

Calvary Episcopal Church — Sioux Falls (1880)

Calvary Episcopal Church was one of the earliest churches established in Sioux Falls. The congregation was organized in 1872, and the first church building was constructed that same year at the southeast corner of Main Avenue and Ninth Street. It was the first church building erected in Sioux Falls, serving the small but growing frontier community.

When Rev. Thomas B. Berry arrived in 1880, he became rector of this parish. During his ministry at Calvary Church, Berry began organizing the school that later became the South Dakota School for the Deaf.

In 1882, the property at Main Avenue and Ninth Street was sold, and the wooden church building was physically moved to a new location at the southwest corner of Spring Avenue and Tenth Street. The congregation had purchased four lots there to expand its facilities.

A few years later, plans were made for a larger and more permanent church. With financial support from John Jacob Astor III and the Episcopal missionary bishop William Hobart Hare, construction of a new cathedral began in 1888 at 500 S. Main Ave near 13th St. The building was completed in 1889 and later became known as Calvary Cathedral, which still stands in downtown Sioux Falls today.



Calvary Episcopal Church, Sioux Falls. Rev. Thomas B. Berry served here as rector in 1880, during the period when he began organizing the Dakota School for the Deaf.