

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 24 1987

date entered

SEP 25 1987

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

1. Name

historic Oldham Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street and Epton Avenue not for publication

city, town Oldham vicinity of

state South Dakota code 046 county Kingsbury code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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 checked="" 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 Oldham Methodist Church

street & number Main Street and Epton Avenue

city, town Oldham vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kingsbury County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number Second Street

city, town De Smet state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

See Continuation Sheets

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Oldham Methodist Church

Sited at the west end of the city's Main Street, Oldham Methodist Church is an L-shaped wood frame building that rises from a poured cement foundation. The church was constructed on a standard Methodist plan, at one time common to South Dakota. It is counted as a single contributing building.

Two large bays form an "L" with perpendicular gables facing south and east. A bell tower/narthex is fixed at the intersection of the each leg of the "L" and contains the sole entry door opening to the east. The tower is a square verticle shaft with a flat roof and does not include a steeple. Rather, it is truncated with by four short corner posts, which originally supported a balustade that is no longer extant. A brick chimney rises at the peak of the south gable. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Fenestration includes unaltered Gothic arched windows of clear glass and double-hung sashes. In addition, a Gothic arched overlight caps the double door on the east and Gothic openings with louvers surround the bell tower. The gables are decorated with elaborate cut bargeboard.

Interior features of the church are largely original, complete with hardwood floors, an altar rail, pews, and woodwork. A pressed-metal ceiling and suspended light fixtures are also present. The building is heated by a gas furnace located on the main floor, although the original coal furnace is still in place in the dirt cellar. The original bell, which laid on the ground in front of the church for several years, was remounted in 1987.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1913–1914 **Builder/Architect** P. E. Peterson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oldham

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 4	6 3 4 9 0 0	4 8 9 8 3 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of this property lie within the legal description: Lot 5, Block 5, Case First Addition, City of Oldham, Kingsbury County, South Dakota.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Lynus Eykamp (w/ technical assistance by John E. Rau, State Historical Preservation Center, P. O. Box 417, Vermillion, SD, 57069, ph: 605-677-

organization Oldham Methodist Aid, Oldham Methodist Church date June 16, 1987 5314)

street & number Box J telephone 605-482-8171

city or town Oldham state South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

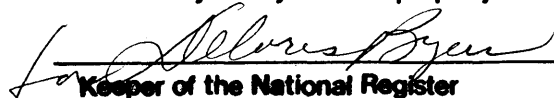
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, SHPC date 8-20-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 9-25-87

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 1

Oldham Methodist Church

Significant in the area of architecture, Oldham Methodist Church is a relatively unaltered example of the L-shaped plan used extensively by Methodist congregations in South Dakota. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, this property fits the historic context labeled IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, H. Religious Structures.

Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist denominations during the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century adopted and standardized an L-shaped plan for their church edifices. This scheme called for two perpendicular gables with a bell tower rising from the intersection of the two legs of the "L". The use of this plan was perhaps most prevalent among the Methodists, whose extension service published its own plan book based on the work of Philadelphia architect Benjamin Price. Thus, many nearly identical Methodist churches were constructed in communities throughout South Dakota from 1880 to about 1920. However, few of these buildings survive in an undisturbed state and some have suffered extensive alteration.

Oldham Methodist Church, on the otherhand, is a rare, practically uncorrupted example of this plan, displaying the L-shaped form in its pure state. Other original features include Gothic arched window and door openings, decorative bargeboard, hardwood interior appointments and furniture, lighting fixtures, and a pressed-metal ceiling. The only major cosmetic change was the removal of a balustrade at the cornice of the bell tower.

The community was founded in 1882 under the name of Hoffman. In 1887, officials of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad platted the town and changed its name to Oldham in honor of area pioneer farmer Oldham Garrott. For a number of years after the inception of the town, Methodists worshiped with the Baptists, until 1907, when there were enough of the former to support a separate congregation. In 1913, they finally raised enough funds for the present Methodist Church building, and let a contract to a prominent local carpenter P. E. Peterson. It was completed and dedicated in the spring of 1914. Peterson constructed a number of extant historic homes and commercial buildings in Oldham and the surrounding area. Included among them is his own

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Oldham Methodist Church

house, the Peterson-Loriks House (or Loriks Heritage House), listed on the National Register in 1980. Although services are held at Oldham Methodist Church only occasionally, the building is kept in good condition, structurally and cosmetically, and it will play an important role in the community's centennial celebration in 1987.

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Oldham Methodist Church

Atlas of Kingsbury County, South Dakota. Fergus Falls, MN: Thomas O. Nelson Co., 1957.

Atlas of Kingsbury County, South Dakota. Fergus Falls, MN: Thomas O. Nelson Co., 1966.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. "The Architectural History of South Dakota." Draft Ms. Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, n. d. Chapter 8. pp. 14-15.

Hanson, Agnes Jeanette. "A Study of Place Names in Kingsbury County, South Dakota." Unpublished M. A. Thesis. University of South Dakota. 1940.

Letter from Mrs. Lewis Holdridge, Brookings, South Dakota, to Mrs. Lynus Eykamp, Oldham, South Dakota. September 2, 1986. Copy in State Historical Preservation Center files, Vermillion, South Dakota.

Letter from Mabelle Davis, Huron, South Dakota, to Mrs. Lynus Eykamp, Oldham, South Dakota. n. d. Copy in State Historical Preservation Center files, Vermillion, South Dakota.

Personal Interview with Genevive Bumann by Mrs. Lynus Eykamp, Oldham, South Dakota, September 17, 1986.

Personal Interview with Evangeline Larson by Mrs. Lynus Eykamp, Madison, South Dakota, September 17, 1986.