



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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Northeast intersection of Center Street and Elm Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Esmond [N/A] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Kingsbury code 077 zip code 57353

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be
considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Officer Date 06-19-2006

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [X] 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
[] See continuation sheet.
[] other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 8-2-06

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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	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 Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion-Religious Facility

Social-Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion-Religious Facility

Social-Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian; No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone; Concrete

walls Wood

roof Wood (historic); Asphalt (current)

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall
Name of Property

Kingsbury County, South Dakota
County/State

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

Social History

Periods of Significance

1885; 1893-1956

Significant Dates

1885, 1893, 1926, 1927

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Frank Hoppin (Builder – Town Hall)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall
Name of Property

Kingsbury County, South Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 598028 4901781
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Jason Haug - Historic Preservation Specialist; Kate Divis - Restoration Specialist

organization South Dakota SHPO date May 4, 2006

street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone (605)773-6296

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

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 Esmond United Methodist Church ; Esmond Township (Both C/O Marlin Clendening

street & number 21651 422nd Avenue telephone 605-546-2440

city or town Esmond state SD zip code 57353

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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Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church
and Township Hall
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall are located in Esmond Township, Kingsbury County, South Dakota; the town of Esmond is situated in southwest Kingsbury County approximately seven miles south and four miles east of Iroquois, South Dakota. Esmond's building stock has virtually disappeared; only two livable houses, the church, and the Township Hall remain, and the other buildings have been demolished or have deteriorated extensively.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ESMOND (Contributing, 1885)

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Esmond was constructed in 1885, just two years after the congregation was organized. For more than a century, it has been the only church to serve Esmond Township. The church was constructed on a stone foundation with wood siding and a wood shingle roof. When it was constructed, the church was a simple rectangular nave plan with a small entry vestibule on the front (east) side. In 1927 an addition was constructed on the north side of the building. The addition housed more seating for the sanctuary and added a basement to the building. Although a vernacular building, the church displays some Victorian influence in its detailing: various styles of shingles cover the exterior walls and create three bands of varied texture. Shake shingles were used from the foundation to the bottom of the windows; clapboard siding covers the area from the bottom of the windows to the top of the windows; and fish scale shingles are located under the eaves and in the gables of the roof.

The front of the church faces east. A small entry vestibule with a gable roof is centered on this façade; a set of concrete steps leads up to the entryway. The vestibule has a small window facing north and another facing south. On the remainder of the façade, a window is located on either side of the entry vestibule. All of the windows on the building have an unusual shape; essentially rectangular, the top sash is modified with a triangular point to create a vernacular pointed arch window. In the 1950s, the point on each upper sash was covered with plywood to allow for the installation of rectangular storm windows; the plywood is still in place and creates the appearance of a simple rectangular window, but the triangular points underneath remain and are visible inside the church. A small triangular window is located directly above the entry vestibule, centered on the façade; it has also been covered with plywood but remains visible inside the church. Directly above the entry vestibule and small triangular window is the bell tower. The bell tower is open on three sides and has a simple gable roof. The original bell is still located in the bell tower and is still operable. Original, decorative finials and spindles on the bell tower were removed when the roof was resingled.

The south side of the church is very simple. Three windows are spaced evenly along the elevation; like the front windows, the triangular point on each window has been covered by plywood but remains visible on the interior. The shake-type shingles, wood clapboard, and fish scale shingles are present on this wall. The west side of the church has no openings, but a small apse projects outward from the rest of the wall. Despite the simplicity of this elevation, all three varieties of exterior wood cladding are used.

An addition constructed on the north side of the church in 1927 changed this elevation. The addition, which creates a transept on the original building, was originally constructed on a brick foundation, and has a gabled roof. In recent years, the soft bricks of the foundation began to crumble; they were replaced with a cement block foundation to stabilize the building and prevent future deterioration. Unlike the original portion of the church, the addition has only clapboard siding. The windows in this

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elevation are similar to the original windows: rectangular windows with a triangular point on each upper sash, modified by covering the point on each upper sash with plywood. The north side of the addition has two of these windows evenly spaced on the elevation, and a small rectangular window into the basement is located directly below each of these windows. Like the north side of the addition, the west side of the addition (the rear of the church) also has two rectangular windows with covered point and a small rectangular window into the basement located below each of these windows. The east side of the addition (the front of the church) has a small entry vestibule with a gabled roof; a rounded window is present above the entry door. A small rectangular window with triangular point in the upper sash is located on each side of the entry vestibule, similar to the entry vestibule on the original portion of the building.

The interior of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Esmond is arranged as a simple nave plan. The entry vestibule opens into the nave, which is arranged into a center aisle flanked by wood pews on either side of the aisle. The sanctuary is elevated one step and is separated from the nave by an altar rail. The original pulpit is located to one side. The floors in the church are the original pine floors. The interior walls originally consisted of wainscot to the bottom of the windows with plaster above; in 1965, the original wainscot was covered by paneling, but the wainscot remains in place and is in excellent condition where the paneling has been removed. The ceiling in the space was originally a vaulted ceiling that followed the shape of the roof halfway to the peak of the gable. In the 1950s, a lowered ceiling was added to the space, but the original ceiling remains hidden under the lowered ceiling.

When the addition was constructed in 1927, the north wall of the nave was reconfigured to allow access to the addition; now, a set of folding wood doors can be closed to separate the spaces or opened to bring the spaces together. The addition is further elevated and separated from the original nave by two steps. The addition is an extension of the nave with the center aisle designed perpendicular to the center aisle of the original building. As in the original portion of the church, the addition has wood floors and plaster walls. The floors in the space are wood floors to coordinate with the original portion of the church; the walls and ceiling are plaster. The ceiling follows the slope of the gable to about halfway to the peak of the gable, where it flattens out. The original pews are located in the addition. On the east side of the addition, a doorway leads to the entry vestibule and to the staircase to the basement. The basement is located only under the addition; the original church has only a crawlspace. The basement houses a small room used for Sunday school, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a storage area.

ESMOND TOWNSHIP HALL (Contributing, 1893)

The Township Hall in Esmond is located directly north of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Constructed in 1893, it is a gable-front building with no distinguishing characteristics; it has a stone and concrete foundation, clapboard siding, and asphalt shingle roof. The front double doors with glass transom above are centered on the east side of the building and are flanked by two windows of a four-over-four configuration. The north side of the building has four windows of the four-over-four configuration that match the windows on the front of the building; a fifth window near the back of the north side is a slightly smaller size. The south side of the building also has four of the four-over-four windows and a smaller fifth window near the back of the south side. Additionally, a door between the fourth and fifth windows serves as a secondary access into the building. The west side (rear) of the building was expanded in 1926 to include a stage. The west elevation has no openings and no distinguishing characteristics. The Township Hall exemplifies rural meeting hall architecture in South Dakota.

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Inside the front entry doors is a small entry way, which opens into the main hall through a second set of double doors. The main hall is one large room with a stage on the west end and a kitchen on the north side. The Township Hall has wood floors; vertical wood wainscot lines the walls to about four feet high, and horizontal wood beadboard is above the wainscot and on the ceiling. A simple stage stretches across the length of the west wall. Several of the original tables and counters are still in place in the Township Hall, which is still used by the community of Esmond for holiday celebrations, graduations, and family events.

TWO PRIVIES (Contributing, ca. 1935)

Two privies are located directly behind (west) of the Township Hall. Constructed ca. 1935, these two privies replaced the original privies which were constructed in 1899. Each building features a door and square opening on the east elevation and a metal clad shed roof.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as they embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. The church was constructed in 1885 according to a pattern-book design. This design was a nave plan that featured more decoration than was typical of other first-generation churches in South Dakota. The Esmond Township Hall is representative of local, rural South Dakota government construction during the late nineteenth century. The hall is also eligible under Criterion A for its significant role in the social development of Esmond during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Kingsbury County, South Dakota is part of the state's Central Lowlands region, which encompasses much of the state east of the Missouri River. This area contains flat to gently rolling prairie land with several lakes left over from the glaciers that covered the northeast region of the state. Kingsbury County was organized in 1879 during the early stages of the First Dakota Boom, the first great wave of migration into South Dakota that lasted roughly from 1878 to 1887. Like most counties in eastern South Dakota, settlement in Kingsbury County was spurred by construction of the railroad combined with the availability of land. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was built through Kingsbury County during the early 1880s and consequently most of the County's settlement occurred during this time.¹

The town of Esmond was platted by the Western Town Lot Company when the Chicago and North Western constructed a line through the southwest corner of Kingsbury County in 1883. While the railroad did provide some incentive for settlement and construction in Esmond, the town never grew to any great extent. By 1920 the population was 155 and gradually declined throughout the twentieth century to a population of only four in 1990.

The Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1883 and two years later constructed the nominated church. Prior to the construction of the church, services had been held in a nearby schoolhouse. At the time the church was constructed in 1885, there was also a Congregational Church in Esmond that closed in 1896, leaving the Esmond Methodist Church the only church in Esmond for the next 110 years. The church has shared ministers with various neighboring communities throughout its history. In 1925 the average attendance increased to over 150 people, nearly the entire population of Esmond at that time, so an addition was constructed and completed in 1927 that included additional seating that could be separated from the main part of the church by folding doors.²

In 1893 the Esmond Township Board authorized construction of a township hall. A bid of \$958 for the construction of twenty-eight by fifty foot building was accepted by the board and the hall was completed in October of that same year. At the same time the congregation was discussing expanding the church, the Township likewise began discussing plans for enlarging the Hall. The hall was ultimately extended to the west which allowed room for a stage.

¹ Westerly Group, *Kingsbury County Historic Sites Survey Final Report* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 9.

² *100th Anniversary, Esmond Methodist Church, May 26, 1985* (Esmond, SD: Esmond Methodist Church, 1985), 1-2.

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The Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. The Church is a significant example of pattern-book designed church constructed in eastern South Dakota toward the end of the nineteenth century. The Methodist Church entered what was to become South Dakota in the summer of 1860 when the Upper Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church decided to minister to the region. In 1871 the first Methodist Church was constructed in Elk Point. By 1900 the Dakota Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church had over 15,000 members in 235 churches.³ Many early Methodist congregations employed pattern-book plans in constructing their churches. The availability of such books and other standard building plans allowed congregations the benefits of an architect with a more elaborate and professional design without having to pay the more expensive fee. Some denominational groups, like the Methodist Board of Church Extension, even published their own pattern books and required congregations to follow the standardized plans. After purchasing the plans, congregations could then construct the church and make any ornamental or other alterations as they saw fit. These original plans could also then be added to or altered to meet the changing needs of a particular congregation. As many early churches did not have basements, they were frequently added at a latter time to increase space. Other alterations included additions for fellowship halls, Sunday school rooms, kitchens, or additional seating.⁴

The Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church is a significant example of this method of construction as it was constructed according to Church Plan Number 40 from the *Catalog of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages* produced by the Methodist Board of Church Extension. This particular design featured six different sized nave plans with a five by seven foot vestibule with seating capacity ranging from 108 seats at the smallest to 200 seats at the largest. The estimated cost for construction in the 1889 edition of the catalog was between \$800 and \$1,500. This design also featured three horizontal bands of different siding, a decorated bell tower, and triangle-peaked windows.⁵ By 1927 the increasing congregation required additional room and constructed an addition with a basement to the north elevation that allowed for more seating and could be separated from the original building by folding doors.

The Esmond Township Hall is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of a rural, local governmental building constructed in South Dakota toward the end of the nineteenth century. In South Dakota, most buildings constructed by local governments, especially the township level, were simple, wooden, one- to two-story vernacular structures often with a gable or false-parapet front. These types of buildings were generally simply constructed because of the limited amount of funds most townships had during the late nineteenth century.⁶ The Esmond Township Hall is representative of this type of construction as it is a simple, vernacular woodframe

³ Megan Edaes, *Churches in South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2002), 15.

⁴ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 70-71.

⁵ Board of Church Extension M.E. Church, *Catalog of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages* (Philadelphia: Finley and Co., 1889), 15.

⁶ Erpestad and Wood, 174-175.

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building with a front gable. In March 1893, a nearby newspaper noted the reason for the simple construction of the Town Hall. "A town hall in Esmond is one of the things of the near future. The town board was instructed by vote to erect a suitable building for township purposes but were limited as to the expense."⁷

The Esmond Township Hall is also eligible under Criterion A for its significant contribution to the social history of Esmond during the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Because of limited available funds in small, rural South Dakota communities, many township halls regularly housed functions other than just the business of the township. Other local governmental entities, community organizations, and churches shared the town hall space for their various functions and activities. In Esmond, the local school has held plays, graduation ceremonies, and other events in the Hall. Community organizations like the G.A.R., the Athletic Club, Equal Suffrage Club, Commercial Club, Esmond Odd Fellows, 4-H, Extension Club, Esmond Farmers Shipping Association, and numerous others have all held meetings and events in the hall.

The neighboring Methodist Church has been closely associated with the Esmond Township Hall. Since the hall was constructed, nearly every type of church event other than worship services has been held at the hall. Family gatherings before and after funerals were traditionally held in the hall, as were bible school programs, Ladies Aid Society meetings and events, and fellowship time following worship services. One of the more significant community events held in both the church and hall was the Esmond Harvest Home Supper. Held every fall from 1885 to 1985, the hall has hosted this event since it was constructed in 1893. Attendees were entertained as they waited in the church sanctuary for their number to be called so they could go eat in the hall.

Despite the alterations, including the historic additions to both the church and hall, these buildings retain sufficient historic integrity from the period of significance to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The additions to each building represent each group's need to meet a need for additional space that was neither feasible nor necessary to construct initially. For the church, the original design, materials, workmanship, and overall construction of the original structure is still visible. Likewise, the original simple design and construction of the hall is still intact. Also, as the church is primarily significant for its architecture, it meets Criteria Consideration A.

The Esmond Methodist Church and Township Hall are thus eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for their type, period, and method of construction. The Esmond Township Hall is also eligible under Criterion A for the significant role it played in the social history of Esmond during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

⁷ *Iroquois Chief*, 14 March 1893, 4.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall follows the legal boundary of the church grounds which is in the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, Township 109N, Range 58W, Kingsbury County, South Dakota. The southeast corner of the boundary is created by the intersection of Center Street and Elm Street. From this point the boundary follows Center Street north to a point five feet past the north wall of the Township Hall. It then runs east to a point five feet past the west walls of the privies and then runs south until it meets Elm Street. The boundary then turns east where it meets the starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Esmond Methodist Episcopal Church and Township Hall encompasses the entire immediate property both historically and currently associated with the church and hall. This boundary is distinct and visible to the east and south by Center and Elm Streets and trees to the north and west that outline the property.