

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 19 1976**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 21 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. George's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 First Avenue Southeast

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

LeMars

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

1419

COUNTY

Plymouth

CODE

149

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Epicopal Corporation for the Diocese of Iowa

STREET & NUMBER

225-37th Street

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Plymouth County Courthouse -- Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Third Avenue and Second Street SE

CITY, TOWN

LeMars

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Most recent plat of LeMars: A title search would have occurred in 1966 when lot 11,
just south, was sold

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Plymouth County Courthouse -- Recorder's Office

CITY, TOWN

LeMars

STATE

Iowa

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. George's Episcopal Church is a white, 40 feet x 60 feet clapboard structure with gable roof covered with wood shingles. Symmetrical in appearance, it faces west in a residential neighborhood containing older homes. It has a limestone foundation, and just above the foundation is a small band of vertical boards reaching to the bottoms of the arched windows. A small stairway leads to the front double door, which is contained in an attached tower. The windows are the original stained glass windows and there is original dark-stained wainscoting throughout the interior. The walls are plastered and the floor is constructed of wide pine boards. The pews are also original, as are the kneeling benches.

The floor plan is simple. The narthex is contained in the attached tower, which leads into the sanctuary and the chancel. At the rear is a small hallway leading to the parish hall, which was constructed in 1963 and measures 48 feet by 50 feet.

In its original construction the church had a small steeple which extended above the roof, and which was an upward extension of the attached tower. This steeple was taken down around the turn of the century and the roof gable was extended over the tower.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of St. George's Episcopal Church rests in its being one of the few remaining links in LeMars with the town's early English heritage. Financed by contributions from England, which supported the construction of it in 1881 as a foreign mission church, St. George's served as the religious center and one of the social centers for the LeMars English settlers of the 1880's.

The LeMars English era began about 1879, nine years after the platting of the town, when Fred and William Close of England opened up a land sales office in LeMars. They had met previous success in the Denison, Iowa area by acquiring land for farms, breaking the sod and building standard frame houses and sheds. The property was then leased to English tenants who gave the Close brothers half of their crop and brought their own horses and equipment.

After moving to LeMars the brothers began formulating the idea of an English colony, playing the idea up through propaganda issued in England. After 1879 many prospective tenants began arriving in LeMars. While some Englishmen came over to engage in long-term farming operations, many of the new arrivals were the sons of established upper-class Englishmen who intended to return to England after learning farm management techniques.

While the English influence was strong in LeMars, cricket, polo and horse racing were popular, as were three local taverns known as "The House of Lords", "The House of Commons" and "Windsor's Palace." St. George's Episcopal Church was known as the main English religious center in LeMars. The first rector was a Cambridge graduate; his successor was from Oxford.

The English period of LeMars proved to be relatively short, however, and by the 1890's the church membership had been passed on to the mostly non-English residents left behind after most of the Britishers had left LeMars, either for other areas or to go back to England. Today St. George's Episcopal Church remains as one of the few visible reminders of the English era in the early history of LeMars.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Contemporary: LeMars Sentinel Newspaper, c. 1800-1890.
Plymouth County Deed Records, c. 1880-1890, Recorder's Office.
 Secondary: W. S. Freeman, History of Plymouth County, Indianapolis, 1917. A. Warner Co.,
 Compilers.
A History of Woodbury and Plymouth Counties, Chicago, 1890.
Van Der Zee, Jacob. The British in Iowa. 1922.
Larson, Arthur. LeMars: the Story of a Prairie Town, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	731093	444095	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur O. Larson, County Liaison Officer for Division of Historic Preservation
 ORGANIZATION DATE
St. George's Episcopal Church and the Episopal Corporation July 19, 1975
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
914 First Avenue SE
 CITY OR TOWN STATE
LeMars Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Adrian D. Anderson
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE August 10, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Active	DATE 11/21/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 11.15.76
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	