

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 31 1980 JUN 6 1980  
DATE ENTERED

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

Oahe Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N W of Pierre

Oahe Dam

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pierre

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

46

COUNTY

CODE

South Dakota

Hughes

065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of South Dakota % Historical Preservation Center

STREET & NUMBER

U.S.D. Alumni House

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Vermillion

VICINITY OF

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hughes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Pierre

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

A Preliminary Report on Historical Aspects  
of the Oahe Reservoir Project

DATE

1953

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service - Region II

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Omaha

Nebraska

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1964</u> to present location

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oahe Chapel is one-story nave plan building with a one-and-one-half story bell tower attached to the northeast corner. Four bays on the axial facades, the building has its entrance in the bell tower. Sheathed in weatherboard and roofed with shingles, the structure rests on an aggregate stone foundation. Window treatments include the three-pane overlight above the door, double-hung, 4/4 pane windows in the side, as well as a blind Gothic arched louvered window in the front facade. A simple balustrade and posts support its low bell-cast roof, while a wood-covered chimney on the front facade is canted out to fill the eave beneath a small metal stack. In 1964 the building was threatened with destruction by flooding from the Oahe reservoir, and was moved onto a new foundation on this site.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Sioux Indian

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SPECIFIC DATES                    1877    BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Oahe Chapel lies in its architecture, its role as a religious institution, and its association with Sioux Indian culture. This is the last remaining building of the Oahe Mission founded in 1873 as the headquarters for the missionary efforts among the Sioux. In 1877 Reverend S. R. Riggs built the chapel with lumber brought up the Missouri River from Yankton. Originally call Bogue Station, the mission opened the Oahe Industrial School in 1883 as a boarding school for Indian children. A second school opened in the 1890's as a boarding school for young girls. Despite the closing of the mission in 1914, the Chapel remained in use, and the Indians held services here in the Sioux language until 1937. Throughout its history, the Chapel has also served the local community as a place of worship and as a social center.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Mattison Report, United States Department of the Interior,  
National Park Service, Region II, Omaha, Nebraska, 1953.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
UTM REFERENCES Oahe Dam Quadrangle 1:24,000

A	14	389760	4923480	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Oahe Chapel is located 1900 ft. east of the gaging station of the Oahe Dam and 30 ft. north of State Highway 1804. See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

Technical Editing:

NAME / TITLE

LeEllen Coacher

Carolyn Torma

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

1979

STREET & NUMBER

U.S.D. Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605/677/5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

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

*John J. Little*

TITLE

Director, Historical Preservation Center

DATE

17 March 80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Ray Fuce*

DATE

6/6/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*William H. Rulham*

DATE

3.6.80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The east and south boundaries are formed by the edge of the road which curves around the site. Located on level, the slope of the hill to the west and north, which is marked with a fence, forms the boundary along those sides. The northeast boundary is a line running parallel to the northeast facade of the building, lying ten meters from the wall, and located between the Chapel and the contemporary shelter to the north.