

1924

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hope Lutheran Church (Old Stone Church)

other names/site number Old Stone Church

2. Location

street & number NW Quarter Section 21, Township 135, Range 89 not for publication NA

city, town Elgin (see verbal boundary) vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Grant code 037 zip code 58533

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, NA. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official James E. Sperry, State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) Date 11-21-91

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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):

Signature of the Keeper: Beth Boland Date of Action: 1/16/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No style.

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls stoneroof woodother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Ethnic Heritage European

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898-1941

Significant Dates

1898

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

NA
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
 Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 2.5 acres

UTM References

A

1	4	2	8	0	4	4	0	5	1	5	3	4	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

 NA

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

 NA

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

 NA

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary is established by the historic property deed which encompasses the church and cemetery, as well as land originally occupied by the parsonage and barn (since removed).

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Jerry Theurer, Grant County Historical Society

name/title Lauren McCroskey, Architectural Historian
 organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date November 19, 1991
 street & number 612 East Blvd Avenue, Heritage telephone (701) 224-2672
 city or town Bismarck Center state North Dakota zip code 58505

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Located approximately seven miles north of Elgin and west on a county road, the Hope Lutheran Church is situated on a hill above an accompanying cemetery and placed along a north-south axis with the chancel oriented north. The nominated site includes the cemetery site, located at the northeast corner of the nomination boundaries. The church was reported to have been built between 1898, when the Articles of Incorporation were signed, and 1902, when the first confirmation class was held in the church. Most oral traditions in the region cite 1898 as the year of construction.

The church is a rectangular single story gabled structure finished in troweled cement plaster on the exterior walls. Side walls measure thirty-four feet, three inches; south wall measures twenty-four feet, three inches; three-sided sanctuary measures eleven feet, seven inches behind pulpit and nine feet along each angled wall. Interior width measures twenty feet, eight inches across. Wall construction consists of native sandstone slabs, laid up in mud mortar to a depth of twenty-three inches. Though not visible or verifiable, the walls are probably capped by a wooden plate in the manner of many German-Russian vernacular buildings.

The structure lacks a basement. Sandstone slab material serves as a foundation and rises continuously into the walls without the "drip" projection common to much German-Russian vernacular architecture. Side walls feature three evenly spaced two over two double hung wood sash windows. Window openings measure thirty-four and a half by sixty-three and a half inches with interior openings flaring to forty-two and a half by sixty-five inches. Wood window sills measure sixteen inches deep on the interior, with an outside depth of seven inches.

The gables are of wood frame construction, and extend slightly beyond the walls to form a shallow beadboard soffit. The gabled end is clad in horizontal lap siding typical of German-Russian house types built during the settlement period. Hints of contemporary architectural convention are found in the eave returns and in the simple, decorative truss featured on the gabled end. A plain wooden cross is affixed to the gable peak. The sanctuary end is treated as a three-sided apse-like projection and contains a single two over two wood sash window of dimensions identical to side wall windows. Cedar shingles, applied in 1943, remain in good condition. A small brick chimney, rising from the center of the gable, originally accommodated a centrally placed wood stove. Metal ridge caps have recently been fitted to the roof ridge, as well as to the breaks of the apse roof.

The interior of the Church is chaste and unornamented, as with many evangelical branches of the Lutheran church built during this period. Walls are finished in smooth plaster. The ceiling and flooring are composed of beadboard and three and a quarter

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inch pine boards, respectively. Interior surfaces, aside from the sanctuary and altar/pulpit, were painted white in 1989, in keeping with the original color scheme. The flooring, now painted orange rises one step in the sanctuary.

The distinctive free standing altar/pulpit, centered in the sanctuary, is modeled after European types. The pine/fir unit features a rectangular altar embellished with four pointed Gothic arches and an attached, three sided pulpit which rises directly behind. The pulpit, accessed on either side by three steps and illuminated by a single window behind, also features pointed arch panels. The unit has been refinished and the altar table recovered with black velvet and gold fringe. Located at the west side of the altar is a vestry constructed of three and a half inch beadboard. The structure, which lacks a ceiling, is entered through a single door with a porcelain knob. Surfaces are stained and false grained to simulate an undistinguishable wood, probably a hardwood such as walnut. Wooden pews bearing a Gothic motif fill most of the interior.

Few modifications have been made to the church's exterior. The most visible change occurred in 1956 when church furnishings were sold and the entry vestibule (vorhausl) was removed. The vorhausl added to the entry in 1907, was relocated and attached to a residential property nearby. It is the objective of the Grant County Historical Society to reconstruct this feature on Hope Lutheran in the near future. The original vorhausl on Hope Lutheran, a feature characteristic of most German-Russian domestic architecture built in North Dakota during the first settlements, was a gabled, wood frame unit finished with the same horizontal lap siding found on the gabled end of the church building. Ghost markings in the cement plaster recall the form and location of the vorhausl. Today, entry into the church is through contemporary double doors, which replaced the deteriorated originals in 1981.

The stucco-like finish of the exterior, applied in 1981, is a cement based composition troweled to approximate the texture of the original render which, according to oral histories, was a mixture of lime and sand. The new application, undertaken by William Bruhn, Art Eslinger, John Zimmerle and Paul Weikum, was made after removing the original render which had cracked and delaminated irreparably from the sandstone walls. A photo dated between 1952 and 1956 reveals that the 1981 refinishing does not detract from the original appearance of the church. When funding permits, the new surface will be painted white to approximate the original whitewash finish. Church records chronicle the careful maintenance of the church, with an application of white paint to the exterior noted regularly throughout the Minutes until the closing of the parish in 1956.

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Also contributing to the nomination is the original cemetery site, located at the northeast corner of the property at the intersection of two section roads. Headstones range from monumental, turn of the century stone types with period iconography to modern polished slabs. Two features originally accompanying the church no longer remain: a parsonage, built in 1918, and a combination car garage, chicken coop and barn for stabling the congregation's horses built the same year. Both structures were sold and removed in 1932 when the parish was reorganized and the parsonage was no longer needed. The barn measured fifteen feet by twenty-four feet ten inches and incorporated three units: a horse barn in the west end measuring ten feet by eighteen feet, a car shed attached to the northeast side measuring ten feet by fourteen feet and a chicken coop eight feet by fourteen feet. Presently, the former locations of these structures within the nomination boundaries cannot be discerned, as there are no visible foundation remnants or associated depressions. The Hope Lutheran Church and cemetery are sound vestiges of this complex, retaining good integrity of architectural features, design qualities and historical associations with German-Russian immigration into North Dakota.

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Hope Lutheran Church satisfies the Criterion of Exception for religious properties in the following ways: Under Criterion A the church is a component of an acknowledged broad and significant pattern of North Dakota history - Black Sea German-Russian immigration. Hope Lutheran is one of only two original church structures representing the settlement of Evangelical German-Russian groups in south central North Dakota. As one of only three known church structures remaining in the state that incorporates traditional German-Russian stone wall construction, the Church also merits nomination under Criterion C.

Hope Lutheran is the product of German-Russian settlement in North Dakota which originated with the first influx of Black Sea Germans into Dakota Territory. After their initial arrival near Yankton, South Dakota in 1873, Black Sea Germans began a gradual push into regions of south central, central and southwestern North Dakota.

The broader context of Hope Lutheran and its founders originated during the period of German immigration to parts of eastern Europe and Russia at the request of Catherine the Second. Fleeing poor farming conditions and military service in their German homeland, the largely peasant population found her offer of free land, exemption from military service and religious and cultural freedom highly attractive. But by 1872, the ethnic Germans found their privileges revoked under the rule of Czar Alexander the Second. At this time, an American colonist, Ludwig Bette, returned to Russia, proclaiming the opportunities of America and encouraging German Russians to immigrate once again. Between 1870 and 1920, 120,000 German-Russian immigrated to areas of Nebraska, Kansas, eastern Colorado and the Dakotas.

In the western portion of North Dakota the largest colonies of Black Sea Germans were Catholic, while southwestern lands in the vicinity of Elgin were claimed by Evangelical German-Russians, following the completion of rail lines through Mott.

Originally, the Evangelical groups that settled in the region between Elgin and Glen Ullin comprised one large parish that included six other churches, of which Hope Lutheran is the only surviving building. They were: Hope (German Evangelical) Lutheran (here nominated), Zion in Elgin, St. John's in Heil, Trinity in New Leipzig, Emmanuel south of Glen Ullin and Christus or the Fuchs church south of Leith. Of the Evangelical churches in the area, only the Hope Lutheran Church was based on traditional German-Russian stone wall construction and domestic architectural form.

Hope Lutheran Church was built by twelve local families representing the Beresan district of Russia. According to church records, they came from Petersthal, Kulm, Tarantino, Teplitz and Leipzig, South Russia, first arriving in the Dakotas by rail at

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Menno or Scotland, South Dakota in the early 1890s. Church records indicate that John Wetzstein of Glen Ullin was chosen by parishoners to direct the building of the Hope Lutheran Church.

By 1901, Emmanuel, Trinity and Christus had broken away from the Hope Lutheran parish. The size and area of the parish shifted several times after this, due to population decline, discord among parishoners, and the lack of pastors. Today, Zion and Trinity of New Leipzig are still in operation but the remaining churches have closed. Hope Lutheran Church finally ceased to function as a parish church in 1956 due to a declining membership.

The legacy of the church's German Russian heritage is physically manifest in its vernacular form and construction. Ethnic Germans and various eastern European groups, including Ukrainians, Czechoslovakians and German-Hungarians employed Old World building traditions based on a use of native earthen materials such as sandstone, petrified wood, sun-dried mud bricks, and clay mortars. These wall systems are variously covered with mud render or commercial siding, and often reflect a limited adaptation to contemporary building methods and materials. Hope Lutheran Church exemplifies one form of vernacular construction in its use of native sandstone slabs, laid in mud mortar, and finished with plaster.

This building type, observed in much of the German-Russian architecture in North Dakota built during the settlement period, is based on a simple domestic building form. According to current inventory data on file at the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the state's only other known vernacular churches representing this type of construction are the National Register listed St. Andrews German-Evangelical Church, located across the Missouri River to the east in McIntosh County, and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church ten miles south of Hebron.

St. Andrews Lutheran Church near Zealand is an almost identical structure which while lacking the apse-like sanctuary, was similarly preceeded by a vorhauß, instead of polygonal configuration. Sts. Peter and Paul, though having suffered structurally from a lack of maintenance, stands in a relatively high state of preservation and remains eligible for nomination. This church is the only known Catholic church in existence that reflects the German Russian architectural heritage of sandstone and plaster wall construction. Its wood frame entry steeple, assemblage of Catholic furnishings and somewhat more complicated plan, including a separate sanctuary volume, rear balcony and confessional, are important counterpoints to the modest designs of the Evangelical churches of St. Andrews, and Hope Lutheran, here nominated.

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Just as the isolated farmsteads of German Russian settlement, the Hope Lutheran Church is a lone sentinel of a vanishing architectural heritage and of the spiritual determination that characterized German Russian immigration. The Grant County Historical Society, steward of the building, maintains Hope Lutheran for occasional services and for the preservation of these noble traditions.

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Bill Bruhn, Art Eslinger, John Zimmerle, Paul Weikum, Art Weikum, Pauline Baesler, Olivia Weikum, and Katherine Gomke.

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Northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 135, Range 89, being all that area beginning at a point 33 feet west of the section line between said Section 21 and Section 22 in said township, thence west, parallel to said Sections 21, and 16 a distance of 430 feet; thence south, parallel to said section line between said Sections 21 and 22, a distance of 724 feet; thence east, parallel to said section line between said Sections 21 and 16, a distance of 430 feet; and thence north, parallel to and 33 feet west of said section line between Sections 21 and 22, a distance of 724 feet to the point of beginning.

SECTION 16

8

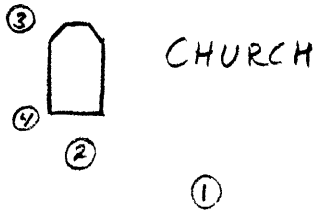
CEMETERY



1" = APPROX. 100'

SECTION
22

SECTION
21



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRANT CO.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001924

Date Listed: 1/16/92

Hope Lutheran Church
Property Name

Grant
County

ND
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

- 1) The category is "building" (not building and site).
- 2) Since there is not enough information to extend the period of significance beyond 1910, the period of significance is revised to be "ca. 1898--1910."

This information was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the ND SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)