

HISTORIC NAME: St. John The Divine Episcopal Church

COUNTY: Clay

CURRENT NAME: St. John's Episcopal Church

CITY/TWP.: Moorhead

LEGAL DESC.: Lots 13-18, Block 39, Original Plat

ADDRESS: 120 South 8th Street

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local _____	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secondary <u>Religion</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted 

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Church

OCCUPIED: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1898-1899

ORIGINAL USE: Church

ORIGINAL OWNER: St. John's Church

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Cass Gilbert

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: St. John's Episcopal Church  
120 South 8th Street  
Moorhead, MN 56560ACREAGE: Less than one acre 

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

14 / 670160 / 5193225

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

Fargo South 7.5 quad.

DATE: October 1979

## DESCRIPTION:

St. John's Episcopal Church is built on a cruciform plan with a tall corner tower and spire on its southwest corner just to the right of the front entry. The church is a one-story shingled frame structure on a stone raised basement foundation. A projecting front porch gable matches the roof gable. The porch roof is supported by collar brace, beam, and king post construction in imitation of the Elizabethan model Gilbert is reported to have used. Decorative details include low dormer windows along the roof, wood Celtic crosses at the gable peaks, pendants below the crosses, and saw-tooth shingling on some eaves. There is a pointed-arch window in the front gable and triple lancet windows in the side gables.

Gebhard and Martinson comment on the shingle style church that, "the tour de force of the design is the octagonal tower with its steeply pitched witch's-hat roof... Equally delightful is the thin octagonal chimney on the other side of the building; each corner of the octagon is articulated by the alternating pattern of projecting ends of the bricks."<sup>1</sup>

## SIGNIFICANCE:

St. John's Episcopal Church has been called, "the architectural monumnet in Moorhead and without question one of Gilbert's most interesting churches." The 1898-99 church is similar to Gilbert's Virginia Street Church, St. Paul (1886) and Camp Memorial Chapel, Minnetonka (1887), in its use of mixed stylistic elements like polygonal spires and wood-shingled gables. The later St. John's Church lacks some of the classical elements found in the earlier churches, in favor of early English elements such as an arched-timber entry. At the time the church was built, Moorhead was coming out of a period of stagnation. The construction of St. John's marked the beginning of Moorhead's "Second Boom," and began the development of South Eighth Street, now lined with some of the city's finest residences. St. John's was placed on the State Register in 1967.

Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1977, p. 224.