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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 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 Immanuel Lutheran Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 14 miles north of U. S. Highway I-90

N/A not for publication

city, town Murdo

XX vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Jones

code SD 075 zip code 57559

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	Total
1	0	1
		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects

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.

[Signature] _____ Date 12/30/87

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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:)

[Signature] _____ Date 2-8-88

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Nave Plan Church

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood

roof Asphalt
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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)

ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE/EUROPEAN

Period of Significance

1924-1937

Significant Dates

1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Anker, Louis

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 14 361800 4883750
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

Quad.: Wendote SW. Scale: 1:24000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. John Noldner (w/technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff)
 organization Immanuel Lutheran Church Restoration Com. date October 30, 1987
 street & number P O Box 461 telephone 605-663-2185/Rau: 605-677-5314
 city or town Murdo state South Dakota zip code 57559

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Sited along White Clay Creek in the rolling, windswept plains of northcentral Jones County, Immanuel Lutheran Church is a simple wood frame rectangular building. It is situated on a poured concrete basement and is sided with clapboard. A gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The form is an unadorned nave plan, without an apse, common to Lutheran churches constructed throughout South Dakota during the 19th and early-20th centuries. Typical of these buildings, it features a narthex/bell tower that rises from the center of the east (front) gable. Capping the tower is steep pyramidal roof covered with asphalt shingles. The entry door is a double door capped by two rectangular overlights. Entry to the basement is gained by a single door on the southeast corner of the building. Fenestration is completed by four rectangular double-hung windows along each axial facade. A brick chimney rises along the center of the south facade.

Unlike its plain exterior, the interior includes many ornate Gothic Revival features, also common to Lutheran churches during this period. Most prominent among these features is a ceiling-height oak alter with a painted canvas. It is complimented by an oak alter rail that is decorated with lancet arches. Other interior elements include hardwood floors, moldings, and pews, a marble baptismal font, and an antique organ. To the right of the alter rail is a hardwood lectern/pulpit. The walls and ceiling are covered with stippled plaster.

Across a section road to the east is a small cemetery, which pre-dates the church building. Northwest of the church are two wood frame privies and a tool shed. None of these properties are nominated here.

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Under Criteria A and C of the National Register Criteria, Immanuel Lutheran Church is significant in the areas of architecture and ethnic heritage/European. It is a nearly unaltered example of a simple nave plan church with an embellished interior, once used extensively by Lutherans throughout the state. In addition, it is associated with the emigration of Norwegians in Jones County during the early years of the county's settlement. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to historic context and subcontexts labeled: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, B. 7. Ethnic Enclaves-Norwegians; and H. Religion.

The region in western South Dakota between the White and Cheyenne rivers was closed to non-Indian settlement until it was ceded from the Sioux tribes in 1889. Although a few hearty souls ventured onto this land immediately, it was not until the early Twentieth Century that extensive homesteading and town founding began to take place. Originally part of Lyman County, Jones County was created in 1916 and officially organized the following year. By that time, a railroad had entered the county, much of the land had filled up and several towns, such as Murdo and Draper, were founded. About fifteen miles to the north of Murdo, the county seat, was a small rural community of Norwegians. As early as 1907, they formed a congregation and established a cemetery.

Even though they could not afford a church, the members of the congregation called a pastor and held regular services in area schools and homes. At least once a year, they sponsored a bazaar to raise funds for their operation. In 1924, they had enough money to build a modest church. For this purpose Iver Monson donated a parcel of land directly west of the cemetery. The chief carpenter was Louis Anker, assisted by the men of the congregation. A furnace was installed in 1926. By 1928, most of the interior components had been purchased and the congregation was still free of debt. Williams Piano Company of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, donated the organ. The congregation's youth group, the Luther League, purchased a 32-volt light plant for the church in 1928.

Typical of Lutheran churches in the state at that time, the simple frame building was constructed on a nave plan, with a short tower or steeple and no apse. Lutherans of the frontier wanted to avoid the

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appearance of a highly-structured ecclesiastical edifice. On the interior, however, they provided for more ornamentation, especially in keeping with their Scandinavian Gothic traditions. Importance was given to the altar, pulpit, and baptismal font. Although small, the altar was often as ornate, and as influenced by Gothic art, as those in Catholic churches. The one at Immanuel Lutheran Church is no exception.

Of the thirteen pastors called by the congregation, all were of Scandinavian background. Until the 1940's Norwegian continued to be used in the services. Through the years of both good and bad times, the church offered a sense of stability to the small Norwegian community.

In about 1936, at the heart of the Great Depression, membership in the congregation began to decline, as many area families moved away from the harsh prairies. This decline continued for three decades, until 1967 when the congregation ceased holding regular services at the church. The few remaining members now worship in other area churches. The church is still used for special occasions, such as Memorial Day services.

In 1983, a group of concerned members organized a drive to preserve the deteriorating Immanuel Lutheran Church. Having successfully raised the necessary funds, they are in the process of repairing the building. In 1984, the church was set onto a new foundation. National Register listing will aid them in their efforts to save the old church from ruin.

The period of significance of the property extends from its construction in 1924 to 1937, the established cut-off date for the National Register. This terminal date also closely corresponds to the beginning of the decline in church membership. The National Register boundaries do not include the small outbuildings, because their date of construction is not verified and they do not directly relate to the property's areas of significance. The cemetery is not included because it cannot satisfy Criteria Consideration E.

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Boe, Dorothe. "Immanuel Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid, 1907-1986." in Proving Up: Jones County History. Murdo, SD: Book and Thimble Club, 1969. pp. 44-49.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. "The Architectural History of South Dakota." Draft Ms. Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, n.d. Chapter 8. pp. 4, 7, 16.

Historical Society of Old Stanley County. Prairie Progress in West Central South Dakota, 1968. Sioux Falls, SD: Midwest Beach, Inc., 1969. Passim, p. 509.

"Old Church May Get New Life." Sioux Falls (South Dakota) Argus-Leader. May 15, 1983.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Consisting of the church building, the nominated property is bounded by four imaginary straight lines that connect to form a rectangle centered on the rectangular church. The northern boundary line lies 10 feet from the north wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The eastern boundary line lies 10 feet from the east wall of the narthex/bell tower of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The southern boundary line lies 10 feet from the south wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The western boundary line lies 10 feet from the west wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The property is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 2 North, Range 28 East (Black Hills Prime Meridian), in Jones County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary lines of the nominated property have been set so as to include only the church building. The small outbuildings and the cemetery have been excluded, because they either do not relate to the property's areas of significance or do not meet National Register Criteria.