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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. 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 (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Presbyterian Church

other names/site number First United Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number 602 Vermillion Street not for publication N/A

city or town Hastings vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN county Dakota code 037 zip code 55033

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 of certifying official/Title Ian R. Stewart Date 5/26/95

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State of Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

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): _____

hoc
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action
Entered in the National Register 7/7/95

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Dakota County, Minnesota
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	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

Limestone

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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

Social History

Period of Significance

1876-1945

Significant Dates

1876, 1881, 1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daniels, Charles N. (architect)

Fitch, Edwin S. (builder)

See continuation sheet 8:5

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Dakota County, Minnesota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	5 1 1 6 6 0	4 9 5 3 8 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Susan Granger and Kay Grossman

organization Gemini Research date March 3, 1995

street & number 15 E. 9th St. telephone (612) 589-3846

city or town Morris state MN zip code 56267

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.)

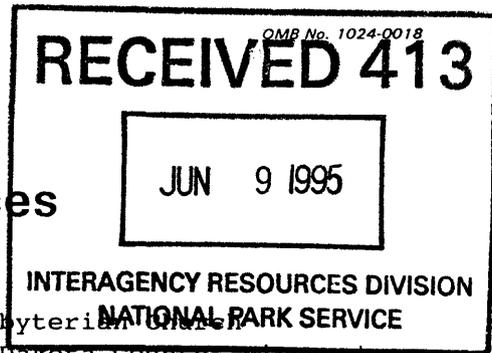
name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota

7. DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings is located in a primarily residential neighborhood on the southern edge of downtown Hastings, a community of 17,000 people located on the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota. The church stands on a sloping, prominent site at the southwestern corner of Vermillion Street and West Sixth Street, five blocks south of the Mississippi River. Vermillion Street, also known as U.S. Highway 61, is the major route which carries traffic north and south through Hastings. Historic photographs indicate that the church property was originally landscaped with grassy lawns and there were deciduous trees on the boulevard. There is currently an asphalt-paved driveway behind the church at the western edge of the property. Immediately south of the church is a gravel parking lot which marks the former site of the church's woodframe parsonage. The last parsonage on this site was built in 1884 and razed in 1972. Along the eastern edge of the parsonage lot there is a rockfaced concrete block retaining wall and a set of poured concrete steps which originally led to the front of the house.

The Romanesque Revival style First Presbyterian Church was designed by architect Charles N. Daniels of Faribault and built between 1875 and 1881. Edwin S. Fitch, a prominent church member, was the general contractor. The 87-foot-long by 52-foot-wide building was constructed of soft reddish-brown brick. The brick superstructure rests on a massive base of buff-colored coursed ashlar limestone. The limestone forms the building's foundation and a tall basement or lower story. The limestone blocks are rockfaced on the sidewalls and more smoothly-dressed but tooled on the main facade. There is a smooth limestone watertable near the base of the lower story, and a smooth limestone beltcourse at the top of the lower story which also serves as a continuous base for the upper story's brick pilasters. The church has a gabled roof which was originally covered with wood shingles, and is now covered with asphalt shingles.

The main facade is a symmetrical composition of two matching brick corner towers which flank the building's principal gable end. The main entrance is located within a segmental-arched opening between the towers in the central bay. Within the entrance arch is a heavy double-leaf door which is topped by a paneled wooden transom with small rectangular lights. There are small wall-mounted lamps at the entrance and flanking the entrance is a pair of narrow rounded-arched stained glass windows. A metal cross has been affixed to the entrance keystone. South of the entrance is a bulletin board with a pedimented frame. Above the entrance, the central bay has a tall tripartite, rounded-arched stained glass window. Above this window is a limestone block which reads "Centennial", linking the building of the superstructure in 1876 with the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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The church has five bay sidewalls which are divided by brick pilasters which rest on the building's limestone base and support an entablature at the edge of the roofline. The entablature has a molded frieze and dentils at the cornice. The pilasters enframe tall rounded-arched stained glass windows. There are segmental-arched window openings in the limestone base. There is a segmental-arched doorway with a transom at the center of the northern sidewall. There were originally two brick interior endwall chimneys with flared caps rising above the northern sidewall. The chimneys were removed in 1907.

The church has tall, narrow, rounded-arched window openings on both the main facade and the sidewalls. Those on the main facade and on the sides of the towers have limestone hood moldings, keystones, and sills. Those on the sidewalls have hood moldings and imposts of brick, and keystones and sills of limestone. The window openings are filled with rounded-arched, double-hung stained glass sash which has tracery forming circular and rounded-arched patterns. The church's stained glass windows are covered by a protective, second layer of clear glass.

The corner towers are edged with brick pilasters which have simple limestone capitals and a continuous, smooth limestone base. The pilasters support large wooden entablatures with pediments, molded friezes, and cornices with modillions. The towers have tall rounded-arched stained glass windows. Near the top of the towers are bull's eye ventilators with stone surrounds and keystones. These bull's eye openings were originally filled with stained glass which was replaced in 1908 with the current louvers. At the base of the towers are segmental-arched recessed areas which are filled with segmental-arched stained glass windows on the main facade and are blind on the sidewalls. A metal cross has been hung within the segmental arch on the northern sidewall.

The church roof and roofs of the towers and their wooden cornices were destroyed by a fire in 1907. The brick portions of the church remained intact, but the fire also gutted the sanctuary. Before the fire, the brick towers were originally topped by bellcast, truncated hipped roofs which were sheathed in wooden shingles and topped by metal cresting. In 1887 the roof of the northern tower was replaced by a wooden belfry and a tall, slender spire. The belfry had 12 wooden pilasters which supported an entablature that, in turn, supported the spire. The spire was octagonal with a flared base and a finial at the top. When the belfry and spire was completed, the northern tower measured 124.6 feet and was the tallest steeple in the state.

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After the fire, Minneapolis architect Harry W. Jones and Stillwater contractor Frank Lenner were hired immediately to repair the church. The parish directed Jones to preserve and duplicate the original structure as closely as possible. Jones replaced the original tower roofs and spire with the current matching, open belfries which rise above new cornices. The belfries have small square brick piers at the corners which are covered with hipped caps and finials. Between each set of corner piers is an arcade of three small wooden rounded arches with keystones.

The rear facade of the church has gable returns, a cross at the peak of the gable, a circular stained glass window (which was added circa 1909), and a small bull's eye ventilator at the attic level. These two circular openings punctuate an otherwise solid, brick wall surface. The limestone which forms the building's tall base is largely uncoursed and consists mostly of limestone rubble at the rear facade.

The exterior of the church is basically intact, with the exception of the 1907 tower roofs and a sensitively-designed educational wing which was added to the southern facade by contractor Gilbert Hamm in 1962. This one story, flat-roofed, concrete block wing measures 18 feet wide by 88 feet deep. The main facade is faced with coursed ashlar limestone which matches the church. The addition has a segmental-arched entrance flanked by two rectangular window openings on the main facade. There is a single-leaf paneled wooden door which is flanked by two small wall-mounted lamps. The southern side has small rectangular window openings with smooth concrete sills. The addition originally housed a pastor's office, four classrooms, and a combined classroom and chapel.

There have been few additional exterior alterations. A slate roof was installed in 1945. The exterior brick and stonework were tuckpointed and exterior trim was repaired in 1974. The exterior was repainted in 1955 and in 1976. Recently, the cornices were painted, the bell towers were repaired, the windows were cleaned and releaded, and the church was reroofed with asphalt shingles.

The sanctuary of the church is entered from the vestibule via a set of double-leaf oak doors. The sanctuary is an intimate, low-ceilinged room which is well lighted by rounded-arched stained glass windows. It originally had a flat ceiling, plaster-covered walls, oak wainscoting below the window sill level, and an elliptical plaster arch behind a simple altar area. It had oak trim, pews, and other furnishings. The walls and ceiling were originally painted with bands and patterns which traced the room's shapes and added rich colors and designs to the ceiling.

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Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota

The sanctuary today is virtually unchanged from Harry W. Jones' 1907 post-fire design. It has plaster-covered walls and oak woodwork which is lightly stained and varnished. The ceiling has an elliptically-arched, plaster-covered vault over the nave, and arched vaults over the side aisles which join the central vault at simple cornices which runs the length of the nave. The walls are lighted by rounded-arched stained glass windows with oak sills. The lower portion of the walls--from the window sill level downward--is paneled in oak.

At the western end of the nave, oak columns with four-volute Ionic capitals and oak pilasters support a central rounded arch and two elliptical arches which define the altar and choir area. The top of the central arch is lighted by a circular stained glass window (circa 1909) located behind the choir. The central arch is filled with a large pipe organ (1911) which rises above the oak-paneled altar area. In front of the base of the organ are three joined oak benches with rounded-arched detailing, a carved oak pulpit (circa 1909), and a carved oak baptismal font (1943). Flanking the altar are raised platforms which provide seating for the choir. The floor of the sanctuary is covered with lightly-stained maple flooring and there are 30 oak pews (1909). A 1911 photograph of the interior shows hanging light fixtures, each with four or six lights. Today, the sanctuary has modern spot lighting.

The church's vestibule has a split oak stairway leading up to the upper-level sanctuary, and rounded-arched windows with oak sills. The vestibule contains an early hanging light fixture above the northern stairwell, an early fixture on the southern side at the basement level, and several recent hanging light fixtures, including one directly inside the main entrance.

The lower or basement level was originally designed to contain a lecture and classroom, study, and parlor. Today, it consists of an open dining room, a kitchen, and Sunday school rooms. There is a segmental-arched, double-leafed paneled doorway leading into the dining room. The kitchen has been remodeled.

The church's coal furnaces were replaced with gas furnaces about 1945. Interior wiring and lighting fixtures were replaced in 1945 and in the mid-1950s. The interior was repainted in the mid-1950s and the sanctuary was repainted in 1978. The pews were refinished in 1960 and other interior woodwork was refinished in 1981. The kitchen was remodeled in 1945 and in 1979 and other parts of the basement were remodeled in 1956 and 1978.

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Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECT/BUILDER, CONTINUED

Jones, Harry W. (architect, 1907 repairs)
Lenner, Frank (builder, 1907 repairs)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, and under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The church is significant in the state as an early example of the Romanesque Revival style, and as the work of Charles N. Daniels, one of Minnesota's earliest practicing architects. The church is also significant for its role in the early cultural history of Hastings and its settlement by people of Old Stock American or "Yankee" descent. The property is significant within the statewide historic contexts entitled "Early Agriculture and River Settlement, 1840-1870" and "Railroads and Agricultural Development 1870-1940." The church meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property which derives primary significance from architectural distinction.

Construction of the First Presbyterian Church began in 1875 and the superstructure was erected in 1876. The church is architecturally significant as one of the state's earliest, basically intact examples of Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical design. Developed on the East Coast from European precedents, the Romanesque Revival style first appeared in Minnesota in the 1850s but did not gain widespread use until the 1860s and 1870s. According to architecture critic Larry Millet, the Romanesque Revival style "appeared rarely [in the Twin Cities] but was employed for two of St. Paul's largest buildings of the 1870s--Assumption Church and the U.S. Customs House" (Millet 1992, 61). (Assumption Church was listed on the National Register in 1975.) The Romanesque Revival became more popular during the building boom of the 1880s through 1893 when most of the state's Romanesque Revival style churches, public buildings, commercial structures, and residences were built. Unlike the Romanesque Revival buildings of the 1860s and 1870s, however, many of these later-period buildings were heavily influenced by the strong massing, rockfaced brownstone and granite, and heavily-emphasized rounded-arched openings of the Richardsonian Romanesque. While the Romanesque Revival was used for some churches in Minnesota in the 1860s-1890s, it was eclipsed by the Gothic Revival, a style which dominated church design in Minnesota between 1870 and 1945.

Like early examples of the style, First Presbyterian exhibits a simple rectangular form with no transepts and no projecting apse, and an interior which is dominated by a large rectangular sanctuary. Its plan appears to fit

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Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota

the pattern noted by art historian Donald R. Torbert in his analysis of the state's early churches:

Unlike that of later periods, the church of the 1870s was not a complex of rooms. The exterior shape of the structure was primarily determined by the dimensions of the single, rectangular, main auditorium. The more elaborate structures had pretentious towers, true transepts, and side aisles of lesser height than the nave, but secondary spaces such as Sunday School, social, and committee rooms were relegated to actual basements or to high basement stories (Torbert 1951, 142).

First Presbyterian has a symmetrical design, a moderately-pitched gabled roof, rounded-arched window openings, broad and smooth brick wall surfaces, a two-towered facade, and (originally) pyradimal tower roofs with concave slopes, all of which are characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. The eaves of the church originally had cornices with modillions similar to those of Assumption Church (1870) in St. Paul which is considered to be one of the state's best examples of the style. These modillioned cornices took the place of brick corbelling at the top of the wall surfaces which was common in other examples of the Romanesque Revival nationwide.

Like other buildings designed in the picturesque, romantic movement of the 1850s-1870s, Romanesque Revival style buildings like First Presbyterian often shared features with those of the Italian Villa, Gothic Revival, French Second Empire, and Italianate styles (Whiffen 1969, 61, 72). The shape and height of First Presbyterian's towers, the size and shape of the windows and their stone hood moldings, the tracery of the stained glass windows, and the segmental-arched window and door openings are also features common in the aforementioned styles. Harry W. Jones' redesign of the tower roofs with their pedimented and modillioned cornices is reminiscent of the Italianate, while the open belfries add a Classical Revival flavor to the church's design.

In addition to its significance as an early example of the Romanesque Revival style, First Presbyterian Church is important as the work of Charles N. Daniels of Faribault, one of Minnesota's earliest architects. Daniels, like many of Minnesota's earliest architects, gained his architectural experience through apprenticeships and working as a building contractor, rather than through formal, academic training. Like several of his contemporaries, he moved to Minnesota from the East Coast. Daniels was born in upstate New York in 1828 and apprenticed there as a cabinetmaker before becoming a building contractor. He eventually began to design as well as build. Daniels moved to Minnesota in the 1860s, living first in St. Anthony. He moved to Faribault in the mid-1860s where he spent most of his Minnesota career.

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Daniels is known to have designed the Batchelder Block (1868), the C. N. Daniels House (1869), the Rice County Courthouse (1873-74), the Rice County Jail (1873), the First National Bank and Masonic Hall (circa 1870s), and St. Lawrence Church (1876), all in Faribault. He was involved in the design and/or construction of buildings at the State School for the Deaf in Faribault, and served as contractor for Faribault's Congregational Church (1867-1869, listed on the National Register in 1977), and as local supervising architect for the construction of the Episcopal Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour of Faribault (1862-1869, listed on the National Register in 1982). Like the First Presbyterian Church, most of the Faribault buildings were built of limestone and/or brick. Most were designed in the Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles. While living in Faribault, Daniels was an active Mason and was appointed to the Minnesota statewide office of Grand Visitor and Lecturer in 1870.

In addition to being one of Minnesota's earliest architects, Daniels was a competent designer and builder who was a significant, early figure in the establishment of the role of the professional architect in Dakota Territory (Ramsay 1995). In 1879 he and his family moved to Fargo where he continued to practice architecture with a partner, John C. Proctor. The firm's numerous works in the Fargo area include commercial structures such as the Masonic Block (1884) and the Luger Furniture Company, both of which are Victorian Gothic in style, as well as several residences. Daniels and/or Daniels and Proctor also designed many buildings in nearby Minnesota and North Dakota communities such as Crookston, Castleton, and Fergus Falls. In Fergus Falls Daniels designed a home for New Hampshire-born businessman Charles C. Clement (1882, listed on the National Register in 1986). Clement, interestingly, lived in Faribault in 1865-1867 and lived in Hastings in 1869-1880 where he was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church from 1874-1880. Charles N. Daniels was also in partnership with his son-in-law, attorney Charles S. Torkelson, in a real estate and insurance business in Fargo. In 1884 both Daniels and John C. Proctor moved to Tacoma, Washington where they continued to practice. Daniels died in 1892 in Tacoma at the age of 64.

Hastings' First Presbyterian Church was built just as Hastings was making the transition from a river to a railroad community. The city had been founded in 1833 when Joseph R. Brown built a trading post on the site of Oliver's Grove, named for William G. Oliver, a lieutenant in the U.S. Army who had camped with his troops at the site enroute to Fort Snelling during the winter of 1819-1820. Brown, the first settler, had been the drummer boy in Oliver's regiment. Located on the Mississippi River 25 miles downstream from St. Paul, Hastings remained a sparsely-populated outpost until after the Mendota Treaty of 1851 in which the Dakota Indians ceded southeastern Minnesota to the U.S. Government. This opened the area to Euro-American settlement. In 1852 fur traders Alexis Bailly, his son Henry G. Bailly, Henry Hastings

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Sibley, and Alexander Faribault, who knew of Oliver's Grove from their American Fur Company days, formed a townsite company to develop the site. John Blakely was hired in 1853 to plat the town, which was named after Sibley. Faribault sold his quarter-share in 1854 to General William G. Le Duc, a friend of Sibley's and a man who would eventually become one of the the city's leading industrialists and promoters and a prominent member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Hastings became a bustling Mississippi river town and wheat shipping port with its natural harbor and fertile surrounding farmland. Steamboats landed throughout the season, flour mills were built along the Vermillion River, and grain milling and marketing became a major industry. The first warehouses, stores, and homes were constructed of local limestone and built on the limestone shelf above the levee where they would be safe from floods. Logs floated to a steam sawmill beside the Mississippi were turned into lumber for the woodframe houses and shops that soon lined First, Second, and Third Streets from Bailly to Ashland (Hastings Historic Handbook, 1985).

Hastings had 650 residents in January of 1856, and by 1857 had grown to 1,918 people. In 1857 Hastings was incorporated as a city by the Territorial Legislature and was named the seat of Dakota County when the county seat was moved from Mendota. River steamers were a principal means of transportation and communication until the construction of the Hastings and Dakota Railroad in 1868. The St. Paul, Minnesota, and Pacific Railroad (after 1872 known as the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad) arrived in 1869 and in 1872 was merged with the Milwaukee, Hastings, and Dakota. Following the establishment of railroad service, Hastings' population rose from 2,489 people in 1865 to 3,458 in 1870, and to 3,809 in 1880. The city's population then remained fairly constant into the 1910s. Two and three story brick commercial buildings, opera houses, breweries, hotels, department stores, and an impressive courthouse were built as the local economy and population grew.

The First Presbyterian Church congregation is nearly as old as the city itself. It was established in the summer of 1855 when Reverend Charles Sumner Le Duc, brother of William Le Duc who was one of the townsite shareholders, held the first Presbyterian service for 13 worshippers. Le Duc and his brother both figured prominently in the early history of Hastings and its Presbyterian church. In January of 1856, the church was officially organized and the first stone church building was constructed on the southwestern corner of Fourth and Vermillion Streets. The congregation was one of the first church groups to be formed in Hastings and was one of the state's first Presbyterian churches.

Men and women who helped establish Hastings' first businesses and institutions were among the early members of the congregation. They included General William G. Le Duc (shareholder in Hastings townsite, organizer of the

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Hastings and Dakota Railway, Commissioner of Agriculture under President Hayes) and Mary Bronson Le Duc, Stephen Gardner and Louise Ingalls Gardner (owners of the Gardner Mill and Elevator, the Hastings Malting Company, the Vermillion Falls Mill, and the First National Bank), Hammon and Jane Stowell (establishers of a sawmill at Eddy Street in the 1870s), Charles Le Duc (who founded an early private elementary school and was a member of the first public school board) and Emma Le Duc, and P. T. and Elizabeth Countryman. Many of these parishioners were the Old Stock or "Yankee" Americans who had settled in Hastings soon after fur traders and French Canadians had founded the settlement. "Although the Yankees were usually a minority of the population in the cities and states of the upper Mississippi River Valley, this significant minority of people of New England origin played a role disproportionately larger than their numbers in the founding and development of the upper Mississippi River Valley. . . . The Yankees brought their values, code of conduct and zeal for reform" (Meinhard 1983, 296). Other ethnic groups which settled in Hastings included Irish and German immigrants who were well-represented by 1860; Swedish immigrants who arrived following the Civil War; and a small population of African-Americans who also arrived after the war (Zellie 1993, 35).

Often well-educated and armed with Eastern capital and lucrative business connections, Yankees settlers became Hastings' first merchants, bankers, grain millers, and property owners. They built many of the city's commercial buildings and largest homes. They founded four of Hastings' earliest church congregations--the First Baptist, St. Luke's Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, and First Presbyterian--all in 1856. According to Zellie, "the Presbyterian Church, in particular, seems to have had the membership of many of the city's business leaders" (Zellie 1993, 37). Even in the mid-1870s, when the present church was constructed, members of the Presbyterian congregation reflected a strong Yankee background, and, in fact, some of the early members of the congregation were still attending. The First Presbyterian Church (1876) and the Methodist Episcopal Church (1861, listed on the National Register in 1978) are the two church buildings associated with this cultural group which survive as basically intact, early structures. St. Luke's Episcopal's current church was built in 1881 but has a large addition, and First Baptist's current building was erected in 1924.

As Hastings' economic fortunes and population grew, the First Presbyterian congregation also grew. Immediately preceding the construction of the present church, during Reverend Welton's three and one-half year pastorate from 1872 to 1875, 108 members were admitted to the church--the greatest period of growth in its history (Whitaker and Stiles 1981, 5-8). By 1873 plans were being made to construct a new church and in May, 1874, the old church building on Fourth and Vermillion Streets was sold to Dietrich Becker for \$2,000. It later became Cobbs and Coles Livery Stable. Becker, in turn, sold property on Sixth and Vermillion Streets to the First Presbyterian

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Society for the erection of a new church. By then Vermillion Street had become a center for the city's churches. St. Luke's Episcopal was located at Vermillion and Seventh Street, the Methodist Episcopal church was built on Vermillion between Fifth and Sixth Streets and later moved to Vermillion and Eighth Street, and the First Baptist Church was located on Vermillion between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Vermillion Street was also the site of the Guardian Angels day and boarding school which was opened by the Sisters of St. Joseph at Vermillion and Ninth Street in 1872.

Construction of the new church began in 1875 with Charles N. Daniels of Faribault as architect and church member Edwin Fitch as general contractor. Limestone for the first story was quarried just outside of Hastings. The congregation soon ran into financial difficulties, however, which slowed progress to the point that it took seven years to complete the building. When Reverend Telford arrived in December of 1875, "he found a half-finished basement of a new church and a discouraged people" (Whitaker and Stiles 1981, 7). Services were being held in the courthouse and Telford quickly began raising funds to complete the construction, gathering \$7,500 within a year of his arrival. Walls were raised, the roof completed, benches were brought from the old church, and the congregation began worshipping in the lower portion of the building in October of 1876. The upper story was built by a brickmason named Hiland from Rosemount. The contract for interior woodwork and furnishings was awarded to Libbey and Thompson Sash and Door of Hastings, a firm which also furnished the interior woodwork for many of Hastings' early homes (Jacobsen-Theel and Thieling, 1995). The church cost approximately \$15,000 to construct.

When Reverend J. B. Donaldson arrived as pastor in 1878, the interior of the upper story was not yet complete but some of the detailing was in place. He later wrote that he took great "satisfaction in the frescoing . . . that . . . which covered the walls of the church. A vine ran above the cornice loaded with purple grapes that were good enough to eat; and the window of Charity in memory of our good benefactress, Mrs. Gardner, was a great delight" (Whitaker and Stiles 1981, 9-10).

Finally, on January 27, 1881, the First Presbyterian Church was formally dedicated on the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Presbyterian Society in Hastings. The Hastings Gazette wrote in its January 29, 1881, issue, "The membership, for the first time in their history, occupy a building entirely their own and one which is an ornament to the city" (Hastings Gazette, Jan. 29, 1881).

A traveler passing through Hastings was duly impressed by the new structure, and wrote a letter to the editor of the Northfield Journal which was published in the Hastings Gazette on September 2, 1882:

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[Hastings] is situated at the junction of the river division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway with the Mississippi River, and has the appearances that many river towns have put on since traveling is mostly done by railroads, instead of by steamboats. The streets need the attention of the street commissioner and a good sized crew of men. . . . I continued my way until I came to a fine looking brick church [First Presbyterian]. . . . The interior of the church was neat and tastefully frescoed. . . . The choir was seated back of the pulpit and were screened from the cruel gaze of the congregation by low, red curtains (Hastings Gazette, Sept. 2, 1882).

The church members were proud of their new structure, and many donated money and furnishings to the completion of the building. For example, parishioner Stephen Gardner matched the congregation's funds up to \$3,000, eventually contributing one-quarter of the construction costs for the upper portion of the building. James Bell, owner of the Bell Brothers sash and door factory, donated the carved oak pulpit and one stained glass window in 1876.

Once the structure was completed, the congregation moved on to other building projects. A new two story parsonage was built south of the church in 1884. In 1887 the group added a belfry and steeple to the northern tower. The belfry was fitted with a 3,000-pound, \$1,000 bell which was made in Troy, New York, and was a gift from Stephen Gardner.

By January of 1906, the 50th year anniversary of the organization of the church, the 120-member group was almost free of debt, with the church and parsonage valued at \$12,500 (Whitaker and Stiles 1981, 12). Then, in September of 1907, disaster struck in the form of a lightning bolt:

The [northern] steeple was struck by lightning during an electrical storm of Thursday morning and set on fire, falling over upon the great shingled roof, and in a few minutes the entire structure was in flames. . . . The auditorium is completely gutted with the exception of the floor, while the lower room is in much better condition than might have been expected. Nothing was saved from the second floor; from the first, the piano, tables and chairs were taken out. The walls and the chimneys are practically intact, but the handsome memorial window presented by Mrs. Stephen Gardner is a total wreck. The bell, a gift of Mr. Stephen Gardner, fell through to the basement and is cracked in several places. . . . Loss is in the neighborhood of \$10,000, outside of insurance coverage. Preparations are being made for a new roof at an early date (Whitaker and Stiles 1981, 12-13).

Prominent Minneapolis architect Harry W. Jones and contractor Frank Lenner of Stillwater were hired to repair the church. Jones noted in the specifications for repair,

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Great care shall be exercised not to disturb any more than absolutely necessary the existing building. The new work being made to conform to [the] present building, except where otherwise indicated on the plans, and the Contractor shall take careful measurements and verify them by the new plans where such verification is necessary. . . . The Builder shall properly protect all parts of the building not affected by these changes (Jones 1907).

Jones further specified that all new brickwork and stone should match the existing walls and trim as nearly as possible.

During the one and one-half year restoration process, the congregation once again worshipped in the basement. Again the congregation donated windows, furnishings, labor, and materials to the rebuilding project. The so-called "Gardner window", the large stained glass window in the main facade which was originally given to the church by Louise Ingalls Gardner in 1885, was replaced in October of 1908 with a replica which was a gift from Gardner's children. Two years after the repairs were complete, in 1911, the congregation received a \$750 gift from Andrew Carnegie to purchase a pipe organ. The organ was made by the Voettler-Hetche Organ Company of Cleveland and installed in 1911. The balance of the \$1,750 organ cost was raised with the help of Ignatius Donnelly, well-known Minnesota statesman and author, who presented a series of lectures to raise funds. Donnelly, who resided in nearby Nininger, was an influential and long-standing supporter of the church.

In conclusion, Hastings' First Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as one of Minnesota's earliest, basically intact examples of Romanesque Revival style church design, and as the work of Charles N. Daniels, one of Minnesota's earliest architects. The church is historically significant for its associations with the Old Stock American or Yankee settlers who were among Hastings' founders. Today, the First Presbyterian Church building is 119 years old and still houses its original congregation. The congregation explored the alternative of building a new church in another location in 1966 but chose instead to restore the building and to continue its stewardship of this historic structure.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1-2, Block 44, Town of Hastings.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the First Presbyterian Church.

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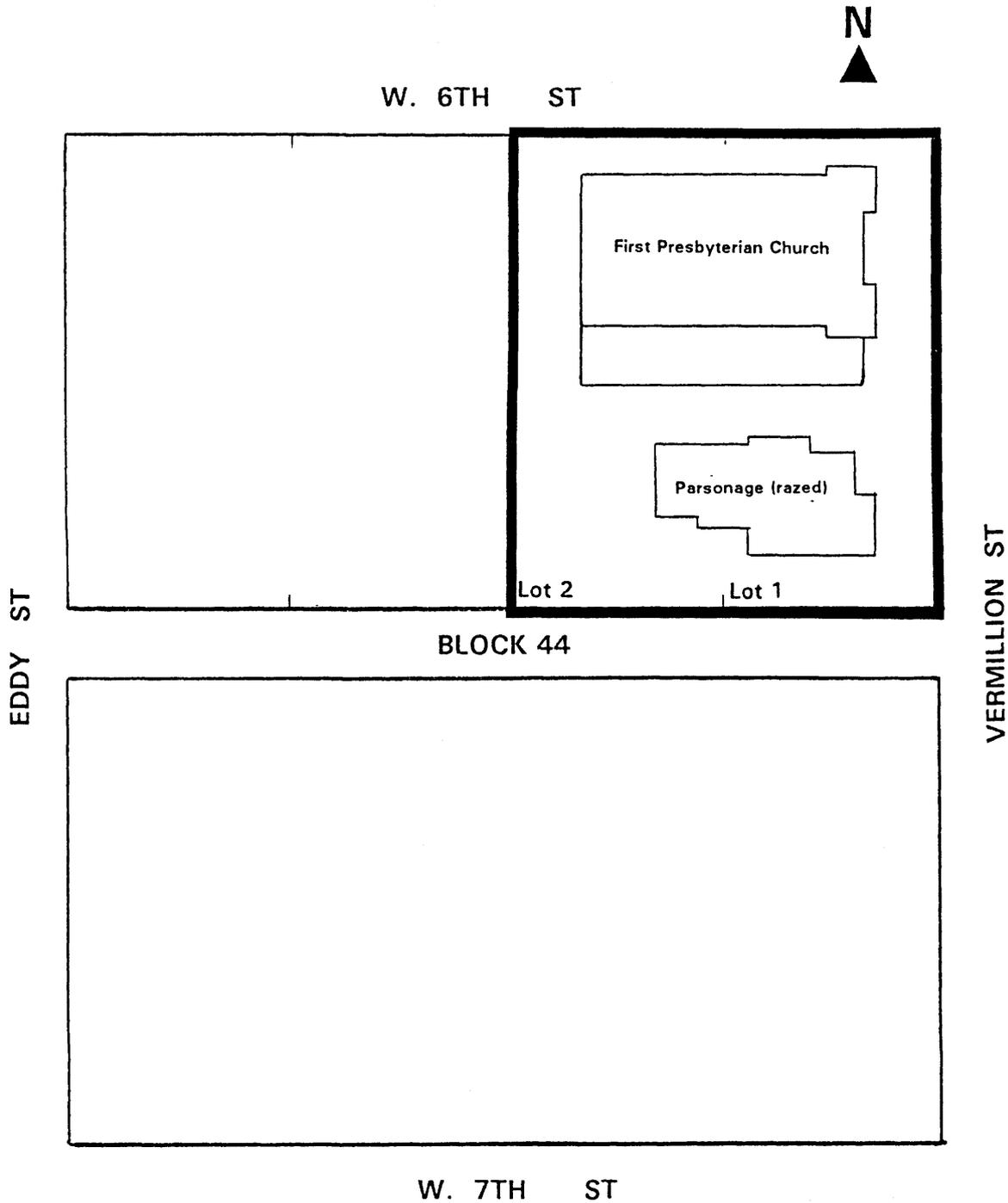
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Property boundary
Scale : 1" = 50'