

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 36140X

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 31 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1977

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
\*\* New Sweden Chapel  
AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *E of Fairfield off US 34*  
Lockridge Township (Twp. 72, Rng. 8, Sec. 21) — NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Lockridge Fairfield, Ia. — VICINITY OF FIRST  
STATE Iowa CODE 197 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 101

## 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
First Augustana Lutheran Church  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lockridge VICINITY OF STATE Iowa 52635

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Fairfield, STATE Iowa

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Three miles northwest of Lockridge, on a hilltop among gently rolling hills, rests this little white church beside a pioneer cemetery. The symmetrical building is a rectangular frame structure with a gable roof and simplified classical cornice. It possesses clapboard exterior walls and a wood shingle roof. The two brick chimneys, one on either side of the roof, have at some point been rebuilt. The four bay church contains tall windows with original wooden shutters. Its dimensions measure 50 by 30 feet by 16 feet high plus a two tier steeple with spire. The lower stage of the steeple contains a "sweet toned Stuckstedt bell" manufactured in St. Louis prior to the building's completion in 1860. At one end is a small entry vestibule with double doors. The building has undergone no major alterations, although some interior redecoration has occurred.

The interior comprises one principal space with a balcony across the rear that contains a built-in pipe organ. The lower, main floor level has a board floor and plaster walls with wainscoting, all of which are original. Pews are on both sides of a center aisle with side aisles. Opposite the entry is an alter, which has a single step platform with a pulpit and alter communion rail. Above the alter is a large painting by Olef Grafstrom, who once was an art instructor at Augustana College and produced some two hundred or more alter paintings that were used in the early churches. From the walnut ceiling hang two early light fixtures, each containing four kerosene lamps (now electrified) set in star-shaped molding. The two original wood stoves have been replaced by two stoves of cast iron built with a grate for burning coal.

The cemetery continues to be used and the New Sweden Chapel is opened for visitors and is used for special services.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1860**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Henri Jagle**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In contrast with the Norwegians who split into several strife filled religious groups, the Swedes stood nearly all united under one Lutheran body, the Swedish Augustana Synod. And the New Sweden Church is the oldest parent church of this Synod. Founded in Jefferson County in 1848, the New Sweden church is also the first church of the first settlement of Swedes in Iowa and the first one west of the Mississippi River. Furthermore it proved to be the first permanent settlement of Swedes in the country, for the earlier Pine Lake, Wisconsin settlement lasted only a few years and its distant predecessor, the Swedish colonial effort in Delaware, failed within thirty years.

Organized in 1845, four years after the Pine Lake Colony of G. Unonius in Wisconsin, this early Iowa settlement became established under the leadership of Peter Cassel, a millwright in his native parish of Kisa, Ostergotland, Sweden. When Cassel's small band of Swedes arrived in New York, they met Pehr Dahlberg, who had arrived a couple of years earlier. Dahlberg persuaded them to settle at New Sweden instead of at their original destination near Pine River, Wisconsin. Once settled, despite the ravages of cholera during the early 1850's, the settlement had grown to about 700 people by 1860. The approximate 86 families together owned over 5,000 acres. The Lutheran congregation was now ready to build a more substantial church building. Under the direction of local builder, Henri Jangle, they erected the present church as a replacement for their log church of 1851.

In 1948 the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America declared the New Sweden Chapel to be a National Synodical Shrine. Prince Bertil and the Archbishop of Sweden participated with 3,000 people in the ceremonies at the site that unveiled a commemorative marker and plaque.

As the oldest of 1,269 congregations, the New Sweden Chapel holds a special meaning to the more than 600,000 members of the Augustana Synod as well as for the many descendants of Swedish immigrants today. The building itself is typical of the hundreds of rural Swedish immigrant churches in the United States, many of which no longer exist. In New Sweden and other Swedish communities the pioneer Lutheran church formed an important part of the rural scene and in the lives of both members and non-members. The New Sweden church has spanned the whole course of Swedish immigration from the first permanent settlement to their nearly complete absorption into American life and of their Swedish church into an American church.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Stephenson, George M. Religious Aspects of Swedish Immigration. Minneapolis, Minn.; University of Minnesota Press, 1932. Pp. 38-39, 62-66, 165-167, 274.

History of the New Sweden Lutheran Church. Printed in connection with the Diamond Jubilee, Sunday, September 16, 1923, by the Lockridge Times. 8pp

History of the First Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, formerly New Sweden and Trinity Churches. Centennial Observance Edition, 1948. 16pp.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	16,026,0,0	14,514,118,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

New Sweden Chapel Committee

ORGANIZATION

First Augustana Lutheran Church

DATE

March 31, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 124

TELEPHONE

(319) 696 3191

CITY OR TOWN

Lockridge

STATE

Iowa 52635

**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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John D. Anderson*

TITLE

Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

24 August 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

*John D. Anderson*

DATE

3/25/90

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles J. ...*

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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- Stephenson, George M. (tr. and ed.) "Documents relating to Peter Cassel and the settlement at New Sweden," Swedish-American Historical Bulletin II:1 (February, 1929), 1-82.
- Lund, Emil. Iowa-Konferensens af Augustana-Synoden. Historia. The Conference, 1916. pp. 58-61, 648-664, 695, 707, 725-726, 734-739.
- Norelius, Eric. De Svenska Lutherska Forsamlingarnas och Svenskarnes historia i America. Rock Island, ILL.: Lutheran Augustana Book Concern, 1890. V. I., pp. 34, 53, 87-101, 244-250.
- Arden, G. Everett. Augustana Heritage: A History of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Rock Island, Ill.: Augustana Press, 1963. pp. 24-27, 340, 379-413.
- Flom, G.T. "Early Swedish Immigration to Iowa," Iowa Journal of History and Politics III (1905), 582-615.
- Olsson, Nils William. Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850. Chicago: Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, 1967. pp. 38-39, 62-66, 165-167, 274.
- Swedish Historical Society of America. Yearbook. V. 7, 1921-1922. "Typical American Letters," tr. and ed. by G.M. Stephenson, pp. 53-97.

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Acreage Justification:

The inclusion of two acres of land in this nomination was made for historical reasons. The church and surrounding cemetery are located on this land. Although the area covered by actual gravesites is somewhat less than this, these two acres comprise the original church property. They were acquired from the U.S. government in 1851, and a log church erected thereon. It was replaced in 1860 by the present structure. The total amount of church property is now about 16 acres, as more was acquired for a parsonage in later years. For purposes of this nomination, however, only the original two acres are significant.