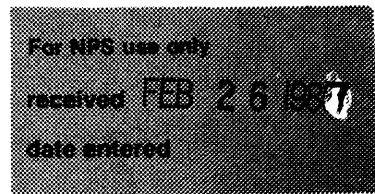


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Peace Valley Evangelical

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Church

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SITE HN-13

NAME Peace Valley Evangelical Church
and Cemetery

LOCATION East side of South Dakota State Highway
79 about eight miles northwest of Ralph,
Harding County (063), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Mrs. Leo Ketterling
Reeder, North Dakota 58649

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition, occu-
pied, restricted access, vacant

DESCRIPTION Excellent condition, unaltered, original
site

The Peace Valley Evangelical Church and Cemetery is located on the east side of South Dakota State Highway 79 approximately eight miles northwest of Ralph, the nearest town. The surrounding terrain is rolling prairie and is used for agricultural purposes.

Stylistically, the church is rural Gothic, however much of the identifiable architectural detail is absent. A Gothic nave plan, the church has a narthex, nave, choir and alter.

The building is a wood-frame rectangular pen built ca. 1900. The exterior of the structure is covered with five inch clapboard which is painted white. Entry to the church is gained through the bell tower through a set of double doors surmounted by a small arched transom. The bell tower is topped by a decorative wooden finial. All the roofs are covered with wooden shingles. Four lancet windows are on each side wall. The windows are covered with screens that are painted black. The entire building rests on a poured concrete basement.

Located to the west of the church is a wood-frame outhouse (contributing). It is shiplap with a pyramidal roof covered with wooden shingles.

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The cemetery is north of the church and contains the graves of approximately thirty individuals. The grave markers in this cemetery exhibit a higher level of craftsmanship than others found throughout the vicinity. The earliest stone dates from 1881. There are plantings throughout the cemetery that include iris and various shrubs.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, architecture, religion

DATE: ca. 1900

BUILDER: Not available

The Peace Valley Evangelical Church is significant to the Ralph vicinity of Harding County and northwestern South Dakota because it is an outstanding example of rural Gothic church architecture. The church, which is historically known as the Fredensdal Church after one of the early settlers and original church members, is important for serving the spiritual needs of the homesteaders and ranchers who originally settled the Ralph vicinity.

The Peace Valley Evangelical Church is in excellent condition and an exemplary state of preservation. The many limestone markers in the burial ground exhibit a higher level of craftsmanship than most found throughout the region.

QUADRANGLE NAME Cow Butte, SW/SD UTM 13/656630/5077670

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE About 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property follow four imaginary lines. In the north about 60 feet from the north exterior wall, in the east about 35 feet from the east exterior wall, in the south about 10 feet from the south exterior wall and the western boundary is about 10 feet from the western exterior wall. The church and cemetery are located in the SW quarter of the SW quarter of Section 26, Township 22 North, Range 9 East of Harding County, South Dakota.

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