

Historic Name: King Oscar's Settlement

County: Carver

Common Name: East Union

Community: Dahlgren Twp.

Owner's Name and Address: East Union Lutheran Parish
Route 1, Box 51
Carver, Minnesota 55315Address/~~Legal Desc.~~:
E. Union Rd.
County Highway 40

Classification:

Acreage:

Building _____ Structure _____ Object _____ District X

Approximately 17.2 acres

Condition:

Verbal Boundary Desc.:

Excellent X Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____T115N, R24W, S35
NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Open to the Public:

Visible from the road:

Yes X No _____Yes X No _____

Church Services only

See Continuation
Sheet.

Occupied:

Present Use:

Yes X No _____

Religious and Residential

History: N/A -- see significance statement

UTM Reference: New Prague

Date Constructed:

Original Owner:

A - 15/446500/4953000 Quad

Architect/Builder:

Original Use:

B - 15/446750/4953000

C - 15/446750/4952675

D - 15/446500/4952675

Description:

Level of Significance:

East Union, four miles southwest of Carver, is situated in a rural agricultural setting near the intersection of County Road 40 and a Dahlgren Township Road. The district contains the East Union Lutheran Church, Parsonage, Caretaker's Cottage (Reverend Andrew Jackson House), Parish Hall (St. Ansgar's Academy), St. Ansgar Park and the East Union Cemetery. All four buildings within the district, dating from 1856 to 1874, are in an excellent state of preservation and are equally significant to the district. No intrusions detract from the significance of the district.

Local X

State _____

Nation _____

1. East Union Lutheran Church: 1866, buff-colored brick, "Early Gothic Rural Church design." Significant architectural elements include Gothic arched stained glass windows (1920s), original pulpit, baptismal font and communion rail and an 1886 mural depicting the Crucifixion of Christ. (Cont.)

Status:

Survey _____ Date _____

Local _____ 6/76

State _____ 9/77

Nat'l. Reg. _____

Nat'l. Land. _____

HABS/HAER _____

Significance:

Theme/s:

East Union is historically significant as a well preserved complex of buildings associated with the first of three early Swedish settlements in Carver County. This settlement, originally known as "King Oscar's Settlement," was first settled in 1853, only two years after initial Euro-American settlement began in Carver County.

Primary ReligionSecondary EducationOther Settlement

One of the first projects undertaken by these early Swedish settlers was to clear land for a small log church. The church was constructed in 1856, two years before a congregation was officially formed by Reverend Pehr Carlson.

Local Contact/Org.:

Heritage Committee, Carver

County Historical Society;

Rev. Robert Kruger

By 1858, the settlement had grown to over 400 Swedish and Norwegian families. In that year the name of the settlement was changed to "Union Settlement." Later in that same year, however, the settlement divided along geographical lines; the settlement to the east became known as East Union and that to the west, West Union.

Prepared by and date:

Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth

January 1978

(Cont.)

Description -- Continuation

2. Parsonage: 1874, two stories, buff-colored brick, three bay front facade with central hall entry. 1906 alterations include rear kitchen addition and enclosure of front porch.
3. Caretaker's Cottage (Reverend Andrew Jackson House): 1865, one and one half stories, wood frame with wooden lapped siding, L-plan.
4. Parish Hall (St. Ansgar's Academy): 1856 (log section) and 1863, one story, wood frame with wooden lapped siding. In 1869 a second story was added to provide dormitory space and the rear was lengthened fourteen feet. The second story was removed soon after St. Ansgar's Academy was moved to Red Wing in 1875. In 1957 a kitchen was installed in the rear of the building and a basement was added.

Significance -- Continuation

In 1863 St. Ansgar's Academy was established at East Union. The history of this academy dates to 1862, when Eric Norelius, Lutheran clergyman, organized a school to train teachers in Red Wing, Minnesota. The school was moved to East Union and the log church was incorporated into the academy building. This building is reported to be the oldest building associated with the Minnesota Conference of the former Augustana Synod. A house for Reverend Andrew Jackson, superintendent of St. Ansgar's Academy for eleven of its twelve years, was built in 1865. St. Ansgar's Academy was moved to St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1875 and was renamed Gustavus Adolphus College. It has become one of Minnesota's notable private liberal arts colleges.

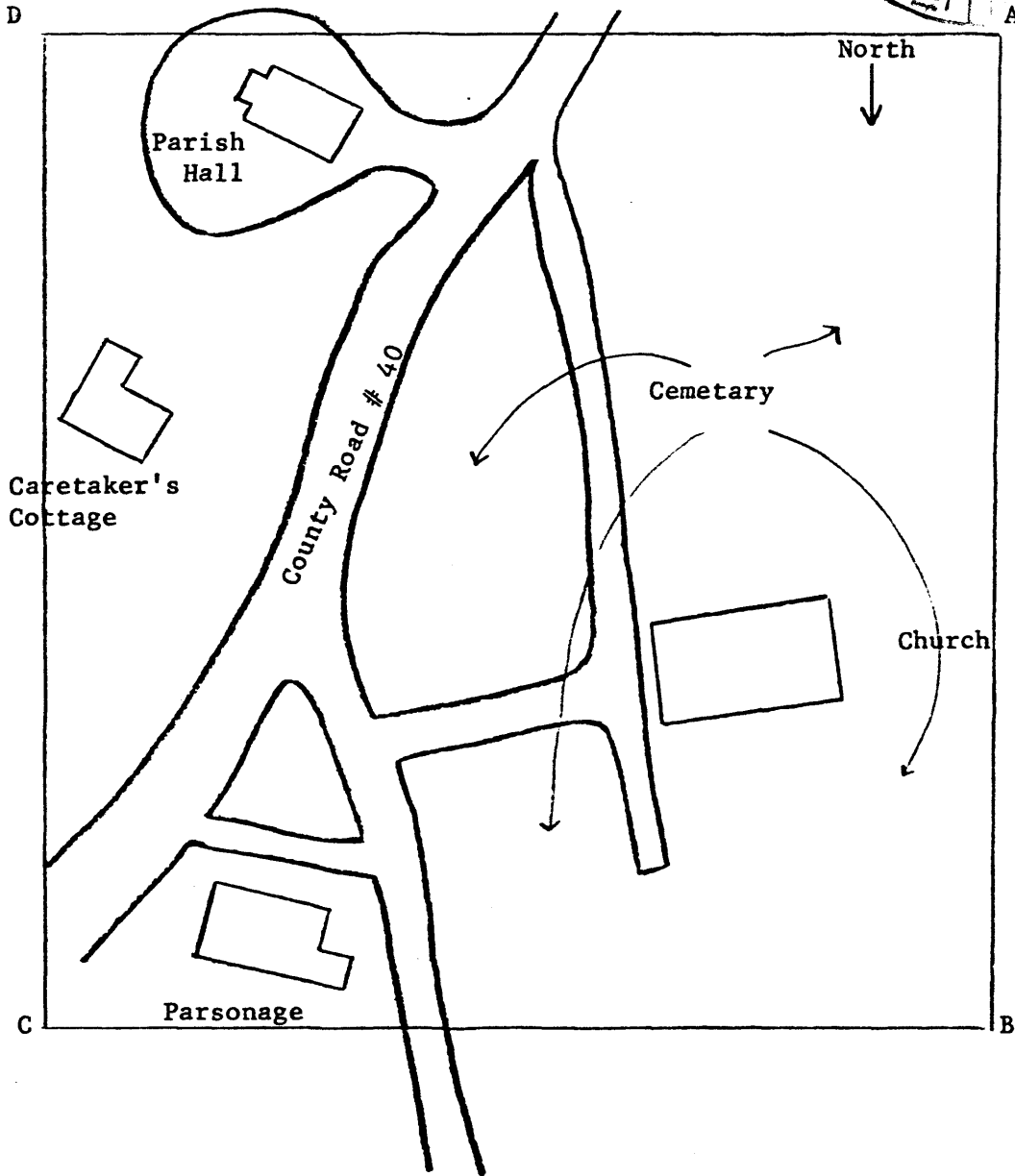
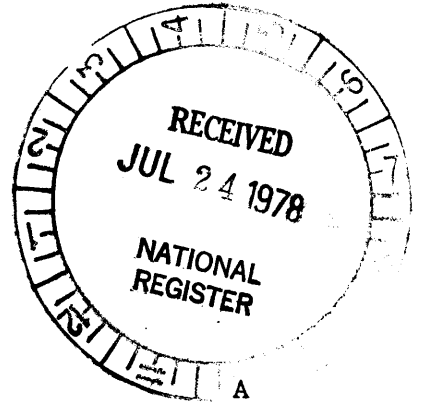
The brick church was erected by the East Union congregation in 1866 and in 1874 the parsonage was constructed. The park at East Union was planted and the cemetery laid into lots in 1893.

The buildings, park and cemetery at East Union are in an excellent state of preservation and continue to serve the religious needs of the East Union congregation.

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at a point 247.5 feet N of the SE corner of the Ne $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 35, T115N, R24W, thence W 528 feet parallel with the N line of said section 35, thence S 1000 feet parallel with the west line of said section 35, thence east 750 feet parallel with the N line of said section 35, thence north 1000 feet parallel with the west line of section 35, thence west 222 feet to point of beginning. All in Section 35, T115N, R24W.

SKETCH MAP OF EAST UNION



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melony Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
King Oscar's Settlement in Carver
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80001974

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Carver

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Carver

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 40

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date