

APR 8 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church COUNTY: Faribault
 CURRENT NAME: Same CITY/TWP.: Blue Earth
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: Moore and 8th St.
 Blue Earth, MN 56013

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent _____	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No _____ Restricted PRESENT USE: Church
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1872 ORIGINAL USE: Church
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Church of the Good Shepherd ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Rev. Solomon S. Burleson

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Church of the Good Shepherd Blue Earth, Minnesota 56013	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Faribault County Historical Society 405 E. 6th Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013	UTM REFERENCE: Blue Earth Quad. 7.5
FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth DATE: November 1979	UTM References 15 / 411260 / 4831890

DESCRIPTION:

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is located on a spacious corner lot in Blue Earth. It was built in 1872 in the Gothic Revival Style as made popular by Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture. The rectangular wood frame structure on a limestone foundation has a steeply pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles. The exterior is sheathed in board and batten siding and is painted grey. Each longitudinal side is braced by four engaged buttresses. Built at a right angle to the church is the buttressed bell tower, which features lancet windows and four louvered dormers in the spire. A guild hall addition, constructed in 1905, features a gable roof, board and batten siding, lancet windows and a small pediment over the door. The gabled vestibule with circular window repeats the pitch of the main building roof. On each side of the main building are four stained glass lancet windows. Side windows in the sacristy are Swiss-made stained glass memorials; the center sacristy window is a gift from Old Christ Church in St. Paul. The interior of the church has retained original furnishings, including pews of wooden peg construction. Board and batten detailing is carried through to the interior surfacing and ceiling has exposed beams. All interior wood is mahogany stained.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is significant historically and architecturally as one of a group of small Gothic-Revival churches built in Minnesota under the direction of Bishop Henry Whipple. Under his leadership, the Episcopal church moved progressively westward, establishing parishes in major frontier settlements and from there reaching out to the more rural areas. It was Whipple's intention that the church in Blue Earth, in keeping with the active Episcopal missionary policy, would serve a six-county area. An Episcopal congregation was formed in Blue Earth as early as 1867, but it was in 1871 that the Reverend Solomon S. Burleson, an active mission priest and noted church builder in Minnesota, began construction of the church at the request of Whipple. Burleson designed the church, probably relying on the Gothic detailing illustrated in Richard Upjohn's 1852 book, Upjohn's Rural Architecture, Designs, Working Drawings and other Specifications for a Wooden Church and other Rural Structures. The church was consecrated by Bishop Whipple in August, 1872. It has remained unaltered since its construction. The interior of the church has retained its original sacristy furnishings, mahogany stained pews and window framing; the exterior, with its board and batten siding and bell tower, also remains unchanged.

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Legal Description:

Lot Six (6) and the South Twenty-five feet (25') of Lot Five (5) in Block Two (2) in Young's Addition to Blue Earth City (now part of the City of Blue Earth) according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Faribault County, Minnesota together with the West one-half ($w\frac{1}{2}$) of the vacated alley running North and South through said block two (2) which lies East of and immediately adjacent to the premises hereinbefore described.