical importance of this parish, a \$30,000 cathedral for St. Luke's was designed by John Sutcliffe, a Chicago architect, well known for his church architecture. The building was erected during 1908-09 at a cost of \$18,907.96

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kearney is significant architecturally on the local level as a well-preserved example of the late Gothic Revival style. The well-executed design of the interior space adds to the structure's significance. It is highly exemplary of Episcopal church architecture of the period which typifies the building style found in old English church architecture (i.e. hammer-beam roof, rood beam, arcaded aisles). St. Luke's church is an excellent example of this denomination's respect for familiar Anglican building traditions in combination with American simplification.

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Bibliography

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