

Rectory, St. John's Episcopal Church
Cheyenne River Agency, South Dakota

HABS No. SD-5

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Missouri River Basin Historical Studies
Region Two Office
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

Rectory, St. John's Episcopal Church
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Owner- The Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota.

Date of Erection- 1885-1886 near the site of Fort Bennett. Moved to present site in 1892-1893 during months when the Missouri River was frozen over. Some architectural changes have since been made.

Architect- Not known. Probably some man in Philadelphia, since the mission was established largely through the generosity of William Welsh, a wealthy layman of Philadelphia.

Builder- Not known. Probably received a great deal of help from the soldiers at the Fort and from the Indians who attended the Mission school.

Number of Stories- Chapel is one story; Rectory is two story in front, with one story extension at rear (north) and one story study on east side.

Materials of Construction- Both buildings are of frame construction, with wood shingle roofs; and weather boarding for the outside walls. Floors are of wood, and the foundations of local rock, not too well laid up. There is nothing about the Chapel to suggest that an architect had anything to do with its design, but the Rectory does have some details to suggest that plans were drawn in the then popular Eastlake style. The ornamentation around gables, dormers, and porches follow that style; and the fireplace in the living room is a very good example of the period.

Other Existing Records- The first rector at the new site was Rev. Edwin Ashley, an Englishman. He was responsible for the collection of fifteen magnificent Carolina poplars that now grace the grounds of the Mission. The destruction of these trees by the floodwaters would be a greater loss to the State than the two buildings.

Work planned and accomplished as a phase of the Missouri River Basin historical salvage program by the History Division, Region Two Office, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska.

Project supervised by Regional
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Field work performed under
the direction of Architect
John A. Bryan, 1952