

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Peter's Episcopal Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1 South Tschirgi

☐

N/A not for publication

city or town Sheridan

☐

N/A vicinity

state Wyoming

code WY

county Sheridan

code 033

zip code 82801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	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

N/A

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.)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete, sandstone

walls: Brick

roof: Membrane

other: Wood

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is located at 1 South Tschirgi Street and occupies one-half of a city block. The church was designed in the Gothic Revival style in 1911, constructed in 1912, and formally dedicated in 1916. The main structure is a basic rectangle which measures approximately 37 feet wide across the facade by 100 feet long and 25 feet high, with the tower occupying a ground space of 22x22 feet and rising to the height of 75 feet. The church was designed by Edward E. Hendrickson of the prominent Frank Miles Day firm in Philadelphia. The building rests on a foundation of concrete and Dutch Creek sandstone quarried in Sheridan County and the walls are brick. Deagan Celesta Tone Bar Chimes were installed December 13, 1948. In 1958 a memorial chapel and parish hall were added to the south elevation. Beginning in 1958, with the last one installed in 1972, the original diamond/prism pattern glass casement arched windows were replaced with Charles J. Connick and Associates designed stained glass windows which tell the story of Christianity. A few of the original 1912 arched windows can be seen on the east and north walls. In 1981 a handicapped accessible ramp was added to the north side entrance leading to the tower. The Austin Organ installed December, 1912 was refurbished in 1985 to add additional components. In 1986 the wood shake shingles on the timber roof were removed and a one-half inch thick fiber board was laid over the old decking and a white membrane roof was installed, along with additional flashing on the new roof. Air conditioning was installed in 2005. While maintenance has occurred over time on the original structure and stained glass arched windows added, no other substantial alterations have been made to the original church.

Narrative Description

The brick building consists of three main sections. The original 1912 section runs along the east-west axis with a tower on its northwest corner. A ramp added to the north elevation in 1981 leads to an entrance in the east face of the tower. The chapel added in 1958 runs east-west along the south elevation of the original section, and the 1958 parish hall extends to the south. Each section is constructed with brick and has a white membrane roof that was installed in 1986. Air conditioning was installed in 2005. The property is bounded on the north and west by streets, an alley on the east, and a paved parking lot to the south.

Exterior

The west facade faces towards Tschirgi Street and features the main entrance in the tower. Sets of concrete stairs bordered by a stone and brick wall lead to the arched entry. The entry has wood and glass double doors that are recessed in the arched opening. Engaged buttresses form the corners while an unadorned pilaster rises up the middle of the tower. Arched single-pane windows are in the second floor on either side of the pilaster and arched louvers are near the top. The tower terminates in stone coping and battlements. South of the tower is the front gabled section with a parapet wall. The sandstone foundation is visible along the base of the wall. The first floor has six arched stained-glass windows arranged in pairs. The second floor has three lancet windows that are each divided into three sections. The bottom section of each lancet opens as a hopper window. Each window in the facade has a brick sill and brick headers acting as voussoirs.

The tower extends north from the north elevation. The north elevation of the tower has the same visual features as the facade except it contains two small arched stained-glass windows on the first floor instead of an entrance. A long ramp runs almost the length of the north elevation to an entrance in the east face of the

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tower. This entry was changed from a stained-glass window to an entry in 1981 when the ramp was added. The ramp is constructed of brick and has a concrete deck and metal railing. The entrance has a single door that is partially sheltered by a metal canopy. Extending east from the tower the north elevation has four large stained-glass window units that are separated by engaged buttresses. Each window unit has a stone sill and brick header voussoirs with a hood molding. Along the bottom of the wall wood three-over-three double-hung windows penetrate the stone foundation and extend below grade. The east end of the north elevation has a transept that contains two small stained-glass windows on its first level with a large stained-glass window unit above. The windows have diamond pane stained-glass and are original to the 1912 construction of the building. The east end of the elevation terminates with an engaged buttress.

The east elevation of the original building has a front gable roof with a parapet wall that is topped with a stone cross. A single course of rowlock visually separates the parapet from the main wall mass. A large arched stained-glass window is near the top of the wall. The window opening is decorated with brick voussoirs and a hood molding. The first floor has two smaller diamond pane stained-glass windows that are original to the church. A set of stairs lead down to a single door entry located below grade in the stone foundation. The stairs are sheltered by a canvas canopy. There are two other rectangular openings in the foundation. Each opening in this elevation has a stone sill.

The east elevation of the 1958 parish hall, designed by Cook and Whitney Architects of Sheridan, extends south from the original church. It has seven bays separated by engaged buttresses that rise approximately two-thirds the overall height of the wall. Each bay has paired openings in the basement level containing glass blocks and vents. The exception is the northernmost bay, which has stairs leading down to a below grade entry sheltered by a canvas canopy. The first floor of each bay has paired three-pane windows. The bottom pane of each window opens as an awning window. The second floor has paired two-pane windows, and the bottom pane of each opens as an awning window. Each window opening has a brick sill and a brick soldier course along the top. The elevation has a concrete foundation and a parapet wall topped with concrete coping. A course of rowlock bricks runs the length of the elevation at the top of the second floor.

The south elevation of the parish hall contains a single two-pane window with the lower pane opening as an awning window. A course of rowlock bricks runs the length of the elevation at the top of the second floor.

The west elevation of the parish hall has a total of seven bays separated by engaged buttresses. The two northernmost bays are partially obstructed by the chapel. The second floor of these bays are visible and contain paired windows identical to those found on the east elevation of the parish hall. The southernmost bay contains a single door entry and three two-pane windows with the bottom pane of each opening as an awning window. The rest of this elevation shares the same materials and characteristics as the east elevation except the coping on the parapet wall is stone instead of concrete.

The 1958 chapel also designed by Cook and Whitney Architects attaches to the south elevation of the original church and the west elevation of the parish hall. It is one-story, rests on a concrete foundation, and has a flat roof. The entry to the chapel is on its west facade and features a wood door set in an arched opening. A cross formed from bricks set at forty-five degree angles is directly above the entry. Flanking the entry are single-pane casement windows with brick sills and brick label molding. A course of soldier bricks runs the length of the facade near the bottom of the windows. The facade is capped by a parapet wall with stone coping.

The south elevation of the chapel has five bays separated by engaged buttresses that rise approximately two-thirds the height of the elevation. The westernmost bay is devoid of openings, but the other bays each contain paired stained-glass casement windows. These openings have brick sills and brick label molding. Connecting the south elevation of the chapel to the west elevation of the parish hall is an entry bay that is set off at a forty-

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five degree angle. This bay is a little taller than the chapel and contains a double door entry set in an arched opening.

Interior

The main entrance to the church is on the west side of the tower and opens into the vestibule. The room contains three stained-glass windows, one on the east side and two on the north side. The stained-glass window that was replaced by the door in the east wall hangs in a frame on the north wall. These windows represent different aspects of life in Wyoming including recreation, agriculture, mining, and the armed forces. Like the rest of the church the floor is covered with carpet. Two swinging wood doors lead from the vestibule into the narthex. The narthex has three pairs of stained-glass windows in its west wall. A paneled wainscoting of dark stained wood separates the narthex from the main space of the sanctuary. A series of pointed arch openings above the wainscoting allows light to pass between the two spaces.

A staircase in the south end of the narthex leads up to a balcony. The balcony contains original pews and the floor is carpeted. A wood door at the north end of the balcony leads to a small room in the second floor of the tower. It has its original wood floor and has a brick fireplace in the southeast corner. Two arched wood casement windows are in the north, east, and west walls.

The sanctuary has brick walls, carpeted floors, and a wood ceiling. It rises the full height of the building and has an exposed king post truss system. The tie beams are decorated with carved dentils. Each beam is arched and rests on brick corbels. The king posts and diagonal braces in the trusses all have chamfered edges. Metal light fixtures that have pointed arch opening designed to mimic the appearance of lancet windows light the sanctuary. Additional light comes in through the stained-glass. The windows in the sanctuary represent different figures and events important in the history of Christianity.¹ Below each stained-glass window unit on the north and south walls are radiators set in slightly recessed niches. The sanctuary retains its original pews arranged in two columns separated by a center aisle. The ends of the pews are decorated with a small carved Greek Cross set in a circle. Seating in the nave and balcony can accommodate approximately four hundred people.

The east end of the sanctuary contains the chancel. Two steps lead up to a landing area that contains pews for the choir. These pews have a more stylized decorative carving on their ends than is found in the rest of the pews. An altar rail with arched panels mimicking window tracery visually separates the choir area from the main block of the sanctuary. Two more steps lead up to another landing. The pipe organ rests on the south end of this landing. It was purchased on December 1, 1912 from the Austin Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and is thought to be one of the oldest still in use in Wyoming.² Another step leads up the altar. A second altar rail on the top edge of this step has open panels designed to look like window tracery. The north wall of the chancel contains the assorted pipes of the organ. The lower portion of this wall is a wood paneled screen. Six sections of pipes are visible in arched openings in the upper portion of the wall.

A doorway west of the chancel leads south to the 1958 parish hall. The main floor of the parish hall is dominated by a large dining hall and kitchen. The dining hall has carpeted floors, the ceiling is covered with acoustic tiles, and the walls are covered with drywall. New light fixtures were recently (2012) added throughout the parish hall. A large pass-through and a single-door entry lead south to the kitchen. The kitchen has wood cabinets, metal countertop, linoleum flooring, and concrete block walls. A staircase west of the kitchen leads up to the second floor, which has classrooms arranged around a central double-loaded

¹ Specific information about the symbolism of the stained-glass windows is found in the booklet, "The Windows of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Memorial Chapel" prepared by Roberta Carkeek Cheney and Rev. Canon Raymond H. Clark. Available at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

² "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord; Antique Pipe Organs Serve Local Churches," *The Sheridan Press*. Saturday, January 17, 1998, p. 8.

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corridor. The corridor has a carpeted floor, concrete block walls, and a ceiling covered with acoustical tiles. Single-leaf doors with small glass panes lead into the classroom spaces. The typical classroom also has carpeted floors, concrete block walls, and acoustical tile ceilings. Each classroom also has a pair of windows with radiators set below the windows. The light fixtures in these spaces were also replaced within the last year.

The entry on the west end of the chapel leads into a small vestibule. The east wall of the vestibule contains a columbarium that has a marble face and brass nameplates. A doorway leads east into the main space of the chapel. The chapel contains two columns of pews with a central aisle. The altar is in the east end of the room and is separated by an unadorned altar rail. The west wall contains the columbarium and a series of stained-glass casement windows are in the south wall. Local glass artist Nancie Furnish designed and produced the windows in the chapel. The windows are of a more modern design and features swirling lines and images that represent important aspects of Christianity.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church has a high level of integrity. The majority of the historic materials and features, including the arched openings, engaged buttresses, parapet walls, exposed brick in the sanctuary, exposed trusses, and the dark stained woodwork still remain intact. Minor changes and maintenance, such as the replacement of the roof and upgrading of building systems have taken place over time, but have not altered the character defining features of the building. The biggest change has been the addition of the ramp on the north elevation in 1981. Although the ramp extends almost the length of the elevation, it does not attach directly to the brick wall of the north elevation.

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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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B removed from its original location. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C a birthplace or grave. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D a cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F a commemorative property. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. |

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912-1972

Significant Dates

1912, 1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hendrickson, Edward Ellsworth, architect

Ferguson, Frank, contractor

Cook & Whitney Architects

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1912 with the initial construction of the church building. The parish hall and chapel were subsequently added to the church in 1958. Also, beginning in 1958, the stained-glass windows were replaced with windows that were designed and made by the Charles Connick Studio in Boston.

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The Connick studio is widely known for the design qualities of its work. These windows are an integral aspect of the church. The period of significance ends in 1972, which represents the installation of the final Connick designed stained-glass windows.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church meets criteria consideration A. The property is actively used for religious purposes, however the church is being listed for its architectural significance and not for its religious associations. The church also meets criteria consideration G. The period of significance extends to 1972 with the final installation of the Charles Connick Studio designed stained-glass windows. Installation of the windows began in 1958 and continued as funds were available. The stained-glass windows are of exceptional high quality and are an integral part of the church building.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for under criterion C for its local significance in architecture. It is one of only a few churches remaining in Sheridan designed in the Gothic Revival style, and is one of the finest examples of the style found in the city. The building was completed in 1912 with additions built in 1958. The original portion was designed by architect Edward Ellsworth Hendrickson of the Frank Miles Day firm in Philadelphia. The building is a notable example of English Gothic Revival architecture in Sheridan, Wyoming. It features a stone foundation, arched stained-glass windows, engaged buttresses, parapet walls, and a grand tower. The interior is distinguished by dark-stained woodwork, decorative beams with carved dentils, and original oak pews. Stained-glass windows designed by the prominent Charles Connick Studio of Boston were added beginning in 1958. Connick was a well-known and prolific designer of stained-glass windows, however St. Peter's is one of only three churches in the state of Wyoming known to contain windows produced from his studio.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Beginning in 1892, local newspaper articles reported on arrangements to build an Episcopal church in Sheridan. At this time Sheridan was beginning to experience rapid growth as the railroad arrived that same year and coal exploration and development brought an influx of people into the area. Several other denominations already had a presence in the town, including the Methodist, Baptist, and Congregational churches. As a result the Episcopal Diocese felt it was advantageous to locate a church in Sheridan and Bishop Talbot arrived to begin making arrangements. Further organizational tasks were then undertaken by Archdeacon Sugler.

Initial services were held in the Methodist church and in private homes. Three lots were purchased on Loucks Street in preparation for constructing a permanent home for the church. The foundation was laid in November 1893 and a frame building measuring 22 x 34 feet was constructed. The church continued to use this building as it experienced steady growth in its early years. Originally the church operated as a mission, meaning that it relied on monetary support from the diocese. By 1911 St. Peter's had gained enough self-sufficiency that it shed its mission status and incorporated as an Episcopal parish.

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Much of the stability and expansion of St. Peter's at this time is credited to Reverend Edward M. Cross who arrived in Sheridan in 1910 to serve as rector at the church as well as to oversee the deanery that covered nine counties. Dean Cross was originally from Philadelphia and attended the Philadelphia Divinity School. While visiting the West he expressed a desire to reside in the region and was called to serve a church in the Black Hills region prior to his service in Sheridan. Upon his arrival St. Peter's counted approximately 200 congregants and had been without a full-time priest for a year.

As the city of Sheridan developed, the church outgrew its initial building, and the need for a new building became pressing. Early in 1911 plans were begun for the design of a new brick church building. The frame church building was moved to the middle of Tschirgi Street across the sidewalk from its former location. The city granted permission to the members of St. Peter's to block off and occupy the street until the new building was ready for occupancy.³ The old church building was sold in 1912 to the First Church of Christ Scientist and moved to North Gould Street, where it remained in use as a church until 1950. It was then converted to an apartment building and served that purpose until it was demolished following a fire in 1967.

Initially, local architect R.V. Gough was chosen as architect for the building and plans were made to begin construction. A newspaper article from March, 1911 announced that the plans were complete and gave some details of the overall appearance and layout of building. A month later Gough was removed as architect for reasons that are not completely known or understood. Groundbreaking took place in April, 1911, but construction was delayed while a new architect was sought. Finally, in September, Dean Cross traveled back to his hometown of Philadelphia and engaged his personal friend Edward Ellsworth Hendrickson of the Frank Miles Day firm to draw up plans for the church. Cross remained in Philadelphia for six weeks while the plans were drawn and finalized. Upon his return, Cross oversaw the construction that was completed by local contractor, Frank Ferguson.⁴

The first service was held in the new building on September 8, 1912. Bishop N.S. Thomas of Cheyenne, Rev. Edward J. d'Argent of Buffalo, and Rev. Christopher Keller of Gillette were on hand for the occasion. At this time St. Peter's counted about 250 congregants. It was reported that the building cost \$25,000 and all those expenses were paid except for \$6,000. Fund-raising for the church included events around the county. A newspaper article publicized a fundraising dance held by the ladies of Monarch noted that Dean Cross was a popular figure in the mining town and that several residents were members of the church. The church building was not formally dedicated, however, until July 9, 1916 due to policy of the Episcopal Church not to consecrate a church while it is under any financial debt. Dean Cross was quoted as saying, "we do not offer as a gift to God anything we do not possess ourselves."⁵

When the church was finished it was described as "a true English Perpendicular Gothic structure." As the name would suggest, the English Perpendicular Gothic had a greater emphasis on vertical lines and had less flamboyant decorative elements than was previously seen in Gothic buildings. At St. Peter's this vertical emphasis is strongly expressed in the design of the tower through the vertical brick piers and engaged buttresses. The emphasis on verticality is also seen in the design of the stained glass windows, which feature thick vertical mullions that separate each unit into three vertical sections.

The architectural qualities of the church did not go unnoticed in Sheridan when it was completed. The local newspaper, *The Sheridan Enterprise*, praised the church as "an artistic achievement of a high order...The fact that every line admired for its beauty is a structural one shows the unity of form and matter, the fundamental principle of good art." Interior proportions were praised for striking a balance between the need to bring

³ "Street Services", *The Sheridan Post*. May 26, 1911. Pg 7.

⁴ "New Church Opening Will be Tomorrow," *The Sheridan Enterprise*. Saturday, September 7, 1912. Pg 1.

⁵ Ibid.

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people close enough to the pulpit to easily see and hear the speaker and the need to create a climatic visual focal point at the altar.⁶ The construction of St. Peter's was clearly seen as a significant architectural addition in the city of Sheridan.

Edward Ellsworth Hendrickson (1863-1931) received his formal education in architecture from the Spring Garden Institute in Philadelphia. After working for a few different firms in the following years, he began work with the Frank Miles Day firm in 1895, and in 1902 he was formally named an associate in the firm. He would remain with the company for the remainder of his career. In addition to his work as an architect, he also taught architectural studies at the Spring Garden Institute from 1889 to 1926.⁷

Little information is available about specific buildings designed by Hendrickson. He is known to have designed the Church of the Epiphany (built 1914-16, non-extant) in Philadelphia. Drawings for this church show a Gothic Revival building that has some characteristics similar to St. Peter's including a large entry tower, arched openings, and parapet walls.

While not much is known about the individual works of Hendrickson, the Frank Miles Day (1861-1918) firm has a well-earned reputation. Initially known as Frank Miles Day and Brother, the company became Day Brothers & Klauder in 1911 with the addition of Charles Klauder (1872-1938). A year later the firm became Day & Klauder, which lasted until 1927. The early work of the company centered around residential designs as well as some prominent buildings in Philadelphia. Beginning in the early twentieth century the firm became known for its collegiate work. They completed master plans for the University of Colorado and the University of Delaware, and designed eighteen buildings at Princeton University. Their designs can also be seen on the campuses of Princeton University, Pennsylvania State University, Johns Hopkins University, and Yale University. Much of this work was completed in the Collegiate Gothic style. The firm established a solid reputation for their excellent examples of the Collegiate Gothic style.

The work of the Frank Miles Day firm has often been praised for its high quality. His work did not lean on a purely archaeological approach as was seen in the work of architects of the previous generation. Additionally he was able to avoid overly extensive use of ornamentation that had become increasingly popular in the work of his contemporaries who sought to put their individual stamp on historical styles. He focused on designs that reflected the core essence of the architectural style he was employing. This focus on the restrained use of overt ornamentation in creating a strong statement of the Gothic Revival style is clearly seen in the design of St. Peter's Church.

During his career Frank Miles Day earned a great amount of respect from his peers in the architectural community. He was elected to two terms as President of the American Institute of Architects beginning in 1906.

The stained-glass windows in the church were designed and manufactured by the Charles Connick Studio in Boston.⁸ Connick opened the studio in 1913, and at its height in the 1930s it employed 40-50 craftsmen who worked collaboratively on projects. Connick died in 1945 and left the studio to the craftsmen who were working there at the time. They kept the studio running until it finally closed in 1986. The studio was known to

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Hendrickson, Edward Ellsworth," Biography from the American Architects and Buildings Database. Available at www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/21973. Retrieved 4/25/2012.

⁸ Much of the information about Charles Connick is taken from the Church Street Methodist Church, Knox County, TN National Register nomination prepared by Ann Bennett and Brian Beadles.

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be a gathering place for artists and musicians, and Robert Frost reportedly visited often and traded original poems for glass medallions.⁹

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Connick used solely transparent, or antique glass reminiscent of the medieval traditions of stained glass manufacture. Other notable stained glass producers in the first half of the twentieth century were primarily using opaque glass in order to gain a better approximation of a realistic painting in the glass. However, Connick felt that transparent glass inherently has a greater sense of color and light. He passionately stressed the interrelation between changing light, color, and texture.

Connick was greatly influenced by medieval stained glass units that he saw while traveling around Europe. This influence is seen in the guild-like nature of his studio, the use of transparent glass, and his use of symbolism in his compositions. Connick wrote in great detail on his strong beliefs about the craft of stained glass in his book *Adventures in Light and Color*. He stressed that stained glass is not merely a medium for displaying a static picture; rather it is a way of transforming light and color to form a work of art. In his eyes, "the stained glass window belongs to Brother Sun and is in itself a mighty symbol of his natural beauty and power that may be translated into a new symbol of spiritual beauty."¹⁰

Examples of Connick Studio's work can be found in thousands of churches throughout the country. Notable examples include windows for St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City (NR 1208/1976), St. John's Cathedral in Denver (NR 08/01/1975), Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago (NR 09/05/1975), Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, University Chapel and Proctor Hall at Princeton University, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Despite the studio's prolific output only three churches in Wyoming are known to contain windows designed by the Connick Studio: St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne, St. Matthew's Cathedral in Laramie, and St. Peter's Episcopal.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Sheridan, Wyoming (pop. 17,444) was founded in 1884 by John Loucks. The arrival of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad in 1892 solidified the town. Spurred by the arrival of the railroad, coal mines opened in the surrounding region and began a population boom. Between 1890 and 1910 the population grew from 281 to 8,408. With this population growth and access to the railroad, Sheridan became the social and commercial center of the area. A residential area grew up quickly near the railroad tracks (Sheridan Railroad Historic District, NR 11/12/2004), and the central commercial strip developed along Main Street, two blocks east of St. Peter's Church. The Main Street Historic District (NR 11/9/1982) was built, in its current form, largely in the 1910s and '20s.

As the population of Sheridan grew during the decades surrounding the turn of the century, the architecture of the town began to change. In a trend that is common in the area, frame buildings were being replaced with more substantial brick and masonry buildings that gave the town a better sense of strength and permanence. This trend is particularly seen in the downtown area and in buildings that served a public use. Churches also reflect this trend as few frame church buildings remain from this era.

An examination of church buildings in Sheridan reveals that very few churches dating from before 1930 are still standing in Sheridan. Most of the churches built in Sheridan during this period were fairly modest frame buildings that were later replaced as congregations outgrew their buildings. A survey of churches in

⁹ www.cjconnick.org. Web site accessed 7/16/2012.

¹⁰ Charles J. Connick. *Adventures in Light and Color*. Random House, 1937.

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Sheridan reveals that St. Peter's is one of only six churches constructed before 1930 still standing in the city. Of those, the former Seventh Day Adventist Church (built 1901) has been heavily altered to be a private residence and lacks any historic integrity. The former Trinity Lutheran Church (built 1914) is currently used as a chapel by the Salvation Army and is a modest frame building with very little ornamentation or stylistic features.¹¹

In addition to St. Peter's, only two other churches built before 1930 in Sheridan are Gothic Revival in style. The former Immanuel Lutheran Church (built 1907) is a small frame building and is more modest in scale. It has a central entry tower and a series of pointed arch double-hung windows. Like many other early frame churches, this building was later replaced with a more substantial and modern brick building. This building was spared from demolition when it was sold to another church congregation.

The Rock Contemporary Church, built as the First Congregational Church in 1912, is southeast of St. Peter's on Works Street. Like St. Peter's this church is constructed in brick and replaced an earlier frame building. It contains a corner entry tower, large stained-glass window units, and horizontal decorative stone banding. Its massing, however, is more of a square compared to the elongated rectangular shape of the original 1912 section of St. Peter's. Also it does not share the sense of verticality that is seen in St. Peter's.

Another notable church building from this time period is the First United Methodist Church located across Tschirgi Street from St. Peter's built 1921-23. Its size, massing, and materials are comparable to St. Peter's, although its design is Romanesque in nature with rounded arch openings and a classical entry. The current building replaced an earlier frame Gothic Revival style building that featured leaded glass windows and an entry tower with poly-chromed wood shingles.

There have been other notable Gothic Revival churches in Sheridan that have been torn down. The First Presbyterian Church, built in 1910, was said to have been patterned after Westminster Abbey. It was clad in white brick with stone and concrete trim. It was built in the form of cross with an entrance on each end. The building was demolished in the 1970s when the congregation moved to a building at a different location. Another example, Holy Name Catholic Church, built in 1902, was a rectangular building with a central entry tower topped with a tall pointed spire. It was built of red brick with stone trim. It was torn down and replaced with a larger church building in 1975.¹²

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is an excellent example of Perpendicular English Gothic Revival architecture in Sheridan. While Sheridan has a good collection of architecture with varied styles, the Gothic Revival style has rarely been used outside of church buildings. Unfortunately relatively few examples of Gothic Revival church buildings remain in the town. St. Peter's stands as one of the finest examples of the style in Sheridan.

The immediate neighborhood to the south and west of St. Peter's is residential in nature and contains houses from a variety of time periods. North and east of the church the area contains mostly commercial buildings. The historic core of the commercial district runs along Main Street, which is two blocks to the east.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

¹¹ Helen Graham. *Early Churches of Sheridan County, Wyoming*. Self-Published. 1998. Dates of construction for churches in the following paragraphs are from this source.

¹² Ibid.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Wyoming

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

☐ 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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.76 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Sheridan County, Wyoming
County and State

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

4 Zone Easting Northing

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Wyoming

County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: St. Peter's Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Sheridan

County: Sheridan

State: Wyoming

Photographer: Richard Collier

Date Photographed: September 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

West façade of corner entry tower, photographer facing east.

1 of 14.

West façade and south elevation of the two-story 1912 section and the one-story 1958 chapel, photographer facing northeast.

2 of 14.

Entry to 1958 chapel and parish hall, photographer facing northeast.

3 of 14.

West façade of 1958 parish hall, photographer facing northeast.

4 of 14.

South elevation, photographer facing north.

5 of 14.

South and east elevations of 1958 parish hall, photographer facing northwest.

6 of 14.

West elevation of 1912 church, photographer facing west.

7 of 14.

North elevation of 1912 church and east elevation of 1958 parish hall, photographer facing southwest.

8 of 14.

Interior of 1912 church from balcony, photographer facing east.

9 of 14.

Interior of 1912 church, photographer facing east.

10 of 14.

Interior of 1912 church, photographer facing east.

11 of 14.

Altar area, photographer facing east.

12 of 14.

Close-up of pipe organ, photographer facing north.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Sheridan County, Wyoming
County and State

13 of 14.

Interior of 1958 chapel, photographer facing east.
14 of 14.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the 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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

