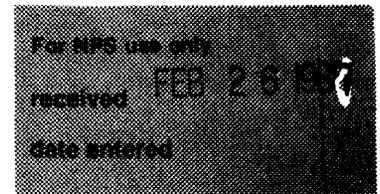


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SITE PE-9

NAME Bethany United Methodist Church

LOCATION Nine-and-one-half miles west of Lodgepole
Perkins County (105), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Phyllis Nash
United Evangelical Church
R.R. 2 Box 22
Hettinger, North Dakota 58639

CLASSIFICATION Buildings, private, NA acquisition,
unoccupied, restricted access, vacant

DESCRIPTION Deteriorated condition, unaltered,
original site

The Bethany United Methodist Church is located approximately eight miles west of Lodgepole in Perkins County. The church is located on a hilltop surrounded by rolling prairie that is used strictly for agricultural purposes.

Constructed in the late nineteenth century, the Bethany United Methodist Church is the finest example of rural Gothic architecture in Perkins County. The church is a rectangular pen with a narthex, nave, apse and sacristy. The gable roof of the church, apse and sacristy are covered with wood shingles.

The gabled vestibule is entered through a double door after ascending four wooden steps. Above the projecting vestibule is a pair of lancet windows piercing the nave's front, east wall. Above is the bell tower which has a pyramidal wood-shingled roof.

Bays of the sidewalls are defined by lancet windows with wide moldings, that are covered with wooden shutters. The gable-roofed sacristy is on the south side wall. The three-sided apse is centered on the west end of the church. It has lancet windows in the north and south side walls.

The roofs of all sections are covered with wood shingles. The foundation is fieldstone.

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As articulated by its exterior massing, the interior of Bethany United Methodist Church presents an uncomplicated arrangement of vestibule, nave, apse and sacristy. The original hardwood floors are in good condition, and the original tongue and groove walls are painted white. The original natural wood window surrounds and other architectural details are intact.

South of the church is a wood-frame outhouse (contributing). It is covered with clapboard siding. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles.

The cemetery is behind the church and twenty-eight graves are marked by stones.

SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1899, 1900-present, architecture, religion

DATES: ca. 1890 BUILDER: Not available

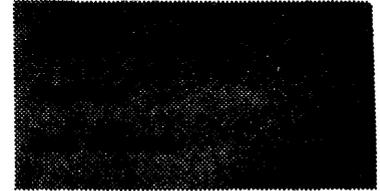
The Bethany United Methodist Church is architecturally significant as part of an important group of churches influenced by the 1852 publication Upjohn's Rural Architecture. In its location in rural Harding County, the church exemplifies the ready and wide acceptance of Gothic tenents among churches of the Methodists and the manner in which rural American builders treated these imported forms.

One of the earliest churches to be established in South Dakota, the first Methodist church was sponsored by the Northwest Conference in Iowa in 1860. The Reverend S.W. Ingham was sent to Dakota Territory to establish churches at Elk Point, Richland, Vermillion and Yankton. Statistically, the Methodist Church in South Dakota historically was the most aggressive with the largest number of churches. Significantly, few rural Gothic Methodist Churches of this age survive enhancing the importance of the Bethany United Methodist Church.

The church is abandoned, and has begun to deteriorate. The cemetery is still in use, and well maintained.

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QUADRANGLE NAME Cow Butte SE, SD UTM 13/669380/5074440

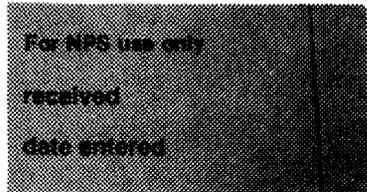
QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE About 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are considered to be a set of intersecting imaginary lines. The eastern boundary lies fifteen feet from the front (east) exterior wall of the church. It connects to an imaginary line that lies fifteen feet from the north exterior wall of the church that connects to a easterly imaginary line that lies about fifty feet from the western exterior wall of the church. The southern boundary lies fifteen feet from the southern exterior wall of the outhouse. The church is located in NE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 12, Township 21 North, Range 10 East in Perkins County, South Dakota.

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