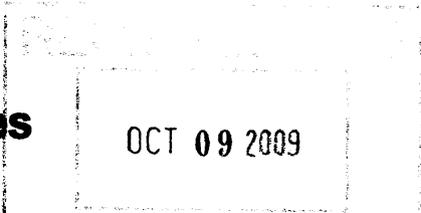


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name St Augustine Church

other names/site number Gregory County Historical Society

### 2. Location

street & number SE Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street

not for publication

city or town Dallas

vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Gregory code 053 zip code 57529

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Jay D. Vogt  
Signature of certifying official  
SD SHPO

09-15-2009  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

John Edward H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

11-20-09  
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- Ownership options: private, public - Local, public - State, public - Federal

- Category options: building(s), district, site, structure, building(s), object

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Total. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, buildings, and Total.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

foundation: cement

walls: brick

roof: wood: shingle

other:

Name of Property

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1925

**Significant Dates**

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Builder: John Hayes

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is 1925, the date the church was constructed.

**Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Dallas Historical Society. *Dallas, South Dakota The End of the Line*. Self-published, 1977.

Duratschek, Sister M. Claudia. *Builders of God's Kingdom: The History of the Catholic Church in South Dakota*. Diocese Publication Sacred Heart Covenant, Yankton: SD, 1985.

Eades, Megan. *Churches in South Dakota*. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre: SD, 2002.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. *Building South Dakota*. South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Pierre: SD, 1997.

**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:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1 acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

Lots 1-2-3A Block 3 Forbes & Wilson Addition

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes only the area historically associated with the church.

St. Augustine

Gregory County, South

Name of Property

Dakota

County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Chris Nelson

organization South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

date 24 July 2009

street & number 900 Governors Drive

telephone 605-773-3103

city or town Pierre

state SD

zip code 57501

e-mail Chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property: St Augustine**

**City or Vicinity: Dallas**

**County: Gregory**

**State: SD**

**Photographer: Chris Nelson**

**Date Photographed: 1 June 2009**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number: 2**

<b>StAugustine_GregoryCounty_SD_0001.TIF</b>	<b>Southwest</b>
<b>StAugustine_GregoryCounty_SD_0002.TIF</b>	<b>South</b>
<b>StAugustine_GregoryCounty_SD_0003.TIF</b>	<b>Southeast</b>

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

St. Augustine is located on a corner lot in the town of Dallas at the southeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street. To the east of the church is an open grassy lot; there are scattered trees bordering the church property. St. Augustine is a rectilinear, gable front church with a cement foundation, brick walls, and wood shingle roof with wood brackets under the gable eaves. All of the windows and door openings on the main level have brick soldier course arches and cement sills. All of these windows are arch windows with a bottom transom.

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**Narrative Description**

The façade (north elevation) has a concrete and brick step that leads to the central entrance. A two-story tower protrudes from the center of the façade. At the base of the tower are double wooden doors. Above the doors are paired divided light arch windows existing within a larger arch. The brick soldier course on the entrance arch contains a keystone. Above the entrance is a stone cross inlaid in a filled arch opening. Above this is a polygonal steeple with arched louvers and a polygonal wood shingle roof topped with an iron cross. Flanking the tower are divided light arch windows. At the basement level, one-over-one double hung windows flank the stairs.

The west elevation has five sets of paired one-over-one windows at the basement level. On the main level are five sets of paired arched windows divided by brick pilasters.

The east elevation is identical to the west with one exception. The arched window at the southeast corner is an arched entrance with a wood door.

The south elevation has two arched windows.

The interior is an open space with large wood trusses supporting the ceiling. The altar remains and the walls are plastered. The original wood floors remain throughout. The only major interior change was the removal of the pews. The basement is a large open space.

Name of Property

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

St. Augustine is locally significant for the National Register of Historic places under Criterion C. It is a fine example of a Romanesque Revival style church in a small town South Dakota setting. It is the only example of Romanesque architecture in the town of Dallas and possesses excellent integrity.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

St. Augustine is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural merit as a Romanesque Revival Style Church. Characteristics of the Romanesque Revival Style found on the church include: semi-circular arches for door and window openings, a cement belt-course dividing the basement and main level, a square tower, and Basilican plan. Architects of Catholic churches often adopted Gothic and Romanesque styles with basilica plans in South Dakota.<sup>i</sup> St. Augustine is a fine example of this trend and retains excellent integrity to represent the Romanesque Revival style.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)**History of Dallas**

The largest groups of American Indians present in South Dakota directly before white settlement were the Nakota, Dakota, and Lakota, known collectively as the Sioux. Anthropologists believe that the Sioux were pushed out of Minnesota onto the plains where they became the dominant group by the mid to late 1700s, although tribal creation stories tell of the Sioux inhabiting the area since time immemorial. The Dakota and Nakota lived primarily east of the Missouri River while the Lakota roamed the western half of the state. The Sioux were eventually forced onto reservations through a series of questionable treaties that opened up land for white settlement.

Up until 1890, Gregory County was part of the Great Sioux Reservation. All lands east of the 99<sup>th</sup> meridian were removed from the reservation at this time. Lands west of the 99<sup>th</sup> meridian were allotted to American Indian families under the Dawes Act of 1887. Areas not allotted to Indian families was declared surplus and excluded from the reservation in 1901. In 1904, this part of Gregory County was opened up to settlement.<sup>ii</sup>

The original town of Dallas was founded in 1904 and located approximately 3 miles southeast of the town of Gregory. It was relocated in 1907 to its current location along the planned route of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. "New" Dallas became the railroad terminus that year.<sup>iii</sup>

**History of St. Augustine**

Four churches were erected in the early days of Dallas, but a Catholic church was not one of them. Fathers from neighboring towns traveled to Dallas and held mass at the school or at other Protestant churches willing to let them use their space. When a new school was constructed in 1916, the Catholics purchased the old school and used the basement for mass until St. Augustine was completed in 1925.

Father Walter Kearney directed the start of construction at St. Augustine in 1924. The Extension Society donated \$1,680 toward the undertaking, but the parish incurred an \$8,000 debt for the construction.<sup>iv</sup> For several years parishioners sat on planks set on sawhorses as there was no money for pews. Father Kearney left the diocese in 1929, at which time Father P.J. Kinney of Herrick came to Dallas.<sup>v</sup>

Father Alfred P. Abler arrived at St. Augustine in 1930 to find a neat brick church, satisfactory rectory, and about forty Catholic households. The \$8,000 debt still existed and fifteen of the church's forty families moved away in the early 1930s as their farms failed due to dry conditions and grasshopper plagues.<sup>vi</sup> The parish eventually received a bequest of \$2,400

<sup>i</sup>David Erpestad and David Wood. *Building South Dakota*. (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 68.

<sup>ii</sup>Dallas Historical Society. *Dallas, South Dakota The End of the Line*. (Self-published, 1977) 2.

<sup>iii</sup>Ibid, 2-3.

<sup>iv</sup>Sister M. Claudia Duratschek. *Builders of God's Kingdom: The History of the Catholic Church in South Dakota*. (Yankton: SD, Diocesan Publication Sacred Heart Covenant, 1985), 339.

<sup>v</sup>Ibid, 339.

<sup>vi</sup>Ibid, 397.

Name of Property

toward the liquidation of the debt and eventually raised the money to pay of the rest of the debt in 1947, aided by Father Abler who donated half the amount in memorial to his father.<sup>vii</sup>

Father Abler passed away in 1950. For the next nineteen years, several Fathers served the parish from the surrounding area. The church was closed in 1969.<sup>viii</sup>

### Churches and Church Architecture in SD

Using the *Churches in South Dakota* context, St. Augustine can be classified as a second generation church. These churches were generally built post-1915 and exhibit an increased focus on stylistic interpretation of religion and commitment to creating an impressive house of worship.<sup>ix</sup> These churches were often larger than the first generation churches and were influenced by Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, or Classical Revival styles of ecclesiastical architecture.<sup>x</sup> These later churches also conveyed particular denominational influences, such as architects of Catholic churches preferring Gothic and Romanesque Revival styles with basilica plans in South Dakota.<sup>xi</sup>

While first generation churches in South Dakota were built out of sod, fieldstone, chalkrock and other available materials and then improved into frame buildings, second generation churches were constructed of substantive and expensive materials. As budgets increased through church growth, the use of dressed stone and brick increased on the exterior of churches while the interiors saw the use of more ornamentation, particularly carved wood and cut stone. Stained glass was also used more often and in more complicated configurations.<sup>xii</sup>

St. Augustine is a bit of an exception in South Dakota. Due to the poor farm economy of the 1920s and the depression of the 1930s, few churches were built between 1920 and 1945.<sup>xiii</sup> Of those built in this period, most were modest in size and in the Gothic or Georgian Revival styles.<sup>xiv</sup> However, the Romanesque Revival was used in church construction in a modified form. This modification was manifested in the use of brick instead of expensive stone (limestone, sandstone, Sioux quartzite) in church construction.<sup>xv</sup>

St. Augustine has not been altered significantly since its construction in 1925. It retains excellent integrity in materials, workmanship, design, location, and setting due to its preservation and maintenance. The church was closed in 1969 and taken over by the Gregory County Historical Society to use as a museum. Because the Society has not changed any of the significant exterior features and kept the interior relatively intact, St. Augustine also retains a high degree of integrity in feeling and association, even though it no longer functions as a church.

<sup>vii</sup> Dallas Historical Society, 43.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid, 43.

<sup>ix</sup> Megan Eades. *Churches in South Dakota*. (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2002), 19.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid, 19.

<sup>xi</sup> Erpestad and Wood, 68.

<sup>xii</sup> Eades, 19-20.

<sup>xiii</sup> Erpestad and Wood, 71.

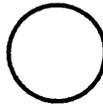
<sup>xiv</sup> Ibid, 71.

<sup>xv</sup> Ibid, 71.

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Watertower



SIXTH STREET

St  
Augustine

St Augustine  
Dallas, Gregory County  
South Dakota