

*HISTORIC NAME: Portland Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church COUNTY: Houston
 CURRENT NAME: Portland Prairie United Methodist Church CITY/TWP.: Winnebago Township
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: on township road,
 just west of TH 76
 0.3 MN 76

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Religion</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Restricted _____	PRESENT USE: Church
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes <u>X</u> No _____	
OCCUPIED: Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1876	ORIGINAL USE: Church
ORIGINAL OWNER: local Methodist Episcopal Congregation	ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Mr. Tuttle, of New Albin, Iowa

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Caledonia United Methodist Church; c/o Paul Plager, Chairman; Board of Trustees; 514 West Lincoln; Caledonia, MN	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
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LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: N/A	UTM REFERENCE: Eitzen, Minn-Iowa Quad. 15 / 621940 / 4820110
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FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.
DATE: May 29, 1981

DESCRIPTION:

The Portland Prairie Methodist Church is located about two miles northwest of Eitzen, MN, in a rural area known as Portland Prairie. The building is situated on a small lot with cemetery, within a large cultivated field. The structure consists of a basic wood-frame, one-story rectangle with gable roof and a highly articulated Eastlake west facade which fronts on a gravel road. This asymmetrical composition on the west facade includes a small tower and primary entryway extending to the south, and a smaller entryway and elaborately-conceived tall thin chimney to the north. The two entryways project slightly beyond the north and south walls and extend the roof line, thus creating a broad, triangular facade on which is centered a double window (paired nine-over-nine double-hung sash) with pointed-arch hood. The church has a stone foundation and is roofed with raised-seam metal; it is painted cream with chocolate trim. The interior is intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Portland Prairie Church is significant for its architectural style and as a representative of the New England heritage of many of the settlers in the Portland Prairie area. It is an unusually fine and unaltered example of Eastlake design applied to a basic rectangular wood-frame rural church. This has given it a prominence and landmark status in the Portland Prairie region and has contributed to the building's continued maintenance and use. It was constructed in 1876, and was the first church building in an area which had been served since 1855 by the Caledonia Methodist circuit rider. Other churches in the area were built by immigrant populations of Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, and Irish; the congregation of this church was largely Yankee from New England and New York. While the active congregation moved to nearby Caledonia in 1935, the church continues to be used for periodic services.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"Portland Prairie Methodist Church File." Minnesota Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Winnebago Township
Houston County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Commencing in the northwest corner of section 30, Township 101, Range 5, at the southeast corner of the intersection of two township roads meeting at that point, thence south 1350 ft. along the east right-of-way line of the township road which follows the west section line, to arrive at a point of beginning; thence south 150 ft. along said right-of-way line; thence east 300 ft.; thence north 150 ft.; thence west 300 ft. to point of beginning.