

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

---

NRIS Reference Number: 94000568

Date Listed: 6/2/94

Property Name: St. Scholastica Refectory

County: Sanborn State: South Dakota

none  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

June 2, 1994  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

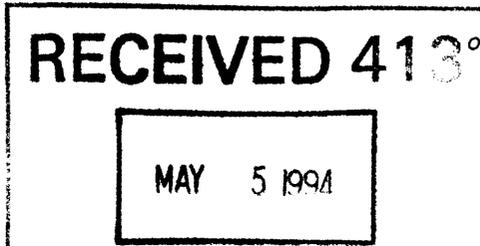
Section 6. Function

Historic function is hereby changed to "Domestic: single dwelling" to reflect the function of the property during the period of significance--1906.

-----  
Melissa Dirr, National Register coordinator for the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on June 2, 1994.

---

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. Scholastica Rectory

Other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: RR  not for publication

City or town: Letcher  vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Sanborn Code: 111 Zip code: 57359

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility  meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] SD 5470

4/20/94  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Sandra McClure 6/2/94

St. Scholastica Rectory  
Name of Property

Sanborn, SD  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church related residence  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
Other: American Foursquare

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation Poured Concrete  
walls Wood Clapboard  
roof Asphalt Shingles  
other brick (chimney)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. Scholastica Rectory  
Name of Property

Sanborn, SD  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1906  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1906 (construction)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Bulder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

St. Scholastica Rectory  
Name of Property

Sanborn, SD  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 | 1569440 | 4860500 2    |    |     
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  
3    |    |    4    |    |     
 See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title: Bobby and Rene Pruitt with tech assistance from SHPC staff  
Organization: N/A Date: 3/24/94  
Street & Number: p.o. Box 96 Telephone: (605) 996-6140  
City or Town: Letcher State: SD Zip code: 57359

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Bobby and Rene Pruitt  
Street & Number: P.O. Box 96 Telephone: (605) 996-6140  
City or Town: Letcher State: SD Zip code: 57359

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

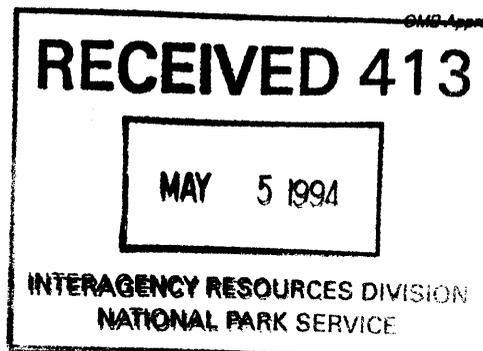
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 1



**Narrative Description:**

The Saint Scholastica Rectory is located on the west side of Fourth Street between Wisconsin and State Streets in the town of Letcher, Sanborn County, South Dakota. The building faces east on to Fourth Street and is situated two blocks south of the central business district. The building is rectangular in plan, of standard balloon frame construction and rises two full stories in height. Narrow clapboard walls rest on a high poured concrete foundation which has numerous half windows allowing light into a full basement. The primary roof is hipped and features front and south side hipped roof dormers and wide boxed eaves. The entire roof is covered in modern asphalt shingles. Stylistically, the rectory can be classified as an example of the American Foursquare style architecture which retains certain elements traditionally associated with the earlier Colonial Revival and Queen Anne traditions.

The principal elevation faces Fourth Street to the east. It is dominated by a one story hipped roof porch which begins at the southeast corner of the building, runs the entire length of the front elevation and wraps around the northeast corner of the building to terminate approximately one third of the way along the north side elevation. The porch features simple round columns, an unelaborated railing, diagonal lattice skirting, and a plain molded cornice and fascia. The porch is reached by a set of unadorned wooden steps. The main entry to the house is located on the north side of the front elevation and is highlighted by inset sidelights and a flat surround. To the south of the entry is a large fixed pane window which features a decorative beveled glass transom. As with the door and all other fenestration, the window surround is quite plain. There are two smaller windows located on the second story of this elevation, both of which have 1-over-1 double hung sash. Flat corner and frieze boards and a small molded cornice, provide the only contrast to the narrow clapboard siding. The main elevation also possesses a central hipped dormer with a band of three small 1-over-1 double hung sash. Window treatment for this dormer is identical to the larger windows described above.

Decorative treatment for the south side elevation is similar to that described above, with the addition of a plain wooden belt course located at the watertable. The first story features two sets of

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

paired sash while the second story has four individual windows. Window treatments and sash are as above with the addition of fixed four and eight light half windows located in the foundation which provide light to the basement. This elevation has a hipped center dormer identical to the one located on the front of the building. A singular feature of note on the south elevation is a one story polygonal bay located on the east end of the first floor. This bay has a flared hipped roof and a decorative fixed central window with beveled glass transom similar to the one located on the first floor of the main elevation. There are also two smaller windows with 1-over-1 sash in either angle of the bay.

The north elevation is dominated by a two story polygonal bay located at the termination of the wrap around porch mentioned above. The first story of this bay has a door directly on to the porch. The central portion of the bay features identical tripartite fixed pane windows on both the first and second stories. The three segments of these windows are divided by a horizontal muntin located approximately three quarters of the way up the window, creating the impression of a transom. The other angles of the bay have windows similar to those described above. The main roof projects to cover this bay. To the rear of the bay, each story possesses a single window with 1-over-1 sash similar to those on the other elevations. Basement windows on this elevation are identical to those on the south side of the building. Decorative treatments are also identical.

The rear of the building features decorative elements similar to the other sides of the building. Fenestration is all 1-over-1 sash. There is a small shed roof projection on the south half of the rear elevation which encloses the back stairs. There is a plain rear door located on the north side of this element. It also has two windows with 1-over-1 sash.

The interior of the building features many period details. These include narrow hardwood flooring, simple quartersawn oak trim, five panel oak doors, one set of oak pocket doors and several period fixtures. Of particular note is the built in oak china cabinet and sideboard located in the dining room.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

St. Scholastica Rectory is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as embodying the distinctive type, period or method of construction. Specifically this building is a well preserved example of the American Foursquare style which incorporates elements of the earlier Colonial Revival and Queen Anne traditions. As such it is an excellent illustration of the transition which took place in vernacular domestic architecture in the first decade of the 20th Century. Under the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Plan the property relates to the context labelled IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement (1858-Present).

Background

The St. Scholastica Rectory is located in the town of Letcher, Sanborn County, South Dakota. Letcher was founded in 1882 by agents of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad and was the first railroad community in what was to become Sanborn County. Letcher enjoyed a brief boom until the loss of the county seat to Woonsocket in 1884. The town grew modestly during the early 20th century reaching a peak population of approximately 300 in 1930. As with most small rural communities in the state, Letcher has seen a gradual decline in both it's population and prosperity since the Great Depression.

The rectory was built in 1906, six years after the construction of the St. Scholastica Church immediately to the south. The building served as a private dwelling until 1929. At that time the St. Scholastica Parish purchased the building to serve as a rectory. The building was used in this capacity until the parish was closed in 1979. It has since been converted back into a private residence.

Architectural Significance

Stylistically the St. Scholastica Rectory is an example of the Early 20th Century eclectic style known as American Foursquare. This vernacular building style can be most closely affiliated with the design aesthetic espoused by the Prairie School. This movement embraced the abandonment of traditionally inspired architectural forms, such as the Classical or Queen Anne, and advocated what Louis Sullivan referred to as an "organic" approach to design and ornamentation. This

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

---

ideology, particularly as presented in the early residential work of Frank Lloyd Wright, eventually found it's way into the realm of popular architecture and building. The result was what has become known as the American Foursquare house. Excess ornamentation and much of the asymmetry which found favor in the late 19th Century were eliminated, reducing the house to a simple hipped roof two story cube. Porches tended to be symmetrical and run the full width of the main elevation. Wall planes were usually uninterrupted by bays or towers. Decoration was minimal and the overall qualities communicated were those of sensibility, sturdiness and horizontality. It is interesting to note that while the Prairie approach to decorative treatments was adopted whole heartedly, the Prairie School's struggle to break free of the box like form and interior arrangement of the traditional Victorian house was unsuccessful. Indeed, the "pure" Foursquare was even more relentlessly rectilinear than its Queen Anne predecessors.

The St. Scholastica Rectory presents many of the attributes of a typical Foursquare house. The basic rectangular plan, the minimal approach to decoration, and the shallow hipped roof with central dormer and wide boxed eaves are all hallmarks of this style. In addition to these elements, however, the rectory also retains several aspects of the earlier Queen Anne and Colonial Revival tradition. The pure symmetry of the rectangular plan is interrupted by the two story bay on the north and by the single story bay on the south. The asymmetry of the porch is also a telling feature of the late Victorian tradition. These elements, combined with the off center placement of the main entry and the vaguely classical porch columns, remove this building from consideration as a "pure" example of the Foursquare style.

The true significance of the St. Scholastic Rectory is as an excellent example of the transition from the earlier Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles to the newer Foursquare design. It is the free adaptation of a variety of high style elements into the realm of popular architecture, borrowing from both past and present, which is the quintessence of mass domestic building in the first decade of this century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

---

### **Bibliography:**

Erpsted, David and David Wood, An Architectural History of South Dakota, unpublished manuscript, South Dakota State Historical Society, (1989)

Brown, Alice and S.S. Judy, Sanborn County History, 1873-1963, published by the authors, (1964)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 6

---

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Lot 4, Block 21 Lawlers and Crennans Addition to the city of Letcher

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries include the lot historically associated with the St. Scholastica Rectory.