

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

1. Name

historic The Church of Christ in LaRoche Township

and/or common Academy Congregational Church

2. Location SD 50

street & number Hwy 50 N/A not for publication

city, town Academy N/A vicinity of Second congressional district

state South Dakota code 46 county Charles Mix code 023

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First Congregational Church

street & number Hwy 50

city, town Academy N/A vicinity of South Dakota 57310 state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles Mix County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Lake Andes South Dakota 57356 state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date 1898
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(addition)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sited on a highpoint above the major intersection in the community of Academy, the Academy Church is the only remaining structure of the Ward Academy. In fact, it is one of five standing structures in this community in remote Charles Mix County. Built in three sections, the church began as the Church of Christ in LaRoche Township; then, in 1898 the Colvin Church was moved to the site and attached to the west side; and, finally in 1902 an annex was added to the rear.

The first building on the site was the church, the one-story wing of the present building. This was used for services by the LaRoche Congregational Church from its construction in 1893 until 1901. The LaRoche Church takes the form of a one-room schoolhouse built of frame and set on a high stone basement. The east side has a central door flanked by single windows and reached by a broad flight of stairs which is two-thirds the width of the structure. The basement is lit by large above grade windows.

Four years after the merger of the LaRoche and Colvin congregations in 1894, the original building of the Colvin congregation, built in 1883, was moved and adjoined to the first structure. While it was a major fete to move a building with forty-two horses across six-and-a-half miles of prairie, it was not uncommon in South Dakota where many structures were relocated as townsites moved or populations resettled in new patterns. Placed to the east of the tower with the forward facing gable, the Colvin Church was first used for services again in 1901. By 1902 the western annex was completed. The moved church is a simple nave plan: an oblong box with three sash windows on each long side, two windows on one end and a door on the entrance end. The Annex opened off one side of the main auditorium in the fashion of the Akron Plan and the interior is fitted with curved pews typically of the plan and period. A hip roof covers the Annex which has a central gable on each side. The eave-line is continued across each gable and is pierced by a lancet gothic window in the same manner as the main south gable of the church. As with the south gable of the church there are common sash windows flanking the lancet on each side of the Annex. The lancet in the gable of the church appears to have been inserted at the time the Annex was built to tie the designs together. Further unifying the two portions is the central tower, which rises in four stages. The base contains the main entrance and is shielded by a porch reached by a broad set of wooden steps. Facing south, the second stage has one sash window while the third stage a similar window faced west. The top stage consists of four large arches over a shingled frieze. These arches are filled with two shingled panels, the lower ones tilted in to open the belfry. The hip roof of the tower is punctuated by a small central gable on each side.

There were two other structures which served as the Academy. The first, Ward Hall was a two-story, three-bay by three-bay structure with a center projecting tower. Raised on a high basement, the structure was decorated in a stick and shingle style and erected in 1892-3. While the church served as a recitation hall, the third building, Warren Hall served as a dormitory. Constructed in 1911 the three-story, brick building burned in 1920.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 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 1883, addition 1900 **Builder/Architect** NA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Erected in 1883, the Academy Congregational Church is significant in the areas of architecture, education and religion. The building is a composite of simple rural church and school architectural forms. However, it is the role that the structure played as a Congregational Academy and regional church which gives it historical significance.

In the fall of 1883 the congregation organized itself with the help of the Reverend A. A. Brown as the Church of Christ in LaRoche Township. Together with Colvin Church, these people formed an enclave of New England and English-descent Congregationalists who shared a long tradition of church supported education. In 1892 the Reverend Lewis E. Camfield recognizing the difficulty of getting his young parishioners to the Congregational college in Yankton, organized Ward Academy. Supported by contributions from the citizens of Charles Mix County as well as Congregationalists from the Chicago area, the school was named in honor of the founder of Yankton College. The church and school used the facility from the day of dedication, May 2, 1893. In that same year, the church was reconstituted with the name, Academy Congregational Church, and a year later the Colvin Church merged with Academy. The union was completed when the Colvin Church building was moved and attached to the eastern side of the tower. Until 1898 the academy was a rural school, but in that year the community was founded, which today has a population of 25. Reverend Camfield remained the guiding force behind the church and school for the next four decades. The curriculum was described by a contemporary account as "the classical, Latin-philosophical, English-normal, and musical. The school is very earnestly Christian." When he retired in 1931, the school was closed. However, the congregation has continued to use this historic building as their place of worship.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Charles A. Nash, "Academy Congregational Church, Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1888-1963." September 8, 1963.
- Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, editor, South Dakota Place Names. Sioux Falls: Brevet Press, 1973, p. 45.
- Doane Robinson. History of South Dakota. Vol. 1, B. F. Bowen & Co., 1904. pp. 568-9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Academy

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>493360</u>	<u>4811210</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The structure is located in the NW 1/4 section of Section 25 (LaRoche Township) Range 70W and Township 100N. The church is located on a rise. The boundaries on the north and west are the section roads and on the south the drive and edge of the field. On the east, the boundary is a ditch and field.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mrs. Helen Strong	Technical Editing:	Carolyn Torma and John Burrows Historical Preservation Center Vermillion, SD 57069
organization		date	28 May 81
street & number	4711 Cliff Drive	telephone	605-343-5526 (605-677-5313)
city or town	Rapid City	state	South Dakota

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James R. Fishburne

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

date May 3, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Alma Byers</i>	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	