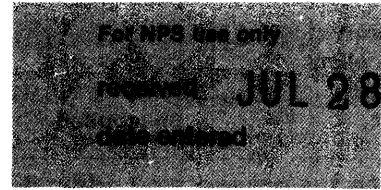


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Vista Lutheran Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location N of New Richland at jct. of CR 20 and 56

street & number County Roads 20 and 56 N/A— not for publication

city, town New Richland Vic. ~~Osisco Township~~ New Richland vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Waseca code 161

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

4. Owner of Property

name Vista Lutheran Church c/o Rev. Charles Espe

street & number RR 2

city, town New Richland vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds - Waseca County Courthouse

street & number 307 North State Street

city, town Waseca state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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	only the interior	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vista Lutheran Church is located in the southern half of Otisco Township, on the northeast corner of the intersection of County Roads 20 and 56. The building's isolation on the rural landscape makes a picturesque scene.

The Gothic Revival Church was built in 1908. It is constructed of red brick, with a raised stone foundation. Dominant features are a projecting central tower and pointed arch windows with stone sills and buff-colored brick pointed arch hoods.

A stone belt course separates the basement from the main floor. A gabled roof caps the main part of the building. The tower features a double doorway with an arched transom topped by a hood, a rectangular-shaped piece with "1858 Vista 1908" on it, a triple-pointed arch window with pointed arch hoods, a shingled section, a bell area with two open-pointed arches on each facade, a gable on each side and a cross in the center capped by a spire and Celtic cross.

The church has undergone various remodeling projects over the years, but alterations have not been significant.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ethnic community
Specific dates	1908	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vista Lutheran Church is significant as the structure which best embodies this principal Swedish settlement in Waseca County.

By the end of May 1857, five Swedish claims had been made on land scouted earlier by Lars Frederick Peterson, John Peterson, and Mose Johnson, who were sent out from the Cannon Falls settlement. A small group of Norwegian emigrants had preceded them in 1856.

Although a Lutheran fellowship that met in people's homes flourished, the need for a formal church was consummated in 1868 when the 40x26x14 foot wood structure was built on the site of the present Vista Lutheran Church. In 1908 the existing church was constructed, with church members supplying labor and materials.

Vista, the name of the "county" in Sweden from which these pioneers had come, was indeed an appropriate name for the community of such far-sighted people.

The Vista Lutheran Church was one of three churches built by Scandinavian settlers in Waseca County. The Vista Covenant (Swedish) Church is approximately one-half mile from the Lutheran church and the LeSueur River Lutheran Church (Norwegian) is located approximately three miles away.

The Vista Lutheran Church is the best preserved structure in this Scandinavian settlement. The church provides an important cultural link to the Swedish population that settled in New Richland Township. The region remains a viable rural community with a strong Scandinavian heritage -- the Swedish and Norwegian languages are still being spoken by second and third generation residents in the area.

Biblical inscriptions, in Swedish, are maintained on the sanctuary walls, exemplifying the importance of the ethnic heritage to the congregation, the majority being of Swedish descent.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnson, Ronald J. Vista '76, 120 Years of a Scandinavian-American Community. Graphic Publ. Co., Lake Mills, Iowa, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name New Richland Quad - Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	4	6	2	6	4	0
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

The property being nominated is the entire SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 106 North, Range 22 West

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, Director; Jan Brown, Curator

organization Waseca County Historical Society date May 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 314 telephone 507-835-7700

city or town Waseca state Minnesota

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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/23/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Crowens

date 11/8/82

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration