United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

APR 2 2 1983 date entered

received

For NPS use only

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

1. Name	complete applicable se	ections		
	Presbyterian Chur	ch		
	N/A			
2. Locat				
street & number	number 311 West Locust Street		N <u>/ A</u>	not for publication
city, town	St. Peter	N/A vicinity of		
state	Minnesota code	22 county	Nicollet	code 103
3. Classi	ification			
district X building(s) structure site object N/A	wnership public X private both ublic Acquisition A in process being considered /A	Status _X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owne	r of Proper	ty		
name U	nion Presbyterian	Church		
street & number	311 West Locus	st Street		
city, town	St. Peter	N/A vicinity of	state Mi	nnesota
5. Locat	ion of Lega	l Descriptio	n	
courthouse, registry	of deeds, etc. Nico	ollet County Courth	ouse	
street & number	Minnesota Avenue	2		
city, town	St. Peter		state Mi	nnesota
-,	sentation i	n Existing S		
	ota Statewide Hist s Survey		erty been determined eligi	ble?yes _X_ no
date July 19	982		federalX state	county loca
depository for surve	y records Minnesota	Historical Society	y Fort Snelling H	istory Center
city, town St	t. Paul		state	Minnesota

7. Description

Condition X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one X original site moved date N/A	
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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 bower is the larger, rising 80 feet in height and capped with an attenuated pyramidal Proof. 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.

491

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — agriculture _X architecture — art — commerce — communications	community planning	landscape architectu law literature military music ent philosophy	science sculpture social/ humanitarian
Specific dates	1871	BxxIdex/Architect Ab	raham 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

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List all states	and counties for p	roperties o		oping state	_	ndaries	
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
organization street & numbe	Minnesota Hist				date 24	February 1983 612-726-1171	
street & numbe		History (Cente	r 	telephone	612-726-1171	
city or town	St. Paul				state	Minnesota	
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665), I hereby no according to the State Historic P	ed State Historic Presonant of the communicate this property of criteria and procedure reservation Officer signs 11 W. Fridley	for inclusion es set forth	in the	National Re	gister and certify	vation Act of 1966 (Published it has been evaluated)	blic Law 89- pated
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Chief of Reg	istration				Laborate Control of the Control of t		

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

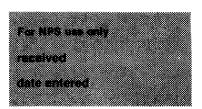
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Union Presbyterian Church, St. Peter, Nicollet Co., MN

Continuation sheet

Item number

9



Page :

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