

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94001072

Date Listed: 09/09/94

Property Name: Grace Episcopal Church

County: Benson County State: North Dakota

Episcopal Churches of North Dakota MPS
Multiple Name

This documentation is accepted by the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

September 9, 1994
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criteria Consideration A is marked under "Criteria Considerations" since property was built and owned by a religious institution during its period of significance.

Rolene Schliesman, the National Register coordinator for the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, was notified of this amendment on September 9, 1994.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1072

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 2 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 Grace Episcopal Church

other names/site number Stone Church Museum; 32BE32

2. Location

street & number 210 C. Avenue South N/A not for publication

city or town Minnewaukan N/A vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Benson code 005 zip code 58351

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James E. Sperry 7/28/94
Signature of certifying official/Title James E. Sperry Date

State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State of 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:

- 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.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClelland

9/9/94

Name of Property

County and State

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Episcopal Churches of North Dakota

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/MUSEUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE

roof WOOD/Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1903-1905

Significant Dates

1903-1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

HANCOCK BROTHERS, ARCHITECT

KOLSTAD, OTIS, BUILDER

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Grace Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Benson, ND
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 4	4, 8, 1, 5, 7, 0	5, 3, 2, 3, 9, 6, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Garvin K. Plummer, Curator and Rolene Schliesman, SHPO Staff

organization Minnewaukan Historical Society, Inc. date Jaunary 4, 1994

street & number P. O. Box 214, 131 B Street East telephone (701)473-5488

city or town Minnewaukan state ND zip code 58351

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 Minnewaukan Historical Society, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 214, 131 B. Street East telephone (701)473-5488

city or town Minnewaukan state ND zip code 58351

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.*).

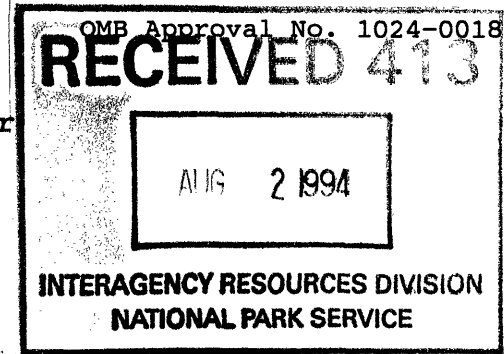
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



**Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND**

Description

Grace Episcopal Church in Minnewaukan exhibits the important characteristics outlined in the multiple property submission, Episcopal Churches of North Dakota. Design elements defined in the multiple property submission and expressed in the Grace Episcopal Church are in the Late Gothic Revival style, including asymmetrical massing, a bell tower entrance, steeply pitched gable roof, lancet windows, side vestry, liturgically oriented chancel, and the honest use of materials.

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Grace Episcopal Church at Minnewaukan is located on southeast corner lot of C Avenue and Second Street, at 210 C Avenue South. C Avenue is also US Highway 281 and in full view of passing motorists. Mature trees line the sidewalk along Second Avenue. The legal location of the property is the north half of Lots 8, 9, 10, and 11, Block 4, Hegge & Comstock Addition, in the city of Minnewaukan, North Dakota. The Hegge & Comstock Addition was carved out of the Devils Lake Sioux Indian Reservation with US Highway 281 as its western boundary.

The Grace Episcopal Church was designed by the Hancock Brothers Architects of Fargo and constructed circa 1903-1905. The church is a rectangular, one-story, dressed stone building which rests on a fieldstone foundation and full basement. Native granite fieldstones were brought in to Minnewaukan by the parishioners. A local stone-cutter, Otis Kolstad dressed the stones and laid them in courses. With nearly all the stone work completed on site, the stone chips were simply thrown into the space between the ground and the foundation. Kolstad used large rocks for the lower tiers and decreased the size of the stones as the walls increased in height. Six buttresses, also of cut stone, support the north wall, and one supports the southeast corner. The fine stonework is a demonstration of the "honest use of materials".

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Section number 7 Page 2

Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Description (continued)

Ecclesiologically correct, the asymmetrical plan of the church features a liturgical (east chancel) orientation, interior attention to the chancel, simple nave plan with a southern, gable-roofed vestry, and a bell tower entrance.

A mainstay of the Late Gothic Revival style, a steeply pitched gable roof caps the church. Replaced in 1989, wood shingles and metal flashing protect the building from the elements. The roof hugs the paired lancet windows along the north and south elevations, nearly hiding the pointed arches of the windows. Rectangular, wooden storm windows protect the lancet windows.

Fenestration in the church is regularly spaced. Heavily recessed basement windows are located between the buttresses, and are capped with jack arch stone lintels. Three double-hung, pointed arch windows, with an elongated center window, illuminated the former nave at the west end. The east elevation contains a round window. Currently, a Masonic symbol graces the window, which replaced a stained glass rose window shown in an historic photograph.

The crenelated belfry, located on the southwest corner of the church, contain pairs of pointed arch openings on three sides. The tower never contained a bell due to the lack of funding. Situated above the set of wooden doors in the main entrance is an overlight in the pointed arch opening. The stained glass overlight was removed before the 1920s and replaced with clear glazing.

Original exterior detailing on the church includes simple wood trim, decorative wood shingles at the gable ends, and simple bargeboard at the peak. A brick chimney is located at the ridge of gable on the vestry porch. The coal entrance at the southeast corner was capped with a thick slab of concrete during a renovation project.

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**Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND**

Description (continued)

The grounds feature a bottle cistern located to the right rear corner of the tower. When in use, this was fed by an underground pipe from the inside corner of the tower connected to the downspout. A later addition to the grounds includes a bell from the Baker School located south of the main door. Both sets of wooden steps were installed by the Masons.

In 1989, a project was undertaken to replace the original wood shingles with new wood shingles. To finance the roof replacement, the "Buy a Bundle (\$25) - Buy a Square (\$100)" campaign was implemented and the project was paid for within one year.

Among the extant interior features are the wooden ceiling beams, the trusses arranged in an "x" design, and beaded paneling placed horizontally and located near the ceiling, and diagonally in the gable ends. The stone walls were covered with plaster circa 1920, except for the vestry which remains unfinished.

A 1912 historic photograph shows the lighting consisted of a standard commercial kerosene lamp with a milk glass shade hung on chains and hook high on the ceiling beam. A similar Rochester kerosene lamp with a metal shade was procured to replace the missing original. The brass chandeliers are from the Benson County Courthouse. The light fixtures were removed from the courtroom in the early 1950s when the florescent lights were installed there.

The three stained glass windows were installed after initial construction but are no longer extant. During the early 1920s, the chancel arch was finished and a stained glass window was placed along the south wall as a memorial for a young seminary student who served the parish. The stained glass window was destroyed during the 1930s when the church fell into disrepair and clear glazing was reinstalled. A rose window located in the chancel, and an overlight in the pointed archway of the front entrance were also replaced with clear glazing.

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**Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND**

Description (continued)

Aging blue carpeting of narrow strips covers the four-inch wide tongue-in-groove fir plank flooring. Purchased in 1898 for \$30, the carpeting was brought with the Masons when they moved into the building but stayed when the Masons vacated.

Alterations in 1966 by the Masons include installing one-inch thick styrofoam strips between the ceiling beams for insulation, removing the lower portion of the chancel arch and receding the chancel step to accommodate more seating. In the basement, a new concrete floor was poured, and two new furnaces, two restrooms and a kitchen were installed. The current owner, the Minnewaukan Historical Society, Inc., eliminated a kitchen serving counter and an additional platform in the chancel, both added by the Masons.

Grace Episcopal Church at Minnewaukan is in excellent condition and has remained fairly unchanged since its construction c. 1903-1905.

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Statement of Significance

Grace Episcopal Church in Minnewaukan relates the Episcopal Churches of North Dakota, 1872-1920s, a multiple property submission to the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the Late Gothic Revival style, the church is nominated under Criterion C for its statewide significance in Architecture because it is a fine example of an Ecclesiologically correct, Gothic Revival church and is typical of Episcopal church construction at the turn of the century. The church possesses a high degree of integrity in its nearly unaltered state and good condition. "Examples of this distinctive building type are unsurpassed in terms of unity and comprise a significant architectural body of work," according to Barbara Beving Long, author of the Episcopal Churches of North Dakota multiple property submission.

The Church meets the registration requirements described in the multiple property submission with its Late Gothic Revival style detailing, steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical plan, bell tower entrance, liturgically oriented chancel, lancet windows, and honest use of materials. In the multiple property submission, the church is listed as one of those which are Ecclesiologically correct in design and falls into the Late Gothic Revival designs in stone. The period of significance for the property is 1903-1905, the property's date of construction.

From the abstract of the property dated October 23, 1899, Mato Chat Ka and his wife, Mahpiyatakahewin, gave Tom Crayon a Quit Claim deed for the property, east of the reservation line adjacent to Minnewaukan City. On June 1, 1901, the United States gave Tom Crayon a patent for the land. On March 7 and again on June 10, 1901, Tom Crayon gave Warranty Deeds to O.D. Comstock and O.I. Hegge. On February 5, 1902, a plat of the land was filed by Hegge and Comstock along with the survey by Daniel Harshman thus establishing the Hegge & Comstock Addition to Minnewaukan.

In the early days when the mission at Minnewaukan was started, there were very few communicants and no church. Church records indicate two lots were purchased by the Minnewaukan Episcopal parish in 1900. The church property was valued at \$100.00 in 1901.

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

The Episcopal Church in North Dakota made a valiant missionary effort to establish churches in the small communities which were springing up on the prairie. With the coming of the railroad, the Protestant Episcopal church commissioned a Cathedral Car, a railroad car outfitted with chairs, a reed organ, etc., to hold services at various locations. It is unclear but probable that the Cathedral Car came to Minnewaukan.

At the 14th Annual Convocation of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Bishop reports: "The Reverend Rees has continued to visit Minnewaukan on an average of once a month during the year, holding services in the Presbyterian Church. We own a church lot at Minnewaukan, and I confidently look for the erection of a church there in the course of another year or so."

Officially on May 21, 1902, the Bishop Chancellor and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota, a religious corporation, received a special Warranty Deed from Hegge and Comstock. It was filed on August 18, 1902.

Under the direction of Bishop Cameron Mann, church plans were designed by the Hancock Brothers of Fargo. George Hancock and his brother, Walter, arrived in Fargo in the early 1880s and practiced as architects into the 1920s. According to Barbara Beving Long, author of the Episcopal Churches of North Dakota multiple property submission, "The Hancock Brothers are known to have designed stone Episcopal churches in Bozeman, Montana (listed on the National Register) and Anaconda, and Wadena, Minnesota... and at Jamestown, Casselton, Devils Lake, Buffalo, and Lisbon."

Construction began circa 1903 on the Grace Episcopal Church at Minnewaukan. Otis Kolstad, an expert local stone cutter, built the church of native granite. The church is constructed of dressed fieldstone, all obtained in the vicinity of Minnewaukan, and mostly contributed by the members of the congregation. Nearly all the stone work was completed on site. Stone chips were simply thrown into the space between the ground and the basement foundation. The builder used large rocks for the lower tiers and decreased the size of the stones as the walls increased in height. The north wall is supported by six buttresses also of cut stone.

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

According to accounts in God Giveth the Increase, "The fine gray prairie stone building put up for Minnewaukan's sixteen communicants was the brain child of those two energetic missionaries, the Reverend William D. Rees of Fort Totten and the Reverend Edward W. Burleson when the latter was stationed at Larimore. Services were conducted by the Reverend Messrs. Henry J. Sheridan and Owen F. Jones in Grace Church, the interior of which was left unfinished for lack of money."

Unfortunately there is no firm date for this service but in the chronological context of the records, it would be after 1903. At the 1904 Seventeenth Annual Convocation, the Bishop mentions, "At Minnewaukan the walls of a stone Church are now rising," and in the State of the Church Committee reports in 1905, "At Minnewaukan a neat stone Church has been built, which is now practically complete and has been partly paid for."

The interior of the church was left unfinished for many years, but it was comfortable for holding services. Prior to 1922, the Episcopal Church of Grand Forks finished the chancel arch in memory of Harry Huet, a Grand Forks native and divinity student, who had charge of the Minnewaukan mission for several summers. (Huet died February 7, 1909.) The young man was to have been a pastor but died shortly before completing his studies. Also, a stained glass window was placed in the church in his memory from his friends in Minnewaukan.

On October 8, 1905, The Bishop Chancellor and his committee mortgaged the property to American Church Building Fund Commission for the sum of \$2,000. A letter to Bishop Mann indicates construction contractors and other creditors were paid out of this sum. The mortgage was satisfied and deeded back on April 27, 1918.

Four years later, church pews from the Cando church and final ceiling woodwork complete, the church was finally furnished, nineteen years after it was started. October 15, 1922 was a red letter day for the Minnewaukan Mission, when the debt having previously been paid off, Bishop John Poyntz Tyler consecrated the church in a beautiful and impressive service.

Unfortunately by 1935, the Episcopal parish had dwindled and the church was sold. The Assembly of God congregation, one of the

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

evangelist fundamentalist group under the heading of the Union Gospel Tabernacle purchased the stone church. This congregation, as well as the St. Peter Lutheran parish, used the church for services until 1965 when it was sold to the Evergreen Masonic Lodge #46 A.F. and A.M..

The church fell into disrepair during the 1930s and in this era the stained glass window located on the south side just west of the chancel arch was destroyed. Little maintenance occurred until 1965 when the Masons assumed ownership of the property. The same year, the Masons applied to the Grand Lodge Foundation for funds to remodel the building.

The Evergreen Lodge commissioned Fredrich Heerman possibly [Hermann] through the Ira Rush Association, Architects of Minot to draw specifications and blueprints for the church. The renovation included a new basement floor, new stairway, two new furnaces, two restrooms, and a kitchen. The changes to the building included removing a portion of the chancel arch, and moving the chancel platform back to conform to the Masons ceremonial needs.

To finance the renovation, the Evergreen Lodge received donations from its members and borrowed \$6,500 from the Grand Lodge Foundation. A mortgage to the Foundation was made November 16, 1966. On March 1, 1968, another mortgage was made for \$10,000. This was probably a refinancing loan.

Current stewards of the building, the Minnewaukan Historical Society, Inc., took possession of the church to start a museum. Community interest in a local museum began in 1958. Organized for the Diamond Jubilee, the Minnewaukan Museum was once housed in the Canary Block located on the site of the present Post Office. Another museum was organized for Minnewaukan's 90th Anniversary celebration in 1973 and was located where the First American Bank West is currently.

Mr. Garvin Plummer, museum curator, sent a letter to the Minnewaukan community stating, "Early in 1981, it became apparent that the Masonic Lodge in Minnewaukan was no longer a viable organization. With the coming of the Centennial in mind I contacted the Grand Lodge at Fargo to find out the feasibility of acquiring the Lodge Hall for a permanent home for a museum for the

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Minnewaukan community. On August 8, 1981 we offered the sum of \$100 to the Policy and General Purposes Committee of the Grand Lodge meeting at Carrington. They accepted the offer dependent on the merger of the Minnewaukan Lodge with the Churches Ferry Lodge. Although we had not received the deed, we started the museum in the spring of 1983 in order to have it open for the centennial."

On the 30th day of November 1983, a deed was executed to the Minnewaukan Historic Society from the North Dakota Masonic Foundation and it was filed March 12, 1984. Now permanently housed in the former Grace Episcopal Church, "the museum is dedicated to the pioneers of the community and to their way of life, and to depict the changes in our way of life so that new generations will have a reference point on which to build and better understand what went before," stated Garvin Plummer, the Curator.

Bibliography

Abstract. Lots 8-11, Block 4, Hegge and Comstock Addition, City of Minnewaukan, Benson County, North Dakota.

Harris, Cyril M., ed. Dictionary of Architecture & Construction. 2d. ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1993.

Long, Barbara Beving. Episcopal Churches of North Dakota. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Properties Submission, 1992.

McPhillips, Henry, T. Minnewaukan Illustrated. Larimore, ND: Pioneer Parint, c. 1901.

Minnewaukan History Book Committee. Pioneers and Progress, Minnewaukan, ND and Countryside. Minnewaukan, ND: Minnewaukan History Book Committee, 1983.

NDCRS Architectural Site Form. 32 BE 32. Survey File Room, Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND.

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Grace Episcopal Church
Benson County, ND

Bibliography (continued)

North Dakota Sheaf. "Gleanings from the Field, Consecration of Grace Church, Minnewaukan." Protestant Episcopal Church Newsletter, January 1923. p. 12.

Plummer, Clarence Frankland and Bertrand William Plummer. "History of Evergreen Lodge, Looking In and Looking Out." Transcript. 10 June 1946. Minnewaukan Historical Society, Inc.

Plummer, Garvin K. Curator of Minnewaukan Stone Church Museum. Personal interview with Rolene Schliesman at Minnewaukan, ND. 22 October 1993.

----- . "Minnewaukan Historical Society Stone Church Museum, History and Inventory." Mss. 8 January 1993. State Archives, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

Wilkins, Robert and Wynona. God Giveth the Increase. The History of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. Fargo, ND: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1959.

Verbal Boundary Description

Grace Episcopal Church at Minnewaukan includes the church building and the lots is located on the north half of Lots 8, 9, 10, and 11, Block 4, Hegge & Comstock Addition, in the City of Minnewaukan, Benson County, North Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church building and the lots which have historically been associated with Grace Episcopal Church, Minnewaukan and that maintain historic integrity.