

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only
received OCT 2 1979
date entered NOV 14 1979

1. Name Viking Lutheran Church

historic South Viking Norwegian Lutheran Church

and/or common Viking Lutheran Church (preferred)

2. Location

street & number SE of Maddock not for publication

city, town Maddock mi. vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Benson code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name South Viking Lutheran Church Congregation

street & number

city, town Maddock vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Benson County Courthouse

street & number B Avenue Post Office Box 193

city, town Minnewaukan state North Dakota 58351

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Viking Lutheran Church is at once an example of, and an exception to, a style of country church built throughout North Dakota during the settlement years and on into the 1920's. Built in wood frame, the general plan derives from a lasting post-Reformation German Lutheran tradition. Consisting of a long rectangular nave, the church is entered through a combination vestibule/steeple which is centered on and accentuates the front gable end. While the basic plan is symmetrical and neo-classic, its stylistic detail and material make-up is Victorian Gothic.

A variation of this highly recognizable genre of architecture, the Viking Church combines a central front-end steeple and Victorian Gothic detail with a cruciform plan. The latter gothic element does not separate Viking Church from the popular church type, but distinguishes it as a particularly fine example of that type.

The combination of texture, material and stylistic detail gives the facades of Viking Church an eclectic nature, yet all comes together and is tempered by the unifying belltower/vestibule. The bell tower is the focal point of the entire structure both for its verticality and for its ornament. While flanked by sunbursts in the gable end, the tower itself is embellished with two beltcourses, a rose window, decorative shingling and louvered belfry vents. Neo-classical pediments emphasize the upward aspiration of the octagonal spire which is textured with decorative shingles and is peaked with a metal steeple cap and finial.

The cross configuration of the church body, in the gothic tradition, reflects the inner liturgical function of the church. The rear (east) wing defines the chancel and is lighted by two stained glass lancet windows on either side of the altar screen. The front wing (west) houses the choir loft, behind which stands the enclosed bell tower. The north-south transept comprises the nave. A symmetrical arrangement of stained-glass lancet and rose windows punctuate both end walls and bathes the nave with soft light.

The predominate interior motif is gothic. Communion rail, altar screen, pews and S - Shaped balcony balustrade all display the gothic arch. The finely worked wooden three-part altar screen is finished with spires and cross-shaped finials and depicts "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane". The nave area, devoid of any statuary, is divided into two areas by a central aisle. The floor is hardwood and a brass chandelier with frosted glass globes hangs from a flat ceiling.

Two significant alterations were made to the church in 1959. The original pulpit stood on a pedestal and was reached by stairs and a doorway in the south wall of the chancel area. It was replaced by a conventional free-standing pulpit and the doorway was finished as part of the wall. The original ceiling treatment, light blue painted with gold stars, is now off-white as are the walls. Less significant alterations have been the replacement of basement windows with glass blocks in 1959, the addition of rest rooms and entry on the rear facade and the closing of the north facade entry (1937), and the conversion of the basement coal bin to a men's smoking room (1944).

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The rose window in the bell tower was blown out in a wind storm sometime between 1917 and 1927 and was never replaced (it is now translucent glass). Bow back chairs were replaced with pews around 1909. The altar, altar screen, candlesticks, baptismal font, deacons chairs and brass chandelier are all original 1908-09 furnishings.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Once a common sight throughout the state, the Viking Lutheran Church represents a dwindling number of unaltered country churches built in a tradition popular in the early years of settlement. As rural populations diminish or relocate, many of these churches must be abandoned for more centrally located places of worship. Empty, they stand victims to vandalism and natural deterioration. The Viking Church, however, remains essentially unaltered and in excellent condition because its members, through three generations, have identified themselves with the historic and cultural roots of the church.

Neither purely neo-classical nor Victorian Gothic, the Viking Church exhibits the same combination of exterior style and detail common to rural wood frame churches in the midwest. This familiar combination of stylistic elements in the Viking Lutheran Church creates a powerful visual image of a lifestyle now threatened by increased urbanization in even the most rural states.

More than a visual image to its members, the Viking Church remains a center of social interaction and moral and religious instruction. Each Sunday, Viking Church members worship together as their ancestral families first worshipped. Newly arrived in 1887 from Spring Grove, Minnesota, these pioneer Norwegians organized themselves under a constitution, invited pastors from the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church and held services in the home of Timan Quarve. In the same year the first baptism was celebrated and months later, an infant was buried. Land donated by Andrew K. Gilbertson for the burial became the Norwegian's cemetery. Six years later, adjacent land was chosen for the church site.

In 1903, Viking Church proper was complete and by 1909, the church was part of a small trade center made up of a general goods store, blacksmith shop and meatmarket. All of these enterprises stood a few yards from the church. None are extant today.

The church was formally dedicated in 1909 when it hosted the first regular meeting of the North Dakota District of the Northwest Synod of the Norwegian Evangelical Church of America. This meeting drew representatives from North and South Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. No longer an entity, the Norwegian Evangelical Church became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church which is today part of the American Lutheran Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Early Days of Viking Settlement by Levard Quarve as written for the 50th Anniversary. Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Viking Lutheran Church, 1887-1962.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Blackhammer Hill

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References Not available. Latitude 47°51'44" North Longitude 99°29'23" West

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing at the NW corner of Section 34, T151N, R69W, measuring 22 rods south, then 18 rods east, 22 rods north, and 18 rods west to point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jacqueline Sluss, Historical Researcher

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date September 20, 1979

Liberty Memorial Building

street & number Capitol Grounds telephone (701) 224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Sherry

title N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/24/1979

<p>For NCRS use only</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register</p> <p><u>Coral O. Skell</u> Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>Attest: <u>William H. Abraham</u> Chief of Registration</p>	<p>date <u>11-14-79</u></p> <p>date <u>11-8-79</u></p>
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The Viking Church is still identifiable with the predominate Norwegian ethnicity of the area and maintains this identity as overseer of all life crises. More secular kinds of social interaction also revolve around church organized men's, women's and youth groups. A focal point of cultural identification and social organization, the Viking Church is still the tie that binds.