

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Bethphage Mission
Other names/site number Mosaic at Bethphage Village
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number 1044 23rd Road
City or town Axtell State Nebraska County Kearney
Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Michael J. Sant SHPO/Director 03-02-2013
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official Date

Title State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Jon Edson H. Beall 4-24-13
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>		Sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Structures
		Objects
<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE /Animal Facility
RELIGION/Religious Facility
HEALTHCARE/Sanitarium
LANDSCAPE/Object
OTHER/Laundry
OTHER/Maintenance Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School
RECREATION and CULTURE/Museum
RELIGION/Religious Facility
VACANT – Not in Use
LANDSCAPE/Object
OTHER/Laundry
OTHER/Maintenance Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER - Swedish National Romanticism
OTHER – Klintian, a style named after Peder Vilhelm Jensen-Klint designer of the Grundtvig Memorial Church

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

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Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Bethphage Mission's campus is comprised of 539 acres directly north of Axtell in Kearney County, Nebraska. This campus includes: a 40-acre campus with administration buildings, residential housing, activity centers and a church; an 80-acre park and wetlands area open to the public; and 419 acres of fields leased to local farmers. The resources of interest in this nomination are in an L-shaped section of the original 40 acre tract purchased by Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl on Jan. 9, 1914 (Figure 7). The nomination includes 10 contributing resources; seven buildings, one site and two structures, and 13 non-contributing resources; 12 buildings and one structure. Bethphage Mission has a long history of growth, yet the structural and historical integrity of the contributing resources has remained high. Despite continuous growth and change, the institution has operated without interruption, and with an ongoing respect for the principles established by the Rev. Dahl, since its inception on Feb. 19, 1913.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Contributing Buildings

Home Tabor

Home Tabor, built in 1916 and dedicated on May 17, 1916 (Figure 8), is a 2½ story building designed in 1914 by Olof Z. Cervin of Rock Island, Illinois (Figure 9). It appropriates the work of Peder Vilhelm Jensen- Klint, designer of the Grundtvig Memorial Church of Copenhagen (Figure 10). The style is referred to as Klintian. The 6,940 sq. ft. building is constructed of ivory brick with red trim and a red clay roof. There are stepped gables at each end of the building. There is also a two-story central, projecting entry crowned with a stepped gable. The rear dormer is also topped with a stepped gable creating a cross shape roof line. Home Tabor has a two-story wing with a hipped roof projecting from each end wall. This building originally served as a home for the women at Bethphage Mission. The home had 30 beds, a dining room, kitchen, bathrooms and a necessary dispensary (Figures 11-15). Mrs. N.C. Anseen of Oakland, California, a friend of Dahl's and visitor to Home Tabor wrote shortly after it opened:

"...when we enter Tabor we find that the walls are so tastefully and artistically decorated and the floors, of hard wood, strewn with pretty rugs, some home-made, and instead of looking like an institution, which it is, it had the aspect of a private home, and the different rooms are so neat and sweet, everything in order and clean and everybody looking so happy and contented." (Guldax, December 1931)

Home Tabor has since been converted to use as a visitor's center and museum (Photos 1-3, 18, 20). As part of this conversion several of the original features have been restored, including wall stenciling, which had been designed using Swedish themes and was re-created from photos of the original interior.

Dairy Barn

In February 1921, the need was felt to acquire a herd of cows to supply Bethphage with milk, along with land to raise produce for the tables. In 1925, a two-story, approximately 10,000 sq. ft. Dairy Barn was built for \$10,000 (Figure 16). The building is a traditional Dutch style barn with a gambrel roof and post and beam construction. The Barn still stands today and is used for storage (Photo 4).

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Name of Property**County and State****Shiloam (Laundry Building)**

Shiloam, dedicated on June 30, 1920, is a one-story building designed to house the Mission's laundry equipment and a central boiler plant. Ivory brick and stepped gables were used in keeping with the look of the other buildings on campus (Figure 17). The original building was 3250 sq. ft. with an 840 sq. ft. one-story addition added to the north in 1969. The addition used brick to match the existing ivory brick. It continues to serve as a laundry facility today (Photo 5).

Maintenance Building

The 4200 sq. ft. maintenance building and garage was built in 1928 with an addition added to the south in 1962. Again, ivory brick and stepped gables were used both during the original construction and addition to continue a consistent look on the campus. It continues to serve as a maintenance building and garage today (Photo 6).

Kidron

Kidron, dedicated on Dec. 29, 1928, is a one-story building designed by Harvey Peterson, an architect from Omaha, Nebraska. The long, low building, constructed of ivory brick with a red clay tile roof, has stepped gables on each end wall and a projecting entry porch decorated with a stepped gable. The façade of the building is broken up by six pairs of 12-pane windows. The original 4850 sq. ft. building served as a home for women with tuberculosis who needed to be segregated from the rest of the women in Tabor. Cost of the building was \$38,000 (Figure 18). A 2,780 sq. ft. addition to the east end of Kidron was completed in 1946 (Figure 19), which added 13 new beds for men to the home. Olof Z. Cervin designed this addition, which has a stepped gable façade. In 1964, another 1,570 sq. ft. addition was attached to the east end of the building. Kidron has undergone much interior renovation. The building is now used for administrative offices and a school (Photo 7).

The Zion Chapel

The Zion Chapel was dedicated on May 20, 1931. Architect Olof Z. Cervin took ideas from a 1917 rendering he drew (Figure 20) to create the most highly stylized example of the stepped gable, ivory brick buildings at Bethphage (Figure 21). Harvey Peterson of Omaha served as the assistant architect on the project and Henry Knutson of Kearney was the contractor. The entrance of the 4,170 sq. ft. church is a compound pointed arched portal topped with a red tile shed roof. Around this portal looms the rectangular tower with a central stained-glass rosette window. The façade and the rear walls for the tower are crowned with stepped gables. A steeply pitched roof of red tiles lies between these two gables. The façade is flanked by stepped buttresses (Photo 8-10). On each side of the church there are six stained-glass lancet windows created by St. Joseph Art Glass Works in St. Joseph, Missouri, each depicting a different scene from the life of Christ: The Nativity; Angel and the Shepherds; Christ Blessing the Children; Christ Healing the Sick; Christ; Mary and Martha; Good Shepherd; Christ In Gethsemane; Christ and the Cross; Jesus Praying; The Resurrection; and The Ascension (Photo 11). There is a door in the center of both side walls, each with a stepped gable façade. The end wall of the church has paired stepped gable parapets. The outside clock above the entrance door is a Seth Thomas, donated by Carl Otto Sandberg of Smolan, Kansas.

The interior of the church has a strong gothic flavor. The building has a vaulted ceiling with pine beams resting on a gallery of arches constructed of ivory brick. The pulpit, a gift to Bethphage from the Women's Missionary Society of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is carved with a modest gothic design. This pattern is reiterated on the sides of the pews. Behind the altar there is another stained-glass window. It depicts Christus Consolator – Christ surrounded by the ill and crippled. The golden, candle-style chandeliers which hang from the arches are original and reinforce the Swedish influence seen on the exterior. Rev. C.A. Lonnquist, director of Bethphage Mission (1917-1937), describes them:

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"From the arches hang eight chandeliers reminding the Swedish-born of the homeland, for they are built after those we saw there to our wonderment when we were children." (Guldax, April 1931)

The Zion Chapel was specifically designed to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Bethphage Mission guests and few alterations have been necessary since its construction. The Reuter pipe organ has been moved to the choir loft to protect it from dampness and the altar has been raised slightly, but besides these and a few other minor changes, the historic fabric of the building remains intact and it continues to serve Mosaic at Bethphage Village as a church.

Bethesda

Bethesda, dedicated on May 13, 1951, was the last building designed by Olof Cervin. The architect died prior to its completion and John Helleberg of Helleberg & Helleberg was made consulting architect after Cervin's death. Built at a cost of \$200,000, the 13,090 sq. ft. building is three-stories with stepped gable end walls and a central, projecting entrance topped with stepped gables. There are paired dormer windows on each side of the entrance and a square tower in the center of the roof with a cross at its peak (Figure 22). Bethesda was equipped as a hospital for the care of chronic patients. Because of its function, it was designed with rooms rather than wards, providing 45 beds with 1 or 2 beds in each room. It had its own kitchen and dining room, a dental room, a separate heating plant with conversion gas and oil burner and zone control on the first floor. Each floor was equipped with a utility room and diet kitchen. A hydraulic elevator served each floor and a public address system was available to all guests as well as workers. (Bethphage Messenger, April 1952). Home Bethesda is now vacant and used for storage (Photo 12).

Contributing Structures

West Pavilion

The West Pavilion was erected in 1926 by the Bethphage Mission workers (Figure 23). It is a square structure with brick half-walls and brick pillars in the corners, which support the pyramidal roof of red clay tile. The building was originally used for dedication ceremonies, band concerts and similar outside activities. The structure now serves as an entrance pavilion, standing next to the visitors parking area (Photo 13).

Bethel Pavilion

The Bethel Pavilion was erected in 1929 by the Bethphage Mission workers (Figure 24). It is a rectangle structure with brick pillars in the corners and one of each side, which support the pyramidal roof of red clay tile. The building was used for outside activities for Bethphage staff and guests. In the 1950s, the Telephone Pioneers of America group out of Omaha, Nebraska renovated the Pavilion. The red-clay roof tile was replaced with asphalt tiles. It continues to be used today by staff and guests (Photo 14).

Contributing Site

Cemetery

On the northeast end of the campus sits a private cemetery. Buried there are Bethphage founder Rev. K.G. William Dahl and former director Robert A. Turnquist as well as four deaconesses who served at the Mission, other former staff members, and guests served by the Mission and their families (Photo 15). Other than Rev. Dahl's gravestone, the headstones are small and plain. The cemetery is surrounded by a grove of red cedars. The

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placement of the gravestones is unique. In the United States most private and public cemeteries, especially those that are Christian based, the graves face east. According to the Bible, "For as the lightening comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" Matthew 24:27. At Bethphage the graves run east to west with the headstones facing south and run north to south with the headstones facing west. While no explanation was found on why this was done, it could have been a simple fact that space was short and the staff wanted to fit in as many graves as possible.

Non-Contributing Buildings

The 12 non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing structure, built between 1963 and 2004, were designed not to be obtrusive to the historical structures. They were planned to be harmonious with the other structures on campus by using the same or similar ivory bricks as a dominant exterior material. A contemporary expression of the stepped gable motif was used on the facade of the buildings as opposed to incorporating this feature in the roof, while still keeping a strong unifying design consistent throughout the campus. While the Nazareth Activities Center (1963) and the Learning Center (1965) have reached or are close to the 50-year mark, they are not considered contributing buildings because they represent the new architectural style of the campus. While they blend nicely with the stylistic idea of Rev. Dahl, they clearly represent a more modern style.

Nazareth Activities Center

A 17,600 sq. ft. one-story brick building dedicated in 1963, the building houses education, training, recreation, occupational and physical therapy and a swimming pool for the residents. The building was designed by Selmer, Solheim & Associates of Lincoln, Nebraska (Photo 16). While the Nazareth Activities Center building turns 50 in 2013, its design does not fit the Swedish National Romanticism architectural style of the other contributing buildings nominated. Thus, it was not included as a contributing building.

Learning Center

Originally the Administration Building, the 3,050 sq. ft. building was dedicated on May 1, 1965 and is used for staff development. It was designed by Helleberg & Helleberg of Kearney, Nebraska.

Central Kitchen/Storage

The 8,320 sq. ft. one-story brick building was dedicated in 1970. It is used for food preparation and a general supply warehouse. It was built by Chris Lien Construction of Holdrege, Nebraska.

Retreat Center

The 2,450 sq. ft. one-story brick building was dedicated in 1970. The building is used for retreats and conferences. It was built by Chris Lien Construction of Holdrege, Nebraska.

Jordan Complex

The 5,133 sq. ft. one-story building was dedicated on June 17, 1978. The building provides training and vehicle maintenance. It was designed by Arrowstreet, Inc. of Boston.

Residences:

The following seven residences are all one-story and constructed of ivory-colored brick. A stepped gable motif was used on the facade of the buildings under the corner windows as opposed to incorporating this feature in the roof. Each residence features a central kitchen, living room and a secured outdoor space as well as

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bedrooms housing two guests each. The homes are handicapped accessible throughout. Arrowstreet, Inc. of Boston designed each building, unless otherwise noted.

Sharon

The 4,086 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on June 17, 1978.

Salem

The 4,614 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on June 17, 1978.

Bethany

The 4,713 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on June 17, 1978.

Emmaus

The 4,886 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1980.

Mizpah

The 4,617 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1980 (Photo 17, 19).

Carmel

The 4,533 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1980.

Capernaum

The 8,032 sq. ft. residence was dedicated on June 15, 1985. Richard Stacey, Great Plains Engineering and Architecture constructed the residence (Photo 19).

Non-Contributing Structure

Clifford Johnson Pavilion

The Clifford Johnson Pavilion was built in 2004 as an outdoor shelter with sidewalks for recreational activities. It allows large groups to congregate to appreciate the outdoors. The shelter includes handicapped accessible restrooms, a fireplace and is enclosed with screens.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
- E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** A commemorative property.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage/European

Architecture

Religion

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1916-1951

Significant Dates

1913, 1916, 1928, 1931, 1951

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Dahl, Rev. Kjell Gustav William

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Cervin, Olof Z.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Bethphage Mission in Axtell is significant at the state level under a variety of criteria. Bethphage is eligible under Criterion A for its care of disabled individuals in Nebraska and its association with the Swedish and the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nebraska during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Under Criterion B, Bethphage founder Reverend Kjell Gustav William Dahl conceived the idea to serve people with disabilities as

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valued members of society and whose single-minded determination made Bethphage a reality. Lastly, under Criterion C, the buildings being nominated were built in a Swedish National Romanticism style, a unique style in Nebraska. Significant dates listed tie to the founding of Bethphage Mission in 1913 and the building of the significant contributing buildings including Tabor Hall in 1916, Kidron in 1928, Zion Chapel in 1931 and Bethesda in 1951. While there is a tie to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the property derives its primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Early Twentieth Century Care for People with Disabilities in Nebraska

Before Bethphage was founded in 1913, Nebraskans afflicted with “idiocy, lunacy or other unavoidable causes” were to be supported by their families and relatives; if not possible, an 1858 Nebraska law required the county to provide support. Individuals without family support were sent to county hospitals or locked in county jails with untrained staff caring for them. In 1870, Nebraska opened the State Lunatic Asylum in Lincoln and in 1883 Governor Albinus Nance advocated for a separate institution to serve children. The Nebraska Institution for Feeble Minded Youth (NIFMY) opened in Beatrice in 1885 with the first three residents entering May 25, 1887 and grew to 65 children by the end of the year. Also in 1885, the Norfolk hospital for the insane was established.

In 1887, the legislature appropriated \$75,000 for a "state asylum for the incurably insane" to be located at Hastings if the city would donate 160 acres of land for the purpose. The citizens of Hastings purchased 160 acres one mile west of the city limits. The land area was eventually increased to 630 acres. Patients were first received at the hospital on Aug. 1, 1889 when 44 were transferred from Lincoln. The institution continued to receive inmates from the hospitals at Lincoln and Norfolk who were believed to be incurable, and the name of the Hastings hospital was "Hospital for the Incurably Insane." In December 1916 there were 1,152 inmates, 405 women and 747 men.

Residents were educated to function productively within the institutional setting, where they would most likely remain for life. Preference was given to those between the ages of five and 18 who were considered still teachable. Others deemed unsuitable for state care, the older and lower-functioning people, were left to be cared for by their families or local communities.

Bethphage's care for the disabled followed a model developed in Germany. While a theology student at the Augustana Seminary, Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl had the opportunity to translate the book A Colony of Mercy by Julie Sutter from English into Swedish. This book gave a history of the Bethel Institute, a charitable institution in Bielefeld, Germany which was under the directorship of Friedrich von Bodelschwingh. The Bethel Institute was a colony for thousands of epileptics, feeble-minded and otherwise afflictive persons who were lovingly and respectfully cared for by consecrated deacons and deaconesses. Not long after that, Rev. Dahl visited an acquaintance in the Douglas County Hospital in Omaha. This friend had epilepsy and his treatment was sub-humane. Dahl saw the need first-hand and envisioned a place just like the one described in the book for people with disabilities.

In 1912, Rev. Dahl and his family moved to Axtell, Nebraska, 41 miles from Hastings, where he was made the pastor of Bethphage Lutheran Church (now Trinity Lutheran Church). The next year, in February, Dahl organized a meeting at Bethphage Lutheran Church during which he would present the cause that was so near to his heart: “the mentally ill, the feeble-minded, the deaf, the blind and the aged whose eyes pleaded while their tongues

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babbled mixed-up phrases, those with epilepsy, the physically handicapped, the poor and down-trodden." At the conclusion of the meeting, 54 people signed on as charter members of this new organization, each contributing a dollar "as evidence of their faith in Dahl's plan" (Turnquist, 1985). On Feb. 19, 1913, the Bethphage Inner Mission Association was born.

After the gathering, Dahl left for Europe:

"...Dahl went to Europe mainly for the purpose of studying at close range Bodelschwing's great institution at Bielefeld, Germany, which institution he took as a model for a similar one of smaller dimension."

When Dahl returned to America he quickly went to work establishing Bethphage Mission. His mission was to provide a refuge for the mentally disabled, the Falling Sick (epileptics) and the most unfortunate, in a Christian environment. All ages were welcome along with those who could not pay. Dahl put out a call for donations, caregivers and guests. He planned Bethphage Mission as a Diaconate, recruiting Sisters and Brothers to serve as caregivers from the Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha. Once hired, they were sent to the Ebenezer Institute in Brush, Colorado for training followed by training at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the Passavant Home for Epileptics in Rochester, Pennsylvania. That first year they began ministering under the shelter of three rented houses in the town of Axtell. The first "guests," as they were called, were two elderly women, one who was helpless and homeless and one with nervous prostrations. By 1928, Bethphage was a 40-acre campus with a working farm, a chapel and separate homes to house women, men and children with a wide range of disabilities. The work started by Rev. Dahl continues today.

Criterion A – Swedish Immigration and Influence

According to the U.S. Census, in 1910 49,818 Nebraskans claimed a Swedish ancestry - 22,219 who were born in Sweden and another 26,599 whose parents were of Swedish birth. Top Nebraska counties for those with Swedish descent in 1910 were Douglas, Phelps, Saunders, Polk, Burt, Lancaster, Knox and Kearney Counties.

Religion was a vital aspect of the cultural identity of the Swedish people. The Lutheran Church being the established State Church of Sweden, the majority of people adhered to that faith. Small Lutheran churches were established wherever Swedish immigrants located in larger numbers.

After serving as assistant director of the Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha from 1909 to 1912, Swedish immigrant Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl was asked to take charge of the small and recently organized Bethphage Lutheran Church (now Trinity Lutheran Church) in Axtell, Nebraska. In December 1912, Rev. Dahl moved his family to Axtell, a mere village at the time in the geographic center of two predominantly Swedish Counties, Kearney and Phelps. In February 1913, Dahl organized a meeting at Bethphage Lutheran Church during which he would present the cause that was so near to his heart: "the mentally ill, the feeble-minded, the deaf, the blind and the aged whose eyes pleaded while their tongues babbled mixed-up phrases, those with epilepsy, the physically handicapped, the poor and down-trodden." At the conclusion of the meeting, 54 people signed on as charter members of this new organization, each contributing a dollar "as evidence of their faith in Dahl's plan." On Feb. 19, 1913, the Bethphage Inner Mission Association was born.

Bethphage Mission is an example of the evangelical missionary work which was accomplished by many Swedish immigrants to the United States, particularly those affiliated with the Inner Mission philosophy and the Augustana Synod, an organization of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was organized in the United States in 1860 by Swedish immigrants. The Inner Mission movement resulted from the ideas of Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, who promoted temperance, aestheticism and piety. Wilhelm Beck, a German

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disciple of Kierkegaard's, redefined the philosophy to one of the community services known as "Inner Mission." Beck's theory was put into active service by his successor Fredrick von Bodelschwingh. This movement was adopted in Scandinavia with a greater emphasis on evangelism. In building Bethphage Mission, Rev. William Dahl combined the Scandinavian philosophy that he grew up with and the German philosophy he learned from Bodelschwingh.

"Of the Inner Mission communities built in this part of the country, Bethphage Mission, founded by William Dahl as a place for epileptics in Axtell, Nebraska, is perhaps the most interesting in that it illustrates how Scandinavian and German 'Inner Mission' ideology was used to build good human service communities." (Olson, p. 263)

Other charitable institutions in Nebraska developed by Swedish religious organizations included the Immanuel Deaconess Institute established in 1887, the Augustana Lutheran Women's Home started in 1891 and the Evangelical Covenant Hospital (originally the Swedish Mission Hospital) founded in 1903, all in Omaha.

Shortly after the Bethphage Inner Mission Association was started, Rev. Dahl was named the editor of the Kearney District periodical, "Guldax." Subscribers and Bethphage donors in the area received the publication written in Swedish, which brought them news from Sweden as well as updates on Rev. Dahl's work. Personal visits to the area Swedish Lutheran congregations were made by the Rev. Dahl and also by neighboring pastors. In a short time, the list of contributors grew and funds came into the treasury thanks to the support of Swedish Lutherans around the state and nation.

With funds in hand, Rev. Dahl purchased 40 acres of land north of the town for the sum of \$4,000. He hired architect Olof Z. Cervin of Rock Island, who designed the buildings in a stepped gabled architectural form derived from the medieval, vernacular architecture of Southern Sweden and Denmark. The use of brick was also indicative of a tie to Swedish architectural tradition. In the late 1920s, Emmy Evald, the daughter of an Augustana pastor and the wife of an Augustana pastor, became involved with the building of a new chapel. Evald was president of the Women's Missionary Society, an Augustana Synod group that had active units in almost every parish across the county. She inspired the women of the church to raise \$45,000 to help build the new Zion Chapel. This and all of the buildings reinforced the tie to Swedish religion and philosophy, which Bethphage Mission embodied.

The affiliation between Bethphage Mission and the Swedish-American community, especially the Augustana Synod (now known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), remains strong today. In fact, the Lind Center, Mosaic's international headquarters in Omaha, also houses the Nebraska branch of the former Augustana Synod.

Criterion B – Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl

Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl was born in February, 1883, in Laholm, Sweden. His father was a pastor in Sweden, but Dahl had not settled on a career with the church until after his arrival in America in 1902. While he was at the Augustana Theological Seminary, Dahl had the opportunity to translate the book A Colony of Mercy by Julie Sutter from English into Swedish. This book gave a history of the Bethel Institute, a charitable institution in Bielefeld, Germany which was under the directorship of Friedrich von Bodelschwingh. The Bethel Institute lovingly and respectfully served people with disabilities.

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Upon completion of his studies, he was called to St. Joseph's Lutheran Church of White Rock (now Rosholt), South Dakota. One day, Dahl heard that one of his church members, an old bachelor who for a long time had lived alone in his house, had become insane. The church member was taken to a nearby town and placed in jail there. Dahl went to visit him and found the wretched man sitting in his cell reading his New Testament. By a table outside the lattice door the jail keeper and a few other idlers sat and played cards using language of jesting and profanity. Dahl was appalled at the surroundings for a poor insane man.

After two years in South Dakota, young Pastor Dahl accepted a call to serve as assistant director of the Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha (1909-1912). While at the deaconess institute, Rev. Dahl visited a friend at the County Hospital who had epilepsy and witnessed some "harrowing happenings." These experiences convinced Dahl that a Christian institution should be maintained by the church for these mentally sick persons that were totally dependent on the state institutions for care. Rev. Dahl suggested to the Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha that they develop this institution as a supplement to their existing services. His idea was rejected, but it did not deter Dahl.

In 1912, Rev. Dahl and his family moved to Axtell, Nebraska, a town in the predominantly Swedish Kearney County, where he was made the pastor of Bethphage Lutheran Church (now Trinity Lutheran Church). The next year, in February, Dahl organized a meeting at Bethphage Lutheran Church during which he would present the cause that was so near to his heart: "the mentally ill, the feeble-minded, the deaf, the blind and the aged whose eyes pleaded while their tongues babbled mixed-up phrases, those with epilepsy, the physically handicapped, the poor and down-trodden." There were skeptics who felt that this isolated region of the Nebraska prairie could not sustain the type of institution Dahl envisioned. Despite these worries, Dahl had faith that God and the Swedish people would support his worthy cause. At the conclusion of the meeting, 54 people signed on as charter members of this new organization, each contributing a dollar "as evidence of their faith in Dahl's plan." On Feb. 19, 1913, the Bethphage Inner Mission Association was born.

During the months that intervened, the news of the steps that had been taken was made known through the Kearney District periodical, "Guldax," of which he was editor. Subscribers and Bethphage donors received the publication, which brought them news from Sweden as well as updates on Rev. Dahl's work. Dahl also raised funds and awareness by selling various issues of stamps and placing Bethphage Banks in the homes of friends throughout the country. He also published many short articles in the religious press, as well as in the many Swedish-American periodicals of the day. Personal visits to the Swedish Lutheran congregations were made by the founder and also by neighboring pastors. In a short time, the list of contributors grew and funds came into the treasury.

In May 1913, Dahl left for Europe:

"...Dahl went to Europe mainly for the purpose of studying at close range Bodelschwingh's great institution at Bielefeld, Germany, which institution he took as a model for a similar one of smaller dimension."
(Lonnquist, p. 9)

Though the tour of Bethel was a primary reason for his visit to Europe, he also went to Sweden to raise money and awareness for his cause among the people of his native land.

"In the parsonage of Osby, Sweden, he would find some truly sympathetic hearts with whom he could share his newfound interest in life...He visited many old friends and spoke on various occasions and made known his proposed colony of mercy in America. He was given a hearty response that was especially appreciated in those early days." (Christenson, p. 21)

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When Dahl returned to America he quickly went to work establishing Bethphage Mission; putting out a call for donations, caregivers and guests. He planned Bethphage Mission as a Diaconate, with Sisters and Brothers serving as caregivers. They began ministering under the shelter of three rented houses in the town of Axtell. In 1914, Dahl purchased 40 acres of land north of the town for the sum of \$4,000. The first building on the Mission grounds, Home Tabor, was dedicated on May 17, 1916. Architect Olof Z. Cervin of Rock Island, who was strongly influenced by the wishes of Rev. Dahl and also was an interested supporter of Bethphage, designed the building. Cervin sent a receipt along with the completed plans for the cost of his work. He made the donation in the name of the "Joseph Cervin Fund for the Care of Epileptics." Algot Larson, the contractor of Home Tabor, built several small buildings, including a house for the Director, at the same time that Home Tabor was being constructed. A wooden chapel, which seated 45, was dedicated on the grounds in mid-summer of 1917. It was shortly afterwards, on Sept. 9, 1917, that Rev. Dahl died at the age of 34. Though there was some initial trepidation regarding the future of the Mission, it quickly became clear that Dahl had accomplished enough in his short life to ensure the survival of Bethphage Mission.

Criterion C – Swedish Architecture

The architectural significance of Bethphage is based on the superb articulation of the Swedish National Romantic style. This stepped gabled architectural form is derived from the medieval, vernacular architecture of Southern Sweden and Denmark. The use of brick was also indicative of a tie to Swedish architectural tradition. The buildings reinforce the ties to Swedish religion and philosophy, which Bethphage Mission embodies.

The choice of Olof Z. Cervin as the architect for Home Tabor, the first building on Bethphage's campus, was an important one.

Cervin was born in Paxton, Illinois, on Oct. 18, 1868, to Anders Richard Cervin (1823-1900), an Augustana Synod pastor and editor, and Emma Charlotta Thulin (1833-1915). Anders Cervin was the descendant of a Danish and Southern Swedish family with origins in the 1600s, and emigrated from Skane province in 1856; he served as a professor at Augustana College and Theological Seminary in Paxton, and later at Rock Island, from 1868-1879.

Cervin received his A.B. from Augustana College in 1887 and his MArch from Columbia University in 1894. Cervin practiced architecture out of Moline and Rock Island, Illinois for nearly 50 years. His principal importance to Nebraska came as a result of his position as the official architect for the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church, a position he held for many years. Augustana was the synod formed to serve Swedish immigrants to America, many of whom established residence in Nebraska. Cervin also published numerous articles concerning the architecture of the Scandinavian lands, and was the leading theoretician and practitioner, via the Augustana Synod, of a movement we know today as Swedish National Romanticism. This movement was particularly evident in Nebraska among Swedish and Danish settlers in the post-settlement phase. Cervin traveled extensively through Scandinavia and was familiar with both historic and contemporary building styles.

"Anyone looking at (Danish architect Peder Vilhelm) Jensen-Klint's late 19th century and early 20th century work and the parallel work done...by Olof Z. Cervin at Bethphage Mission at Axtell, Nebraska, cannot but perceive the similarity of styles and conceptions. Cervin was influenced by the same medieval architecture of South Sweden and Denmark, which had influenced Jensen-Klint and appears to have been influenced by Klint himself. He studied folk country architecture of South Sweden and Denmark, was aware of what was going on in those countries during the period when Jensen-Klint was the most powerful architectural voice in the region and it is hard to believe the similarities between the two architects are an accident." (Olson, p. 260)

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Though Klint was clearly a powerful influence on Cervin's work, the strongest influence on the design of the Bethphage Mission was from its founder Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl. He had a very specific concept of how the campus should look. Dahl was influenced by the vernacular architecture of his childhood home in the Skane region of Sweden, the same area where Cervin's father, Anders Cervin, had emigrated from. Dahl communicated this vision to Cervin and as long as Cervin was building at Bethphage, Dahl's voice was still being heard. The last building on the Bethphage campus that fully communicated the stylistic idea of Rev. Dahl was Bethesda. Though it was completed in 1951, 34 years after Dahl's death, the connection between the design of Home Tabor, Bethphage's first building, and Bethesda is clear.

As the choice of architectural style and materials represents the cultural affiliations of the institution, each of the nominated resources represents a different stage in the development of Bethphage. Home Tabor, built in 1916, marked the beginning of the Bethphage Mission campus. The West and Bethel Pavilions, erected by the staff in 1926 and 1929, is indicative of the devotion of the workers and of the attempts of Bethphage personnel to provide a gracious, social atmosphere for their "guests." Kidron, built in 1928 to solve a tuberculosis problem and expanded in 1948, demonstrates the ability of Bethphage to meet the growing needs of their institution. Zion Chapel, which in 1931 replaced a smaller, less ornate building, represents the height of splendor possible in the brick, stepped gable form and the altruism of those who donated so exceptional a building. It is also indicative of the key role of the Lutheran religion to the institution.

Bethesda is the last link in this chain. Dedicated in 1951, it is the last building on the campus built by Olof Z. Cervin and the last built of ivory brick with a red clay tile roof. It is these buildings, with their distinctive architectural styling and the striking appearance of the red tile roofs against the Nebraska prairie, which have made Bethphage as significant aesthetically as it is culturally.

Despite this wealth of influences, the buildings of Bethphage display individual elegance and unity as a group, as was Dahl's original intention. The significant factor in the overall visual quality of the campus is the consistent use of materials and consistent, or harmonious, building designs. This eliminates much of the disjointed appearance which often occurs where individual buildings vary widely in age and are distinct in terms of material or design expression. The use of the same brick as the dominant exterior material was continued. The stepped gable motif is distinctive and geometrically interesting.

This design tradition continues even today. The Lind Center, Mosaic's home office in Omaha, has the distinctive stepped gables which have become the trademark of Mosaic at Bethphage Village. This building, dedicated on Jan. 25, 1991, carries on an architectural and cultural tradition that began 75 years earlier.

Bethphage Mission
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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books

Bang, Roy T. Heroes Without Medals: A Pioneer History of Kearney County Nebraska. Minden, Nebraska: Warp Publishing Company, 1952.

Christenson, Arthur A., Editor. A Miracle of the Prairies: The Story of the Bethphage Mission. 1994.

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DeKraai, M. B. In the beginning: The first hundred years (1850 to 1950). In R. L. Schalock (Ed.), Out of the darkness and into the light: Nebraska's experience with mental retardation (pp. 103-122). Washington DC: American Association on Mental Retardation, 2002.

Lund, L. Dale and Swanson, Rueben T., Editors. Swedish Omaha – Past & Present. Swedish Cultural Committee, Inc. Omaha, Nebraska, 1991.

Journals

Cervin, Olof Z. "Sweden To-day." American Architecture and Building News, 88, (1905), pp. 91-95.

Cervin, Olof Z. "The Copenhagen City-Hall." The Architectural Record, 18, (1907).

McLaughlin, Robert W. "Swedish Brickwork." The Architectural Record, 66:4, (October, 1929), pp. 333-348.

Guldax, (1914-1940) and Bethphage Messenger, (1940-1992)

Newspapers

"The Story of Bethphage Mission by K.G. William Dahl" Axtell Times, February 24, 1916.

"Bethphage Does Great Service" The Minden Courier, July 3, 1930.

"Bethphage Inner Mission Dedicated new \$45,000 Chapel at Axtell" The Hastings Daily Tribune, May 23, 1931.

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Websites

"Hastings Regional Center" by Catherine Renschler
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~neadams/regional.htm

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

- x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
x Other (Name of repository)
Mosaic Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KN00-001

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 40 USGS Quadrangle Axtell East Quadrangle

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

Table with 5 rows of Latitude and Longitude coordinates.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

(NW boundary, points 1, 2) Kearney County Road 23, 125' north of Tri-County Road (NE boundary, point 3) 0.3 miles east to tree line (SE boundary, point 4) 0.3 miles south to (SW boundary, point 5) 0.3 miles west to N 2nd Ave. (Road 23).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land in which the Mosaic at Bethphage Village campus currently operates and the primary area of the historic campus.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristine Gerber, Project Coordinator

organization Mosaic

date October 31, 2012

street & number 4980 South 118th Street

telephone 402.614.0056

city or town Omaha

state NE zip code 68137

email eventive.marketing@cox.net

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
• Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Bethphage Mission
City or Vicinity Axtell, vicinity County Kearney State Nebraska
Photographer Grant Landreth, NSHS (unless noted otherwise) Date Photographed Spring/Summer 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

- Photo 1 of 20: Home Tabor (west and north facades) and Zion Chapel (west facade). Camera facing southeast.
Photo 2 of 20: Home Tabor, 3rd floor bedroom.
Photo 3 of 20: Home Tabor, interior hallway.
Photo 4 of 20: Dairy Barn, north (main) and west facades. Camera facing southeast. Photo by Greg Paskach, Mosaic.
Photo 5 of 20: Shiloam (Laundry), north and east facades. Camera facing southwest. Photo by Greg Paskach, Mosaic.
Photo 6 of 20: Maintenance, east and north facades. Camera facing southwest. Photo by Greg Paskach, Mosaic.
Photo 7 of 20: Kidron, south (main) and west facades. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 8 of 20: Zion Chapel, west (main) facade. Camera facing east.
Photo 9 of 20: Zion Chapel, north facade. Camera facing southwest. Photo by Greg Paskach, Mosaic.
Photo 10 of 20: Zion Chapel, interior view from the choir loft. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 11 of 20: Zion Chapel, stained glass on south wall. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 12 of 20: Bethesda, east (main) and north facades. Camera facing southwest. Photo by Greg Paskach, Mosaic.
Photo 13 of 20: West Pavilion, west side. Camera facing east.
Photo 14 of 20: Bethel Pavilion, west and south side. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 15 of 20: Cemetery. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 16 of 20: Nazareth Activities Building, west facade. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 17 of 20: View of Mizpah, north facade, from West Pavilion. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 18 of 20: View of Home Tabor (south and west facades) and Zion Chapel (south and west facades) from West Pavilion. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 19 of 20: View of Mizpah and Capernaum from West Pavilion. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 20 of 20: View of entry and Main Street with Home Tabor on the right. Camera facing east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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National Park Service**

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- Figure 1: Map showing Axtell's relation to Nebraska. Map from Google.
- Figure 2: Map showing Bethphage Mission's relation to Axtell. Map from ESRI.
- Figure 3: Current site plan of Bethphage Mission, Mosaic at Bethphage Village.
- Figure 4: 1914 Master Plan of Campus - Olof Z Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois
- Figure 5: 1950s Aerial View Bethphage Mission - Looking North – Mosaic Archives
- Figure 6: Photo Key
- Figure 7: Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl – 1910s – Mosaic Archives
- Figure 8: Tabor - 1916 Dedication – A.T. Anderson/Kearney
- Figure 9: 1914 architect rendering of Tabor – Olof Z. Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois
- Figure 10: Grundtvigs-Church - <http://www.copenhagenet.dk>
- Figure 11: 3rd floor bedroom in Tabor, 1916– A.T. Anderson/Kearney
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- Figure 13: 3rd floor bedroom in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney
- Figure 14: Dining room in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney
- Figure 15: 2nd floor hallway in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney
- Figure 16: Dairy Barn, 1927 - A.T. Anderson/Kearney
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- Figure 18: Kidron, south and east view, 1928– Mosaic Archives
- Figure 19: Interior of Kidron, 1950s – Mosaic Archives
- Figure 20: 1917 proposed rendering of Zion Chapel - Olof Z. Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois
- Figure 21: Zion Chapel, south side, 1930s– Mosaic Archives
- Figure 22: Bethesda, east side, 1950s– Mosaic Archives
- Figure 23: West Pavilion, 1927 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney
- Figure 24: Bethel Pavilion, 1950s – Mosaic Archives

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Figure 1: Map showing Axtell's relation to Nebraska. Map from Google.

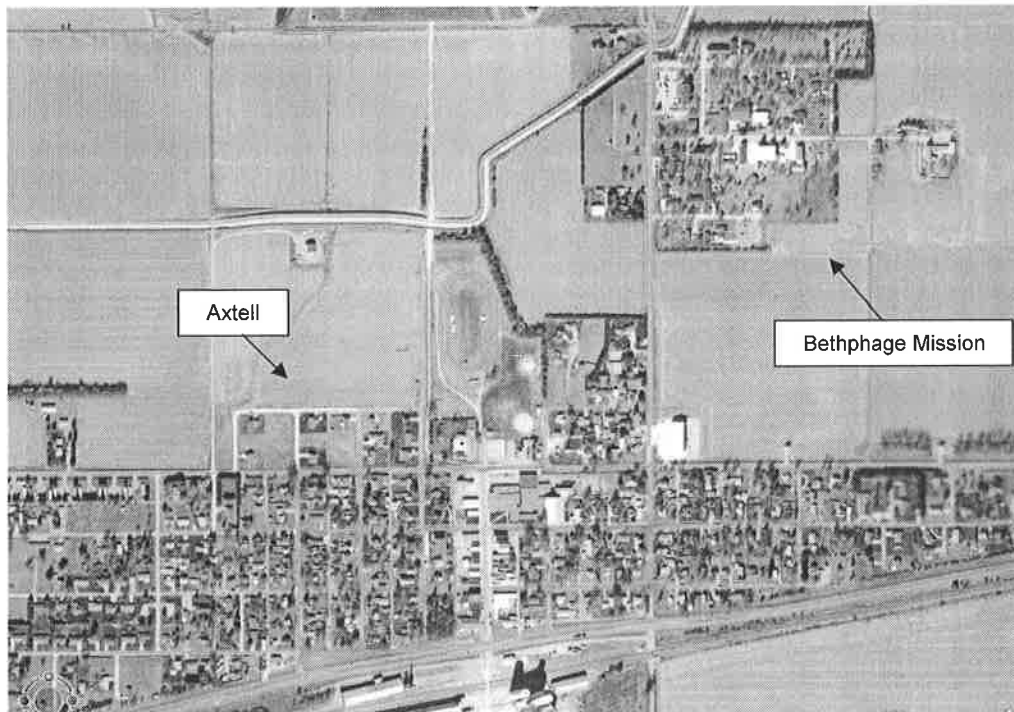


Figure 2: Map showing Bethphage Mission's relation to Axtell. Map from ESRI.

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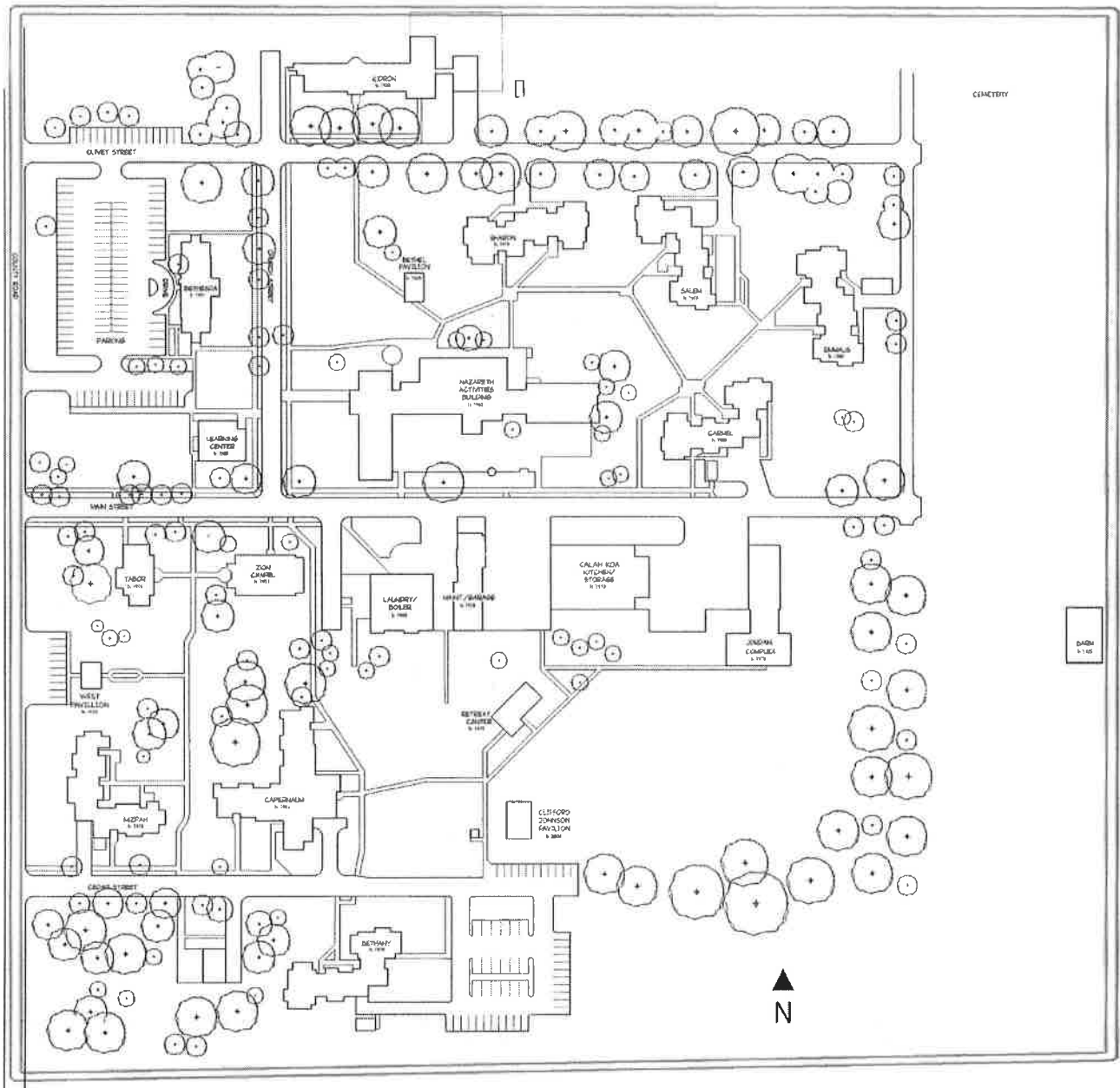


Figure 3: Current site plan of Bethphage Mission, Mosaic at Bethphage Village.

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Figure 4: 1914 Master Plan of Campus - Olof Z Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois



Figure 5: 1950s Aerial View Bethphage Mission - Looking North – Mosaic Archives

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Figure 6: Photo Key

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Figure 7: Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl – 1910s – Mosaic Archives

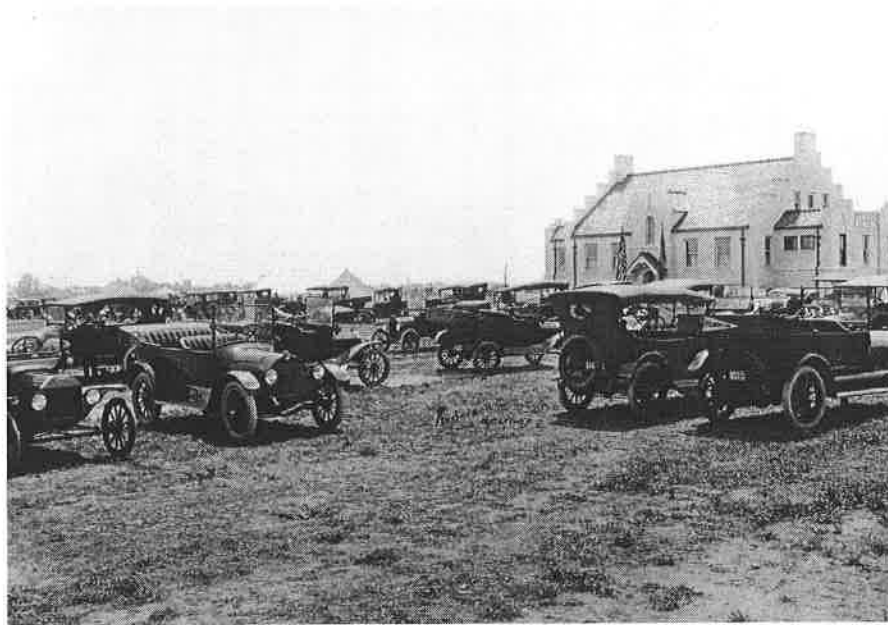


Figure 8: Tabor - 1916 Dedication – A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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Figure 9: 1914 architect rendering of Tabor – Olof Z. Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois

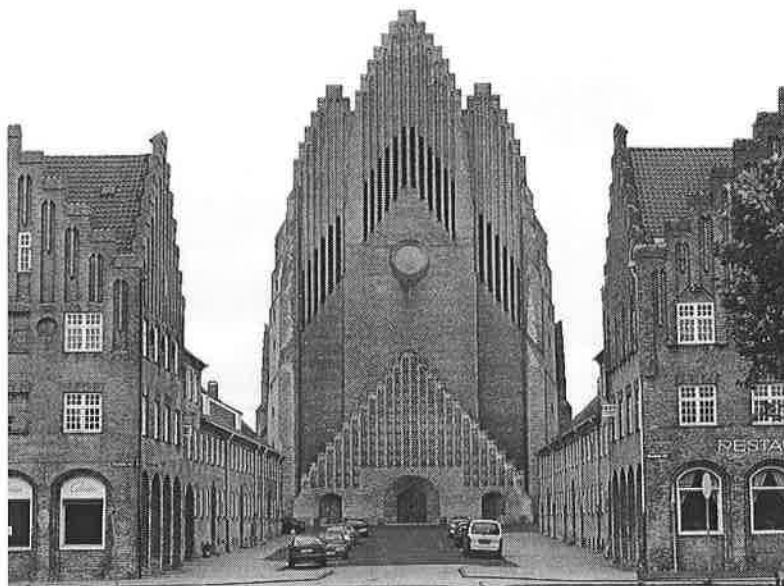


Figure 10: Grundtvigs-Church - <http://www.copenhagenedk>

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Figure 11: 2nd floor bedroom in Tabor, 1916– A.T. Anderson/Kearney

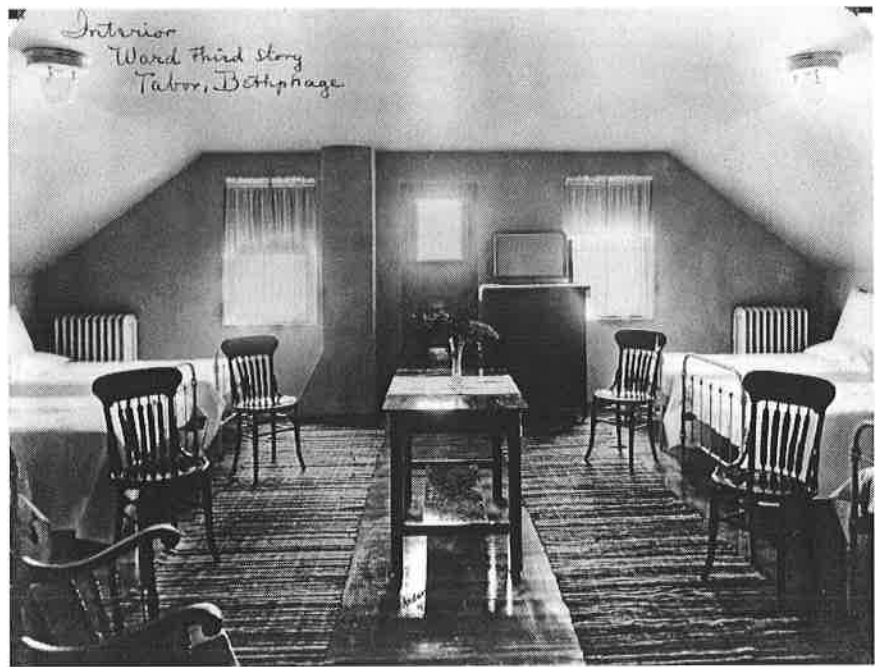


Figure 12: 3rd floor bedroom in Tabor, 1916– A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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Figure 13: 3rd floor bedroom in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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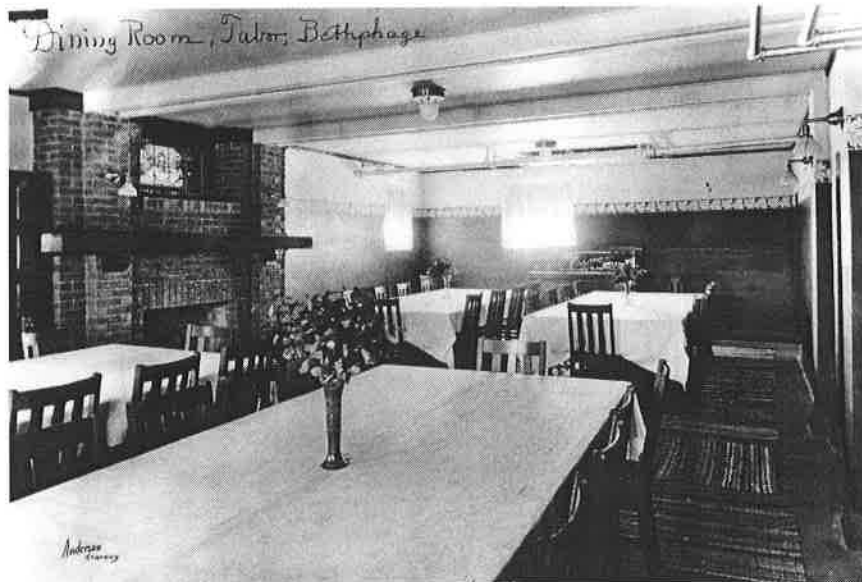


Figure 14: Dining room in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney



Figure 15: 2nd floor hallway in Tabor, 1916 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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Figure 16: Dairy Barn, 1927 - A.T. Anderson/Kearney



Figure 17: Laundry, north and west facades, 1927- A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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Figure 18: Kidron, south and east view, 1928– Mosaic Archives



Figure 19: Interior of Kidron, 1950s – Mosaic Archives

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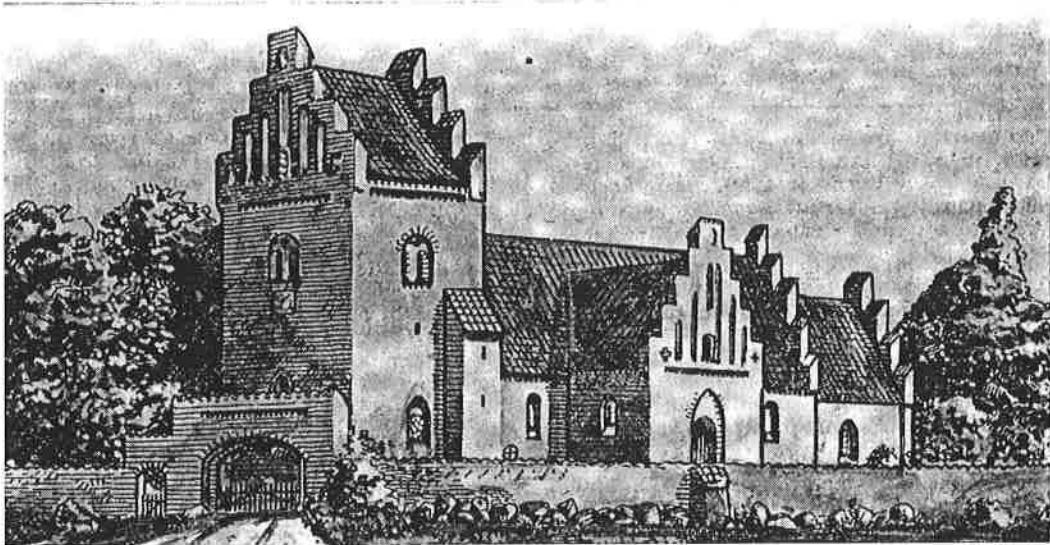


Figure 20: 1917 proposed rendering of Zion Chapel - Olof Z. Cervin/Rock Island, Illinois



Figure 21: Zion Chapel, south side, 1930s-- Mosaic Archives

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Figure 22: Bethesda, east side, 1950s– Mosaic Archives



Figure 23: West Pavilion, 1927 – A.T. Anderson/Kearney

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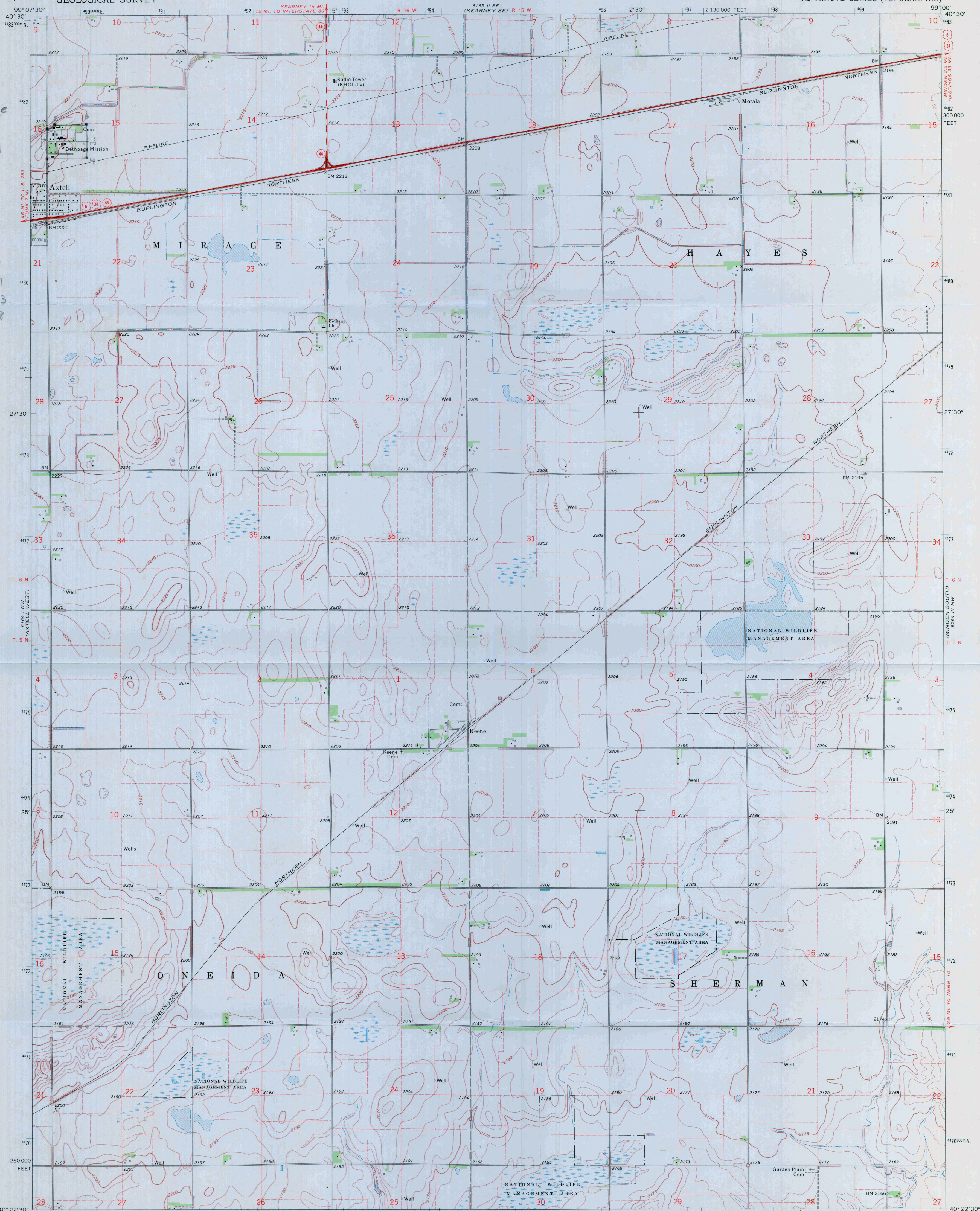
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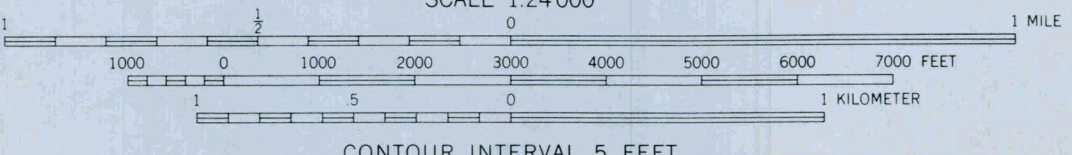
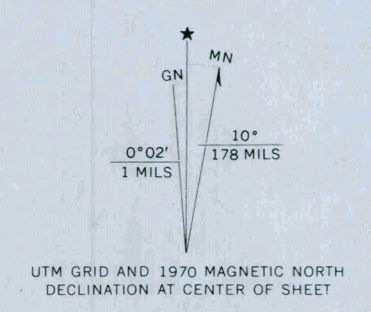


Figure 24: Bethel Pavilion, 1950s – Mosaic Archives

Bethpage
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1) 40.488134
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2) 40.488646
-99.122225
3) 40.488663
-99.118273
4) 40.484947
-99.118317
5) 40.484953
-99.123098



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, improved surface
Light-duty road, all weather, weather
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AXTELL EAST, NEBR.
N4022.5—W9900/7.5
1970

AMS 6164 | NE—SERIES V875



















ZION
CHURCH























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bethphage Mission

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Kearney

DATE RECEIVED: 3/08/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/03/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/18/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/24/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000199

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/24/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Very cool.

Has Swedish heritage all over it, in form and in practice.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept ABC

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



March 4, 2013

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Bethphage Mission
Axtell, Kearney County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Robert Puschendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org