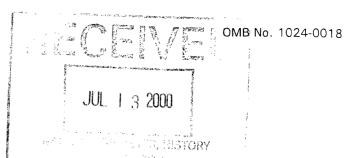
NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, a	nd Cemetery
other names/site number Our Savior's Lutheran Churcl	h, School, and Cemetery
2. Location	
street & number 2589 190 th Avenue city or town Calamus state lowa code IA county Clinton code 045 zip code	not for publication □ N/A □ vicinity 図 N/A □ e 52729
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic certify that this \square nomination \square request for determine standards for registering properties in the National Register Designation of the National Register Criteria. I recommend the National Register Criteria.	ation of eligibility meets the documentation pister of Historic Places and meets the procedural to 60. In my opinion, the property meets does that this property be considered significant
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property \square meets \square does not meet continuation sheet for additional comments.)	t the National Register criteria. (See
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	

4. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby certify that this property is: A 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):	Anda M Wollar Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as many be private public-local public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one bo building(s) district site structure object		
Contributing Noncontributing 2 2 buildings 1 sites structures objects Total		

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
The Norwegian Related Resources of Olive Township, Clinton County, Iowa

6. Func	tion or Use	
Historic Cat:	Functions (Enter ca RELIGION Sub: RELIGION FUNERARY	Ategories from instructions) Religious Facility Church School Cemetery
		ategories from instructions)
Cat:		Religious Facility
	VACANT	Not In Use
	FUNERARY	Cemetery
	,	
7. Desc	ription	
Cat: L	ctural Classification ATE VICTORIAN //ID-19 TH CENTURY	(Enter categories from instructions) Sub: Gothic Greek Revival
	WOOD STEEL	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 patte of our history.	rns
 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 a distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. 	r nd
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.)	
 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 Social History	
Period of Significance 1861-1950	
Significant Dates 1861 1865 1877 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
N/A	
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder Halvorson, Cornelius	

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

r< ^ TT	IUIICLLUU	onur en,	PCHOOT
and	Cemeter	У	

Clinton County, IA

9. Major Bil	oliographical R	eferences				
(Cite the bo sheets.)	oks, articles,	and other sour	ces used in p	oreparing this fo	orm on one or more continu	Jation
prelimina requeste previous previous designate recorded	d. ly listed in the ly determined ed a National l by Historic A	on file (NPS) fon of individual National Regis eligible by the Historic Landm merican Buildir merican Engine	iter National Reg ark igs Survey	ister #	een	
State His Other St Federal a Local go Universit Other	agency vernment y		an Church			
10. Geogra	phical Data					
Acreage of	Property 6.2					
UTM Refere	ences (Place a	dditional UTM	references o	n a continuatio	n sheet)	
Zone 1 <u>15</u> 2 <u>15</u>	Easting 689200 689070	Northing 4630020 4630660	Zone 3 4	Easting	Northing	
☐ See cont	inuation sheet	i .				
Verbal Bour	ndary Descript	ion (Describe t	he boundarie	s of the prope	rty on a continuation sheet	.)
Boundary J	ustification (Ex	kplain why the	boundaries v	were selected (on a continuation sheet .)	

Kvindhe	erred	Lutheran	Church
School	and	Cemeterv	

Clinton	County.	IΑ

11. Form Prepared By		
name/title David C. Anders	<u>son</u>	
organization	date	
street & number 169 Lu	ndy Bridge Drive	telephone 319-382-3076
city or town Waukon	state_lowa_	zip code <u>52172</u>
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items wi	th the completed forn	า:
Continuation Sheets		
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 m A sketch map for historic of		g the property's location. s having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and v	white photographs of	the property.
Additional items (Check with	the SHPO or FPO for a	any additional items)
Property Owner		
(This item must be completed	.)	
name Our Savior's Lutheran (Church	
street & number 2589 190th A	<u>Avenue</u> telephone)
city or town Calamus st	ate lowa zin code	52729

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. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	7	Page	1

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Kvindherred Church District includes one parcel containing the 1877 church, the 1865 church/school, and a non-contributing parsonage and garage. A second piece of land 1,700 feet north of and separate from the foregoing, at the corner of 255th St. and 190th Ave., is occupied by the Kvindherred Cemetery.

Cemetery Description

This is a rectangular parcel measuring 348 feet (E-W) by 446 feet (N-S) containing ca. 3.1 acres. The earliest marker dates from 1861, but the cemetery records refer to burials as early as 1864. The earliest portion of the cemetery was deeded to the Kvindherred congregation in 1865 by George Johnson, who owned the adjoining land. Several large cedar trees which may date from the early years of its existence identify this property for miles around. The original steel fence surrounding the cemetery and an entrance gateway with "Kvindherred Cemetery" above it has been replaced by a sign reading Our Saviors

Kvindherred.

Church Description

The present church was built in 1877 and, together with the first church (school) plus a former parsonage and garage, it occupies a ca. three-acre parcel 218 feet (E-W) by 756 feet (N-S) on the east side of 190th Avenue in the southwest quarter of Section 22. The original segment, a 34' by 56' rectangle with a gable roof apse or sanctuary on the east end and a bell tower on the west, is a typical example of the neo-Gothic type preferred by Norwegian Lutherans in rural parishes of the Midwest after about 1870. In this instance the wood frame structure features a belfry and spire resting on a pent roof transition to the tower below, which at ground level includes a vestibule just inside the entrance flanked by a staircase on the south side leading to a balcony and the belfry.

In the early 1950s the vestibule was enlarged by bringing it west to be flush with the tower. This space now includes a ground level entrance on the south side. The two windows flanking the tower were put into the new vestibule construction, which helps sustain the building's historic integrity. These double hung wood frame pointed arch windows, plus one above the entrance and four on each long side, are original. They include four rectangular translucent lights below two rectangular and two pointed lights with small round stained glass units at the apex. On the interior (nave) these windows are framed with an elaborate compound molding and, along with the handmade wood balcony front, represent the most important original elements of the church interior. There is also a three-light pointed arch window over the entrance, a double hung unit above that, and a round window in the tower below the pent roof. The nave ceiling is covered with pressed metal, installed in 1912.

In 1912 the church was raised to accommodate a full basement with rusticated concrete block walls, and in the early 1950s the interior of the church was remodeled, which included the replacement of original pews and other furniture, including the original pulpit. At the same time, a 30 by 31 foot single story wing was added on the southeast corner. This incorporates the sanctuary, and the original window on the south side is now the location of a door into the addition. The original window on the north side of the sanctuary is now blocked off.

The entire edifice, originally clad in wood drop siding, is in the process of being covered with white metal.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7,8 Page 2

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

First Kvindherred Church/School Description

Just south of the current church is the first Kvindherred Church, which was moved here in ca. 1940 from its original location 750 feet south at the NW corner of Section 27 (190th Ave. and 260th St.). This was built in 1865 to serve as both church and parochial school until 1877 when the growing congregation needed a larger facility for worship. The "Old Church" continued to serve the parish as a church school both before and after the move to its present location. The building is currently vacant. It is a 24 by 30 foot single story gable front structure with wood engaged columns and capitals below a fanlight framing the entrance. These elements (original) and the white clapboard siding, corner boards, frieze and white paint throughout give this simple vernacular structure a Greek Revival flavor. It has the original 2/2 double hung windows (three on each long side) and the original lap siding, fastened with cut nails. There is a brick chimney at the east end hung on the end wall inside. This building has a high degree of historic integrity, and the minor non-original elements on the exterior are the single entrance door replacing the original double unit, the asphalt shingled roof, the rusticated concrete block foundation, and a concrete stair unit with railings. Also, historic photos indicate that the building originally had exterior window shutters. The metal lettering over the entrance is not original.

On the interior there is four-inch tongue-and-groove hard pine flooring, four feet of beaded board wainscot laid horizontally, and lath and plaster walls and ceiling. The building also contains the original pews from the 1878 church, which are finished with faux wood grain.

A non-contributing parsonage and garage dating from 1952 are located south of the church buildings and a parking lot. These are no longer used by a resident pastor and are rented out.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Kvindherred Lutheran Church District is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History as the cultural center of the Norwegian settlement of Olive Township, Clinton County. The church buildings and cemetery together are the principal remaining properties which can visually signal the existence of an ethnic group with a long history that persists today, albeit as less Norwegian than American in expression. The church spire and the ancient cedars in the cemetery can be seen for miles in a landscape that is becoming depleted of standing objects of any kind as the farms become larger and rural population continues its decline.

The history of the Kvindherred congregation reflects important patterns of Norwegian-American immigration to Iowa and the Midwestern U.S. It also represents an effort to maintain an ethnic heritage embodied in language, religious worship, education, and a variety of church-sponsored activities, while at the same time reflecting an accommodation to American ways and language. The multifarious church activities also provided an important outlet for the social needs of the community. This property was the geographic and community core of the Norwegian settlement in Olive Township, and its history relates to the larger pattern of Euro-American settlement in Clinton County. While the district components are not being nominated for their architectural significance, it is important to note that the two church buildings are good examples of the types preferred by Norwegian Lutherans in the Midwest in the periods before 1870 (Greek Revival) and after (neo-Gothic).

Important general contextual material is contained in the MPDF which accompanies this nomination.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

Although the Norwegians were not the first white settlers in Olive Township, by the time the first county atlas was published in 1865, the core of their enclave was already in evidence. The first church is shown in its original location with the three Johnson brothers (John Jr., George, and Aaron) in the immediate vicinity and other Norwegians owning land to the north, east, and west.

The Kvindherred congregation was officially organized on Dec. 27, 1861, but there is some evidence that religious services were held before then.¹ The church was named after the *Kvinnherad* District in Norway from which most of the congregation emigrated. In 1865 they had obtained title to land for a cemetery from George Johnson, and early the same year their first church was built across the current 190th Ave. from an 80-acre parcel owned by Aaron Johnson. By 1874 Johnson owned an additional 100 acres, which included the church location.

Until 1865, the congregation held services in the homes of parishioners, including G. Johnson's first house (1853, no longer extant), and in the local public schools. One account suggests that the first church was too small for the burgeoning congregation and that services had to be held in Aaron Johnson's grove, weather permitting.² When they decided in 1876 to build a new and larger church, it was John Johnson, Jr. who provided the land on the parcel where he lived, which is a segment of the land Johnson purchased in 1853 from the U.S. Government, the first land owned by Norwegians in Olive Township.

The Kvindherred congregation belonged to the "old" Norwegian Synod, known officially as the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, until 1898 when they joined the United Norwegian Synod which later merged with the original Norwegian Synod and the Hauge Synod in 1917 to form the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The name was changed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1946, and today it is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

In 1865 the Kvindherred congregation joined with one near Marengo (Iowa County) and another in Benton County (Norway) to form a single parish. Since Kvindherred was to receive most of his time, a parsonage had to be provided for the pastor who served all three locations. Kvindherred purchased a 40-acre parcel ½ mile west of the cemetery and built a new house on it in 1870. This was sold in 1928 when a parsonage was purchased in Calamus, and in 1952 the current parsonage was built. Neither of the earlier structures is extant.

In 1930 Kvindherred obtained its own pastor, and services were held weekly thereafter rather than on alternate Sundays. 1930 also marks the abandonment of Norwegian services. Until 1919 it had been used exclusively for worship and in school, and between 1919 and 1930 English was also used for these functions. The minutes of the congregation board meeting are worth quoting at length, for they reveal the important issues of the time that led to this decision:

. . . there are a number of congregation members who do not understand the Norwegian language, and, whereas it was believed all understood the English language, it was resolved that the minutes hereafter be kept in the English language.

Further,

Also the War with Germany brought a pressure that encouraged the foreign-born and users of a foreign language to use more readily the English language.³

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

The process of Americanization continued, and in 1946 the congregation name was changed to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Membership has remained strong, in spite of the formation of a separate congregation in Calamus in 1950 which drew 136 souls away from Our Savior's.

In 1961 Kvindherred/Our Savior's celebrated its centennial, and published a history which commemorates this event. This history is the single most important and accessible source for illustrations of the importance of the church in the story of the Norwegian settlement in Olive Township. The publication derived from the meticulous labor of a "Historical Committee" which was created three years before the publication was issued. "The history as it has been written comes almost entirely from the church records."

These records are really a collection of material which refers to the different realms of church affairs; whether financial, membership numbers, or as the minutes and reports of meetings held by the Congregation Board, the Board of Deacons, the Sunday School Officers, or groups like the Busy Bees, the Brotherhood, Ladies' Aid, and so on. These are in addition to the "Minister's Book" which records the pastor's activities – services, baptisms, funerals, etc. A review of the "auxiliary" bodies will illustrate some of the important ways the church provided for more than the strictly religious needs of the community. One such was the church choir (1877-) which besides adding an important dimension to worship services, was an important means for personal expression within the group and served as a social outlet for participants. The same is true for the Ladies' Aid (1876-), the Busy Bee/Lutheran Daughters (1912-), and Luther League (1902-), which has included attending International League conventions over the years. The Lutheran Brotherhood (1928-) has been involved in projects including cutting firewood for the church and farming a 40-acre parcel to provide money for church pews. This group has also been responsible for the Father-Son Banquets and Mother-Daughter Banquets and was part of a Dartball League with other Lutheran churches in Clinton County.

The parochial and Sunday school programs (1863-), while they were mainly devoted to religious instruction, also provided a social outlet for the young people in the community. These programs also played a key role in maintaining the Norwegian language (until 1917) by providing instruction to the youth who were at the same time learning English in the public schools. The Kvindherred parochial school was set up in 1863, and until the 1865 facility was built classes met in the homes of parishioners. In 1891 a Sunday school was initiated, and later church school was held for a few weeks each summer.

Significance Summary

As noted in the MPDF, the history of the congregation is intimately related to the story of the Norwegian settlement in Olive Township. The two churches stand on land which is part of John Johnson's first purchase in 1853. John's brother George purchased land next to this shortly thereafter and gave a parcel for the cemetery. In 1878 his second house was completed which together with the church district represents the core of the Norwegian settlement.

The history of the Kvindherred/Our Savior's congregation also illustrates the importance of the church in both maintaining the cultural identity of the immigrant Norwegians and the inseparability of language, faith and cultural expression. The records maintained over the many years by this congregation are an important source of any historical account of the Norwegian settlement. It is evident in the material presented here that the Kvindherred District represents significant events and activities in the Norwegian settlement of Olive Township and conforms to the registration requirements outlined in the MPDF (Section F, p. 18).

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

As for the integrity considerations outlined in the MPDF (ibid.), the recent intrusions into the District (a shed in the cemetery and a new sign plus the parsonage/garage) do not impair the District's sense of time and place. The 1877 church has undergone some changes as discussed in Section 7, and the most important of these is the addition to the southeast and a vestibule flanking the principal entrance. These are visually subordinate to the original structure, however, and leave its major features intact.

While cemeteries and properties owned by religious institutions, and structures moved from their original locations are ordinarily not considered eligible for NRHP listing, the properties included in the Kvindherred Church District all derive their significance from their association with the Norwegian settlement in Olive Township.

Since the cemetery contains documentation of the Norwegian settlement that predates any other evidence, its importance is primarily historical.

The 1865 Church/School is the earliest existing structure that represents the Norwegian settlement, and its function as a church/school illustrates an important dimension of the general social function of Lutheran church activity in pioneer settlements.

The 1877 church is also one of the few surviving structures from its period and because of its location at the geographic core of the settlement and the many ways it served the social and cultural needs of the immigrant community, it stands today along with the district as a whole as the visually and historically most important landmark of the Norwegian presence in Olive Township.

This project has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Interior.

¹There is a reference to this in the Centennial publication, pp. 7-8. Extant records of the mother church in Lisbon, Illinois kept by Pastor P. A. Rasmussen indicate that he baptized four infants in Olive Township in 1859. See dedication services brochure, p. 6. See also, "Norwegians in Church Service Olive Township," *The Clinton Herald*, Aug. 25, 1927.

²ibid. Joel Johnson interview, October 28, 1999.

³Centennial history, p. 14. The first passage is from the 1919 meeting and the second was added by the History Committee.

⁴ibid. p. 24.

⁵These are fairly complete and are located at Our Savior's. They were microfilmed in 1972, and this material is in the ELCA archive in Chicago. The oldest records date from 1861, and these record baptisms. Funeral records date from 1864, but burials from as early as 1861 are recorded on tombstones in the cemetery.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 6

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Section I of the MPDF which accompanies this nomination for a complete listing of bibliographical references.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Kvindherred/Our Savior's Church and School are located on a three-acre parcel in the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 22, Twp. 81 North, Range 2 East of the Fifth P.M. See site plan on p. 7.

The Kvindherred/Our Savior's Cemetery is a 3.1 acre parcel in the NE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 21, Twp. 81 North, Range 2 East of the Fifth P.M. See site plan on p. 8.

Boundary Justification

Except for the Kvindherred Church/School, which was until 1940 located in the northwest corner of Section 27, Twp. 81 North, R. 2E, these are the parcels historically associated with these properties. Since this district includes discontinuous elements, it should be noted that the cemetery is geographically separate from the parcel occupied by the church and church/school. Except for the George Johnson House, the intervening space lacks significance and visual continuity between the parcels is not a factor in the historic significance of the district.

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Location Map

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section ADD'L Page 7

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

USGS Grand Mound Quadrangle (reduced by 23%), 1953 NORTH Section ADD'L

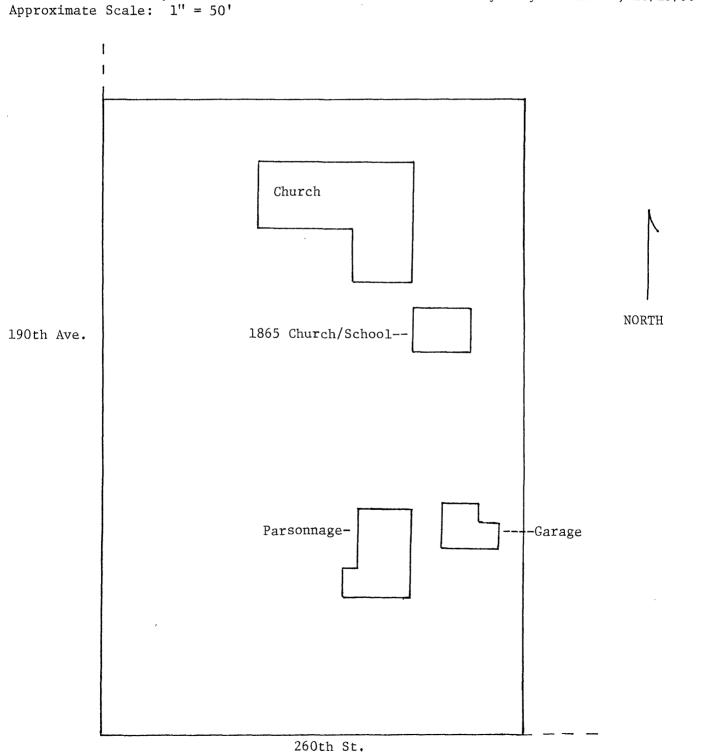
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 8

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

Site Plan - Drawn by D.C. Anderson from measurements taken by Floyd Soenksen, 10/15/99

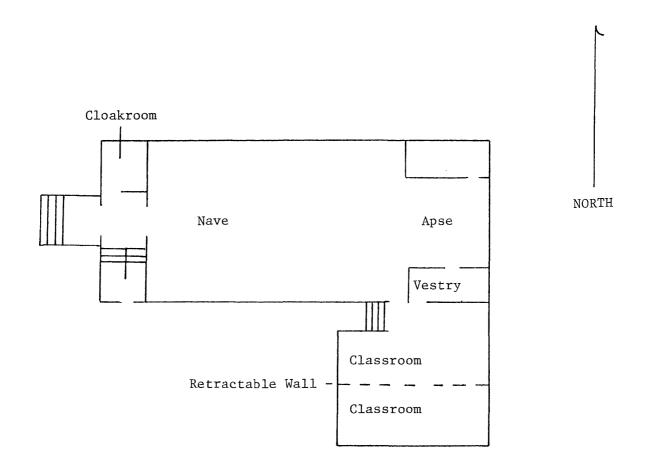


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

Section ADD'L Page 9

Kvindherred/Our Savior's Church Floor Plan - Drawn by D.C. Anderson from measurements by Floyd Soenksen, 10/15/99 Scale: 1'' = 20'

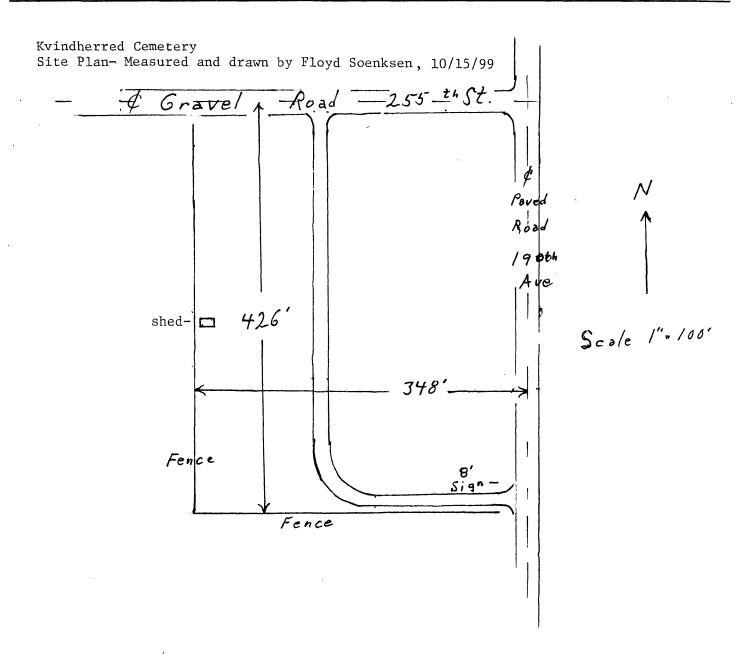


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section ADD'L

Page ___10

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section ADD'L Page 11

Kvindherred Lutheran Church, School, and Cemetery Clinton County, Iowa

DATE: September 25, 1999

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: D.C. Anderson

All are "Camera Facing"

No. 1 General View--NE

- 2 Our Savior's (Kvindherred) Church--SE
- 3 Detail of Our Savior's--E
- 4 Our Savior's Church--NW
- 5 Interior of Our Savior's--W
- 6 Window Detail, Our Savior's--SE
- 7 1865 Church/School--NE
- 8 Entrance to 1865 Church/School--E
- 9 Kvindherred Cemetery--NW
- 10 Kvindherred Cemetery--E
- 11 Kvindherred Cemetery--SE