

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 21 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 22 1977

**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

Voorhees Chapel and Music Department

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Jamestown College

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

North Dakota

CODE

38

COUNTY

Stutsman

CODE

093

3 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees, Jamestown College

STREET & NUMBER

Taber Hall, Jamestown College

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota

58401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Stutsman County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

504 Third Avenue S.E.

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

STATE

North Dakota 58401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

North Dakota Historic Site Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

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

The auditorium or main block of Voorhees Chapel and Music Department is a cruciform structure with raised basement and measures approximately 81½ feet by 43½ feet. A transept projects 10 feet 3 inches on the northeast elevation, and a second transept-like space of equal dimensions is built into the music department wing which extends from the southwest elevation. A bell tower on the southeast elevation of the wing and a storage unit attached to the rear of the chapel proper complete the configuration, which overall is L-shaped. The parapet gable roofs of the main block, transept, and wing are covered in red slate which has been extensively replaced and repaired over the years. The exterior walls are common-bond dark red brick reputedly manufactured by the Hydraulic Press Brick Company in St. Louis, Missouri, owned by the father of poet and critic T.S. Eliot. The foundation is granite, but structural trim (belt course, sills, hood molds, arch components, buttress weatherings, and coping) is concrete.

Fenestration in the basement of the main block, as well as in the basement, first, and attic stories of the wing, consists of single, double, and triple windows with 6 over 6 sash. In the roof of the wing there are also pediment dormers with quatrefoil tracery. Segmental pointed stained glass windows with wooden casings and lead muntins illuminate the chapel. The double and triple openings on the facade and in the northeast transept are further embellished with geometrical tracery beneath arches faced with brick and concrete. Emphasis on the facade is also achieved by a compound concrete arch which repeats the outline of the windows and behind which is a recessed porch. A pair of 5-stage buttresses topped by finials flank the entrance, with shorter versions at the facade corners and along the side elevations. The bell tower includes elements already noted (compound segmental pointed entry arch and enclosed porch; buttresses; and arched apertures) and terminates in a battlemented parapet. On the rear elevation of the main block is a 1-story frame addition constructed in the 1930s which features a steeply pitched gable roof, shallow cornice with returns, and red brick-patterned asphalt siding. It has been variously used as a storage facility, furnace room, ceramics kiln, and welding workshop.

The auditorium of the chapel contains seating for 700 in pews with paneled, pointed-arch end supports. The roof framing incorporates such medieval-type components as hammer beams and braces, pendant posts, corbels, and arch timbers with triangular headings carved in foils. The consistency of the Gothic theme is also reinforced in hardware which includes traceried brass door knobs and escutcheons patterned in triple arches. The stage, built within a 24-foot long segmental proscenium arch at the northwest end of the auditorium, originally had a curved apron and a depth of 24 feet. It was extended to a rectangular shape and a depth of 35½ feet ca. 1969, but the smaller configuration still exists beneath the enlargement. At the back of the stage is a wooden reredos constructed in 1952 by the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut. Its center of interest is a Tudor arch with a rise of pressed wood painted, sanded, and stippled to simulate ashlar masonry. Opposite the stage, at the southeast end of the auditorium, is the balcony or choir loft, accessible from each side of the main entrance by way of quarter-turn stairways featuring rectilinear newels and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 21 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 22 1977

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

balusters and molded stringers. Both the balcony apron and the base on which the pipe organ is mounted in the center of the balcony are carved in trefoil-like designs. The walls and ceiling of the auditorium are white plaster, which was the original scheme, but the painted borders with floriated corners which earlier outlined the rectangular spaces between rafters and purlins have been obliterated. Recessed lighting fixtures have also replaced the single globes in circular brass mounts which formerly were suspended by chains from the arch timbers.

The basement of the auditorium, functionally finished in tile floors and partition walls, is occupied by individual and classroom studios of the music department; office and storage space assigned to the art department; and a student lounge. In the music department wing, the basement and first floor contain additional offices and rehearsal rooms, as well as a lecture classroom and rest rooms. The attic story of the wing was designed for courses in speech and dramatics, with a small auditorium, a stage at the north end, and dressing rooms.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" 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 1917 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dr. Barend H. Kroeze

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Voorhees Chapel and Music Department, stylistically retardataire when built, was nonetheless functionally innovative in the variety and flexibility of its spaces, which included sanctuary, theatre, commons, and classrooms. The Collegiate Gothic architecture of the building is physically expressive of the spiritual purposes of Jamestown College, a 4-year liberal arts Christian institution founded in 1883 by the Northern Pacific Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church. The chapel was intended by its builders to serve as the focus, both real and symbolic, of campus life, and has been so perceived by administration, faculty, and students to the present time. It is also a monument to the vision and perseverance of Dr. Barend H. Kroeze, president of Jamestown College from 1909 to 1946, and to the philanthropy of Mrs. Elizabeth Voorhees of Clinton, New Jersey, for whom it is named. Dr. Kroeze, in his history of the college, A Prairie Saga (St. Paul, Minnesota: North Central Publishing Company, 1952), acknowledged the generosity of Mrs. Voorhees in financing the chapel/music department at a cost of \$51,000 and also indicated his own role in the project:

The whole structure was erected under the president's personal supervision, including the designing, the purchase of all the materials and the employment of the skilled labor and artisans, with the prayer and hope that the edifice would serve its noble purpose in building and strengthening the spiritual lives of the youth of the prairies. (Pp. 83-84.)

There appears to be no architect of record associated with the execution of Voorhees Chapel and Music Department, a circumstance which seems to substantiate the above statement and campus tradition that Dr. Kroeze, who had studied architecture at the University of Michigan, was indeed responsible for the design. According to his son, Dr. Robert G. Kroeze of Butte, Montana, Dr. Barend Kroeze had a drawing board and instruments (now owned by his son) with which he produced plans for many buildings on the Jamestown College campus, including the chapel/music department. Since Dr. Kroeze did not have blueprinting equipment, he would collaborate at that point in the process with an architect who did, a practice which may explain the blueprint drawings which exist for "Details for Chapel Windows and Louvre in Tower, Jamestown College," by J.A. Shannon, a Jamestown architect. Shannon is thought to have received several major commissions in Jamestown, including the First Presbyterian Church (1914), the Alfred Dickey Free Library (1918), and the White Building, none of which is stylistically akin to the chapel/music department. On the contrary, in their terracotta ornamental detailing, the library and the White Building reflect the influence of Louis Sullivan, with whom Shannon is reputed to have studied.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 21 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 22 1977

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Voorhees Chapel and Music Department was under construction during the closing years of World War I and was formally dedicated on November 27, 1918. The music department presented a concert at the opening, with young men of the Student Army Training Corps joining in with patriotic songs to celebrate the recent Armistice. The basement of the chapel auditorium was first used as a student cafeteria, with a kitchen located beneath the stage and originally served by coal-burning stoves since gas lines from the city of Jamestown did not then reach the half-mile to campus. (The building itself, however, has had its own central heating plant from the beginning.) The basement has subsequently been remodeled for other uses, but the auditorium and the music department wing continue to house the functions for which they were constructed. The chapel is the setting for the annual Christian convocation, the inauguration of presidents of the college, commencement exercises, and student plays, recitals, and weddings. From 1948 to 1952 the Jamestown community concert series was held in the chapel, and it has also hosted meetings of the North Dakota Presbytery, workshops conducted for state high school student councils, and statewide competitions for music students. The pipe organ in the balcony of the auditorium is by Hillgreen, Lane, & Co., Alliance, Ohio, and was given in 1955 in memory of Mrs. Jessie B. Orlady, wife of Benjamin Neff Orlady, an early Jamestown merchant. The original Wick pipe organ with three manuals was located in the southwest transept (the northeast transept was designated for faculty seating) and was especially useful as a teaching instrument because of the full-size door in the back which gave access to the workings.

During 1973-76 a general refurbishing of the chapel/music department wing was carried out, including plastering, painting, and carpeting on the interior, and tuckpointing mortar and repairing roofing on the exterior. Much of the labor was done by faculty and students of the music department, with financial assistance obtained under a federal work-study program. Such improvements have traditionally been governed by the desire not only to extend the life of the building but also to protect the original character of its most significant component: the chapel auditorium. For that reason, changes in plan and finish which have occurred over the years have fortunately been confined, with minor exceptions, to the auditorium basement and the music department wing.