

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received SEP 16 1980

date entered NOV 17 1980

1. Name

historic Christ Episcopal Church and Rectory

and/or common Christ Episcopal Church and Rectory

2. Location

street & number Corner of 4th & Center Streets Block 17 not for publication
Lots 13 & 14 Original Town

city, town Douglas vicinity of _____ congressional district At Large

state Wyoming code 56 county Converse code 009

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

street & number 104 South 4th Street

city, town Laramie vicinity of _____ state 82070

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Converse County Courthouse

street & number 5th & Center Streets

city, town Douglas state Wyoming 82633

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 (revised 1973) federal state county local

depository for survey records 604 East 25th Street

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Designed by G.W.G. Van Winkle and constructed in 1898 the Christ Episcopal Church of Douglas is a modest example of the Gothic Revival Style which became popular in the middle and latter part of the 19th Century. It demonstrates simplified versions of traditional Gothic Revival features such as, a steeply pitched roof, lancet windows of leaded and colored glass with simple tracery, buttresses and vertical planking on the exterior. The bell tower is detailed by shingling above and below a loft of vertical arched louvers, topped with battlements and four slender corner spires ending in delicate crosses.

The base of the bell tower forms the narthex which is separated from the nave by glass doors. The interior features a traditional cruciform shape with high beamed ceilings. Open ended oak pews flank the central aisle and a brass rail separates the nave from the chancel. This division of the church is further accented by arches supported by oak pillars. The window above the altar features a large rose inset.

The church is located near downtown Douglas and there are four other churches within one block in any direction. These are brick structures of recent construction and are not representative of the period of early settlement reflected in Christ Episcopal. It is the oldest and only wooden church left. There is a 30 year old addition to the south side of the church which demonstrates a conscientious effort to maintain the original appearance of the building. Although the addition does not yet have buttresses, it is the intent of the parish to add them as soon as money is available. The addition also has lancet windows with stained glass patterns similar to those in the main church. A basement was added several years ago.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In mid 19th Century America there developed an increasing demand among designers that a building reflect its use. One result of this movement was that American church architects were strongly influenced by a group of English Ecclesiologists who actively promoted the construction of accurate Gothic parish churches as the only suitable structure for Christian worship. American architects adapted the best of the English style to the needs and demands of their own society. The development of such architectural principles may be the revival's most lasting contribution along with providing the foundation for a new aesthetic in American architecture.

The Christ Episcopal Church in Douglas is a well preserved example of how the Gothic Revival was embraced by small frontier communities. Although many of the Ecclesiologist's design requirements could not be met because of a scarcity of funds and materials the parishioners made every effort to adapt the design to their specific situation. Thus, various examples of the plains adaptations exist, each expressing the purpose and individuality of the community it served. The Christ Episcopal Church is no exception and conveys the community spirit which nurtured it.

The church was the focal point of cultural and social evolution in this frontier community. Voluntary associations sponsored by church groups awakened settlers to a recognition of shared social and moral interests and fostered social cohesion during early settlement. The Christ Episcopal Church was utilized by all denominations before the construction of their own churches.

Activities sponsored by the Christ Episcopal organizations helped to raise money for construction and maintenance and exerted a conservative influence which accelerated the development of a well ordered civic minded community. Activities sponsored by the group include carnivals, balls and concerts, ice cream socials, bazaars, picnics, plays, holiday celebrations, and weekly dance suppers for the entire community. Today the Church functions as a community meeting place for organizations including Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts, Little Theatre, Sport Club and others. The Christ Episcopal groups are still active in sponsoring community activities begun in the first years of settlement.

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Continuation sheet

Addendum

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHYBOOKS:

Leonard, Peg Layton. WEST OF YESTERYEAR. 1976, Johnson Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado. "Christ Episcopal Church, Douglas' Oldest Church Edifice, 1888-1976." pp. 203-208.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture. An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856, 1968. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore.

JOURNALS, PERIODICALS:

Bolln, Elizabeth. THE WYOMING CHURCHMAN. No. 24, January, 1953. "Christ Church - Douglas."

PAPERS:

Peyton, Pauline. "Christ Episcopal Church". March, 1980.

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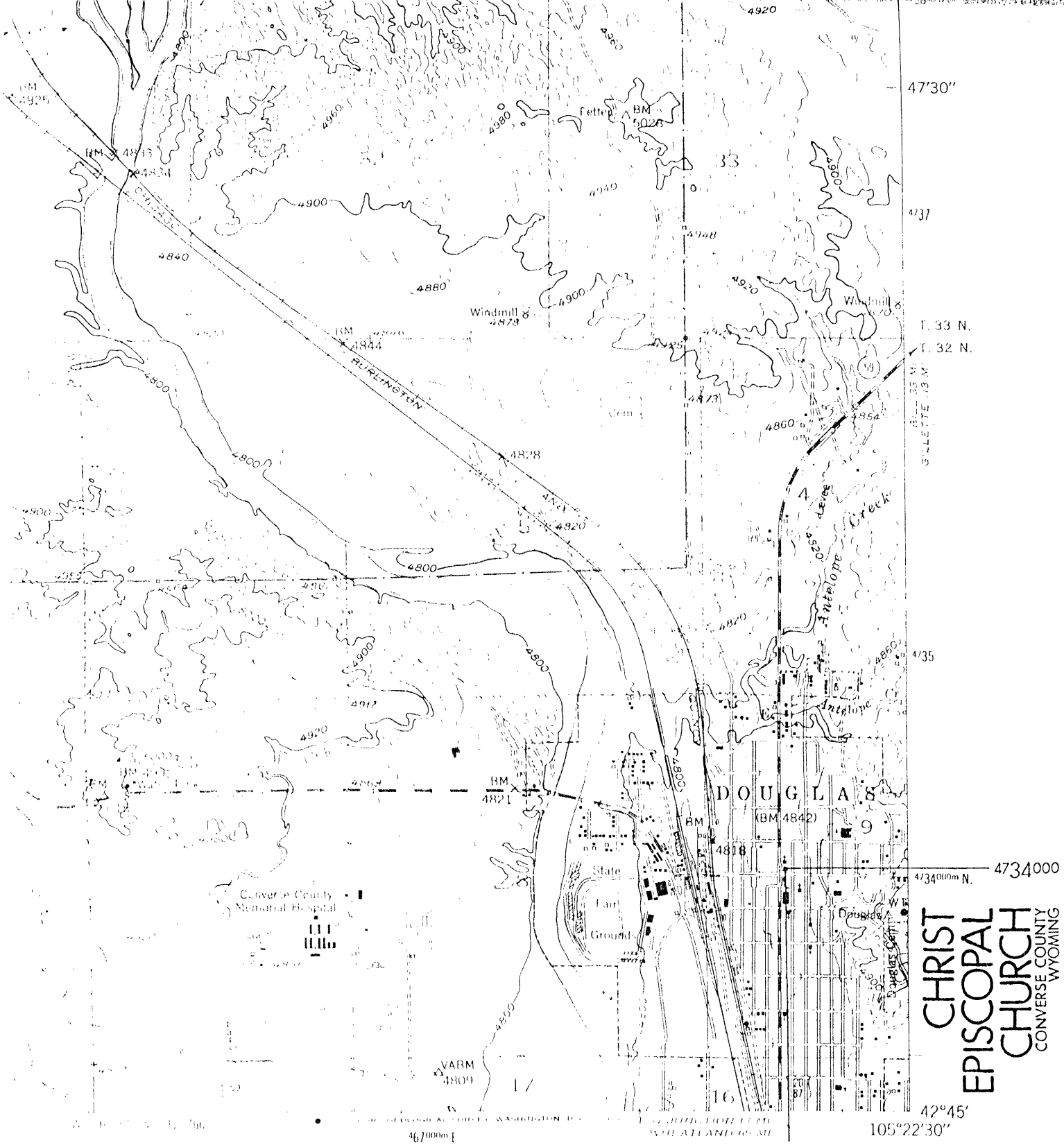
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for Christ Episcopal Church includes the building and surrounding land within 20'. This provides a margin preventing encroachment and excludes another structure located on the Church property.

This is the site of the first Douglas Church which was removed in 1895 for construction of Christ Episcopal. The lot is bounded by 4th Street and Center.



**CHRIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
CONVERSE COUNTY
WYOMING

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| HARD SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS | DRY WEATHER ROADS |
| Heavy duty | Improved dirt |
| Medium duty | Unimproved dirt |
| Loose surface, graded, or narrow hard surface | |
| { } U. S. Route | () State Route |

DOUGLAS, WYO.
N4245-W10522.5/7.5