

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR 22 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Union Presbyterian Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 311 West Locust Street N/A not for publication

city, town St. Peter N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Nicollet code 103

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

4. Owner of Property

name Union Presbyterian Church

street & number 311 West Locust Street

city, town St. Peter N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nicollet County Courthouse

street & number Minnesota Avenue

city, town St. Peter state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The Union Presbyterian Church occupies a prominent site at the northwest corner of South Third and Locust Streets. It was constructed in 1872 according to designs by prominent St. Paul architect Abraham Radcliffe, and exemplifies the Victorian Gothic mode.

The structure is constructed entirely of locally quarried "range rock" or Kasota stone laid in regular courses. The front facade utilizes larger blocks and is more smoothly finished than the remaining three facades which are rock-faced ashlar.

In plan, the church is essentially a rectangle measuring 105 feet in length and 45 feet in width. The extreme height of the nave (or audience room) is 26 feet from floor to ridge. In addition to the main mass, there are three projections, a one story Sunday school room which is joined in a perpendicular to the main axis at the rear of the building and two entrance towers on the east (front) facade. The southeast tower is the larger, rising 80 feet in height and capped with an attenuated pyramidal roof. The second story of this tower is a louvered belfry.

Door openings and fenestration are executed in the characteristic pointed lancet arches found in the Victorian Gothic. A large stained glass tripartite window with three circular wheel windows all integrated within a single arch is the primary element on the principal facade. A simple scissor truss is placed within the gable. Additional emphasis is given to the expansive roof surface by three small flesches or spires. The rooflines, however, have been altered by removal of the multiple gables on the flesches, the dormers on the principal tower, and the cresting on the secondary tower.

In 1962 a two story education building was constructed to the north of the church; it is linked to the original building by a one-story enclosed walkway. This structure is faced in brick and rusticated stone.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<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 1871 **Builder/Architect** Abraham M. Radcliffe

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union Presbyterian Church is significant as a well articulated example of Victorian Gothic Church architecture remaining from the early decades of St. Peter's development.

Presbyterianism in Nicollet County in the mid 19th century was represented by two congregations -- the First Presbyterian Church of Traverse des Sioux organized 5 November 1853 and the First Presbyterian Church of St. Peter organized 25 October 1857. The formation of these two congregations was the result of a theological split, with the St. Peter congregation representing the "Old School" of religious thought and the Traverse des Sioux congregation representing the "New School." While the Traverse des Sioux had use of their own church, the St. Peter congregation used the second floor of a commercial building to hold their services.

In 1869, the schism, which represented a national ideological rift, was healed and the two churches joined to become the Union Presbyterian Church. In December of 1870, a decision was made to erect a new church and by February 1871, St. Paul architect Abraham Maby Radcliffe was commissioned to design the new building. The building was formally dedicated 25 April 1872.

Radcliffe, born in New York City in 1827, practiced in New York, New Jersey and Indiana before establishing an office in St. Paul in 1858. He is credited with the design of the Dakota County Courthouse, (listed on the National Register), commercial and public buildings in Minneapolis, and numerous residences located along St. Paul's Summit Avenue (included in the Historic Hill District and listed on the National Register). Architects who have worked with Radcliffe include Edward P. Bassford, LeRoy S. Buffington, W.B. Dunnell and Cass Gilbert.

The church continues to serve the congregation and except for the removal of some decorative roof details and the addition of a recessed, one story connecting walk-way, it retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building is reflective of the popular interest in the Gothic Revival styles which became synonymous with church architecture in Minnesota from 1870 to 1885. Its substantial design quality, characterized by features illustrative of the Victorian Gothic style, was a noteworthy achievement in a city which numbered about 2,000 people in 1870, and it remains a distinctive example today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name St. Peter Quad., Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	4	2	3	2	8	0	4	9	0	7	7	4	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 4,5, & 6 Block 1518
Lots 7 and "Ex N60'" of Lot 8 of Block 158
Amended Plat St. Peter

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Roth, Research Historian and Charles Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 24 February 1983

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/7/83

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 5/19/83

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Union Presbyterian Church, St. Peter, Nicollet Co., MN

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Gresham, William G., ed. History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota, Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1916.

"New Presbyterian Church, " St. Peter Tribune, 14 December 1870.

Presbytery of Mankato Historical Committee. The History of Mankato Presbytery, 1844-1944. (Vesta?: The Presbytery, 1944).

St. Peter Herald, Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Number 1853-1930. St. Peter.

"The New Presbyterian Church of St. Peter," St. Peter Tribune, 1 May 1872.

"The Presbyterian Church," St. Peter Tribune, 1 February 1871.