

**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

1. Name

historic Macksburg Lutheran Church

and/or common Macksburg Lutheran Church

2. Location

street & number 10210 So. Macksburg Road N/A not for publication

city, town Canby vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Oregon code 41 county Clackamas 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Macksburg Lutheran Church

street & number 10210 So. Macksburg Road

city, town Canby vicinity of state Oregon 97013

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clackamas County Courthouse

street & number 8th and Main Streets

city, town Oregon City state Oregon 97045

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Macksburg Lutheran Church is located in the heart of fertile farmland in the lower Willamette Valley, in the southwest corner of Clackamas County, Oregon. It is situated on a rise of land at the eastern edge of Gribble Prairie, which lies between Gribble Creek and the Molalla River, a tributary of the Willamette River. An interesting example of growth by accretion over the years, the small community church is oriented to the north, on Macksburg Road, approximately one mile east of the Marquam-Canby Highway. Canby, the nearest town of any size, lies about 5 miles to the northwest. The site slopes gently to the south, and, as a result, the altar end of the church is slightly higher above grade than the north or entrance end.

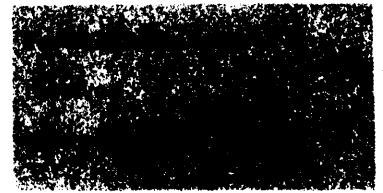
The church was built between 1892 and 1894 by a congregation of German-American farmers as a single-room, wood frame church in the Rural Gothic tradition, with simple boxed cornice, plain frieze and corner boards, and windows with triangular arched heads. Construction, begun late in 1892, is understood to have been undertaken by Mennonite carpenters from the nearby community of Needy who volunteered their skills. The building was dedicated November 11, 1894. The original, gable-roofed volume is rectangular in plan and measures 26 x 40 feet. Original cedar shingle roof cover has been replaced by composition shingles. The original cedar post foundation was enclosed by a board and batten water skirt until 1929, at which time a concrete foundation was added. Exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. Four windows in either side elevation had triangular arch heads and were fitted with double-hung sash with four lights over four. In 1965 these window openings were enlarged and fitted with fixed panes of colored glass. The Gothic characteristics of the windows were maintained, however, by the retention of vertical proportions and triangular arch heads.

The prominent feature of the church is its square, shiplap-sided, louvered belfry with four gables and spire clad with patterned shingles and surmounted by a cross. The original bell is still in place and in regular use. The base of the belfry, clad with vertical boards and battens and capped with a belt cornice, is centered at the north gable end. It rose, in part, from a shallow vestibule with double-leaf door and rectangular top light. The belfry and spire remain unchanged, but in 1965, a 25 x 17-foot, gable-roofed narthex with a metal-canopied side entrance and five slit windows across the north face was added to gain space and improve access to the sanctuary and basement parish hall. Following excavation of a full basement in 1944 to house the heating plant, kitchen and parish hall, the basement was increasingly in demand for general community use. Vertical board and batten siding of the narthex, and what little exterior siding is now exposed on the north face of the main volume, echoes the original cladding of the base of the belfry. Moreover, the double pitch of the narthex roof corresponds precisely to that of the main volume.

An equally sensitive addition was made to the south end in 1929, when the concrete foundation was added. The south addition, housing an altar alcove, sacristy and Sunday school room, was finished to match the original volume. Its gable roof, like that of the later narthex, is lower in height than the main volume roof, but its pitch corresponds to that of the main roof. The side walls of the sacristy-Sunday school addition are blind. A single, double-hung window with plain, straight-topped trim is at either side of the end wall to light the respective interior spaces. A brick outside end chimney breaks through the eave to the east of center.

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The interior of the main volume is a single space traditionally organized with wood pews on either side of a center aisle. The only natural lighting is provided by windows in either side wall. As noted above, these windows were enlarged in 1965 to admit more light. While the window trim is new, the proportion of the windows remains distinctly vertical, and triangular arch heads remain a part of the scheme. The altar end of the room is formally arranged with a pointed-arched altar alcove in the center and doors leading to the sacristy and Sunday school rooms, respectively, to either side. The church was originally heated by a wood stove which stood in the center of the room surrounded by benches made of one-by-twos. This arrangement was first modified, apparently, in 1929 by the addition to the south end.

In 1944, reportedly, when the basement was excavated, or very likely during the construction of 1965, original interior wall cover of heavy painted paper was replaced with sheetrock. The original wainscoting was retained on the side walls, however. The roof framing system is enclosed. Original wood flooring of the sanctuary is overlaid with tile and carpeting. The narthex addition of 1965 added space for a cry room, choir room and storage at the north end of the sanctuary. In the basement, the same addition added toilet rooms to the furnace room, kitchen and parish hall of 1944.

The original parsonage of Macksburg Lutheran Church, completed in 1896, was a simple two-story, gable-roofed frame dwelling, rectangular in plan, situated on the west side of the church. It was set back from Macksburg Road and the front of the church with its long axis parallel with the road. The existing parsonage, which is encompassed in the historic church holdings proposed for nomination, was built in the early 1930s. Also rectangular in plan and gable-roofed, it is a modest, 1½-story Cape Cod style dwelling with wide horizontal weatherboards and a multi-paned picture window. Unlike the original parsonage, it is oriented longitudinally on the property, and its north, or front end is aligned with that of the church. The complex was completed by small automobile garage located behind the parsonage. Small outbuildings -- probably privies -- which once stood on sloping ground behind the church, were removed following excavation of the basement in 1944.

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 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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
1892–1894	Anonymous

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Macksburg Lutheran Church, a simple frame building with dignified proportions and plain trim in the Gothic tradition, was built in rural Clackamas County, Oregon between 1892 and 1894 by a congregation composed largely of German-American farmers. The church, still in use in its original setting, was enlarged over the years in response to growth of the congregation. Nevertheless, with its simple, gable-roofed main volume surmounted by a louvered belfry and spire and its pointed-arched openings, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Rural Gothic Style. As completed in 1894, the single-room church with its shiplap siding, board and batten water skirt and triangular arched openings fitted with double-hung windows, had a square louvered belfry with four gables and shingled spire which rose above a shallow vestibule. In 1929 a similarly finished addition was constructed on the south end to provide space for an altar alcove, sacristy and Sunday school room. At the same time, a concrete foundation was added. In 1944, a full basement was excavated for a parish hall and heating plant. Finally, in 1965, a narthex with double-pitched roof was added to the north end and sided with vertical tongue and groove boards. It was in 1965 also that the four window bays in either side wall were enlarged and fitted with fixed panes of colored glass. Although window framing was replaced, triangular arch heads were retained in the scheme. A rural community church in continuous service for 88 years, Macksburg Lutheran Church reflects through its minor additions the changing needs of the community. It is a well-maintained example of Rural Gothic architecture possessing integrity of location, setting and feeling and sufficient integrity of design, materials and workmanship to meet the criteria of the National Register. It is significant to Clackamas County as the historic focal point of the farming community of Macksburg and because of its association with German-American settlers who formally organized their Lutheran congregation in 1893.

Macksburg Lutheran Church, was built by area homesteaders from Germany and Austria who were of the Lutheran faith. In 1893, the Lutheran Church at Macksburg was formally organized by Rev. C. Buechler of Portland. Johan Kraxberger, whose descendents still attend the Church, was one of the early Church fathers. Prior to 1892, a building had been purchased for \$50.00 so services could be held in the neighborhood. Early pastors were L. Grey, W. Rochmer, A. Schoenberg, B. Merz, and P. Moronz-Oeser. Some early services also had been held in the Macksburg Schoolhouse, which no longer stands. Members of the community drove horse-drawn farm wagons on primitive roads 25 to 30 miles north to Portland to get the pastor for the services which were held every three weeks. After an overnight stay, the pastor was returned to Portland in the same fashion.

In these early days of informal church organization, the community was polled on the issue of establishing a church, and 20 to 25 families were found to be in favor of building a Lutheran church at Macksburg. The Rev. C. Buechler and officers of the congregation solicited the various families for contributions toward construction of a church and parsonage. Construction of the church was commenced at the end of 1892. The parsonage was not built until 1896. A simple, two story frame dwelling on the west side of the church, the original parsonage was subsequently replaced.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews, May-April, 1981: Hermann Etzel and F.O. Kraxberger, descendants of charter members of Macksburg Luthern Church; Myra Weston, Canby Historical Society.
Ronfeld, Albert, "Early History and Lifestyles of Macksburg Lutheran Church," undated manuscript.
"Macksburg Lutheran Church," The Canby Herald (June 17, 1981)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ca. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Yoder, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	2	7	0	4	5	5	0	0	6	5	2	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Macksburg Lutheran Church is situated in NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 23, T. 4S., R. 1 E., W. M., in Clackamas County, Oregon. The nominated property, approximately 1 acre in size, includes Tax Lots 600 and 700. Tax Lot 600, which measures 82.5 x 338 feet, presents its north lot line and major dimension along Macksburg County Road. Tax lot 700, measuring 60 x 338 feet, is contiguous to the south lot line of Tax Lot 600. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mrs. F. O. Kraxberger with assistance of Mrs. Dave Brown		
organization	Macksburg Garden Club	date	April 6, 1981
street & number	10286 So. Macksburg Road	telephone	503/266-8898
city or town	Canby	state	Oregon 97013

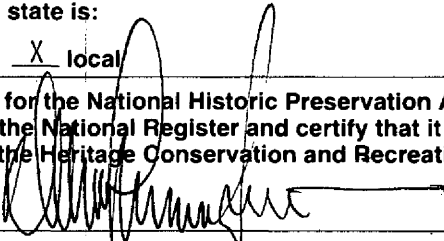
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

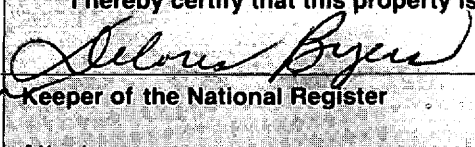
national state local

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



title	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	date	April 15, 1982
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For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	Entered in the National Register date 6/14/82
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Beginning in 1894, the Macksburg and Oregon City Lutheran congregations formed one parish served by Rev. L. Grey. The church at Macksburg ^{was} completed and dedicated on November 11, 1894. The First World War and the industrial activity generated by the war brought a change of life style to all Americans. In the fall of 1929, the congregation of Macksburg Lutheran Church became a parish together with Christ Lutheran Church, another German speaking congregation of nearby Aurora, to the south, and a modern Sunday school was organized and conducted in English. Sunday services in German and English were conducted on an alternating basis. It was at this time that the sacristy and Sunday school addition was constructed on the south end of the Macksburg church, and electric lighting was installed.

In 1944 a full basement was excavated under the building to house a furnace room, with its oil furnace, a kitchen and parish hall. In 1965, the narthex was constructed to improve access to the sanctuary and parish hall, which was increasingly used for general community gatherings.

Over the years, the descendents of original worshippers and newer members of the community alike have continued the traditions of the congregation. The most striking example of unfaded tradition is the tolling of the church bell, the same one which has hung in the belfry since the church was opened for use in 1894. It has proclaimed the end of war on two occasions and continues to toll when a member of the congregation dies, the number of tolls indicating the age of the deceased. The church also serves the secular needs of the community as a polling place and activity center.