

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only
received **OCT 30 1979**
date entered **DEC 10 1979**

1. Name

historic Drayton United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ND 44 not for publication

city, town Drayton vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Pembina code 067

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Drayton United Methodist Church

street & number Box 327

city, town Drayton vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pembina County Register of Deeds

street & number Pembina County Courthouse

city, town Pembina state North Dakota 58271

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Drayton United Methodist Church was built in 1905-06 to replace a smaller structure that had served the religious needs of the founders of the community. The yellow brick building combines late Romanesque Revival Stylistic elements with features generally associated with Gothic themes, including asymmetrical plan and fenestration, moderately sloped gabled roofs, parapet facade gable, prominent corner steeple, and interior hammer beam truss roof system. The rectangular main structure is extended in a single-story vestibule along the facade or west end, in a rectangular and gable-roofed chancel at the east end, and in a hip-roofed pentagonal meeting room on the north. A small office area projects from the northeast corner of the main room, and a hip-roofed rectangular entry addition was affixed to the north end of the west side in 1947.

The exterior of the building is most distinguished by a facade that features the limestone-coped parapet gable and six tall round-arched window bays in an irregular stepped pattern on the upper gable end. The low vestibule includes seven rectangular window bays with stained glass, and these bays do not correspond in placement to the six round-arched bays above. The facade is enriched with corbeling in band and stepped patterns, in corbeled arch window surrounds, and in variegation in vestibule wall with darker colored headers. The entry addition on the north end of the facade is done in yellow brick, and further detracts from any semblance of symmetry in the structure.

The steeple that rises at the south end of the facade is a square brick tower with pyramidal roof, surmounted by a shingled and metal-capped wooden hexagonal spire. A pair of louvered rectangular bellfry vents are on the north, south, and west sides of the upper tower, and above these vents is decorative corbeling in band and surrounded cross patterns. The steeple is supported at corners by buttresses, and the former main entry on the west and stained windows on the north and south sides of the lower tower have round arched surrounds.

The east elevation has four supporting pilasters that flank three large stained glass windows. Arched head surrounds for these windows spring from small limestone abutments. Window sills throughout the building and pilaster caps are also of limestone. A string course at the first floor level is of rounded brick. The east gable end contains a large blind arch and two arched window bays that have been closed with brick. Fenestration in the office and in the meeting room projections is rectangular.

The interior the building is distinguished both in the treatment of the main auditorium and in the provision for expansion of the worship area. The auditorium is finished with an open ceiling punctuated by a hammer beam truss system in polished pine. Walls are plastered and are largely devoid of ornament, creating a spacious and austere impression. The floor of the auditorium bowls slightly toward the chancel area, and the original curved pews remain intact. The chancel is a raised platform with choir area behind the pulpit and small altar table. The curved ceiling of the chancel and the curved communion rail both enforce the Romanesque theme of the building. The auditorium seating

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905-06

Builder/Architect A.W. McCrea, Jr. (Architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The bold facade and round-arched openings of the Drayton Methodist Church place the building in contrast to an almost universal use of Gothic plans and features in churches of its era in the rural areas of eastern North Dakota. Designed by Architect A.W. McCrea of New York City and formerly of Drayton, the building combines relatively light massings and simple lines to produce an exterior effect that is quite different from the heavy Richardsonian treatment most often applied to Romanesque structures in the region. When completed in 1906 this building was by far the most substantial church of the Drayton area, and as such reflected the dominant social stature and affluence of the Scots-Irish Methodists who had come to the area from eastern Canada. The church exterior was constructed entirely of Drayton brick, and the building stands as a reminder of that important pioneer industry that has been extinct since about 1920.

The church plan corresponds closely to a model known as the Akron Plan, that developed about 1900 as part of the Protestant revivalist movement. Basic features of this plan were a corner entry steeple, a bowled auditorium with curved pews, large platform chancel with choir area behind the pulpit, and room dividers that could be retracted to join assembly and worship rooms. Particularly popular with Methodist congregations, the plan fell out of vogue about 1930. The Drayton United Methodist Church therefore is significant as a representative of period church architecture and as a monument to the early historical development of the Drayton community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Centennial Book Committee, Methodism -- Drayton, North Dakota, 1878-1978 (Grand Forks, North Dakota: Associated Printers, 1978)
Morse, John E., To Build a Church (New York: Holt Reinhart Winston, 1969).

10. Geographical Data

UNRECORDED

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Drayton Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A

1	4	6	3	4	5	1	0	5	3	8	0	3	0	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

Lots 9 and 11, and the east 25 feet of Lot 7 of the Original Townsite Plat of Drayton, an area 160 feet by 125 feet. The original townsite blocks were not numbered; the site is at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lincoln Street and Main Street.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date October 12, 1979

street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone (701)224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Henry

title N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 19, 1979

For HCERS use only

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

Carol O'Skull
Keeper of the National Register

date 12-10-79

Attest: William H. Graham
Chief of Registration

date 12-10-79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

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area is lit by the three large stained windows on the east, and also by the six narrow stained windows on the upper south wall. Incandescent lighting is provided by simple wall fixtures, and by lamps suspended from the hammer beams. The vestibule is also effectively lit by the seven stained windows along its south wall.

The north wall of the auditorium contains three large arched door bays that correspond to the window bays opposite. The bays are fitted with twelve-panel pine doors that can be lowered into the basement to effectively connect the auditorium with the meeting room to the north. The meeting room is finished with plastered walls except for a wood paneled south wall. Accoustical tile ceilings have been installed in both the meeting room and the vestibule.

The building remained unaltered from construction until 1947, when the basement was finished, the entry addition constructed, and the choir loft in the chancel was lowered from an elevated position behind the pulpit. Several other minor alterations were made between 1973 and 1976, including roof repairs, texturing of walls, and removal of basement stairs from the east end of the building. Despite these alterations, the interior spaces of the building have been changed very little from original construction, and the auditorium itself remains virtually unchanged from its original appearance.