

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 30 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Danebod
AND/OR HISTORIC: Danebod

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Danebod Court			
CITY OR TOWN: Tyler		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth	
STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Lincoln	CODE 081

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Danebod Lutheran Church Council			
STREET AND NUMBER: Danebod Court			
CITY OR TOWN: Tyler		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22

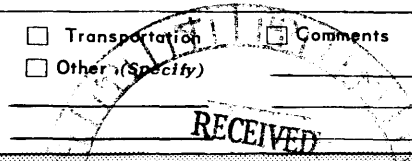
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Ivanhoe		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul		STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Lincoln
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 30 1975
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Danebod is adjacent to the town of Tyler in southwestern Minnesota. The four buildings in Danebod are located in a park-like setting within a four block area. These four buildings are; the Folk School, the Stone Hall, the Cross Church, and the Gym Hall. A description of each of these buildings follows:

The Danebod Folk School was built in 1917 to replace the original Folk School which burned to the ground early in 1917. It is a three story brick building with a corner tower. The tower is of simple Romanesque design with a crenilated parapet. This building is designed in the Greek Cross plan -- as are all four buildings in Danebod. Interesting details of the exterior are the multitude of intersecting gables and the Gothic style portico at the front entrance.

The Stone Hall was built in 1889 by members of the Danebod community. It is a simple field stone structure executed in the Greek Cross plan. The structure is one story in height with dormers in the hipped roof. The interior of the structure contains one large meeting room and a kitchen to the rear.

The Cross Church at Danebod was built from the plans of a Danish architect who designed the church at Vallekild, Denmark. Construction was begun in 1893 and the Church was formally dedicated in 1895. The entire Church was constructed by local Danish craftsmen. The design of the Cross Church is based on the Greek Cross plan with a tower located at a forty-five degree angle to the main axis of the nave. The Church is executed in the Stick Style Gothic and the facade is symmetrical. The exterior boasts unique porthole type windows set under the gables.

In 1947 the road west of the church was lowered three and one half feet. The church council decided to turn the church one quarter of a turn and move it farther east. At this time a full basement was added under the church and a much larger narthex instead of the old cramped entry. The main entry now faces south rather than west. This work was done without destroying the architectural value of the church.

The interior of the church is a credit to the craftsmen who constructed it. The interior floor, walls, ceilings, pews and altar are all panelled in gleaming hardwood. A large star is patterned out of hardwood in the ceiling. There are porthole windows in the circular balcony in harmony with the church being likened to a ship. Carrying out this ancient theme a miniature ship hangs suspended from the ceiling. Tall hardwood pillars support the balcony. On the altar is a statue of Thorvaldsen's Christ which is invaluable today. Another unique piece is the baptismal font hewn by a local stone mason in 1894.

Both the interior and exterior of this unusual church are in excellent condition and the pride of the community.

The Gym Hall -- This two story frame structure was built by the community in 1904 to provide physical education for the children of Danebod. The Gym Hall was executed in the Greek Cross plan. The distinguishing feature of the exterior is the recessed entryway.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884 - present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Settlement and</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Immigration</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Danish settlement, centering at Danebod on the southern border of Tyler, was founded in 1884 by a group of Danish Evangelical Lutherans who adhered to the teachings of Bishop N. S. Grundtvig, a prominent Danish preacher, poet, and patriot. Under the inspiration of the Reverend Frederick Lange Grundtvig, a son of the Bishop, the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America secured an option on 35,000 acres of railroad land in Lincoln County, Minnesota. An agreement with the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company land agent, A. Bojsen, stipulated that for a term of three years this land was to be sold to Danish immigrants only. Two hundred and forty acres of land were donated as sites for churches and schools, provided 12,000 acres were sold.

By June 27, 1885, some seventy Danish settlers from various localities were assembled in the town of Lake Benton for the trek to Danebod. More than 3,000 acres of land were sold that day; the colony was assured of success. On July 11, 1886, the settlers organized a Danish-Lutheran congregation and the next year they sent "a call" to Grundtvig, who replied that he would accept it only on the condition that no members of secret societies would be allowed to join the church. This condition was aimed at the Danish Brotherhood, a fraternal organization patterned after the American secret societies. As it had several members in the settlement, the church refused to accede to Grundtvig's request; and finally in 1888 it called the Reverend P. H. Pederson, who had been connected with the folk high school at Ashland, Newaygo County, Michigan. Pedersen assumed leadership of the congregation and thus in a sense became the "founder of Danebod."

Lincoln County had been settled before the coming of the Grundtvigians, but pioneering had been so difficult that many early settlers had left in despair. The Grundtvigian pioneers endured the hardships of pioneering -- hailstorms, drouths, and the resulting crop failures, poverty and high rates of interest -- better than their predecessors because of their capacity for hard work and their social solidarity. As early as 1894 "a giant stride of progress" was made with the building of a cooperative creamery that gave the farmers a regular income and contributed to their prosperity. In later years Danes from the community organized a lumber cooperative, a cooperative grain elevator, and a shipping cooperative for the sale of farm animals. Other cooperative enterprises promoted economic progress, but the chief factor in the advance of the settlement was intensive diversified farming.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christensen, Thomas P., "Danish Settlement in Minnesota", Minnesota History; Vol. 8, December 1927, pp. 363-385.
 Knudsen, Johannes, "Roots", Kirke og Folk, Vol. 21, No. 19, December 15, 1972.
 Mortensen, Enok, Seventy Five Years at Danebod, Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, Minnesota, 1961.
 Tasker, A. E., Early History of Lincoln County, The Lake Benton News Print, 1936, Reprinted, 1973.
 _____, Lincoln County, Minnesota Centennial 1873-1973, Centennial Committee, Journal Printing Company, Lake Benton.

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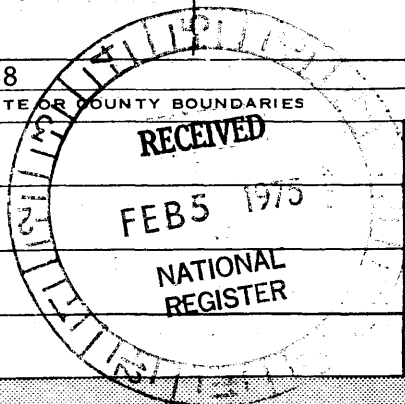
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .	44	16	05	
NE	0 . .	0 . .	96	08	00	
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 8**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lynne VanBrocklin, Survey Specialist; Henry Harren, Survey Analyst

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **11 December 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: January 30, 1975

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

A. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/30/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. Harrington
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6.30.75

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description

The interior of the Hall contains one large gym with a stage and balcony. The entire area, including the ceiling, walls, stage and balcony is panelled in hardwood.

8. Significance

The Danish settlement at Danebod has grown and prospered for ninety years. It is the second largest Danish settlement in Minnesota and the oldest. Nowhere in Minnesota has Danish culture and tradition been as well preserved as at Danebod. Danebod comprises four structures which have been associated with the community's activities since the 1880s. The four structures are: the Folk School, the Stone Hall, the Cross Church and the Gym Hall.

The Danebod Folk School -- (built-1888, burned-1917, rebuilt-1917)

Pastor H. J. Pedersen, like most of the early pastors in the Lutheran synod, had received his training in a folk school and he was convinced that the success of the new colony and the congregation depended on the establishment of such a school. The Danish farmers hauled stone for the basement -- 150 loads -- and helped in other ways. In the course of four months the Danebod Folk School was up and under roof, and the inside work hurried on for the opening of the fall term. On August 12 the first public meeting was held within the walls of Danebod. The school opened December 1, 1888 with Pedersen as president.

On Sunday, February 25, 1917 the Folk School burned to the ground. The building was valued at \$15,000 and the fire insurance amounted to only \$6,000. A financial drive in the community and in other congregations throughout the synod resulted in subscriptions of \$26,000. The "new" Folk School was completed by the end of 1917.

Until the Danebod children began attending public schools in the area several decades ago, between sixty and seventy boys attended the Folk School for three months in the winter and the same number of girls attended during the summer months. The Folk School is still used for religion classes and during the summer months it serves as a summer youth camp with children in their early teens coming from many states for a stay of several weeks.

The Stone Hall -- (built-1889).

As the colony grew the congregation also increased in numbers and the facilities at the school proved inadequate for church services. In the spring of 1889 Kristian Klink and Niels Petersen, students at the Folk School offered to build the Stone Hall. The hall was to be built of native rock. The farmers hauled rocks from the shores of Swan Lake south of Danebod and Klink and his helpers split and shaped them.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance - page 2

The Stone Hall was finished late in the fall of 1889. The hall became the center of the colony. On Sundays, services were conducted. There were weddings, funerals and baptisms. The students at the Folk School used it for gym, and the young people met there for meetings and singing games. The Stone Hall continues to be used as a meeting hall in the spring and summer months.

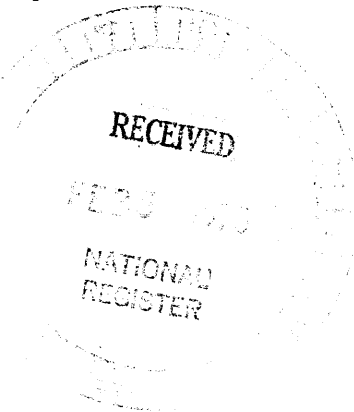
The Cross Church -- (built 1893)

The Stone Hall soon became too small for worship services. At a congregational meeting October 30, 1892 the question of building a new and larger sanctuary was discussed but it was unanimously decided to postpone the decision until the following year. The postponement was due partly to the unsettled state of affairs in the synod but especially to the financial depression. At a meeting April 30, 1893 the motion to build a church was passed, 46-2. Pastor Petersen contacted a Danish architect and his plans for the church at Vallekilde, Denmark were accepted as the basis for the new church.

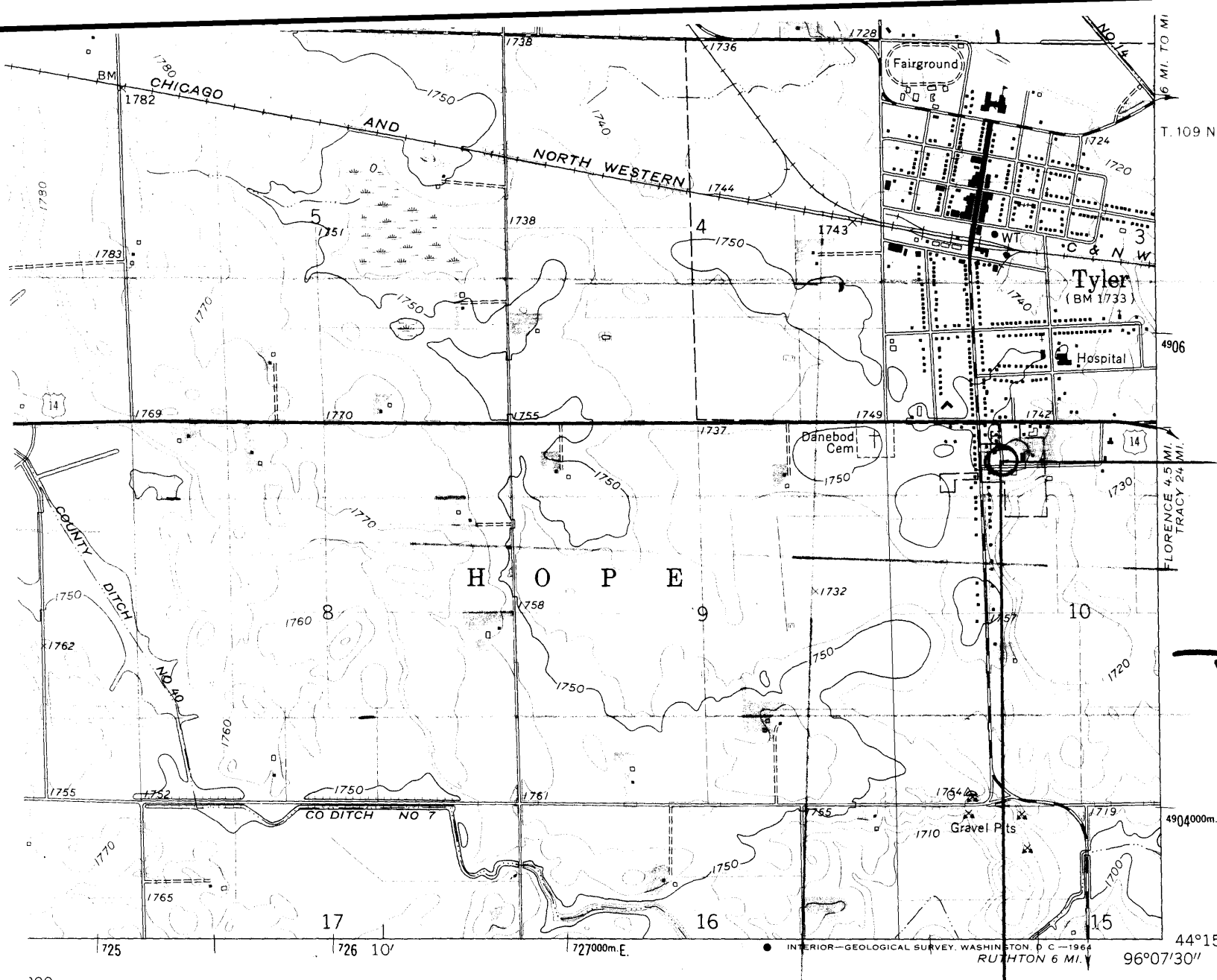
During the summer and winter of 1894 construction of the church was underway, according to the funds on hand and the manpower available. The new edifice which by congregational decision of April 28, 1895 was to be called "The Cross Church at Danebod" was dedicated Sunday, June 16. The design of the church, in the form of a cross, with the tower rising from almost the center of the church, is unique to Minnesota. The church has been used for religious purposes by the residents of Danebod for almost eighty years.

The Gym Hall -- (built-1904)

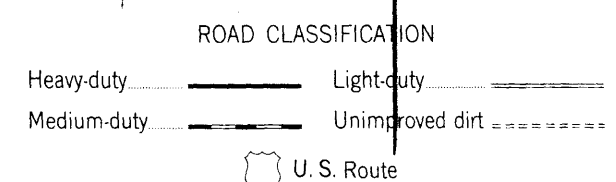
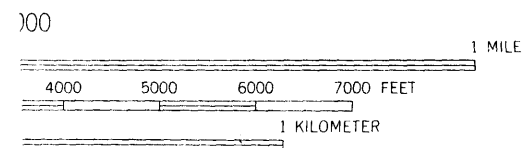
The Gym Hall was erected in 1904 to provide physical education for the children attending the Folk School. The hall has also served the community as a gathering spot for social events. It continues to be used for recreation by summer camp children and others throughout the year.



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Danebod



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