

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 8803086

Date Listed: 1/19/89

Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church
Property Name

Wabasha
County

MN
State

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Bill Roland
Signature of the Keeper

1/19/89
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 8. Statement of Singificance: Criterion Exception A applies.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 05 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Bridge Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Millville

vicinity N/A

state Minnesota code MN

county Wabasha

code 157

zip code 55957

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Nina M. Archabal 11/23/88
 Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
Minnesota Historical Society
 State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer

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

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Beth Boland 1/19/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The free-standing, steepleless Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Millville is a late example of functional Gothic Revival design, symmetrical in plan and massing. Its simple one-story rectangular shape houses a single room. Locally quarried stone, Oneota dolomite, set in coursed quarry-faced ashlar is the wall building material. A simple, moderately steep gable roof caps the buff colored two-foot thick load bearing walls. Illuminating the interior are eight blunt-arched, simple-tracery double-hung windows and a transom light each set under stone voussoirs and placed nearly flush with the outside walls. A wood plank double door in the east end and a single "pastor's door" near the pulpit provide for access and egress. A single, small corbeled brick chimney straddles the roof ridge at one end. A date stone above the main entrance reads: "SVEDISH:EV:LUTH:CHURCH. 1874".

With the exception of the replaced tracery transom light over the double doors and the new wood shingles, the exterior is original and unmodified. The interior of this 40 by 28 by 12 foot building was plastered and given a painted wood ceiling floor and windows. The interior is unaltered, and all hand-fashioned simple pews and pulpit are original. The craftsmanship exhibits a fundamental piety and substantialness accomplished with an economy of means. The site is on a low terrace overlooking Bridge Street which climbs three blocks from the Zumbro River valley to the commercial district. On the rear half of the site is the small cemetery, used from the late 1870s. Both site and building are extant, accessible and highly visible.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

European Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance

1874-1914

Significant Dates

1874

1876

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The 1874 Swedish Ev. Lutheran Church of Millville is associated by name and age with the first high tide of European immigration to Minnesota and to Wabasha County in particular. Three different Protestant ethnic groups have used this building for native language worship services: Swedes, Norwegians and Germans. Scandinavians and Germans were the largest non-English speaking groups living in the state and county between 1870 and 1920. This small unadorned stone church was built with meager immigrant resources by the small congregation's Swedish farmers who had settled in the surrounding townships from the 1860s. They extracted the stone from bluffs behind the property. Their labor contributed hand made pews and a pulpit in 1876. The adjacent cemetery was soon organized, gravestone names spelling out the ethnic heritage of church founders. The building also reflects the early history of Millville, platted in 1872, and many members of the town's old German Evangelical community worshiped there independently. Its shared historical associations today are both specifically and broadly based on a European ethnic heritage.

This former church is a treasured survivor from the earlier of two state historic contexts for Wabasha County: Early Agriculture and River Settlement. While Millville was one of nine early river towns in the county, only Millville, Minneiska and Lake City housed Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregations. The Millville stone church preceeded a small frame Lake City church building by one year. Almost immediately upon completion the congregation began to dwindle as farm families moved west. Norwegian Lutherans were using the building by the 1880s, and in 1905 Grace (German) Evangelical Church began holding services there. They remained until 1914 - the beginning of the end of foreign language worship services and of large scale European immigrations. The durable stone walls and new wood shingles of 1914, plus the lack of any pressure for change,

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Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millville, Wabasha Co., MN

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carried the largely unused building into the present context unaltered. The tiny adjacent cemetery periodically receives the remains of early congregation offspring. This is the only completely intact early ethnic church from the days of first non-Indian settlement through the confident, mushrooming 1870s, standing in Wabasha County.

Early ethnic settlement concentration patterns, as reported in the 1870 census, reflected the different nationalities and religions existing from one county to the next. Wabasha County's Protestant settlers were then mostly Anglo-Americans: Methodists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, while in neighboring Goodhue County, for example, they were predominately Scandinavians. A Swedish Lutheran concentration at Red Wing, Goodhue County, dating from the 1850s, provided the first temporary pastor to the fledgling Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Long Creek (Millville), organized in 1870. This small stone church of 1874 illustrates, through its early history of shared use by major ethnic groups, the successive movement of European settlement across Minnesota.

Adherence to a strong religious faith was common to many immigrants, being in many instances a reason for their journey to America. Persons from differing nationalities could express a common theological stance while persons of the same common culture could be widely divided. The divisions of Protestants into many small synods, conferences and congregations was especially evident amongst Lutherans. Swedish Lutherans in Minnesota, in establishing their own church authority, failed to coordinate the erection of churches which were springing up in frontier settlements. This often resulted in unsuccessful attempts to obtain ordained ministers, necessitating accepting lay preachers in their stead. Even though they were often built in villages, many like the Millville church were too small or impoverished to survive. The existence of an underused stone church, the only church in Millville, was a rare commodity to be utilized; the corporate exercise of one's religion was a freedom to be practiced. Despite language differences, or indeed because of them, the organized 'evangelism' common to certain Swedes, Norwegians and Germans in and around this Zumbro River town found identity and successive shelter over four decades in the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The community's bond with this building is evidenced in its present ownership and use by the Millville Historical Association - a shared symbol of European ethnic heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minnesota, a state guide. New York: Viking, 1938.
History of Wabasha County. Chicago: H.H. Hill and Company, 1884.
Bomgren, Rev. C. O. Sixtyfive Years of Church Work in Millville, Minnesota. n.p., 1934. (Millville Historical Association)
Severson, Harold (ed.). Millville Centennial (History), 1870-1970. Millville (MN): The Millville Centennial Committee, 1970. (Millville Historical Association)
Hoover, Bessie. 1874-1976, The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millville, Minnesota. n.p., (1976). (Millville Historical Association).

Interview with Mrs. Bessie Hoover, June 18, 1987, liaison: Millville historical Association,

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Millville Historical Ass'n

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 556180 4898960
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies city lots 3 and 4, Block 7 of the Millville Original Town Plat.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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