

**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

For HCERS use only

received MAY 21 1982  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic Deutsche Evangelisch Lutherische Zion Kirche

and/or common Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Marysville

(SW00-52)

## 2. Location

street & number N/A *SW 1st* N/A not for publication

city, town Staplehurst *Nebraska*  vicinity of congressional district First

state Nebraska code 31 county Seward code 159

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name The Board of Trustees - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

street & number N/A

city, town Staplehurst  vicinity of state Nebraska

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Seward County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Seward state Nebraska

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is a brick structure built in 1916-17 in the Late Gothic Revival Style of Architecture. The church, designed by Lincoln architects Berlinghof and Davis, features a tile hip-gable roof and brick and stone ornamentation.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is situated in rural Seward county, Nebraska, ten miles northwest of Seward (1980 pop. 5,698), the county seat and 35 miles northwest of Lincoln, the State capital.

Designed by the noted architectural firm Berlinghof and Davis of Lincoln, Our Redeemer exemplifies the stylistic characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival, being "quieter and 'smoother' in design than those of the High Victorian Gothic." (Whiffen, page 173). The church was built in 1916-17 and dedicated November 4, 1917.

The plan of the building is symmetrical about its east-west axis, with the pews arched within the rectangular auditorium space towards the chancel. The chancel is bounded by the organ loft on the south and the pastor's study on the north. A gallery penetrates the auditorium at the east end.

The building is of brick construction, with wood floors, a tile hip-gable roof and with what is presumed to be steel roof trusses. Much of the detailing is in brick, including hoodmold details above doors and windows and the pattern work above the east entrance. Buttress weatherings, battlement copings and water-table are all in stone.

Our Redeemer, 86 feet long along its east-west axis and 66 feet along its north-south axis, features a three-portal entrance flanked by two analogous stair towers at the north and south corners of the east facade. The engaged corner towers, 70 and 96 feet in height, are corner-buttressed and battlement topped. Pierced by tall lancet windows and louvered lancet vents, the belfries carry tile-covered steeples, capped by five and six foot copper Latin crosses.

The entrance portals on the gabled east facade are crowned by brick hood-mold detailing, with diamond shaped brick detailing forming a horizontal visual tie between the two towers. Resting on top of the brick detailing is a large four-arched Tudor Gothic window with wide buttressed wood mullions, splayed at the top to form three-point arched windows and a wide transom bar.

On the north and south facades, gable projections which are corner-buttressed and elbow-parapeted exist to serve as transepts. Each transept contains an identical four-arched window as on the east facade.

The only reflection of the transepts expressed on the interior is shown in the hung plaster ceiling. The ceiling reaches a height of 28 feet at its apex, with ridges fanning out in eight directions.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1917 **Builder/Architect** Berlinghof & Davis

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Marysville is significant as a representation of the combined design talents of two of Nebraska's leading early 20th century architects, George Berlinghof and Ellery L. Davis. It is architecturally intact and is one of Nebraska's finest examples of an auditorium planned church used for corporate worship.

George Berlinghof was born in Germany in 1862 and graduated from the Polytechnic School of Darmstadt in 1879. Immigrating to the United States, Berlinghof in 1881 established his residence in Omaha and worked for the firm of Mendelsohn, Fisher and Lawrie until 1890. During this term, Berlinghof was given full charge in the construction of the First National Bank Buildings of Omaha. After 1890, Berlinghof established his own office in Beatrice and then in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1910, the Berlinghof and Davis Partnership was established and lasted until 1917. At this time, both Berlinghof and Davis decided to pursue solo careers. Berlinghof continued his practice on his own until his retirement in 1930. He died in Lincoln in 1944 at the age of 82.

Ellery L. Davis was born in Florida in 1887. The son of the Dean of the Arts College at the University of Nebraska, Davis received degrees from the University of Nebraska and Columbia University. After the dissolution of the Berlinghof and Davis Partnership, Davis pursued his solo career until 1921, when he formed a partnership with Walter Wilson. Davis and Wilson have been a leading Nebraska architectural firm since their inception, evolving into one of the larger firms in Nebraska, Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling.

George Berlinghof's early work includes the Beatrice City Library (see NRHP, Beatrice, Gage County). Buildings in conjunction with Ellery L. Davis include the Floral Court apartments in Lincoln.

The partnership of Berlinghof and Davis, while short-lived, nonetheless produced various important structures. Their efforts include the Miller and Paine Department Store, a major retail outlet still occupying a corner of 13th and "O" Streets, Lincoln's downtown core. The firm also designed Lincoln High School, the oldest and most prestigious public high school building in the city, and Lincoln's Scottish Rite Temple.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1<sup>0</sup> acre

Quadrangle name Staplehurst, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James D. Fagler (Architect Intern)

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date March, 1982

street & number 1500 R Street

telephone 402/471-3270 or 471-3850

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

# 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

Marion W. Knott 5/13/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

**For HCRS use only**

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

Alton Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Marysville serves as the culmination of the fund-raising efforts of farmers in rural Seward county. The church building constitutes the fourth and finest structure on the site. Twenty-seven thousand dollars was subscribed by dedication day, with the war and construction delays raising the cost to \$33,000. The difference was paid off in six months.

Our Redeemer represents a significant ecclesiastical work of the Berlinghof and Davis partnership. As typical of Late Gothic Revival buildings, the church exhibits a strong cohesive massing, the "top heavy effects and calculated clashes of scale" (Whiffen, page 173) of High Victorian Gothic is not apparent, but the building employs a Late Gothic Revival "simpler silhouette and monochromy" (Whiffen, page 173).

The auditorium space retains its historic integrity throughout. The pews, railings, baptismal font, pulpit, altar, lectern, organ and pipes, stained glass windows and plastered ceiling are all original and in excellent condition.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Baldwin, Robert, Who's Who In Lincoln, "Davis, Ellery Lothrop", 1928.

Cox, W. W., History of Seward County, Nebraska, State Journal Company,  
Lincoln, Nebraska, 1888, 1st Edition.

Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling, "History of the Firm."

Morton-Watkins, History of Nebraska, "Berlinghof, Geo.", 1905.

1945 Anniversary Booklet, "A Short History of Zion Lutheran Church of  
Staplehurst, Nebraska".

1970 Anniversary Booklet, "Brief History of Our Redeemer".

Seward Independent Democrat, Thursday, November 8, 1917.

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Verbal Boundary Description

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Starting at the North 1/16th corner of the Southwest quarter of said Section Thirty-two (32) and running thence East-on the East-and West one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) section line seven hundred seventy-four and eighteen one hundredths (774.18) feet, thence South five hundred seventy-seven and one half ( $577\frac{1}{2}$ ) feet, thence West five hundred and twenty-eight (528) feet, thence North five hundred forty-six and sixty-six one hundredths (546.66) feet, thence West two hundred forty-six and eighteen one hundredths (246.18) feet to a point thirty and eighty-four one hundredths ( $30\frac{84}{100}$ ) feet South of the starting point, fifteen hundred sixty-six and eighteen one hundredths ( $1866\frac{18}{100}$ ) to the West section line thence North thirty and eighty-four ( $30\frac{84}{100}$ ) feet to the West  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of said Section thirty-two (32) and thence East thirteen hundred and twenty (1320) feet to the starting point containing  $7\frac{91}{100}$  acres be the same more or less, all in Township 12 North, Range 2 East, Seward County, Nebraska, including all of the historically associated real estate.